

# ARCHITECTS BACK PLAN FOR CAPITAL

## Institute Supports Proposal to Reshape Washington

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ST. LOUIS, June 18—The American Institute of Architects, meeting here for its 96th annual convention this week, has thrown its 16,000-member weight behind a proposal to rebuild a major part of Washington and a plan to save an old St. Louis building.

In resolutions concerning architectural proposals for the national capital and the convention's host city, the architects unanimously approved the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan for the restoration and rebuilding of Washington's grand axis from the White House to the Capitol, as proposed by the Presidentially appointed Pennsylvania Avenue Council three weeks ago.

It also gave its official, national support to a local movement to preserve the old St. Louis Post Office, an elaborate granite Victorian landmark that has been a center of controversy in plans for the city's future. Built from 1847 to 1882 by A. B. Mullett, and adorned with sculpture by Daniel Chester French, it has been scheduled for demolition for a new Federal office building.

### Two Days of Discussion

The architects at the convention honored Pier Luigi Nervi, the noted Italian engineer, with the institute's Gold Medal, its highest citation, and gave more than 25 awards for building design and individual contributions in architecture and the arts.

The five-day meeting from June 14 to 18 has been devoted to business and professional programs and the election of new officers. Two days were spent discussing "The City — Visible and Invisible," or the many forces beyond building—legal, social, cultural and spiritual — that influence the form and development of American communities.

Wednesday talks on "The Invisible City" were highlighted by a keynote address by Thomas H. Eliot, chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, who dealt with the law in urban affairs and stressed the fact that cities reflect the values of the people who live in them.

### Statement by Mayor

Other talks by Dr. J. J. Pelikan Jr., director of graduate studies of the Department of Religious Studies at Yale, and Dr. Luther L. Terry, surgeon general of United States Public Health Service, discussed religion and medicine as shapers of cities.

The Wednesday afternoon meeting was devoted to consideration of "The City and the Body Politic." Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey scheduled to speak of Federal relationships to the city, was unable to appear because of pressing Congressional business.

John Anderson, Governor of Kansas, spoke of state relationships to the city, and Mayor Raymond Tucker of St. Louis treated the subject on the municipal level.

"Frankly, I think the relationship between fragmented and planless government in a metropolitan area in visible patterns of urban design is a direct one," the mayor said. "The city beautiful cannot arrive if metropolitan areas simply ignore their problem and take the expedient solution. Good urban design cannot be served abstractly apart from the problems of the total community."

The architects took over the final discussion meeting on Thursday morning with Francis D. Lethbridge of Washington and Albert Mayer of New York treating "The Visible City," or the architect's role in giving physical form to all of the "invisible" elements discussed earlier.

Mr. Mayer's talk dealt with specific elements of urban structure and anatomy: the city centers, neighborhoods and connectors and the kind of scale, color, accent and interest that the architect can supply.

To Daniel Burnham's famous turn - of - the-century dictum, "make no little plans . . . remember that our sons and grandsons are going to do things that would stagger us," Mr. Mayer added an admonishment. "Do make little plans which the citizen can grasp and energize; make little plans if you want the big ones to have meaning and impact, to be clothed in flesh and blood, to be truly executed."

New officers elected were Arthur Gould Odell, Charlotte, N.C., president; Morris Ketchum Jr., New York City, first vice president; Rex W. Allen, San Francisco, William W. Eshback, Philadelphia, and Hugh Stubbins, Cambridge, Mass., vice presidents; Oswald H. Thorson, Waterloo, Iowa, secretary. Seventeen national directors were named with Donald Q. Faragher of Rochester director for the New York region.