

CARL FEISS
PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL CONSULTANT
730 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

REPUBLIC 7-2021

October 27, 1954

Mr. Edmond R. Purves
Executive Director, AIA
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Purves:

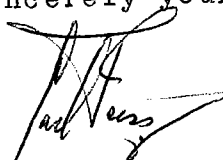
It may not be in order for a non-office holding member of the AIA to canvas the Officers and Board of Directors on matters pertaining to the Gold Medal Award. If I am out of order please do not let my recommendation count against your serious consideration of Clarence Stein for the Gold Medal next year. I know that you may already be considering others for this honor but, among the many who may be worthy, he certainly should stand at the very top of the list.

I have known Clarence Stein and worked with him closely for many years. My esteem for his accomplishments in the field of architecture and community planning is without limit. Clarence Stein's position in this country and abroad is that of Dean of all architects today working in the field of designed and planned environment. His work, beginning at the time of World War I, advanced on a wide front from the making of a general plan for the State of New York, to work on the epoch making Radburn plan and on to Kitimat. His important book "New Towns for America" published in 1951 is a record of great accomplishment. The work he touched developed a magic of its own, Radburn, N.U.; Hillside Houses, N.Y.; Greenbelt, Maryland; Baldwin Hills Village, Los Angeles; Kitimat, British Columbia. They speak for themselves.

But even beyond the intrinsic value of such works is the tremendous range of their influence. Clarence Stein was the inovator of architectural and community design predicated on the technological advance of the machine age as developed in America. For the architecture of the modern city he is the Louis Sullivan of our day, using modern materials, nature, and human values in combination to create a designed whole. The logic of his approach, his careful, sincere, and scientific means have by their very own persuasiveness served as guide posts and as models for thousands of small and large-scale projects in this country and abroad.

For his selfless devotion to a great cause, for his human understanding, for his technical skill, and for his world-wide stature, the Profession would be honoring a great American.

Sincerely yours,



John

*Board Meeting
Award of medals
Gold medal 1951 -
Plan*

November 2, 1954

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Dear Carl:

I am answering your formal letter to me of October 27 in a rather informal fashion.

The rule of The Board with respect to Gold Medals is as follows:

"Nomination of Medallist. Nominations of individuals to be considered for the Medals of The Institute must be made at the first meeting of The Board following the Post-Convention Meeting, and lie on the table until the following meeting of The Board; the data accompanying such nominations shall be as complete as possible."

It cannot be anticipated whether The Board would consider a waiving of its own rule at the Spring Meeting, but I rather think it unlikely The Board will do so.

It is too bad the idea was not brought to the attention of The Board a month earlier. However, your letter and any others on the subject will, of course, be brought to the attention of The Board at its Spring Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Edmund R. Purves
Executive Director

Mr. Carl Feiss, A.I.A.
730 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

ERP:hrs

Awards & medals
Gold medal - 1950 -
Stein.

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 2, 1954

Mr. Carl Feiss
730 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Carl:

I have your recent (undated) letter expressing your hope that Clarence Stein might be awarded the Gold Medal of The Institute next year. Any expression from you, especially in the field of planning, carries great weight with me and I am happy to add your estimate of Clarence Stein to my own and to that of Henry Churchill who has recently telephoned me with the same purpose in mind. I shall preserve your letter to be added to whatever material Henry may send me in accordance with the opportunity I offered him in my letter, a copy of which is enclosed.

It is good to hear from you, and I wish you great success and satisfaction in your present consulting activity.

Cordially yours,

George Bain Cummings, Secretary

CC: Churchill
Purves

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS, SECRETARY
99 COLLIER STREET
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

October 27, 1954

Mr. Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Ned:

Henry Churchill of Philadelphia called me on the phone Monday to ask me to propose the name of Clarence Stein as recipient of the Gold Medal of The Institute at the forthcoming Minneapolis Convention. He pointed out the fact that the theme chosen for this Convention, "Designing for the Community", made it particularly an appropriate timing for Stein's nomination. It seems to me that I recall hearing this suggestion from somebody either during The Board meeting or at another time.

Henry says he has talked with you about this and from the facts that he stated, it is apparent that you told him the whole status of the award this year.

I fail to see how another nomination can be made. The Rule of The Board (Page 21 of Document 310) states as follows: "Nomination of Medallist. Nominations of individuals to be considered for the Medals of The Institute must be made at the first meeting of The Board following the Post-Convention Meeting, and lie on the table until the following meeting of The Board; the data accompanying such nominations shall be as complete as possible." I concede that The Board may modify its own rules but if it attempted to do so at the next meeting of The Board, such action, it would seem to me, could only properly be applied in the future and not in the past. Will you please consider this point and give me your advice.

Cordially yours,


George Bain Cummings, Secretary

CC: Henry Churchill

HENRY S. CHURCHILL, F. A. I. A., A. I. P.

Architecture • City and Community Planning

204 W. Rittenhouse Sq. • Philadelphia 3, Pa. • Rittenhouse 6-0139

19 West 44 Street • New York 36 • Vanderbilt 6-5373

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 5, 1954

Mr. George B. Cummings
99 Collier St.
Binghamton, N. Y.

Dear George:

Thank you for your letter of the 2nd. I greatly appreciate your willingness to bring the Gold Medal for Stein matter up at the next Directors meeting. In the meantime I have heard from Marcellus Wright that he will be glad to nominate Stein, and I do hope the completion of procedure can be ironed out - particularly as I understand that the nominations were made at a meeting earlier in the year than is generally the custom. Also, I would add, there is the belief that such nominations come up at the same time as the Fellowships.

I am enclosing the biographical data you asked for, which is complete except for Clarence's age which he likes to try to keep a dark secret. But "unofficially" I can divulge that it is 78.

Incidentally, I wish you to know that Ned told me about the other nominations confidentially, and that I have respected that confidence except to you for obvious reasons.

With best regards,

Cordially,


Henry S. Churchill

P.S. If you wish I will be glad to send you a copy of Stein's book "New Communities for America".

HSC:C
Enclosure - Resume

Award + medals
Gold medal
Stein

HENRY S. CHURCHILL, F. A. I. A., A. I. P.

Architecture • City and Community Planning

204 W. Rittenhouse Sq. • Philadelphia 3, Pa. • Rittenhouse 6-0139

19 West 44 Street • New York 36 • Vanderbilt 6-5373

MSD
Please acknowledge
and save for SB.

November 3, 1954.

Mr. Edmund Purves
The Octagon
1735 New York Ave., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ned:

I am enclosing a record of Clarence Stein's life and work for the files. I am pursuing the effort to get him nominated for the Medal, on the basis that the meeting at which nominations are due was held sooner than the regular time for it. Marcellus Wright has written me he will gladly make the nomination.

I regret I caused you embarrassment by telling Cummings I knew about the other nominations; but I have not spoken of it to anyone else.

Sincerely,


Henry S. Churchill

P. S. Do you want me to send you copies of letters, etc.?

HSC:B

awards & medals
Gold medal - 1941

Stein

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.
56 West 45th Street
New York 19, N. Y.

Education - Columbia University School of Architecture.
Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. Travel in Europe.

Office Experience - Office of Bertram G. Goodhue - 1911-1918.
In charge of design and execution of the California State Building at the San Diego Fair; St. Bartholomew's Church New York; the Village of Tyrone, New Mexico; George Washington Hotel, Colon, Panama; as well as the design of the Marine Corps Base and Naval Air Base, San Diego, Calif.

War Service - First Lieutenant, Engineers - 1918.

Independent Practice - 1919.

Professional Affiliations -
Fellow of the American Institute of Architects
Member of the American Institute of Planners.
Honorary Member of the Society of Mexican Architects

Public and Civic Offices -
Secretary of the Committee on Housing of the Reconstruction Commission, State of New York - 1920
Developed a State Housing Program for Governor Alfred E. Smith on which state policy and legislation were based.
Chairman of the Commission of Housing and Regional Planning, State of New York - 1923-1926
Developed basic constructive housing policy from which state and national housing has since developed.
Chairman of the Committee on Community Planning, American Institute of Architects - 1912-1924.
Vice President of the International Garden Cities and Town Planning Federation - 1924.
Member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning - 1925-1937.
Associate Member, Board of Design, New York World's Fair - 1937-1938.
President of the Regional Planning Association of America - 1925-1948.
President of the Regional Development Council of America - at present.

Awards -
1928 - first prize award of the Chamber of Commerce, Borough of Queens, to the City Housing Corporation for Industrial Building at Sunnyside, Long Island.
1931 - First prize award of the Chamber of Commerce, Borough of Queens, to Phipps Houses, Inc., for the first unit of Phipps Garden Apts., Long Island City.
1940 - Gold Medal Apartment House Award of the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. for apartments under six stories built between 1933 and 1938.
1941 - Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter of the A.I.A. "for distinguished work and high professional standing" particularly in the field of low-cost housing."

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CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.

Registration - National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
State of New York
State of California.

Publications - "Toward New Towns for America." University Press
Liverpool, 1951. Refer to this for details of work.
Introduction by Lewis Mumford on importance.
Numerous articles and reports.

CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.

PRINCIPAL CITY PLANNING AND HOUSING WORK

SUNNYSIDE GARDENS, Long Island City, New York. 1924
An urban community housing development for 1,200 families, built for the City Housing Corporation, a limited dividend company.

Chief architect. Also Town Planner in association with Henry Wright.

RADEBURN, New Jersey. 1929
A completely new town in which the modern scheme of safety streets and superblocks was developed for the City Housing Corporation.

Chief architect, as well as Town Planner in association with Henry Wright.

CHATHAM VILLAGE, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1932
A community of row houses on a hilly site, built by the Buhl Foundation to demonstrate the advantages of large-scale housing maintained as long-term investment. It has been 100% occupied since completion.

Site Planner and Architectural Consultant in association with Henry Wright.

HILLSIDE HOMES, Bronx, New York. 1935
An integrated community of apartments for 1,416 families facing on spacious gardens and centering around a large playground, auditorium, meeting rooms, and nursery school. Built for the Hillside Housing Corporation.

Architect and Site Planner.

PHIPPS GARDEN APARTMENTS, Long Island City, New York. 1936
A group of elevator and walk-up apartments built for Phipps Houses, Inc., around large landscaped courts, housing 471 families.

Architect and Site Planner.

FORT GREENE HOUSES (Project No. 3), Brooklyn, New York. 1941
A subsidized housing development of 866 units in six and eleven story elevator buildings for the New York City Housing Authority.

Chief Architect in association with Charles Butler, Henry S. Churchill, and Robert D. Kohn.

STOWE TOWNSHIP AND SHALER TOWNSHIP, Allegheny County, Pa. 1941
Two Defense Housing projects planned for Federal Works agency.

Architect and Site Planner.

PRINCIPAL CITY PLANNING AND HOUSING WORK
(Continued)

KITIMAT, British Columbia, Canada

1951

Kitimat is a new town, now being built on a former wilderness site for an ultimate population of 50,000, in connection with the new aluminum smelter of the Aluminum Company of Canada. The Kitimat plan has as ancestors the basic conceptions of Radburn, the Greenbelt Towns, Howard's Garden City, and the Neighborhood Community. But Kitimat will be a completely new mid-twentieth century city planned to meet the requirements for good living of a particular people, place, politics (or government) and industry in British Columbia.

C.S.S. Planning Director and Co-ordinator.

CONSULTANT ON THE FOLLOWING HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS:

BALDWIN HILLS VILLAGE, Los Angeles, California

1941

An 80-acre development of row houses for 638 families with individual gardens grouped around a spacious park with play areas, administration and community buildings, and nursery.

Architectural and the Site Planning Consultant.

HARBOR HILLS, near San Pedro, California

1940

A community housing development around parks for low income workers, consisting of 300 family units of one and two-family row houses on 21 acres.

Architectural and Site Planning Consultant.

CARMELITOS HOUSING PROJECT, North Long Beach, California -

1939

Subsidized housing development for Los Angeles Housing Authority consisting of 607 units in row houses on 63 acres.

Architectural and Site Planning Consultant.

GREENBELT, Maryland; GREENDALE, Wisconsin; GREENHILLS, Ohio.

1935-1938

Complete modern towns built by the Resettlement Administration.

As Consultant, made a detailed study of operating and maintaining both housing and town facilities on which plans and budgets were based.

MICHIGAN BOULEVARD GARDEN APARTMENTS, Chicago, Illinois

1929

Large-scale apartment house development for 421 negro families, built for the Estate of Julius Rosenwald.

Consultant in association with Henry Wright.

LAVANBURG HOMES, Goerck Street, New York.

1927

Low rental, subsidized apartment houses with many community features, built for the Fred L. Lavanburg Foundation.

Planning Consultant.

KILLIN

Also Consultant of the United States Housing Authority
the New York State Division of Housing.

Also Consultant of the Federal Works Agency
the Federal Public Housing Authority.

DEFENSE HOUSING PROJECTS

STOWE TOWNSHIP, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania 1941
A development of 250 one and two-story dwelling units.

SHALER TOWNSHIP, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. 1941
A development of 251 dwelling units, planned for a hilly site which required a special type of hill-side house.

CLAIRTON (Reed-Wylie Site), Allegheny County, Pa. 1941
A development of 600 dwelling units. Designed in association with Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.

INDIAN HEAD, Maryland
A development of 650 demountable dwelling units.
Prepared the site plan for the Public Buildings Administration, as Housing Consultant of the Federal Works Agency.

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

MARINE CORPS BASE, San Diego, California 1917
Built for the Bureau of Yards and Docks, United States Navy.
Consists of administration building, barracks, gymnasium, warehouses, officers' quarters, parade ground, etc.

As representative of Bertram G. Goodhue, Consulting Architect in charge of development of plans of grounds and buildings.

NAVAL AIR BASE, San Diego, California 1917
Built for the Bureau of Yards and Docks, United States Navy
Consists of Administration Building, officers' quarters, barracks, hangars, and workshops.

As representative of Bertram G. Goodhue, Consulting Architect in charge of development of plans of grounds and buildings.

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

*awards & medals
Gold medal*

Stein

John A. ...

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 12, 1954

Mr. Ely Jacques Kahn
2 Park Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Mr. Kahn:

Your letter in support of Clarence Stein's nomination for the Gold Medal will be presented with the committee's report to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting.

He has certainly earned proper recognition by our profession.

Sincerely,



C. Storrs Barrows

CSB:abb

cc: Mr. E. Purves ✓

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NOV 12 1954
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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

*awards & medals
gold medals*

Stein

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

John A. ...

November 12, 1954

Mr. William Charney Vladeck
1841 Broadway
New York 23, New York

Dear Mr. Vladeck:

Your letter in support of Clarence Stein's nomination for the Gold Medal will be presented with the committee's report to the Spring Board of Directors Meeting.

He has certainly earned proper recognition by our profession.

Sincerely,



C. Storrs Barrows

CSB:abb

cc: Mr. E. Purves ✓

WASHINGTON, D. C.
NOV 12 1954
RECEIVED BY ARCHITECTS
11 12 1954

HOLDEN, EGAN & ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

ARTHUR C. HOLDEN
JOHN TAYLOR EGAN
WILLIAM D. WILSON
JOHN B. CORSER, JR.

FRANKLIN C. WELLS
ALFRED M. BUTTS
DONALD V. WHELAN

November 15, 1954

215 EAST 37TH STREET
NEW YORK 16 • MURRAY HILL 7-5777

Mr. Clair W. Ditchy, F.A.I.A.
President, American Institute of Architects
5 W. Larned Street
Detroit 26, Michigan

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Re: Gold Medal 1955

Dear Clair:

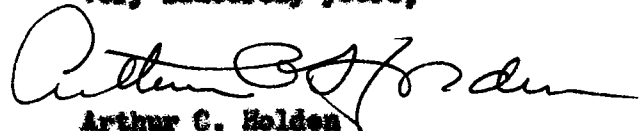
Just recently I have been asked what I thought of the suggestion that the A.I.A. Gold Medal for 1955 be awarded to Clarence S. Stein F.A.I.A. of New York.

I think very favorably of it. My enthusiasm is directed first toward a just recognition that the leadership of Clarence Stein in the field of City Planning and Housing. He has probably performed more outstanding services in this field than any architect living in our country to-day. A list of his specific achievements will be forwarded to the Board.

In the second place the Institute has never honored an American Architect in the field of city planning although several years ago the award of our medal was made to Sir Patrick Abercrombie for achievement in city planning in England. This years convention is to be focused on the community and it will be an opportune time for an award of this character.

I should like to see the Board give very serious consideration to this proposal. I have known Clarence Stein intimately for about 35 years and will be glad to supply further data. The Town Planning Review, published by the University of Liverpool in England has printed the best account of Clarence Stein's work.

Very sincerely yours,


Arthur C. Holden

ACH:mas
Mr. E. R. Purves
C. S. Barrows
R. S. Hutchins
H. S. Churchill

Award of medals
Gold medal - 1955
Stein
Tom A.A.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

Tom
awards & medals
Gold medal
1954
Stein

ADMINISTRATIVE

1920 NOV 15 AM 10:50

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 15, 1954

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Mr. Carl Peiss
730 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Carl:

Your suggestion of Clarence Stein for the Gold Medal is an excellent one. At our Fall Board Meeting held October 11-15 several nominations were made. Supporting information is collected and decisions made at the Spring Board Meeting. The award requires the unanimous consent of the Board. Two years ago the award was made to William Adams Delano of the New York Chapter and Mr. Stein is a member of the same chapter.

A motion was made to extend the period of submitting added candidates which I thought included only the Fine Arts and Craftsmanship Medal and Citations of Honor to January 1st, but the motion may include the Gold Medal also. Marcellus Wright, Jr. could make the nomination prior to January 1st and the Board (whose action we have no right to predict) would I feel sure give the nomination consideration.

It is most important to have supporting information for presentation to the Board Members at the Spring Meeting. If, for any reason, he is not considered this year, it is a start for next year's award.

Sincerely,

C. Storrs Barrows
C. Storrs Barrows

CEB:ahl

cc: Marcellus Wright, Jr.
Matthew Del Gaudio
T. R. Purves ✓

Purves

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

1 November 1954

RECEIVED

NOV 2 1954

KIRBY

Mr. Donald B. Kirby,
Regional Director
Sierra Nevada District - AIA
109 Stevenson Street
San Francisco 5, California

Dear Don:

It has come to me that the theme of the next convention will be "Community Planning". In the forefront of this field comes the name of Clarence Stein.

It is Clarence Stein who began to climb in community terms in the nineteen twenties with Radburn in New Jersey. This theme he has pursued through Baldwin Hills Village in Los Angeles to the just-building Kitimat for the Aluminum Company of Canada.

It would be fitting if he should receive our Gold Medal for his pioneering, untiring, and successful efforts in this direction. It represents a life's work of real achievement.

Sincerely yours,

William Wilson Wurster

William Wilson Wurster, FAIA
Dean of Architecture

awards & medals
gold medal 1951
Stein

Stein
Spring Board

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 17, 1954

Mr. Donald Beach Kirby, Director
Sierra-Nevada District, A.I.A.
109 Stevenson Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Don:

Thank you very much for having sent to me Bill Wurster's letter to you of November 1st. For your records we are returning a copy of that letter and are retaining the original here for The Board meeting.

This subject will be on the agenda next April, as there is a considerable "Gold Medal for Clarence Stein" movement building up all over the country.

My best to you.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund R. Purves
Executive Director

ERP:MSD



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MARCELLUS WRIGHT, JR., DIRECTOR, MIDDLE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
100 EAST MAIN, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER 26, 1954

MR. GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS, SECRETARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, A.I.A.
99 COLLIER STREET
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

DEAR GEORGE:

AT THE SUGGESTION OF A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING A.I.A. MEMBERS IN THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC DISTRICT, I TAKE PLEASURE IN FORMALLY PRESENTING THE NAME OF A DISTINGUISHED FELLOW OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, CLARENCE S. STEIN, FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE AWARD OF THE GOLD MEDAL.

IT IS NOTED THAT FOR THE REASONS THEN STATED, THE BOARD AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING IN LEXINGTON RESOLVED TO WAIVE THE RULE REQUIRING THAT NOMINATIONS FOR CERTAIN AWARDS BE MADE AT THE FALL MEETING. THE MINUTES DO NOT INCLUDE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE GOLD MEDAL IN THIS LISTING.

THE SPONSORS OF MR. STEIN BRING TO OUR ATTENTION THE FACT THAT THE NOMINATION PROCEDURE IS NOT WELL KNOWN TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND FURTHER THAT GENERAL NOTICES THIS YEAR INDICATED THAT THE FALL BOARD MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER. THE CHANGE IN DATE PRODUCED AN UNANTICIPATED PROBLEM TO THESE GENTLEMEN IN THEIR WORTHY OBJECTIVE.

I SUBSCRIBE TO THESE EXPRESSIONS AND BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE PROPER AND EQUITABLE TO NOW ADD THE NAME OF THIS NOMINEE TO THOSE ALREADY PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION. SHOULD THERE BE ANY RESERVATION IN YOUR MIND ON THE POINT, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE MATTER BE PRESENTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD FOR RESOLUTION AT ITS DECEMBER MEETING.

MR. GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS
PAGE 2

NOVEMBER 26, 1954

ATTACHED HEREWITH IS A BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF
MR. STEIN WHICH WILL BE LATER SUPPLEMENTED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS
OF SOME OF HIS OUTSTANDING WORK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY,



MARCELLUS WRIGHT, JR.
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

MWJR:APJ
ENC. - BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD,
CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.

CC MR. C. STORRS BARROWS, CHAIRMAN
MR. EDMUND R. PURVES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Awards + medals
Gold medal - 1951*

VOORHEES WALKER FOLEY & SMITH
101 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK 17



FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 30, 1954

Dear George:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have just written to Henry Churchill and the resume of Clarence Stein's work so you will have it before you. I think it a very happy idea to recognize Clarence because of the fine work he has done in town planning and community development.

You may well remember that I believe that the Gold Medal of The Institute should not be held as a sacred cow and should be given to Americans every year, with a possible introduction of a foreign architect (by that I also mean foreign born living in the United States), but not more often than every three years. I believe the A. I. A. should be interested in architecture as produced by the native born.

I hope you will present my strong recommendation to the Board of Directors when they next consider an award of the Gold Medal.

With best wishes to you, and with great hopes of your being our next president, I am

Cordially,



Mr. George Bain Cummings
99 Collier Street
Binghamton, New York

cc: Mr. Henry Churchill

Awards of medals
Gold medal 1951

Stein

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

November 30, 1954

Dear Henry:

Answering your letter of the 3rd, I shall be very glad to recommend to the Board of Directors that the Gold Medal of the Institute be given to Clarence Stein.

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to George Bain Cummings who as secretary I think I can address as a past president.

I think you are doing a good deed.

Sincerely,

Ralph Walker

Mr. Henry S. Churchill
19 West 44th Street
New York 36, New York

✓ cc: Mr. George Bain Cummings

F R E D E R I C K B I G G E R
C O N S U L T A N T
P I T T S B U R G H , P E N N S Y L V A N I A

Awards & Medals
Gold Medal - 19.
Stein

REGISTERED ARCHITECT
FELLOW AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
MEMBER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

12 3 University Place,
Pittsburgh 13, Pa.
January 14 1955.

Mr. George Bain Cummings, F.A.I.A.,
Secretary, American Institute of Architects,
99 Collier Street, Binghamton, New York.

Dear Mr. Cummings:

I am one of a number - many, I hope - of members of the American Institute of Architects urgently concerned that the Gold Medal of the Institute be awarded to Clarence S. Stein - this year.

Though Director Marcellus Wright, Jr., assured me some weeks ago that he strongly favored the Institute award going to Clarence Stein this year, He left me under the impression that others might believe the proposal had been made too late. I sincerely hope that is not so. As men grow older the matter of timing of awarding honors becomes a serious one. It is because of this that I have ventured to write you.

Sincerely yours



Frederick Bigger

Swamp Bd Mtg

*awards & medals
Gold medal - 1954
Stein*



J.W.R.

*One material for
Stein file.*

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MARCELLUS WRIGHT, JR., DIRECTOR, MIDDLE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
100 EAST MAIN, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

20 JANUARY 1955

MR. GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS
99 COLLIER STREET
BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

DEAR GEORGE:

I HAVE BEEN FAVORED WITH A COPY OF A LETTER DATED JANUARY 14
ADDRESSED TO YOU FROM ONE OF MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES,
MR. FREDERICK BIGGER OF PITTSBURGH.

MR. BIGGER MOST PROPERLY EXERCISES HIS PREROGATIVE TO FOSTER
THE AWARD OF THE GOLD MEDAL TO MR. CLARENCE S. STEIN, BUT
IN SO DOING HE INDICATES THAT I HAVE COMMITTED MY OWN VOTE
AS A BOARD MEMBER BEFORE ALL THE INFORMATION ON THE VARIOUS
NOMINEES IS AVAILABLE.

I KNOW THAT SUCH AN INDICATION WAS POSSIBLY INADVERTENT, BUT
I FEEL IT PROPER TO INFORM YOU, AS SECRETARY, THAT SUCH A
COMMITMENT IS NOT THE CASE. I WROTE MR. BIGGER ON
30 NOVEMBER 1954 THAT I SHARED HIS ADMIRATION FOR MR. STEIN
AND THAT I HAD BEEN PLEASED TO HAVE THE HONOR OF OFFERING
OFFICIALLY TO THE BOARD HIS NOMINATION FOR THE AWARD.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE TECHNICAL PROVISION REGARDING THE
LATENESS OF THE NOMINATION CAN BE OVERCOME, AND I EXPECT TO
PRESENT TO THE BOARD THE INFORMATION ON MR. STEIN IN THE
STRONGEST AND MOST FAVORABLE LIGHT.

I VERY MUCH AGREE WITH MR. BIGGER THAT THE TIMING OF SUCH
AWARDS BECOMES OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE AS MEN GROW OLDER.

CORDIALLY,

Marcellus Wright, Jr.

MARCELLUS WRIGHT, JR.
DIRECTOR
MIDDLE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
A. I. A.

MWJR:PM
CC: MR. FREDERICK BIGGER

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HENRY S. CHURCHILL, F. A. I. A., A. I. P.

Architecture • City and Community Planning

204 W. Rittenhouse Sq. • Philadelphia 3, Pa. • Rittenhouse 6-0139

19 West 44 Street • New York 36 • VAnDerbilt 6-5373

February 10, 1955

Mr. Edmund N. Purves
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue
Washington 6 D.C.

Dear Ned:

I am sending to your care some material on the life and work of Clarence Stein for presentation to the Board of Directors in the matter of the Gold Medal Award. It consists of a brief record of his work and writing, a short account of the meaning of his work written by Lewis Mumford, a few photographs, magazine reprints, etc. of various things that he has done, and a copy of his book "Towards New Towns for America".

If possible, I would like this material returned to me after the Board is through with it.

I assume that the letters of recommendation from many architects which have been sent to various Regional Directors will be available to the Board. There will also be some letters from foreign practitioners that I will forward shortly upon receiving them.

Sincerely.



Henry S. Churchill

Copy to
Marcellus Wright, Jr.

HENRY S. CHURCHILL, F. A. I. A., A. I. P.

Architecture • City and Community Planning

204 W. Rittenhouse Sq. • Philadelphia 3, Pa. • Rittenhouse 6-0139

19 West 44 Street • New York 36 • VANDERBILT 6-5373

Awards of medals
Gold medal 1951
Stein
FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

March 7, 1955

Dear Ned:

Re the exhibit of Clarence Stein's work for the
Directors meeting: enclosed are letters of recommendation
from

Sir William Holford
Prof. Sir Patrick Abercrombie
Sven Markelius

Cordially,



Mr. Edmund N. Purves
The Octagon
1735 New York Ave.
Washington 6 D.C.

Sir William Holford

5, CAMBRIDGE TERRACE,
LONDON, N.W.1.

Air Mail

Personal

31st January, 1955.

Lewis Mumford, Esq.,
c/o University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia 4, U.S.A.

Dear Lewis Mumford,

As I do not know to whom, in the American Institute of Architects, I should address a letter on the subject of Clarence Stein, I am taking the liberty of writing to you direct in the hope that you might think it worth while to forward this letter to the Committee on Awards.

Clarence Stein is one of a small body of people whose influence in the United States may be wide or narrow; and this cannot properly be judged by those outside the U.S.A. But about his influence in other English speaking countries there is no doubt whatever. I imagine that he learnt from our own pioneers and thinkers in the field of Architecture and City Planning; and we have now certainly learnt a great deal from him. I say "learnt" but in fact we are still learning. His recent book Towards New Towns for America is in fact a text-book for students of Housing and Town Planning in this country.

There are some architects who make a contribution through their buildings and there are others who make a contribution of ideas. In my view Clarence Stein is a sensitive architect particularly in the field of housing; but it is in the realm of social ideas and their practical application that he is outstanding. Nor is his a literary accomplishment; he has persuaded a whole school of architects, town planners, real estate promoters and sociologists to accept his principles and act on them.

It is probably unprecedented for an outsider, who is not even a Corresponding Member, to express an opinion on what is, after all, a purely domestic matter for the A.I.A. Nevertheless, the very word "domestic" gives the clue to the reason why Clarence Stein's work is of international concern and why I venture to write this letter of support; namely because, more than any other man, he has shown the way to turn houses into homes.

I do hope that you will be able to ask the Committee to include his name among those others who are due for consideration this year.

With warm greetings,

Yours sincerely,

William Holford

per o.f. in absentia

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1954
ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

F
PROFESSOR SIR PATRICK ABERCROMBIE
M.A. F.R.I.B.A. M.T.P.I

33, WELBECK STREET
LONDON, W.1
TELEPHONE: WELBECK 1681-2

5 Feb. 55

Dear Mumford:

It is difficult for me to overpraise Clarence Stein as a Planner: perhaps in the sphere of Tactics rather than Strategy. At any rate, I have studied his work in the dimension of detailed development of places where people live. A generation or so ago, Le Corbusier was the pioneer: his picturesque approach was hardened in continental practice, especially in Germany - at the same or a little later time, introducing some valuable contributions: the Zeilenbau, etc. The initiative then crossed the Atlantic and has been in your hands ever since. Stein, not of course quite alone, has been responsible for this: the human quality has returned. Technically it might be described as the emancipation of residential planning from the Road

pattern, and emphasis on the Neighborhood.

I consider that the A.I.A. should show their appreciation of and pride in his work by bestowing their Gold medal on him - If we have a Gold Medal in the AIA I would recommend that he should be given it - for his contribution is world wide in importance!

With my warmest Greetings
Yours ever

Patrick Abercrombie

To Lewis Mumford

SVEN MARKELIUS
STOCKHOLM

KEVINGE, STOCKSUND

March 3, 1955.

Mr. Henry C. Churchill,
204 West Rittenhouse Sq.,
Philadelphia 3, Penn.

Dear Mr. Churchill:

Having heard about the presentation of Clarence Stein as a candidate for the Gold Medal by a group in the American Institute of Architects I wish to express my very sincere support to this proposal. I have had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know Mr. Stein during his frequent visits to Sweden as well as through his works.

I have the deepest respect for his clearminded devotion to the creating of a human environment and a social aspect on urban development and regional planning.

His influence on modern townplanning in Scandinavia as well as in many other countries is evident, and in my opinion the Gold Medal would, if given to Clarence Stein, be bestowed upon a man, worthy of such an honor because of his remarkable contributions.

Sincerely yours,



awards & medals
Gold medal 1951
in Platinum

Stein

May 11, 1955

Mr. Henry S. Churchill
19 West 44th Street
New York 18, New York


Dear Henry:

As you have probably heard, the Gold Medal is being awarded to Willem Dudok this year, and the question has arisen as to what disposition we should make of the materials submitted in support of Clarence Stein's nomination for the Medal.

When I asked Marc Wright about it, he indicated that he favored resubmission of Mr. Stein's name next year, if you approve, for the honor most of us think he merits. Marc indicated that he would be glad to make the nomination next year or have Mr. Berners or some other member of the Board do it.

We have a book and a folder on Mr. Stein. Shall we keep them?

Sincerely yours,



Walter A. Taylor, Director
Department of Education and Research

cc: Mr. Wright
Mr. Purves

award & medals
gold medal 1951 —
Stein
Gold Medal
JWR

HENRY S. CHURCHILL, F. A. I. A., A. I. P.

Architecture • City and Community Planning

204 W. Rittenhouse Sq. • Philadelphia 3, Pa. • Rittenhouse 6-0139

19 West 44 Street • New York 36 • Vanderbilt 6-5373

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m.a.n.

May 16, 1955.

Mr. Walter A. Taylor
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Ave. N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Walter:

Thanks for your note in regard to the Stein award and the material that you still have in Washington.

I think it would be a good idea for you to hold onto this if you will, so that Marc Wright can proceed with his proposed nomination for next year. Thanks very much indeed.

I am writing Marc to this effect.

Sincerely yours,


Henry S. Churchill

HSC:B

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Handwritten: ~~Handwritten~~ ~~Bl...~~ ~~JLW-PC~~

CARL FEISS
PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL CONSULTANT
730 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

REPUBLIC 7-2021

Handwritten: awarded medals gold medal nomination

January 12, 1956

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Mr. Edmund R. Purves
Executive Director
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Purves:

Last year the name of Clarence Stein was presented to the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects as a candidate for the Gold Medal of the Institute.

It is my sincere hope that Mr. Stein's name is on the top of this year's list. This note to you is to re-affirm that no American architect alive today has contributed as much as Clarence Stein to the architecture and development of the modern city.

May I assure you that those who supported Mr. Stein's candidacy last year have not flagged in their hope that this year he will receive the honored award.

Very respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature: Carl Feiss

Handwritten: 90
CF:m

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MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

CARL FEISS
PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL CONSULTANT
730 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

REPUBLIC 7-2021

January 30, 1956

Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ned:

As you know, I have sent out letters to members of the Board regarding the Gold Medal for Clarence Stein this year. Marc Wright, in his acknowledgement, made the following statement, " should you have or be able to obtain any other exhibits of his outstanding work for the benefit of refreshment to the Board Members, they would possibly enhance the presentation."

Would you have any idea as to what additional material Clarence should send in? I have never seen the complete dosier that was submitted last year and I don't know what the specifications for such a submittal are, but I am sure Clarence would be happy to fill in any gaps.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



CF:m



*awards & medals
Gold medal
Stein - 1956.*

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MARCELLUS WRIGHT, JR., DIRECTOR, MIDDLE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
100 EAST MAIN, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

6 FEBRUARY 1956

MR. J. WINFIELD RANKIN
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, A.I.A.
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

RE: EXHIBIT MATERIAL -
CLARENCE S. STEIN

DEAR WIN:

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 1. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD ADVISE CARL FEISS OF JUST WHAT MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION OF MR. STEIN FOR GOLD MEDAL HONORS.

MY ONLY POINT IN MENTIONING IT TO CARL WAS IN THE INTEREST OF SUPPLEMENTING THE PRESENT MATERIAL IF ANY MORE WAS READILY AVAILABLE.

I BELIEVE THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE WELL POSTED ON THE STEIN RECORD, AND IF NO MORE EXHIBITS ARE AT HAND, IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR USUAL EFFICIENT INTEREST IN ALL MATTERS OF PROPER CONCERN TO OUR WORKINGS.

SINCERELY,


MARCELLUS WRIGHT, JR.
DIRECTOR
MIDDLE ATLANTIC DISTRICT

MWJR:PM

CC: MR. CARL FEISS
MR. E. R. PURVES

Awards & Medals
gold medal
Stein - 1956

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

February 7, 1956

Mr. Carl Feiss, AIA
730 Jackson Place, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear ^{Carl} Mr. Feiss:

This is in response to your letter of January 30.

We have here the book "Toward New Towns for America" by Clarence Stein, as well as a leather folio containing examples of his work and articles about him.

While it is difficult for us to judge the adequacy of material for presentation to The Board in such a serious matter, we believe that the Board could hardly use additional material because of the fact that it will not have time to review it. If you believe that a better exhibit, or a better publication should be substituted for what we now have, you are certainly privileged to submit it and we will bring such facts to the attention of The Board.

If you would like to look over the leather folio, with a view as to whether or not it should be supplemented, we would be happy to let you see it. It is in Mr. Rankin's office here on the second floor.

Yours very truly,

Edmund R. Purves
Executive Director

PrR:i

cc: Director Wright

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

*Awards & Medals
Gold Medal
Stein 1956*

March 12, 1956

Mr. Clarence Stein, F.A.I.A.
1 West 64th Street
New York 23, New York

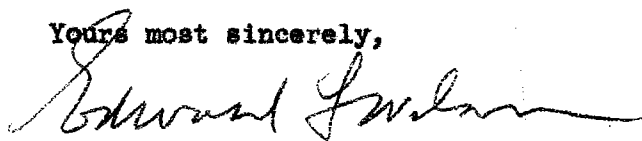
Dear Clarence:

As Secretary of The American Institute of Architects nothing has given me as great a pleasure as to be able to write to you and tell you that by action of The Board of Directors at our meeting held recently it was the unanimous and enthusiastic opinion of the members of The Board that The Institute's Gold Medal be awarded to you in 1956.

I suppose I should send you the appropriate Rules of The Board and all background material on the Gold Medal, but this I think is scarcely necessary in the case of an old friend and a devoted member of The Institute, for you know full well the significance of our highest award.

In writing this letter of notification and congratulation I am adding to it a request. Will you honor The Institute at its coming Convention and give the principal address at the banquet? This will be held on May 17th. I must confess I am so confident of your granting this favor that we are already starting to prepare the program accordingly and so I look forward with a great deal of pleasure to the privilege of presenting to you the Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects at its coming Convention to be held in Los Angeles.

Yours most sincerely,



Edward L. Wilson
Secretary

ELW:hrs
cc: Mr. Purves
Mr. Cummings

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Awards & Medals
Gold Medal
Stein - 1966*

CARL FEISS

PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL CONSULTANT

730 JACKSON PLACE, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MEMBER
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

REPUBLIC 7-2021

file

April 5, 1956

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ned:

I just wanted to express to you my very real pleasure that Clarence Stein is getting the gold Medal. It could not happen to a finer guy and it is a very real plume in the bonnet of the AIA.

Thanks so much for your swell cooperation.

Sincerely,





ANNO DOMINI MCMLVI

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
IN BESTOWING THE HIGHEST ACCOLADE
WITHIN ITS GIFT
THE GOLD MEDAL OF HONOR
RECOGNIZES
CLARENCE S. STEIN, F.A.I.A.
ARCHITECT OF NEIGHBORHOODS
COMMUNITIES, CITIES

IN A LIFETIME OF ACTIVE PRACTICE YOUR VISION
OF THE ARCHITECT'S RESPONSIBILITY EARLY BURST THE LIMITATIONS
IMPOSED BY THE DESIGN OF AN INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE.
THAT VISION EMBRACED THE WIDER AIM OF DESIGNING FOR
MANKIND'S ENVIRONMENT RATHER THAN FOR MERE SHELTER—
FOR A WAY OF LIFE RATHER THAN FOR WALLS AND A ROOF.
THIS MEASURE OF THE ARCHITECT'S OPPORTUNITY
OF SERVING SOCIETY MORE EFFECTIVELY,
GIVEN CLEARER FORM BY YOUR OWN ACHIEVEMENTS
OVER THE YEARS, ENRICHES OUR CONCEPTION OF ARCHITECTURE
AS THE MOTHER OF THE ARTS.
ALL WHO MARCH UNDER HER BANNER, NOW AND HENCEFORWARD,
WILL BE THE BETTER FOR YOUR EXAMPLE

SECRETARY

PRESIDENT

+ PAPER #13, 1956.

today. We intend that this celebration will live in the lives and memory not only of architects, but much more in the life of the average American citizens. (Applause)

PRESIDENT CUMMINGS: Thank you, very much, Alex Robinson.

I want to say I have a whole sheaf of telegrams which are in the affectionate interest of friends of many of the persons who have been elevated to Fellowship, and I am going to read those and shall be happy to, tomorrow morning. (Laughter)

Don't be too puffed up - because Clarence Stein himself was the recipient of ten telegrams this evening, which brings me to the event that we have been pointing toward in planning this whole convention and this Annual Dinner, the presentation of the Gold Medal of The Institute.

Clarence, I take a lot of personal pleasure and fun in this thing. You know, you are so noted around the country that cities are vying to be known as your birth city. And here in my local newspaper - "Binghamton born Clarence Stein internationally famed pioneer in civic design, will receive the Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects at its Los Angeles Convention, May 17, it was announced last night." And didn't that make Rochester mad? (Laughter)

In a moment we are going to bestow our highest honor upon Clarence Stein and then Clarence Stein is going to address us, which will be the concluding part of our program.

There is very much to be said. It could be said very briefly. That is not quite fair. Clarence Stein is known so well that little need be said. But I think it is a matter of great pride to us that the Gold Medal, our highest Award, is to be so honorably bestowed.

The 1956 Gold Medal Award is the 21st of its kind to be conferred by the 11,000 member professional organization of ARchitects in the fifty years since the Award was created in 1906.

It is the American Institute of Architect's highest professional honor.

It is to be awarded to Clarence S. Stein, New York architect whose pioneering work in civic design long ago gained him international recognition.

Mr. Stein was born in Rochester, New York, June 19, 1882. Mr. Stein was educated at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and Columbia University School of Architecture. He served in the office of Bertram G. Goodhue, the well known American architect, between 1911 and 1918, where he was chief

designer.

After a year's service as first lieutenant in World War I, he set up independent practice in 1919. Early in his career, Mr. Stein took an outstanding part in public service. As Chairman of the New York State Commission on Housing and Regional Planning between 1923 and 1926, he developed basic housing policy which greatly influenced state and national housing in the years since then.

For twelve years, starting in 1912, Mr. Stein was Chairman of the AIA Committee on Community Planning, and played an active role as an official of national and international housing and town planning organizations. Between 1920 and 1948, he was President of the Regional Planning Association of America, and between 1925 and 1937 was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation for Housing and Town Planning. He is now President of the Regional Development Council of America.

In 1941 Mr. Stein received the New York AIA Chapter's Medal of Honor for distinguished work and high professional standing, and he has been the recipient of a number of other architectural awards.

The influence of his community planning philosophy was brought directly to bear on some of the Nation's most noted

housing developments, on which he served as consultant. They include the Government's three green towns - Greenbelt, Maryland; Greenhills, Ohio, and Greendale, Wisconsin; Chatham Village, Pittsburgh; Baldwin Hills Village, Los Angeles, as well as Stevenage, England. He played a conspicuous part in the design of the San Diego Exposition (1915) and was an associate member, Board of Design, New York World Fair (1937-38).

The distinguished architectural achievements of this year's Gold Medal winner are most brilliantly shown in his contributions to an understanding of the social functions of architecture, especially through his innovations in the field of site planning and the design of entire communities.

Mr. Stein leaped to national attention with his design, over a quarter of a century ago, of the 1200-unit Sunnyside Gardens community housing development in Long Island City, New York, and of Radburn, New Jersey, a completely new town in which the modern scheme of safety streets and super blocks was developed.

With these pioneering contributions, Mr. Stein made clear that the architectural problem of providing esthetically successful housing could be solved best by treating the whole community as a unit of design. An advanced concept at the time, this approach was widely influential upon archi-

tectural thought and has had an increasing effect upon the planning of new communities all over the world.

Of Mr. Stein's work, Lewis Mumford, the distinguished architectural commentator, recently wrote:

"There are architects of great distinction whose value for future generations would disappear if their buildings were destroyed. But Clarence Stein's actual buildings might all vanish, and yet his genius as a planner and his insight as a human being, who always seeks to put the formal problem within its human setting, would still happily continue to influence the thinking and planning of his successors.

"He has plowed the field and planted the seed; others will harvest the crop for many generations to come."

I am going to ask the Secretary to read this Citation, and as he does so, I want to say that there is a modest man sitting back there at one of the tables, and the beautiful-prose-poetry that you will hear when Secretary Wilson reads this Citation, and which you heard in the Citations which were presented to others on Wednesday, are the product of our dear friend, Henry Saylor. (Applause)

Mr. Secretary, will you read the Citation?

SECRETARY WILSON: CITATION

"The American Institute of Architects, in

bestowing the highest accolade within its gift, The Gold Medal of Honor, recognizes Clarence S. Stein, F.A.I.A., Architect of neighborhoods, communities, cities.

"In a life time of active practice, your vision of the Architect's responsibilities, early bears the limitations imposed by the design of an individual structure. That vision embraced the wider aim of designing for mankind's environment rather than for mere shelter, for a way of life rather than for alls and a roof.

"This measure of the Architect's opportunities for serving society, more effective, given clearer form by your own achievements over the years, enriches our conception of architecture as the Mother-of-the Arts. All who march under her banner, now and henceforth, will be the better for your example."

Clarence, will you stand?

...(The audience arose and applauded while the Gold Medal was bestowed upon Clarence S. Stein)...

MR. CLARENCE S. STEIN: Ladies and Gentlemen, Architects and Friends:

I really can't say anything about this. It means too much to me - this honor. There is just onething I do want to say, though. I spent my whole apprenticeship -

it was a long apprenticeship -- in architecture in the office of Bertram Goodhue, and it gives me particular pleasure that I am receiving the same honor as "The Boss" received.

Now, I want to say just a little on the topic of this week - a little more than has been said, although it has been pretty fully covered - SUBJECT: Architecture for the Good Life!"

...(Mr. Stein continued with his Paper.

"Communities for the Good Life." See Appendix, Paper #13.)...

(Applause and audience arose - at conclusion)...

PRESIDENT CUMMINGS: Clarence Stein, The Institute honors itself no less than it honors you. And to present such a dream and examples of its realization to our American people as an evidence of our contribution to this day, is one of the finest services that we can perform, and we thank you, Clarence Stein, for holding the torch so high to illumine our proper path.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I will not detain you much longer, but you are all so anxious to know what the result is of the great contest for so many offices of The Institute. I will ask the Secretary to give me, if he received it, the Report of the Tellers of the Election.

Two excellent gentlemen, of complete integrity,

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS - CONVENTION - LOS ANGELES, MAY 17, 1956
Annual Dinner
Thursday Evening, May 17

COMMUNITIES FOR THE GOOD LIFE

CLARENCE S. STEIN - FAIA

ARCHITECTURE FOR THE GOOD LIFE! That is the subject of our convention.

The Good Life! Never before have so many people had so much time to enjoy a good life. But with what feeble results! The trouble is that there are so many buildings and highways all jammed together that there is not space to enjoy our opportunities. The 20th century Technological Revolution makes possible - in fact, it demands - Leisure for All. This is in complete contrast to the 19th century Industrial Revolution which glorified labor and crowded its slum dwellings tight around its temples of industry.

In the movie "A Nous la Liberte" Rene Clair foretold this change 25 years ago. He showed the schoolroom of the 19th century with children taught as though it were a religion - "One must work." Adults who loafed were jailed, while those who labored did so in jail-like factories. And then mecanization took command. Ultimately it produced without human aid. Man at last had realized his fondest ambition - freedom from drudgery. And what did the workers do with their permanent holiday? In "A Nous la Liberte" everyone went fishing or dancing. Rene Clair a quarter of a century ago wrote this as a fantastic wish - like Jules Verne's tales.

And now it is being realized. For the first time in man's history there is leisure - an ever-increasing leisure for more and more people - anyhow here in America. And there is every prospect that it is going to increase immeasurably.

LEISURE FOR ALL: never before has the world or its architects been faced with this problem. Leisure, yes; but it has been leisure of the selected few: Hadrian's Villa, Versailles, Hunting Enclosures, The Riviera.

The architect - you and I - face the task of setting the stage for a completely new production. The actors and the producers are as yet unconscious of what is blocking the show. The old scenery is in the way; it is inappropriate. There is not space for the actors to let themselves go.

Our American way of life is symbolized by the automobile and leisure time. In our cities neither of these is of much use. Autos are frozen in congestion. Adequate places to enjoy leisure are inconveniently distant. For children, they are deathly, dangerously distant.

Leisure occupations for all require above all SPACE, much open space, convenient open space, verdant space. And the whole landscape has been cluttered with crowded, unrelated disorder. We are hemmed in by dangerous, nerve-wracking motor-ways. Open green places are engulfed and destroyed as the obsolete city pattern rolls out.

Much of the time we have gained by shorter working hours and longer weekends is squandered in tiresome, jerky journeys in search of open spaces. Fields and woods and wilderness grow constantly more distant, as more and more open countryside is bulldozed into dreary checkerboard monotony.

No matter how many billions are spent on our new thoroughway program, it cannot keep up with the increasing problem of more people going further and further to find less and less space. So before our highway engineers flood most of our landscape under a sea of pavement, we architects must develop a saner plan for using leisure. We must bring the peaceful quiet and the beauty and the sense of great openness into every part of all our communities, as near as possible to where people live and work.

Just outside everyone's own private garden or balcony there must be spacious open commons; plentiful green places attractive for leisurely loafing in the sun, or under a great tree, with lots of room for children to play freely and safely near home. Above all we need flexible space that can be used for various purposes as the neighbors get new ideas of how to spend their spare time, together or by themselves. Not in just playing games or sitting around talking and thinking, but in constructive action such as building a little community workshop or a nursery.

A moderate-sized well-designed area can give a sense of spaciousness and of mysterious distance just beyond the corner. This is apparent in the exquisite gardens in Soochow, China, and in those of Japan. Here in America in a quite different way Thomas Church is making much of little, as Marjorie Cautlie did for me at Radburn and elsewhere.

For utility as well as beauty open spaces are the basic element of design. Chinese artists and philosophers have long recognized this. Twenty-five hundred years ago Loa-Tzu said, "Clay is moulded into a vessel; the utility of the vessel depends on the hollow interior." True - to permanently augment the value of houses, group them around an attractive empty space.

Harmony and melody, essential to the good life, dwell in spaciousness, not in congestion. Great Chinese painters composed the empty areas so that they delighted the soul even more than the subject of their pictures. And so, we are coming to understand that the all embracing view is more essential to good living than the finest interior.

For peaceful living the open spaces on which all houses face must be "Out of this world" of hubbub, fumes, mad rushing and perpetual shadows. They must be insulated from the racket, the odors, the deathly danger of through traffic ways. Therefore they should be built into the center of the blocks, separated from the highways. At the same time the homes and other buildings that surround them must be directly accessible to motor machines.

This kind of practical modern planning is possible only if we completely eliminate the conventional street layout and build a framework and substance that grows out of our needs of both living a leisurely life and being in convenient touch with work places and stores. The heart and arterial system is the tranquil chain of parks toward which the buildings face and through which the local life of the community flows.

The highways become servants, not masters, of the community life. The main streams of traffic flow as freely and steadily as on a parkway or thoroughway. Buildings and grounds open only on subordinate roads. All parking is off street parking.

This means that homes and other structures face in two directions at the same time, one toward peaceful green spaciousness, and the other toward roads and services. Thus there are two separate frameworks for the modern communities. One is for motors, the other for pedestrians. The one is gray, the other green. They fit together like the fingers of two hands, but they never overlap or interfere with each other's functions.

In the contemporary city the green openness will go far beyond the built-in-parks, flowing through and connecting the super-blocks. Not only will every building open on views of fine old trees or distant hills, but broad green belts will be close by for agriculture or forests, for great sport fields or hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, skating, or just for solitude in the peaceful valleys or the wilds.

This is the kind of beautiful and healthful city that can be built in various parts of the United States if we start from the ground up. When they are seen and lived in I am sure that those who remain in the archaic cities will insist that Redevelopment must also start from the ground up; that is must also clear away all signs of the 19th century pattern. Thus we can build truly green modern cities on the sites of the old stony deserts. The Regional Cities which are destined to replace our mad metropolitan monstrosities will consist of a constellation of such moderate-sized communities set against a great green background of fields, forests and wilderness.

Such communities cannot be secured by the ordinary piece-meal process of city planning. A beautiful and livable urban environment cannot be boxed into cubbyholes bounded by fixed and dominating streets and lot lines. It must be created as an entity, embracing the site, the mass of buildings and their relation to each other and to the natural setting; in short, to all the visual surroundings.

You may say that this is not a problem of architecture, it is a question of securing adequate land and planning it for leisure-time use where it is needed. But the fact is, the two must go hand in hand, the design of building and outdoor spaces for the new life and the allocation of adequate and proper land where and when it is needed.

The architect must take the leadership in this job. For it is architecture, but architecture in a broader and ever broadening field.

What we need is an architectural attack on problems much more comprehensive than the individual building. The architect must deal with the whole environment in which his building is an essential, harmonious part - and without which the architect's work is impotent. The community may merely be a small group of interdependent structures, it may - most likely will be - a neighborhood, an urban district, a whole town or city, or even a region.

The procedure of a community architect parallels the practice of realistic contemporary architectural offices. This is illustrated by the design of a high school, which has many community relations similar to those of a small community. These include a campus free of auto traffic, surrounded by inter-related buildings both for families or classes and for community assembly, recreation, work, dining, administration. Interiors open on out-door rooms and courts. There are even schools within schools just as there are communities within neighborhoods, neighborhoods within towns, towns within regional cities. In the creation of a community, as of a school, the effective architect actively participates in the whole process of development from conception to realization. In association with the municipal administrator he coordinate the functional, operational and physical requirements of the expert practitioners in many fields. This so that his design will properly relate, harmonize and translate them into a unified structural entity that will be thoroughly practical and pleasing. Thus a town is created that works efficiently, effectively, and economically from the beginning, as a setting for good living - good modern living.

The architect in the new and changing world must accept this broader field of architectural practice because only so can he protect the buildings he creates. Their appearance is dependent far more on their setting than on their mass or the design of their facades. Their usefulness is limited by surrounding structures - and even more by the movement of traffic in the streets. The most efficient steady flow of material through an industrial plant can be completely negated by blocked traffic outside its doors. The causes of the congestion, decay, blight that surround your work may have its roots in defective, obsolete arrangement of highways and structures many miles away. And so, if only for self-setting - and city - and region in which his contemporary building can play its modern role. But the primary reason why all of us must parallel our practice as architects of buildings with the broader practice of community architecture is less selfish than this. It is because America's greatest peace need is modern cities - cities that really work - that bear a sane and constructive relation to living here and now.

Many such cities must be built here if America is to hold its leadership among modern progressive nations. The architectural profession must fill the same position in design of modern cities as it has in design of buildings. It is a duty - but a very pleasant one - a field for adventure, exploration, discovery - glorious attainments.

Note that I suggest COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE, not CITY PLANNING, as a fitting, an essential practice for our profession. The two fields are basically different.

City planning deals with two-dimensional diagramming, with a city's framework for circulation, and its subdivision into block and lots. Its specifications are negative regulations and generalized limitations, such as zoning. They are not positive, specific, constructive requirements as those for a particular building. Thus the detailed form and mass of a city is not designed, but is merely limited.

The architect's work is a dynamic activity that forms part of the realistic production of a structure or group of structures. Design and other activities of an architect's office are futile unless they lead directly to solid, three dimensional attainment. Architectural planning is an essential step not only toward the construction but toward the practical use of a building for specific purposes and functional operations.

I recognize and admire the able public-spirited work that city planning administrators are doing. It is essential under present limitations, but these make it impossible to accomplish the purpose of the constructive rebuilding of America that we need so badly. For what is called city planning does not create solid realities; it outlines phantom cities. It does not determine the bulk, the solid body of a city. It is not positive, creative, as is architecture. It produces skeletons, framework for marketable lots, not vibrant communities of homes and working places for realistic and pleasant living and doing here and now in the 20th century. The ultimate shape and appearance of these cities is a chaotic accident. It is the summation of the haphazard, antagonistic whims of many self-centered, ill-advised individuals. Under these conditions people have little freedom of choice. They can fit their building into one of the cubby-holes outlined by a plot plan, or fit their family's life into the monotonous repetitive patterns stamped out by the builder's machine. Los at Los Angeles!

It shows, as do most American metropolitan areas that the only way to get modern cities and to keep them modern is by all inclusive architecturally planned city building, followed by permanent dynamic administration to keep their purpose and form alive.

That zoning or similar restrictive methods will not serve this purpose is apparent in the present development of the San Fernando Valley. The City Planning Department of Los Angeles made a far sighted plan to prevent the continuous sprawl of population over the 212 square miles of the Valley. They separated the moderate sized communities from each other by green belts zoned as agricultural open areas. This has come to naught. For the practical house developers have had the green belts erased where most needed, that is between the growing communities. Zoning is only a temporary barrier or protection. It cannot stand up against the flood of monotonous commonplace or the greed of land subdividers. To permanently preserve green belts and keep modern green towns green and modern requires constructive, purposefull development and operation. Positive action must replace negative regulation for cities as well as building. That is why I am convinced that architects must be community architects.

In the development of a new culture, certain physical expressions of a civilization are affected much more slowly by technical, social and economic change. For example our cities have lagged far behind our buildings. The Technological Revolution has given us a fresh contemporary architecture. Look at our schools, our hospitals, our factories. They reflect a new way of living and doing, new understanding, new conceptions. The architects of America are beginning to develop an architecture that is thoroughly contemporary. The buildings belong. They serve. They are tailored to our needs. They make its accomplishment easier, more direct, more pleasant, as well as more profitable. Our buildings are beginning to fit today's conception of the good life. Fresh forms are replacing stale formulas. We may even be on the threshold of a golden period of American architecture. Architects are throwing off the chains that tied them to the past. They are free to mold and model their works to express their purpose and their feeling. Free - yes, free of the restriction of past rules and cliches.

But our architecture is by no means fully free, for in our cities our buildings have no where to go. The golden period of American architecture will have to wait until our lagging cities recognize that this is the mid-twentieth century.

Modern architecture demands a modern setting, a place where it can be properly viewed and enjoyed, a site where it can open up and stretch and change. As community architects we must create cities and buildings as a single entity, completely inter-related in design and structures. These new communities should remain continuously youthful. Therefore they must be both spacious and flexible enough to take new form with changing ways of living, laboring and loafing. We must replace dying cities with communities that fit and foster the activities and aspirations of the present time. We must build new cities as a stage, - a joyful setting for the good life here and now.
