

Continued on Page 3

From The President

I love this job! Most volunteer positions can be a drag, but this job continues to stimulate me. I guess it's because I've met so many great people. CADS has many talented and interested members. It gives me great satisfaction to see articles and advertisements come to us unsolicited.

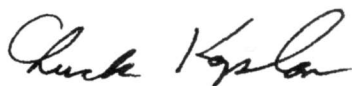
I'm proud of our publication and will continue to see that it improves in content and style. As this goes to press, my wife and I are off to San Francisco for their Art Deco Weekend. There is a four hour meeting scheduled with the National Coalition of Art Deco Societies. One item on the agenda is the feasibility of a national publication. I will report on this and other topics in the next issue.

We have two important events coming up. Please mark your calendars and come to the August 20 and October 21 events. The tour of Johnson Wax in Racine is important and a whole day is planned. Our tour is limited to 25 people so please RSVP and send in your fee so we can confirm everything with the Racine Convention Bureau.

The evening at Tommy Gun's is an experiment for us. This is the first dinner that CADS has had in a long time. It should be a fun evening and we hope you will bring your friends. Details for both events can be found on the Spotlight page or call us for more information.

Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,



Chuck Kaplan

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Letters to the Editor:

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

What a pleasant surprise when I received a copy of your publication for Spring 1994. This was sent to me by Barbara Endter, who wrote the article. She did a wonderful job.

My wife and I want to thank you for publishing the article. I hope it was of interest to your readers. At age 83 I must be one of the few designers left who worked during the Art Deco period.

Your publication is excellent, and covers a wide range.

Again, our sincere thanks,

Harry Laylon

News Item

The National Park Service, the Illinois Historic Preservation Education Foundation, The Society for Commercial Archaeology and the Association for Preservation Technology will sponsor a three-day program in Chicago on the challenges of identifying, evaluating, documenting, maintaining and preserving properties from the 20th century.

Among the topics to be included are the evaluation and interpretation of objects of the recent past, the assessment and treatment of a broad range of 20th century building types, and themes in roadside architecture.

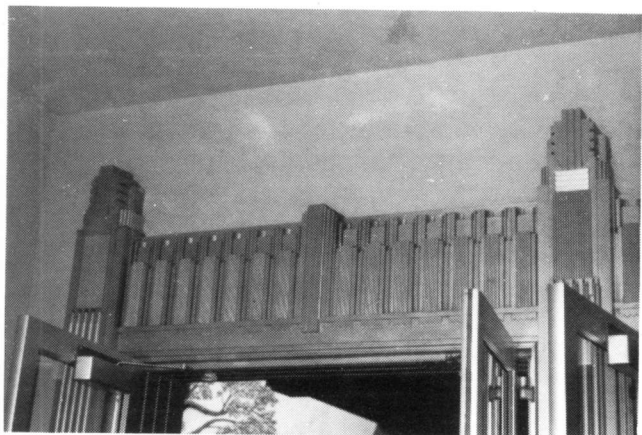
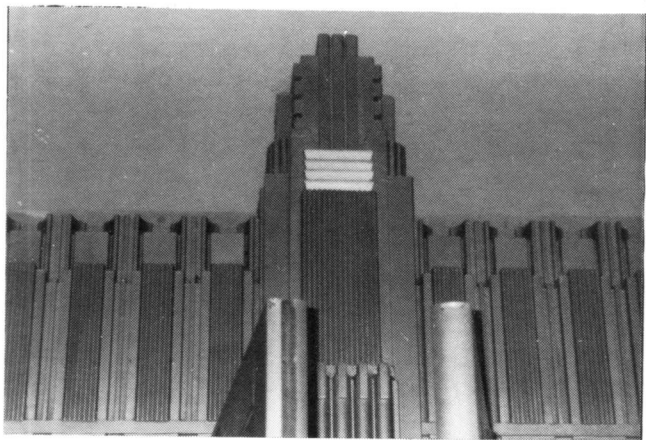
The sessions will be held in the Palmer House March 30 to April 1, 1995. For information, call (202) 343-9578, or write to "Preserving the Recent Past", PO Box 77160, Washington DC 20013-7160.

Continued from Page 2

and added an additional 113 acres. In 1921 the Chicago Zoological Society was established to oversee the project with John T. McCutcheon, the Chicago Tribune cartoonist, as president. Similar to



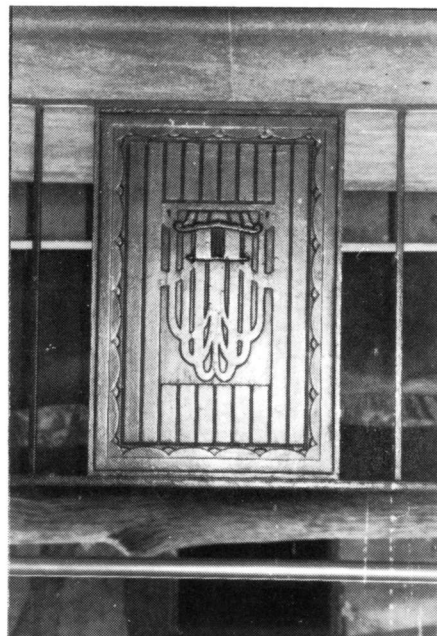
the operation of other museums on Chicago Park District land, the Forest Preserve District would own the land and pay for construction and maintenance out of tax revenue, so in order for the project to begin, passage of a tax referendum was necessary. The initial bid lost in 1923 but after rallying public support, it passed in 1926. The initial targeted opening date was 1933, to coincide with the Century of Progress Worlds Fair. The actual opening,



however, was July 1, 1934, a few months before the Fair closed.

Stanley Field was selected as chairman of buildings and grounds; Edwin M. Clark was the architect. Clark was an established local architect, having worked in partnership with William A. Otis from 1908 to 1920, then with Chester H. Walcott from 1920 to 1924, before working on his own. Much of his early work was North Shore residences, using predominantly an English-country style. However, Clark was somewhat versatile, and his later works, such as the Lincoln Park Zoo Administration Building

and Primate House, were more in keeping with the early Chicago School style. The architectural design selected for the majority of the Brookfield Zoo buildings is characterized as Italian-country, as



Continued on Page 4

Stephen M. Maras

Antiques

Art Deco

Art Nouveau

Wiener Werkstatte

(708) 256-3991

Continued from Page 3

observed in the South Gate Complex, Reptile House and Aquatic Bird House.

From the onset, Brookfield Zoo was intended to be one of the most modern zoos of its time. It was to be modeled after the Hagenbeck Zoo at Hamburg, Germany, whose creators, Carl and Lorenz Hagenbeck, initiated the concept of a 'barless' zoo. Animals are housed in a natural looking rock terrain constructed of blocks of mortar and steel; viewers are separated from the exhibit by a deep moat surrounding the rock compound. The exterior exhibit of the Pachyderm House features this rock setting.

As construction progressed, however, engineering modifications were continually being made to improve accommodations for animal care, particularly with the larger mammal houses. The Pachyderm House was thus not only the last and the largest to be built in the initial complex, but it was also the most experimental and innovative in terms of construction and design. The 1933 Zoological Committee Yearly Report describes the Pachyderm House: "The simplicity and ingenuity of the construction of the interior of the building is particularly striking; it follows in engineering and detail the German Modern School. The building is entirely constructed of metal; cast monolithic walls, ceiling, arches and floors are employed. There is none of the usual architectural details used for



concealing essential structural members. It is the first permanent building of this style to be constructed in America." Selection of modern decorative features for this building, now regarded as the Art Deco style, no doubt reflected the modern design of this facility. While zoos must continually change to keep up with technology, the Pachyderm House has maintained much of its original character. This building definitely deserves the same appreciation as its inhabitants. ❖

Additional sources:

Chicago Zoological Society, *Bison*, 1984, Vol. 1, No. 3.

Condit, Carl W., *Chicago 1910-1929*, 1973, pages 213-216.