



# The 1972 Conference NYC

*It began in the chill winds and petulant flurries of a late spring snow storm, in lower Manhattan on Saturday morning, April 8<sup>th</sup>, and ended in the warm glow of a Sunday afternoon sun at Hoboken, New Jersey some thirty hours later. In between, SIA was transformed from an abstract legal document, a codification of aspirations, into a living force.*

## Saturday

The morning saw nearly one hundred of us bustling about Cooper Union's Great Hall and the surrounding corridors, performing the ritual acts of registration; meeting old friends, greeting new acquaintances and enjoying coffee and donuts (courtesy of the Edward Rutschs). Charles Tremer, interim President, convened the brief business meeting at 9:30 a.m. The new officers and Directors were elected and the meeting was then turned over to Ted Sande, our first President. After ratification of the Constitution and dues schedule, (approved with the addition of a student-member category at \$5/year), Sande welcomed those assembled and thanked the Cooper Union for allowing us to hold our first conference in the historic Great Hall. He then outlined the major efforts for the coming year: increasing membership, developing communications, and encouraging the preservation of threatened industrial monuments. By 10 o'clock, on schedule, we were ready for the first paper of the Morning Session, chaired by Chester Liebs (See abstracts, below).

For most of us, luncheon meant a visit to McSorley's Ale House where we delighted in shop talk with colleagues and banter with the establishment's old regulars ( a helpful lot who gladly explained the ritual of obtaining beer from the bar as cheaply as possible--order two drafts at a time).

Refreshed, we returned to the Great Hall for the afternoon where, following some useful comments on fund raising by Paul Rivard, Ted Sande chaired a session in which the papers focused on the preservation of industrial monuments. The



*In the heart of the Cast-Iron District*

wide-ranging scope that the term "monument" has for the industrial archeologist was evident in the varied topics discussed. Through Ed Rutsch's initiative, a block of reservations for dinner had been made at the renowned Ilchou's nearby and the day's formalities closed with a substantial number of the conferees moving there for food, drink and more good talk.

## Sunday

At 10 sharp, on an astonishingly bright and clear morning, about fifty hardy souls assembled before the main entrance of Cooper Union. The air was still and cold but the sun