



# The American Institute of Architects

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION NO AP 11000

Dated May 30, 19 55

Received September 12, 19 55

Granted October 20, 19 55

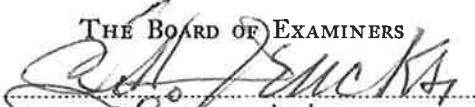
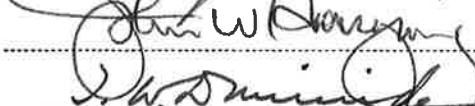
MEMBERSHIP NO 11000

- A Name of applicant John Louis Wilson Chapter New York
- B Address of applicant 166 West 125th Street, New York 27, New York
- C Application received with check for \$ 20.00 on September 12, 19 55
- D Application returned for correction ..... 19 .
- E Application in due order on ..... September 22, 19 55 ✓
- F Acknowledgments to applicant and chapter on ..... September 19, 19 55
- G Certified resolution of chapter executive committee recommending admission  
~~on that applicant had denied~~ received on ..... September 12, 19 55
- H Record of registration, Form S39, Sent N. Y. Sept. 13, 19 55 Received. Sept. 22, 19 55
- I The applicant has **not** been examined as to his professional qualifications ~~by~~
- J The applicant is - currently registered as an architect or licensed to practice  
architecture in the states of New York.
- K Application sent to The Board of Examiners on ..... October 11, 19 55
- L The Board of Examiners reported on application on ..... October 11, 19 55
- M The applicant was requested to furnish additional evidence of his profes-  
sional qualifications on or before 19 , which was received.

### REPORT:

As a result of its findings on the evidence submitted The Board of Examiners unanimously reports that in its opinion the applicant is\* qualified for membership in The American Institute of Architects.\*\*

Date October 11, 19 55

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
  
  
 Chairman

### CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

I, Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, hereby certify that, under authority vested in me by The Board of Directors, I have this day duly elected

**John Louis Wilson**

to membership in The Institute, and hereby declare him to be a corporate member of The Institute and assign him to membership in the New York Chapter.

Date October 20, 19 55

  
 Secretary

- N Applicant ~~was~~ admitted on ..... October 20, 19 55
- O Notice to applicant and notice of assignment to chapter on ..... October 20, 19 55
- P Notice of denial of application to chapter and applicant and \$.....  
returned to applicant on ..... 19 .

N.Y.  
Sept 13



INSTRUCTIONS

Type in all information carefully and sign with ink.

Mail both copies to the secretary of the local Chapter of The Institute, with check for \$20.00 made payable to The American Institute of Architects.

# The American Institute of Architects

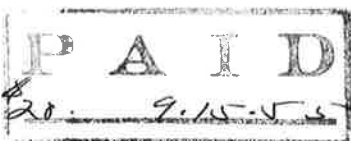
## APPLICATION FOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned, do hereby apply for corporate membership in The American Institute of Architects.

1. My full name is John Louis Wilson
2. I am a natural citizen of the United States.  
State whether natural or a naturalized citizen.
3. My legal residence is in the City of New York  
County of New York State of New York
4. My address in The Institute records will be  
Number 166 Street West 125th Street  
City New York Zone 27 State New York ) OK  
State whether residence or office address.
5. I am engaged in the profession of architecture as Practicing Architect  
State whether a practicing architect, a teacher, a public official.
6. I desire to be a member of the New York Chapter.
7. I declare that I will comply with the By-laws; and the Standards of Professional Practice of The American Institute of Architects, which are attached hereto; and the Rules and Regulations supplementary thereto; and that I understand the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of a member of The Institute; and that I have read and understand all the information contained in this form and its attachments.
8. I have filed the duplicate of this application with the secretary of the Chapter above named. I am not indebted to The Institute or to any of its component organizations.
9. I enclose my check for \$20.00, for admission fee and the first year's annual dues, of which \$1.00 is for a year's subscription to the *Bulletin of The American Institute of Architects*. It is my understanding that if I am not admitted to membership \$15.00 will be returned to me, and \$5.00 retained by The Institute as an examination fee.

Date May 30th 19 55

*John Louis Wilson*  
Applicant sign full name in ink



STATISTICS

10. Date of birth Jan. 24th 1900 Place of birth Meridian Mississippi

11.(a) I am registered or licensed to practice architecture in the following-named states:  
New York

1930

(b) I passed the State Board Examination in the following-named states:

(c) I hold Certificate No. . . . . of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, for having passed their Standard Examination.

EDUCATION

12.(a) I attended high schools, private schools, colleges, universities, as follows:

Name of School, College, University	Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
Gilbert Academy,	New Orleans, La.	4	1915	
Dillard University,	New Orleans, La.	4	1919,	Bachelor of Arts
Columbia University,	New York, N. Y.	4	1928,	Bachelor of Architecture

(b) I have held the following-named scholarships or other honor awards, and have traveled in the following-named countries:

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING \*

13. I list below, in chronological order, the periods of my training as draftsman, the names and addresses of my principal employers, and my classification as draftsman while employed by each:

	From	To
Vertner W. Tandy 1919 Broadway, New York City Draftsman	1924	1926
Bd. of Transportation, City of N. Y. (Transit Authority) 370 Jay St., N. Y. Assistant Architect	1929	1933

\* (NOTE: Applications received after July 1, 1953, must conclusively show that applicant has had three full years of experience in architectural work, in offices, governmental employment, or teaching, in addition to graduation from an architectural school; or eight full years of such experience without formal education; or equivalent combinations of both of the foregoing.)

## PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

14. I list below, in chronological order, the periods during which and the states in which I have practiced architecture as an individual or as a member of a firm or corporation or as a public official or have taught architecture or the arts and sciences allied therewith. (State names of firms or corporations or public office and of schools or colleges.)

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
Individual practice	1933	Present
Associate Architect, Federal Housing project, Harlem River Houses		
15. Is architecture your principal vocation?	1936	1937

Yes

## BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS

16. I list below other business in which I participate or own an interest, and the extent of such participation or interest.

## PRESENT OR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

- |                                     |              |    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----|
| 17. Member of Institute from        | to           |    |
| 18. Junior of Institute from        | to           |    |
| 19. Associate of                    | Chapter from | to |
| 20. Junior Associate of             | Chapter from | to |
| 21. Student Associate of            | Chapter from | to |
| 22. Member of State Organization in | from         | to |

## REFERENCES

Five references are required, at least three of whom shall be corporate members of The Institute in good standing.

<u>Joseph A. Fernandez</u>	<u>25 West 54th St., New York, N. Y.</u>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>
<u>Isaiah Ehrlich</u>	<u>25 West 45th St., New York, N. Y.</u>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>
<u>Horace Ginsbern</u>	<u>205 East 42nd St., New York, N. Y.</u>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>
<u>Edwin M. Forbes</u>	<u>224 East 46th St., New York, N. Y.</u>
<i>Reference</i>	<i>Address</i>
<u>Elias J. Zindler</u>	<u>2765 Webb Ave., Bx., New York, N. Y.</u>
<i>Reference</i>	<i>Address</i>



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

John Louis Wilson - New York 27, New York  
(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,  
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,  
Albany, New York  
*Address*

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date September 13, 19 55

*Edward Swiler*  
Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? ..... Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination?.....or by exemption? ..... Yes
3. What was the scope of the examination? Graduation from Columbia University, June 1928,  
and the required architectural experience.
4. What was the period of the examination?.....days. Written examination.....hours; Oral examina-  
tion.....hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards?  
..... If so, give Certificate No. ....
6. Date of first ~~registration~~ license September 24, 19 30 registration No. 4109 Is it current? Yes

*John W. Paige*  
(Signature of ~~Secretary of Board~~ Chief)

Date September 20 19 55 N. Y. State Education Department-Bureau of Professional  
Examinations & Registrations. (Name of Board)

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

COPY

October 20, 1955

Mr. John Louis Wilson  
166 West 125th Street  
New York 27, New York

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects takes pleasure in informing you that it has acted favorably on your application and welcomes you to corporate membership in The Institute. You will receive shortly a certificate of membership duly executed by the officers of The Institute.

You are assigned to the New York Chapter and the New York State Association of Architects effective October 20, 1955.

I sincerely hope that you will take an active and interested part in your chapter activities since it is through these activities that Institute policies are developed. Your cooperation and participation will contribute to the advancement of Institute objectives and increase the benefits to be derived from Institute membership.

I want you to know that my office is always at your service to the fullest extent of its powers.

Sincerely yours,

Edward L. Wilson  
Secretary

Enclosures



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Application for Membership Emeritus

TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS:

I wish to apply for Membership Emeritus in The Institute for the following reasons:

*Check the appropriate reason*

- I am more than 70 years of age.
- I am 65 years of age, retired, and not engaged in the practice of architecture.
- I am unable to engage in the practice of architecture.

I have been in good standing in The Institute and the New York chapter  
for 15 successive years or more immediately preceding the date of this application.

Date July 8th 19 71

John Louis Wilson  
(APPLICANT'S FULL SIGNATURE IN INK)

The applicant may supplement the above reasons in writing below or on sheets which he shall attach to this application. Under exceptional conditions and circumstances, The Board of Directors may lessen the period of good standing but not the requirements as checked above.

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# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

## RECORD AND SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR

### Membership Emeritus Election

To The Secretary and  
The Committee on Membership  
The American Institute of Architects

Name of Member: John Louis Wilson Chapter Assignment: New York  
Corporate Membership Record: State Organization Assignment: New York State Assn.  
Elected: 1955  
Dues Status—National: paid 1971  
Dues Status — Component(s): in good standing  
Age: 70

Recommendation: See attached record.

Suggested Effective Date: July 22, 1971

July 22, 1971

DATE

MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURES

### CERTIFICATION OF ACTION OF THE SECRETARY THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

On the basis of the information provided above, and related data attached, and in accordance with the Bylaws and rules of The Institute, as the Chairman of the Committee on Membership and the Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, I hereby declare that I have this day elected John Louis Wilson a Member Emeritus.

Effective: July 22, 1971

July 22, 1971

DATE

  
SECRETARY



DIGEST OF THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
John Louis Wilson      New York, New York

(a)

John Louis Wilson for many years has assumed a unique and important role in the architectural field in New York City and nationally. Through his consistent commitment to the practice of architecture as a high social art, through his many years of work with his architectural colleagues, with the children in the New York City schools, and the Harlem community, through his demonstrated excellence as an Architect, he has been of unparalleled importance in establishing the movement for social responsibility now embraced by the A.I.A.

John Wilson was born in Mississippi and had his early education there. He received his architectural degree from Columbia in 1928. He was a co-architect in 1936 for the Harlem River Houses, one of the first and still one of the best and most human public housing projects in New York City. While working as an Architect for New York City's Park Department from 1950 to 1960, he kept his private practice alive with a series of smaller commissions. For the past decade he has expanded his practice to larger buildings, mostly in housing, some completed, others under construction and in planning.

For years he was the only Black Architect registered in New York. Through all this time John Wilson has worked toward the elimination of racial barriers. He has held firmly to the position that architectural proficiency is the only yardstick that should be used in determining entrance into the profession. He has been an adviser, encourager and employer of many young Black people coming into architecture and has worked with committees inside and outside of the Institute for equality of opportunity. His lonely, principled fight was the necessary precursor to the growing steps now being taken to achieve it. His eminent position today results from the profession's recognition of his accomplishments as an Architect and his exemplary stature as a man.

The truly unique nature of John Wilson's contribution to the practice of architecture is in the important changes that have resulted from it. Now, for the first time the inner city Black areas are the direct clients and participants in the architectural process and the talented young people in those areas are entering the profession of architecture. While Mr. Wilson is not the only figure involved, he is and has been for many years, the central, generating force in the Metropolitan region. The profession is indebted to him for this outstanding achievement.

(b) References

\ See nomination previously submitted for list of references. /

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NOMINATION

1. John Louis Wilson, of the New York Chapter,  
(name of nominee) (chapter assignment)  
and corporate member of the AIA since \_\_\_\_\_,  
(date of election)

is nominated for fellowship for his notable contribution to the advancement of the profession of architecture. The nomination is made by:

(check and sign either 1a. or 1b.)

1a. Vote of governing Board  
of New York Chapter, AIA  
(name of component organization)  
Fredrick G. Frost, Jr. President.  
(signature and title of Chapter President or Secretary)

1b. Individual corporate members and/or fellows as follows:  
(written signature) (typed signature and chapter)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The nominators designate the following member to be the sponsor of this nomination:

Name Richard G. Stein, FAIA  
Address 588 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10036  
Telephone Number PL 7-0284

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NOMINATION

1. John Louis Wilson, of the New York Chapter,  
(name of nominee) (chapter assignment)  
and corporate member of the AIA since October 20, 1955,  
(date of election)

is nominated for fellowship for his notable contribution to the advancement of the profession of architecture. The nomination is made by:

(check and sign either 1a. or 1b.)

1a. Vote of governing Board  
of New York Chapter  
(name of component organization)  
George Conyers, Pres. ✓  
(signature and title of Chapter President or Secretary)

1b. Individual corporate members and/or fellows as follows:  
(written signature) (typed signature and chapter)

Blank lines for listing individual corporate members and/or fellows.

2. The nominators designate the following member to be the sponsor of this nomination:

Name John C. B. Moore  
Address 800 Second Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017  
Telephone Number MU 7-8124

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EXHIBITS (PHOTOGRAPHIC)

List the photographs which follow this page:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Year of Completion</u>
1. Harlem River Houses	New York City	1939
2. Harlem River Houses	New York City	1939
3. Churchill Apartments	New York City	1972
4. Low rent housing	Bronx, New York	1972
5. Krebs Memorial Boat House	Central Park, N.Y.C.	1958
6. Krebs Memorial Boat House	Central Park, N.Y.C.	1958
7. Housing for the Elderly	New York City	1962
8. U.P.A.C.A. housing	New York City	1969
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		

Note: This page will be used as a record of the photographs considered by the Jury since the photographs themselves will be returned eventually to the nominee.

DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

The following certification must be signed by anyone in possession of full knowledge concerning EACH separate project illustrated in the photographs. This might be the Chapter President, a member of the Executive Committee of the Chapter, a partner of the nominee, or even the nominee himself. In partnership the signature of another partner would be most significant. If the various examples were developed under different conditions respecting authorship, the various statements below should be keyed to the proper exhibits.

The accompanying photographs show examples of work with which the nominee's connection was as follows:

- The nominee was solely responsible for the design.
- The nominee was largely responsible for the design.
- The design was under the direction of the nominee.
- The nominee's firm executed the design.

(If the above statements do not depict adequately the nominee's participation in any of the projects illustrated in the photographs, add your own brief statement of authorship as follows.)

Each photograph is properly noted

Signed Richard G. Stein Title Sponsor  
Richard G. Stein, FAIA

Name of Nominee John Louis Wilson

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## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

February 22, 1972

Mr. John Louis Wilson, FAIA  
209 West 125th Street  
New York, New York 10027

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Jury of Fellows has asked me to inform you of its great pleasure in elevating you to fellowship for your notable contribution to the advancement of the profession of architecture. With this action, you will be admitted as a member of the College of Fellows.

Those who have been elevated to fellowship will receive their medals, with appropriate ceremony, at the Investiture of Fellows to be held on May 8, 1972, at 6:00 P.M. in Houston, Texas. This event will be followed by the Annual Convocation of Fellows and further details will be sent at a later date.

The Officers of the Institute and the Jury of Fellows join with me in the hope that you will come to receive this honor in person. Please send your reply to the Institute at your early convenience.

Permit me to add my personal congratulations and good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Preston M. Bolton, FAIA

Enclosures

cc: John C. B. Moore, FAIA, Sponsor