

VERTICAL FILE



AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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LIBRARY OF THE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

From: Peggy Barber, Director
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For immediate release

The Architecture Committee for Public Libraries of the Library Administration Division, ALA, will hold a preconference at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City, July 4th through July 6th, prior to the Annual Conference of the American Library Association. The conference theme will be "An Architectural Strategy for Change: Remodeling and Expanding for Contemporary Public Library Needs." It will provide an opportunity for librarians to consider the basic problems involved in remodeling and expanding existing structures to accommodate changing patterns of library service, types of media, operation methods, etc.

The preconference will begin July 4, 1974, with a one-hour opening session and a cocktail party. The keynote session will be: What Are the Pressures for Change in the Public Library Program and What Do They Mean in Architectural Terms? An overview of the problems confronting anyone remodeling or expanding a library building will be given. At the second session, a critique of three recent library buildings--small, medium, and large--which were considered well-planned when constructed, but which fail to meet present and future requirements will be presented.

The third session will have as its topic: Facing Basic Problems. It will offer the views of architects, structural and mechanical engineers, and communication experts of the fundamental problems which they must consider in programming for remodeling and assessing the advisability of remodeling or adding to

an existing structure.

During the fourth session, a number of informal laboratory workshops will be held in which participants can present their building plans and remodeling and expansion plans to reactors for comment. The Committee anticipates four to five groups divided by size of library and conducted by either a present or former member of the Committee. Those wishing to present plans should contact Howard Borthwick, Deputy Director, Montgomery County Department of Libraries, 99 South Perry Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

The fifth session topic will be: Remodeled Buildings Meet Their Critics. Librarians and architects will review three recently remodeled buildings or buildings currently undergoing remodeling. These will include a small, medium, and large sized library. At the sixth and final session, a summary of the conference will be presented by an experienced public library building consultant.

The Architecture for Public Libraries Committee studies, evaluates, and recommends in matters relating to public library structures, including their design, construction, and alteration. Its scope includes: library site selection; building and planning architecture; interior organization of library buildings and decoration of interiors; ventilation, air-conditioning, and lighting; maintenance of library buildings and property; bookmobile planning and design. The chairman of the committee is Roderick G. Swartz, Deputy Director of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science.

Registration for the preconference will be limited to 250. A \$50 fee will be charged for ALA members and a \$55 for nonmembers. Registration must be made by mail to ALA Headquarters. Please make checks payable to the American Library Association and send to Donald P. Hammer, Executive Secretary, LAD, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.