

# Oculus

## Chapter's Overseas Practice Committee and Institute Meet With Foreign Service Officers

The Chairman of the Chapter's Overseas Practice Committee, Terrance R. Williams, and the chairman of the newly formed AIA International Practice Committee, Richard Roth, Jr., met recently with a group of foreign service officers to brief them on working with the architect and other design professionals overseas. The briefing was part of a series sponsored by the Foreign Service Institute to prepare the officers for commercial posts in U.S. embassies throughout the world.

Williams and Roth focussed their presentation on defining the role of the architect within the construction and development industry (emphasizing the fact that he is usually the first member of the team actually in the field), and on the important and all too often ignored relationship between the services of the design professional and the marketing and sales of U.S. products and materials abroad.

The importance of the commercial attache was also discussed: the necessity of developing a good network of local governmental and business contacts; the need for architects to know at the feasibility study stage about

## Buildings Commissioner Meets with Chapter



*Irwin Fruchtman (third from left), recently appointed Buildings Commissioner, spoke of his plans and views at a chapter meeting on January 25. With him was the new Manhattan Borough Superintendent, George Sakona. This was the first event sponsored by the new Codes Committee, of which Maxfield F. Vogel (left) is chairman. Charles Hughes welcomed the visitors.*

new projects; the invaluable assistance the Embassy can offer in setting up meetings; cutting through local or U.S. governmental red tape, etc.; and most important, to constantly strive to interest his local public and private contacts in the superior professional services offered by American firms.

Roth explained that the AIA, as an aid to the commercial officers, has agreed in principle to produce and

distribute worldwide a directory of firms practicing overseas. This has been a long standing goal of the NYC/OPC and has been given a high priority by Roth. Several of those present with extensive field experience suggested that such a directory be broken down by areas of particular expertise and perhaps organized as a series of handouts that could be distributed upon request.

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Typical problems encountered by commercial attaches in the field were also discussed. One frequent problem is the "no show" businessman. Several of those present had lost hard-won credibility after scheduling meetings with important local government officials for U.S. businessmen who later canceled without notice. The program organizer, Dr. Dr. Duncombe, suggested that architects travelling abroad notify the commercial attaches in advance, but not to expect help in the scheduling of meetings until he has arrived and met the officer in charge.

The program was organized by the director of the Economic and Commercial Studies Section, Dr. Bruce Duncombe and his assistant, Dr. John Harrington. It is hoped that the Chapter and/or the National Committee will be invited to participate in future programs on a regular basis.

While in Washington, Roth and Williams met with AIA Headquarters staff to discuss the policies, goals and tasks Roth's committee will be dealing with. Joint lobbying in Congress, etc., with other design professionals and construction industry representatives; the mechanics of producing the directory; the need for permanently assigned staff; and the need for headquarters to respond positively to legitimate foreign private and public sector requests for assistance in contacting U.S. firms with overseas experience,

were some of the topics discussed. Williams also met with members and staff of the American Consulting Engineers Council International Committee to discuss the establishment of permanent liaison between the two groups.

*The Chapter subscribes to Worldwide Projects published six times a year for members interested in overseas work.*

*The NYC/OPC highly recommends the recently published AIA Architects' Guide to International Practice. It is available for purchase at the Chapter documents dept. □*

### Positions Open at AIA Research Corporation

National AIA is seeking a team of individuals (architects, engineers, or other appropriate design professionals) to conduct HUD 518 claims review in several cities. Applicants must be licensed, have working knowledge of residential rehabilitation, and have 2-3 years practical experience. Cost estimating for renovation or new construction is a must. Compensation negotiable. Send resume, salary history and date of earliest availability to Ron Davis, AIA Research Corp., 1735 N.Y. Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, tel. 202-785-7800. □

## NYC Community College Program Appraised by AIA

The Architectural Technicians Training Program of the New York City Community College, Voorhees Campus, has been granted official approval by National AIA. This culminates several years of effort led by Frank Munzer, President of The Eggers Group.

Munzer, in the early '70's, had been chairman of a Chapter technical education committee which accomplished a great deal in raising the standards of technical schools training paraprofessionals: for example where they were found to be teaching balloon framing, they were encouraged to shift to a more pertinent course.

When NYC Community College absorbed the Voorhees school, Munzer led an advisory committee which influenced an upgrading of the curriculum to the point where it is now officially recognized by AIA as producing well-trained prospective architectural office employees. □

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**The American Institute of Architects**  
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## Chapter Welcomes New Members

### Members

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### Associates

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Lynda J. Davey  
Elliot Finkelstein  
Stephen Frenkel  
Dalmar Re James  
Steven D. Jung  
Jaime Mijlin  
Richard Palandrani  
Charles I. Phillipps  
Carolyn Walton

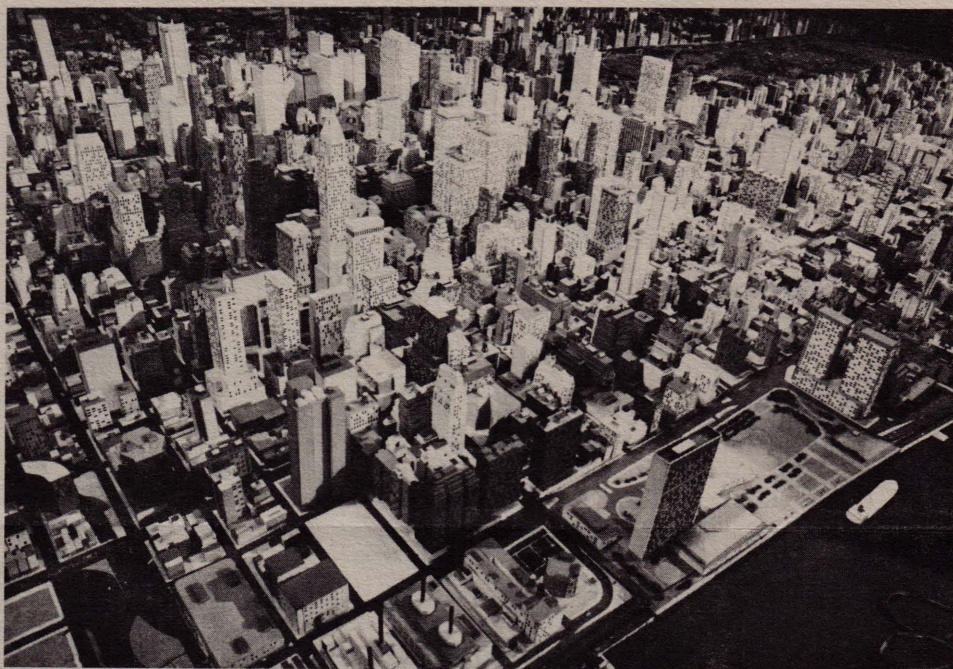
### Professional Affiliate

Paschal Campbell

### Students

Rocco Battista  
Michael G. Fahey  
Amir B. Janati  
James Keller  
Bob Russ  
Jeffrey Shlakman  
Louis Silfin  
Meli Solomon  
Chak-Wah Wong

## You are Invited to Participate in a Mini Building Boom



*Model of New York at the New York City Building, Flushing Meadows, New York. Photo by Paul Katz (Citibank).*

Think back to 1965. You might remember that that was one of the years of the last New York World's Fair. Cull through your memories of the architectural and display clutter of that exposition, and you might remember a large panoramic model of New York City which was located in the historic New York City Building, itself a remainder of the 1939 Fair. Well, wasn't that model dismantled and destroyed along with most of the rest of the Fair? Wrong! It still exists and has been updated to show most new construction built prior to 1975.

The idea of a NYC model was conceived in 1962 by Robert Moses. Ray Lester and Associates built the model to contain virtually every building in New York City.

The model, at 1"=100' scale, measures 100' by 200' and contains 865,000 buildings, most made out of injection

molded plastic, although thousands of landmark buildings, including City Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, and the Statue of Liberty were hand built out of plexiglas. Twenty thousand man-hours alone went into the research and design of the model, which took one hundred people three years to build at a cost of \$800,000, which would be five million dollars at today's prices. Parks, railroads and highways are shown in detail. A computerized lighting system indicates night and day cycles.

In the intervening years since 1965, the model has been used, among other things, for studies of TV signal reflection off the World Trade Center towers, and for studies of modifications to the Long Island Expressway. It has also been viewed by thousands of people at the Queens

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## Visionary Drawings of Architecture and Planning are on Exhibit at the Drawing Center

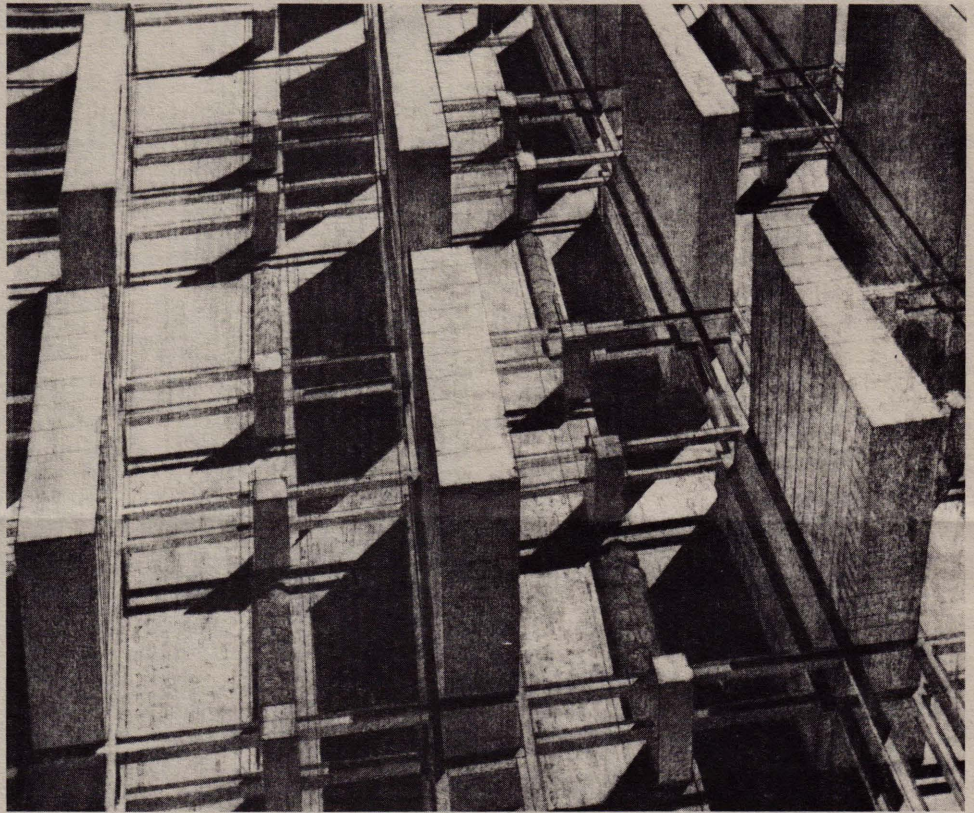
Corbu, Grop, Mies and Wright are present; all on the west wall, at The Drawing Center - 137 Greene Street - one half block south of Houston Street.

Professor George R. Collins of Columbia University has mounted a great show: there are no superstars. The big names are there but other familiar and new hands prevail. The subject: "Visionary Drawings of Architecture and Planning 20th Century through the 1960's" has selections that are deliberate, even handed; presenting balance in relation to the theme of the exhibit and the artists presented.

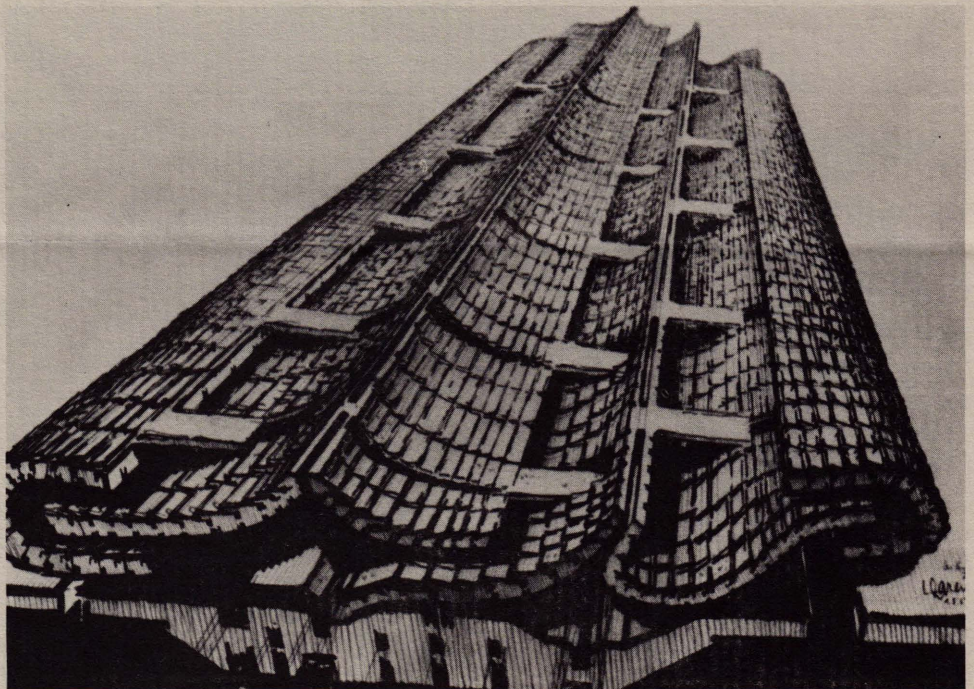
It is not an exhibit for those with a few minutes to kill. It requires time. Time to drink in the "vision" of the artist - architects selected, the media employed and subject presented. Great moments! We all are crushed by budgets, building codes, design review committees, etc., yet some of us prevail. Prevail to see in our greatest moments, what lies just ahead. We see with a vision that is not precise but one filled with expectation. Expectation for the moment of creation - of the real thing - a town plan, a "Total theater," a glass tower or a house in Usonia II.

But the show stealers come up with much much more. Neutra's "Rush City Reformed" is predictable, precise and most buildable. Charles R. Lamb's "Streets High in the Air" clothes visions in classical garb while Claude Parent's *Les Enroules*, exhibits non-stylistical inventiveness that puts the Ecole Des Beaux Arts

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*Rush City Reformed by Richard Neutra. Graphite on linen done in 1923-1927.*



*Les Enroules by Claude Parent. Pencil and felt-tip pen on tracing, done in 1967.*



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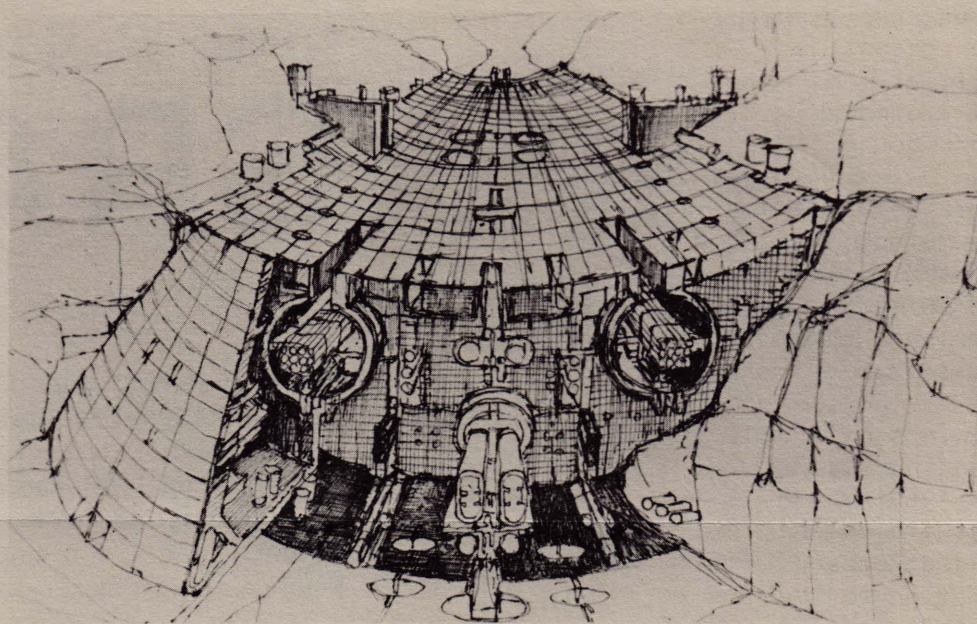
and other contemporary eclectic visionary styles in their historical place.

The "plug in" cities of Archigram's Peter Cook, Ron Herran and Michael and David Webb of England are shown along with Metabolist cities of the Japanese Noriaki Kurokawa, Kiyonori Kikutake, and Arata Isozaki. The visionary work of Raimund Abraham, Hugh Ferriss, Hermann Finsterlin, Yona Friedman, Buckminster Fuller, Wenzel August Hablik, Hans Hollein, Louis I. Kahn, Frederick J. Kiesler, G. Robert Le Ricolais, Reginald Malcomson, Eric Mendelsohn, Frei Otto, Claude Parent, Friedrich St. Florian, Antonio Sant'Elia, Paolo Soleri, Herbert H. Stevens, Jr., Superstudio, Anne Griswold Tyng, Konrad Wachsmann, Weidlinger Associates, Andrew Weilinger, Amancio Williams and Lloyd Wright are also shown with equal force and purpose.

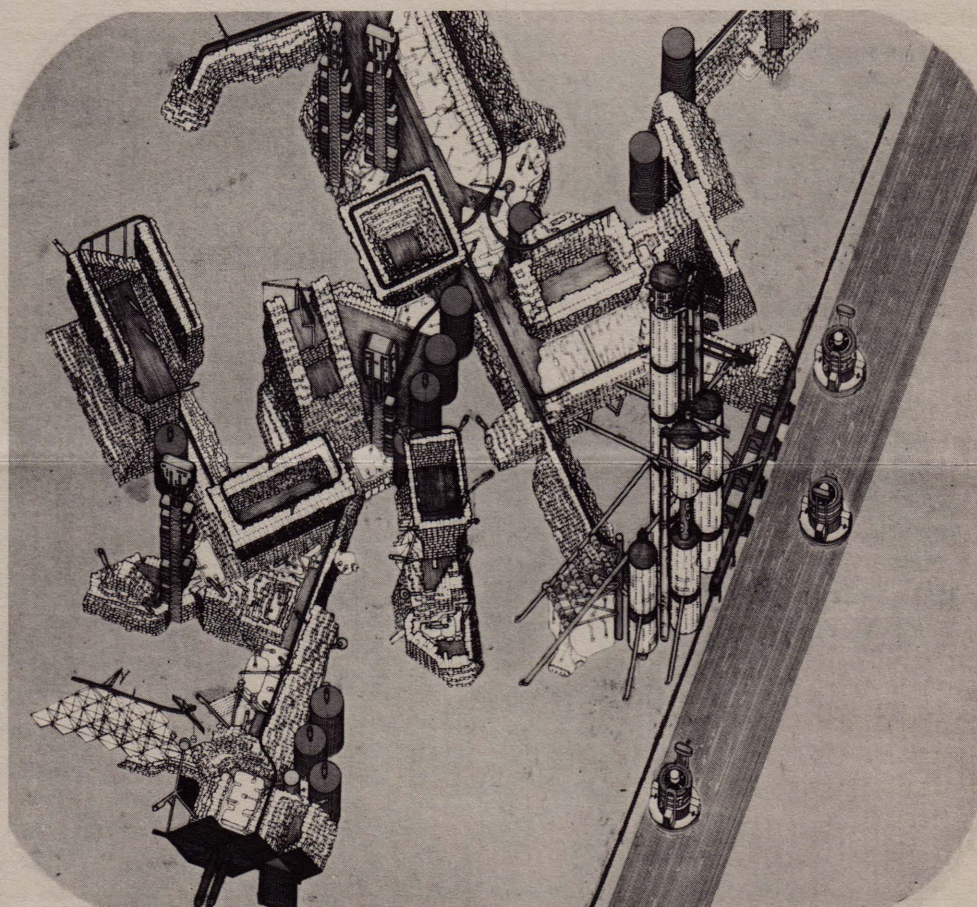
The show has been extended until May. According to Director Martha Beck there will be a series of lectures to "explore the social implications of utopian ideas." Plans include talks by Reyner Banham, Kenneth Frampton, Herbert Gans, Percival Goodman and Leo Marx.

After its New York show the exhibit will travel throughout the United States. Take the hour or two needed for the first cursory look and then attend some of the "talks" which are planned for the coming months. □

*Denis Glen Kuhn*



*Glacier City by Raimund Abraham. Ink and pencil on drawing paper done in 1964.*



*Plug-in City No.5 by Peter Cook. Mixed Media on Cardboard done in 1964.*



## Mini Building Boom

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Museum, on whose premises it can be found.

The recent updating campaign stems from the fact that in the period from 1975 to today, a large number of significant buildings are either recently completed, under construction, or seriously proposed.

Recently, Citicorp donated a plexiglas model of its new Citicorp Center to the panorama model. Additionally, as a gesture of public good will, they produced a rear view projection, narrated slide show, explaining the panorama for display at the Museum. The Museum has additionally received commitments for models of its new buildings from IBM, AT&T, and Helmsley-Spear the developers of the Palace Hotel behind the Villard Houses and of another new hotel to be built on the site of Central Commercial H.S. on 42nd Street.

If you or your client would be interested in donating a model of your project to the Panorama Model, you are invited to call Barbara Sperber at the Queens Museum at 212-592-2405. College students of architecture who are also interested in helping out are also invited to call. □

*Larry Levine*

**Arnold W. Brunner \$10,000**

# GRANT

**The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects invites Architects, or those in related fields, to submit an advance study in some special field of architectural investigation which will most effectively contribute to the practice, teaching, or knowledge of the art and science of architecture.**

## **Jury**

Bartholomew Voorsanger, Architect  
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Samuel Brody, Architect  
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Peter Eisenman, Architect  
The Institute for Architecture  
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Ada Karmi-Melamede, Planner  
Columbia University

Theodore Liebman, Architect  
Haus International Incorporated

Nancy Miao, Architect  
Twitchell & Miao

Leslie E. Robertson, Structural Engineer  
Skilling, Helle, Christianson, Robertson

Arthur Rosenblatt, Architect  
Metropolitan Museum of Art

Adele Naude Santos  
Rice University

William C. Shopsis, Architect

Michael Wurmfeld, Architect  
Cooper Union School of Architecture

**Applications** from Chapter to March 15, 1979.  
**Proposals** may be submitted to April 16, 1979.  
**Awards** announced Summer, 1979.

**Eligibility:** open to any United States citizen engaged in the profession of Architecture and its related fields who has a professional background more advanced than is implied by four or five years of architecture training.