

OCULUS

The Residential Design Awards 1981

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 42, Number 9, June 1981



Ulrich Franzen & Associates, Franzen Residence, Bridgehampton, N.Y. Photography: David Franzen. Citation from the Residential Design Awards Program from the Single Family New Construction category.

OCULUS

NOTES

Volume 42, Number 9, June 1981

Oculus

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Dear Editor:

Along with Arthur Rosenblatt, I also watched Robert Hughes' TV series "The Shock of the New," the third installment of which was quite critical of contemporary architecture, particularly the "Modern Movement." I agree that Hughes' criticism should spark discussion in the Chapter but I am less interested in a Pavlovian defense of our profession than in understanding why the public generally perceives modern architecture as having failed to help improve man's condition or to delight his spirit. In preparation for the "dialogue" for which Arthur calls, I suggest some walking tours to see what we have done to our city. A reading of Jim Fitch's review of the Architectural League exhibition in the *May, 1981 Oculus* would also help.

Simon Breines

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing Arthur Rosenblatt's thoughtful letter related to criticism of the modern architectural concepts born in Europe at the time of World War I, which have so strongly marked the built environment of our century.

It is regrettable to notice how forgetful are many who search for new forms, sometimes just in hope of notoriety. It is easy to overlook the goals that inspired the masters of the first quarter of our century and their work. Their effort was to turn over funds, then spent in poor imitation of Renaissance and Classical decoration into the development of better housing facilities and of serviceable spaces; their designs were the result of philosophical and political decisions. Corbusier, Gropius and the Bauhaus proved that attractive, aesthetic values could be obtained in a pleasant environment by the simple assemblage of well-proportioned geometric forms.

The present revival of imitative decoration, sometimes executed without the skill and the competence of the 19th century craftsmen, who would work for inadequate wages, is frequently a return to discarded concepts of the past that were pushed aside by the acceptance of functional and rational architectural design.

Giorgio Cavaglieri

Significant Architecture Awards for Structures Built from 1931-1961.

The New York State Association of Architects is calling for nominations for the 1981 NYSAA/AIA Significant Architecture Awards for Excellence in Architecture. Only buildings completed between 1931 and 1961 in New York State are eligible. The objective of the competition is to recognize distinguished architectural design after a period of time has elapsed in which the function, aesthetic statement and execution can be reassessed.

All material must be submitted in a Full-view, 8 1/2 x 11" binder. The first page should be devoted to a statement by the sponsoring group (or AIA member). The second page should consist of a short description of the original project, a statement of the condition of the project with respect to use and general appearance at the time of the submission, and a brief outline of the transformations, if any, which may have taken place in the interim period. The current location and name of the project should also be included.

Each submission should include sufficient photographs (either black-and-white or color), slides and plans to properly illustrate the project as it now stands. Any other pertinent material illustrating the project in its original condition, if available, should also be included with the submission in order to assist the jury in its evaluation of the extent of intervening changes.

Nominations should be made to the Honor Award Jury for extended use. Nominate only those structures located in your Chapter area, and name no more than three nominations. There is no entry fee. Deadline for submissions is June 30, 1981. For important information, write to Richard Roth, Jr. AIA., Chairman Design Awards Competition, NYSAA/AIA, 13 Northern Blvd., Albany, N.Y. 11210.

NYC/AIA

George Lewis

Annual Meeting

The Chapter will meet on board the ship Peking at the South Street Seaport in the late afternoon of Monday, June 22. There will be tours of work in progress in the Museum buildings, awards will be given, and a reception will follow. Members are urged to come and to bring friends to this great occasion. Details will follow in a special announcement.

Overseas Practice Exhibit

Work done abroad by 25-odd Chapter firms will be shown in an exhibit opening Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Urban Center; Ambassador William vanden Heuvel will speak. It will constitute a continuation of the Overseas Practice Committee's examination of American architects' effect on foreign cultures, a subject which was discussed in the Committee's remarkable seminar in March, 1980, "American Architecture for Export: Fragile, Handle with Care."

Raquel Ramati

There will be an informal reception for Ms. Ramati, whose book *How to Save Your Own Street* has just been published, on Thursday, June 11 at 6:00 o'clock. She was Director of the Urban Design Group in the Department of City Planning 1974-81.

Public Architects Committee

A new committee has been formed through which the Chapter hopes to recognize the responsibilities and work of the large number of architects in government agencies in the New York City area. A seminar is planned for Thursday, June 18; further information will follow.

Old Merchant's House

This wonderfully restored Greek Revival town house with most of its original furnishings is where the Historic Buildings Committee held its May meeting. Committee member Joseph Roberto's imagination, skills and many years of work have made possible what can now be seen Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m., 29 East Fourth Street. As the *AIA Guide* puts it, "The original house is all there."

John Belle

Design for Moving People Conference

At the Design for Moving People Conference on May 14, Mayor Koch welcomed over 150 people who work on transit systems from Seattle to Miami and New Orleans to Montreal. He began the conference by asking, "How do you describe something which . . . may have no great physical beauty or charm as it once did, but still has become a hallmark of our culture; which has had a profound and positive influence on the very shape and extent of our man-made environment?" His answer was "public transportation environments."

Mayor Koch then proceeded to discuss the importance of "paying more attention — now — to the substantial benefits of good design and quality artworks in our public transportation environments."

Richard Ravitch, Chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, made an introductory remark, which to the surprise of New Yorkers present, included the acknowledgement that design counts and can play a significant role in increasing ridership.

Then the conference was launched into orbit by a Peter Chermeyeff special, an illustrated hour and a half lecture covering the examples of good design on transit systems all over the continent.

Four workshops followed on "Can We Afford It?," "Will the Community Accept It?," "Can Artists and Architects Work Together?," and "What about Maintenance and Vandalism?" All were quite well attended. Case studies from New York, Portland, Oregon, Los Angeles and Dade County, Florida examined such issues as rehabilitation, business group sponsorship and pedestrianism.

On Friday more workshops followed on hardware, graphics, lighting, and artworks. They were prefaced by a breakfast and a tour of Grand Central Station. After a few wise and sensible words by Harry Weese, the luncheon keynote speaker, the conference ended

with tours arranged by the Transit Authority, and the Municipal Art Society and the Port Authority.

One couldn't help thinking that our visitors must have wondered if the conference would have any impact on our own transit system. "Where do you start?" asked one overwhelmed visitor gazing at the 42 Street uptown Lexington platform. She was surprised at the answer "with a conference like this that shows our politicians and bureaucrats that it's already being done elsewhere." A little shame goes a long way to energize New York egos.

One day, with the right attitude from the MTA and the TA, the design community of New York may be allowed to bring the real life of good design to our own transit system and the two million people who struggle to use it everyday.

Building Industry Advisory Council Request

The AIA Code Committee meets monthly at Chapter headquarters and discusses a wide range of issues affecting chapter members such as pending legislation, code revision, Building Department Administrative procedures, agency staffing and appointments. The committee solicits your comments concerning problems that chapter members may be having with legislation or administrative procedures at the New York City Building Department. The Code Committee will act as a clearing house for these problems and bring them to the attention of city officials. Presently, the Building Industry Advisory Council is asking Chapter members to participate in a sub-committee that will discuss with the Building Department methods to reduce paperwork and simplify procedures at the Department. If any member is interested in participating in this BIAC committee would they please contact Gerald Hallissy at (212) 421-3712."

JUNE 1981**OCULUS**

Oculus welcomes information for the calendar pertaining to public events about architecture. It is due by the 7th of the month for the following month's issue. Because of the time lag between information received and printed, the final details of the events are likely to change. It is recommended, therefore, that events be checked with the sponsoring institution before attending.

CONTINUING EVENTS**SHAKESPEARE: THE GLOBE AND THE WORLD**

This major exhibition includes four priceless copies of the First Folio of Shakespeare's work plus many other materials of inestimable value from the collections of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Museum of Natural History, C.P.W. at 79th St., 873-1300. Opens June 18, closes Sept. 20

LE CORBUSIER: EARLY DRAWINGS: 1961-1962

An exhibition of drawings and models from the first two stages in the development of Le Corbusier's Church of Saint-Pierre at Firminy, commissioned in 1960, and the last of his buildings to be realized.

IAUS, 8 West 40th St., 398-9474. Closes June 13

DAVID LEVINE: CARICATURES OF BRITISH AUTHORS

Sir Walter Scott, Lord Tennyson, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, Oscar Wilde, and Joseph Conrad are among the more than 40 caricatures on display in connection with the exhibition of British literary manuscripts.

Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36th St., 685-0008. Closes July 31

ARSHILE GORKY, 1904-1948: A RETROSPECTIVE

Gorky, an important influence on the development of Abstract Expressionism, imbued his canvases with a visionary spirit, paying homage to them in traditional art, to nature and to personal experience — all without compromise for the formal concerns of pure painting.

The Guggenheim, 1071 Fifth Ave., 860-1300. Closes July 19

MONDAY 1**% FOR ART**

An exhibition to be opened by Mayor Edward I. Koch, looks at the impact public art is having in just a few of the more than 50 cities, counties and states from Maine to Hawaii with art-in-architecture programs; illustrating the concern for high quality and care taken in siting works of art. Sponsored by the Public Arts Council.

For more information call 541-8423.

The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. Opens June 1, closes June 30

MONDAY 8**GARDENS OF DELIGHT**

A celebration of horticulture as a source of design inspiration, including real and imaginary gardens in drawings and prints, and designs for furnishings for carpets and screens.

Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 East 91st St., 860-6868. Opens June 8, closes Aug. 23

MONDAY 15**MONDAY 22****ANNUAL NYC/AIA MEETING**

THIS YEAR THE CHAPTER WILL MEET ON BOARD THE SHIP PEKING AT THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT. THERE WILL BE A TOUR OF WORK IN PROGRESS, AWARDS, AND A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO BRING GUESTS. DETAILS WILL FOLLOW IN A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT. JUNE 22

MONDAY 29**TUESDAY 2****AMERICA'S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE**

A major photographic exhibition of outstanding examples of architecture in America from the twelfth century to the mid-1970's, organized by the Smithsonian in collaboration with New York architect, author and photographer, G.E. Kidder Smith. Federal Hall Memorial, 26 Wall St., 344-3830. Opens June 2, closes July 26

TUESDAY 9

OVERSEAS PRACTICE EXHIBITION
AN EXHIBITION OF THE WORK DONE ABROAD BY OVER 25 CHAPTER FIRMS, IN A CONTINUATION OF THE OVERSEAS PRACTICE COMMITTEE'S EXAMINATION OF AMERICAN ARCHITECT'S EFFECT ON FOREIGN CULTURES. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM VANDEN HEUVEL WILL SPEAK.

AIA, URBAN CENTER, 457 MADISON AVE., 838-9670. 6:00PM. JUNE 9

TUESDAY 16**TUESDAY 23****TUESDAY 30**

SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURE AWARDS
NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS TO RECOGNIZE DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, FOR BUILDINGS COMPLETED BETWEEN 1931 AND 1961 IN NEW YORK STATE. NO ENTRY FEE. SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE JUNE 30

WEDNESDAY 3**THURSDAY 4****BALANCHINE / TSCHAIKOVSKY FESTIVAL**

The New York State Theatre features a 10 day festival with 8 or 9 new ballets choreographed by Balanchine and several other Company choreographers. Philip Johnson is designing the single set for the festival

New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center, 870-5690. Beginning June 4, ending June 14

FRIDAY 5

BORROMINI AND THE ROMAN ORATORY
"Style and Society," Joseph Conners talks about his book, recently published by the Architectural History Foundation of New York and MIT Press.

Urban Center Books, 457 Madison Ave., 935-3595. 4:30pm. June 5

WEDNESDAY 10**CHICAGO TRIBUNE TOWER: LATE ENTRIES**

The original Tribune Tower competition was one of the more sensational architectural contests of 1922. This current exhibition has "late entries" by contemporary architects and artists invited to submit tower designs for a no contest, no prize exhibition, with no real building to be built. National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Ave., 369-4880. Opens June 10, closes Aug. 16

THURSDAY 11

RAQUEL RAMATI
AN INFORMAL BOOK RELEASE RECEPTION FOR MS. RAMATI'S RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, "HOW TO SAVE YOUR OWN STREET." MS. RAMATI WAS DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN DESIGN GROUP IN THE DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING, 1974-81.

AIA, URBAN CENTER, 457 MADISON AVE., 838-9670. 6:00PM. JUNE 11

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE

Stow-Davis Showroom, 950 Third Ave. 6:30pm. June 11

FRIDAY 12**ZONING FOR DOWNTOWN URBAN DESIGN**

"How Cities Control Development." Robert S. Cook, Jr. talks about his book, recently published by Lexington Books, D.C. Heath and Company.

Urban Center Books, 457 Madison Ave., 935-3595. 4:30pm. June 12

WEDNESDAY 17**THE ASTOR COURT**

The Astor Court is a reconstruction of a Ming-dynasty garden court and was modeled on an existing scholar's court from a historic garden complex in Soochow, China: assembled by a team of skilled craftsmen from Soochow using ancient tools and techniques.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave. at 82nd St., 879-5500. Opens June 18

THURSDAY 18**THE GOVERNMENT CONNECTION: "SHOULD ARCHITECTS WORK WITH IT OR IN IT?"**

FIRST IN A SERIES OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS SPONSORED BY THE ARCHITECTS IN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE.

AIA, URBAN CENTER, 457 MADISON AVE., 838-9670. 5:30PM-8:00PM. JUNE 18

FRIDAY 19**WEDNESDAY 24****THURSDAY 25****MARCEL BREUER: FURNITURE AND INTERIORS**

On exhibition are 45 pieces of furniture by Breuer, original drawings and interior designs. Full-scale photographic enlargements of selected Breuer interiors are behind the related pieces of furniture to illustrate his overall approach to design problems.

Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd St., 956-6100. Opens July 25, closes Sept. 15

FRIDAY 26**WEDNESDAY 1 JULY****THURSDAY 2****FRIDAY 3**

OLD MERCHANT'S HOUSE
JOSEPH ROBERTO'S SKILLFULLY RESTORED GREEK REVIVAL TOWNHOUSE WITH MOST OF ITS ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS IS OPEN TO BE VIEWED SUNDAYS FROM 1:00-4:00PM. 29 EAST FOURTH ST.

The Residential Design Awards 1981

Preface: Eric Goshow

Chairman of the Residential Design Awards Subcommittee

The Housing Committee of the Chapter has for a number of years administered our annual Residential Design Awards Program primarily as a single family house awards program, thus recognizing only one building type on the residential landscape. This year the Committee wanted to broaden the emphasis. We wanted to survey what New York City architects were accomplishing across the entire landscape of residential design, from interiors to multifamily housing, from new construction to rehabs or alterations, even from built projects to recently designed but as yet unbuilt projects.

We hoped that an inclusive, rather than exclusive, approach would enable us to begin to grasp the pulse, or state-of-the-art, of what New York City architects are designing and thinking about. We were also aiming our approach at younger architects who might have provocative ideas to share but, as yet, no forum in which to exchange these ideas.

Thus, we were led to establish specific categories by which architects would identify their entry, and in which their entry would be judged. As those of you who received a poster announcing the awards program are well aware, eight categories were provided. Fortunately we received 93 submissions in all; three times as many total entries as in previous years.

We were also fortunate to be able to attract to our cause four jurors who are each well-known for their distinguished efforts in working in and thinking about the entire breadth of this residential landscape. They were: Bernard Rothzeit, Partner, Rothzeit, Kaiserman and Thomson, P.C.; Lewis Davis, Partner, Davis Brody and Associates; Joseph Wasserman, Gruzen & Partners; and June Vollman, Senior Editor, *Housing Magazine*. They conscientiously waded through each entry, and were able to cite a total of 20 projects to receive 17 citations representing all categories save one. The winning architects received cita-

The texts presented here are printed in their original form as written by the authors.

tions formally presented at a reception held May 11, 1981, at Chapter headquarters.

These 20 projects, shown herein, will comprise a travelling exhibit to be displayed first at Chapter headquarters in the near future, before moving to other locations.

Comments by Joseph Wasserman from the reception honoring the Residential Design Awards.

The jury found—with some notable exceptions—a lot to feel good about this year, and so we have probably outdone ourselves.

We have awarded 17 citations covering seven of the eight solicited categories. Perhaps, we can be criticized for lack of discrimination by choosing so many citations, but let me explain our predicament: We did not find any single entry that jumped out at us as something truly extraordinary, therefore no first awards have been made. We did, however, find a lot of work of a responsible nature and good aesthetic quality which indicated to us a very acceptable and elevated standard of practice on the whole. This, we feel, is something to cheer about. After all, that is what our profession is really about.

We congratulate you, the winners. We also congratulate your clients, many of whom are developers. It is clear that a growing number of leading developers are truly recognizing that the use of architects to produce quality designs is profitable. We invite your developer-clients to pass the word to their conferees about us—the architects. Perhaps you can tell them what thoughtful, well-executed planning and design may be doing for the value of your projects and, we would hope for the satisfaction you will have gained by creating better environments for people to live in.

As to the citations, we found, perhaps predictably, that the multifamily pro-

jects seemed to be the most successful entries as a group. We thought that the recycled buildings in this category particularly deserved recognition. The combination of an existing building in a neighborhood of an established character apparently has aided the designer to discover innovative ways to create new living places in the old shells.

The entries in the *new* multifamily category were unfortunately much less successful. We saw no new ideas of special distinction and that is to be sorely regretted. Within the recycled categories, however, we found a number of distinguished entries from younger, less recognized designers. We welcome your participation in entering these awards. Please tell your friends about this annual affair. We want to see all the best work done by local architects.

Nearly half of the 93 entries were in the new single family category. On the whole, the work was dismal. Try as we did, we could not unearth any new talent in this area. In fact we saw a lot of pretty bad stuff. Perhaps this lack of direction in the single family home is symbolic of the confusion surrounding the Post-modern aesthetic among architects.

In any case, the jury found the work of older, well recognized architects to be much more tightly conceived and thoughtfully executed. It is always a pleasure to see the wonderful work of our distinguished colleagues, and to see that they still have plenty to show us—in fact it is *very* comforting for some of us to discover this fact. But we appeal to the new faces in this crowd and elsewhere to help us search out the next generation of talented designers.

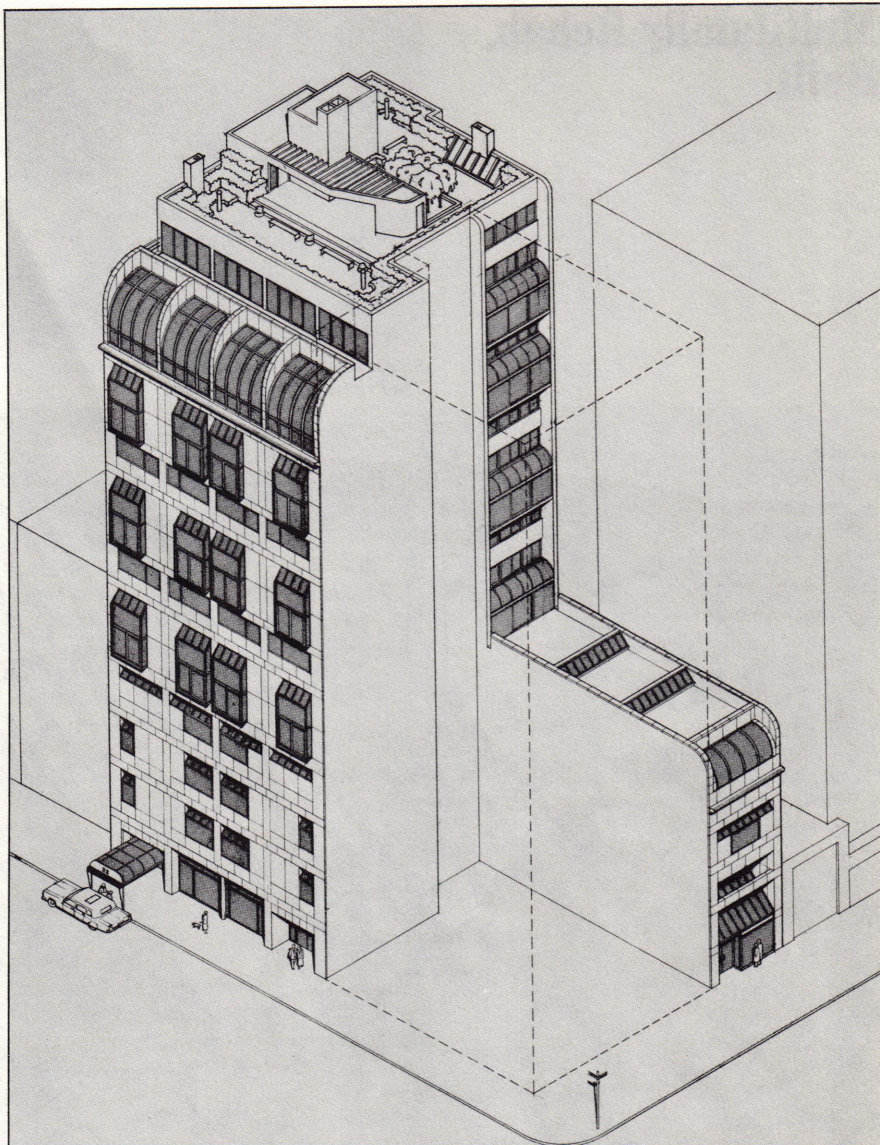
Multifamily New Construction, Not Built

Comment

Bernard Rothzeit, Juror

One approaches the cartons of 93 entries with confidence; it should be easy to separate the wheat from the chaff. It turns out to be excruciatingly difficult. The largest number of portfolios is the houses/built category and too many were eliminated because flaws spoil fine intents. The Gwathmey-Siegel houses, however, are cool, precise, controlled — the style perfected.

It is the unbuilt categories where the greatest surprises lie, and that somehow is not surprising. One is anxious to see them built (some we cannot comprehend unless they are built). We find that we are in awe of the winners, some of the losers, and the broad range of talents combined with the daring of imaginative clients. Things are O.K. at the A.I.A.



Multifamily New Construction, Built

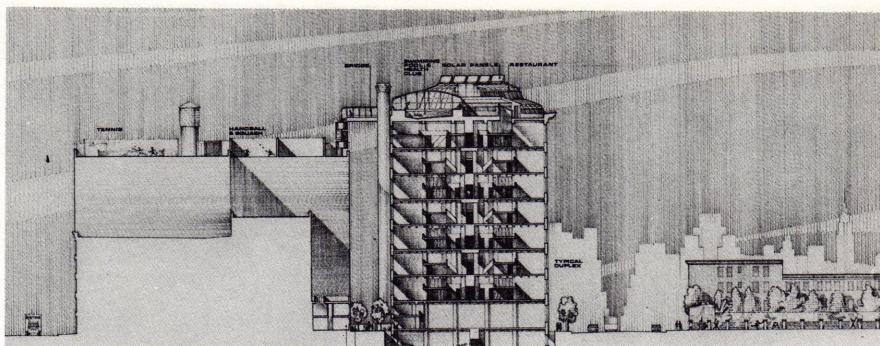
Stephen B. Jacobs & Associates, Architect
Gallery Apartments, New York



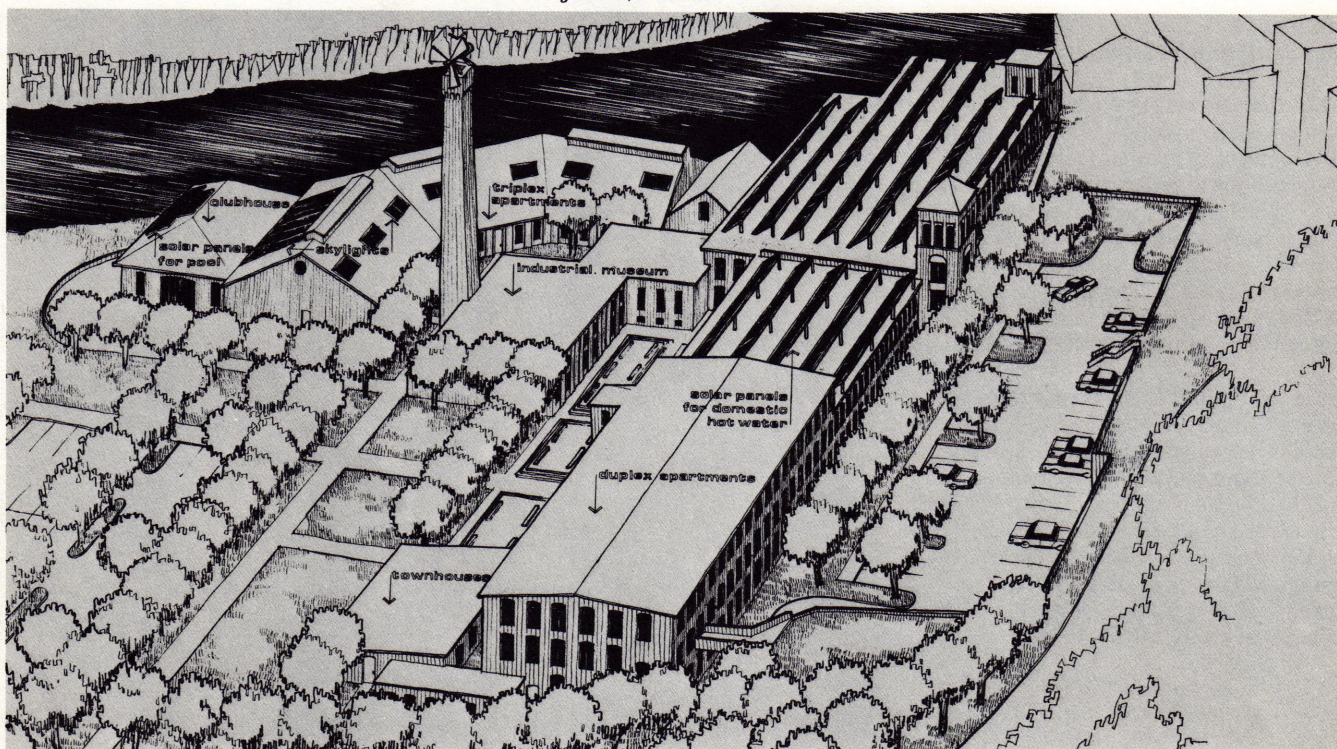
Photography by Otto Baitz

Alfredo De Vido, Architect
222 Columbia Heights, Bklyn.

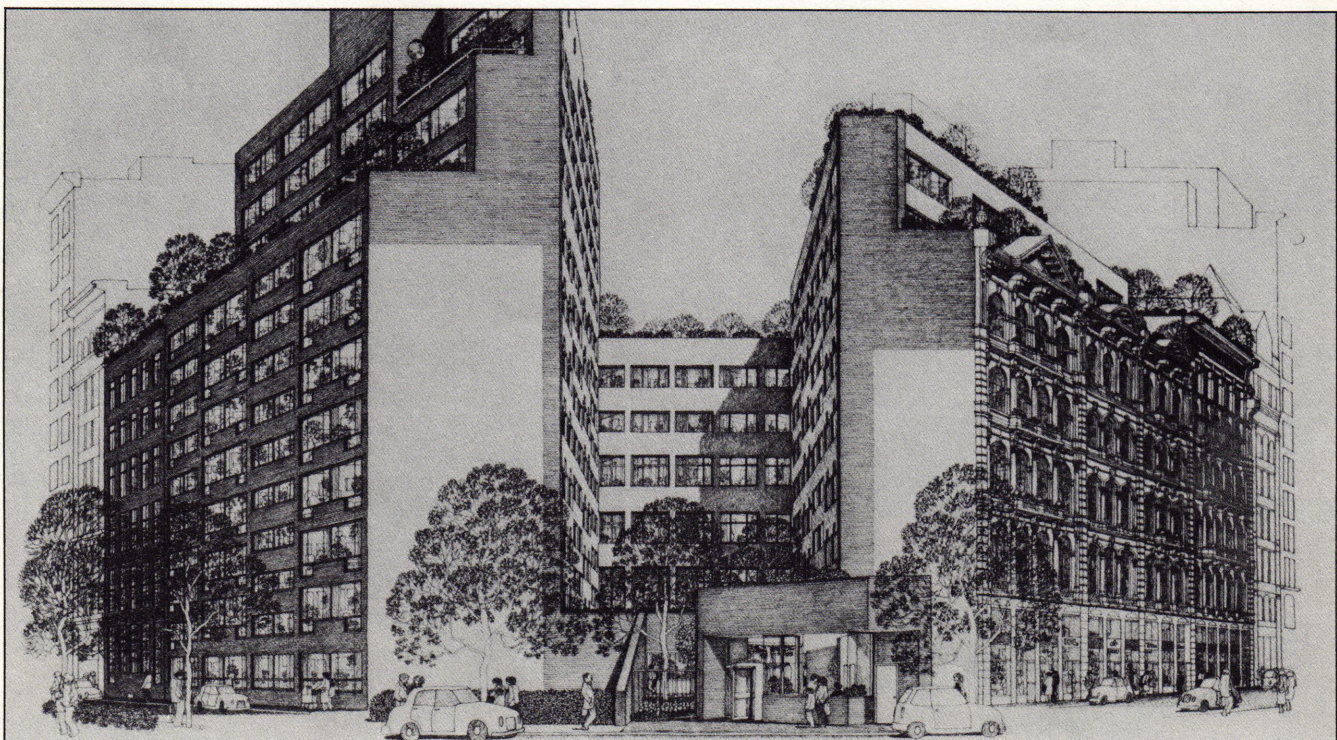
Multifamily Rehab, Built



*Stephen B. Jacobs & Associates, Architect
The Printing House, New York*



*Stephen B. Jacobs & Associates, Architect
Falls Mill, Norwich, Ct.*

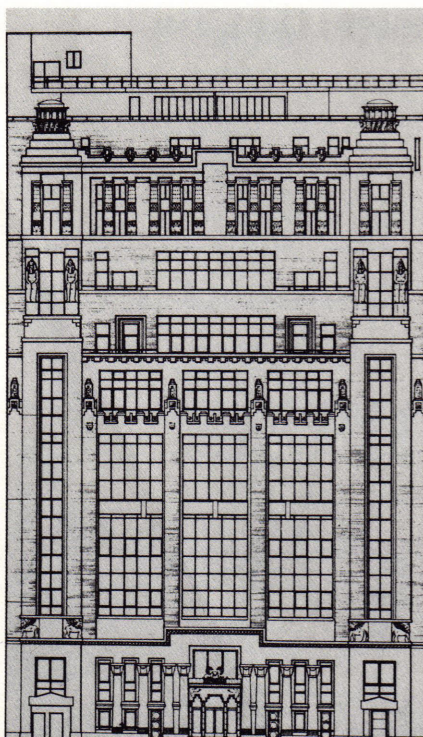


*Avinash K. Malhotra, Architect
Bleeker Court, New York*

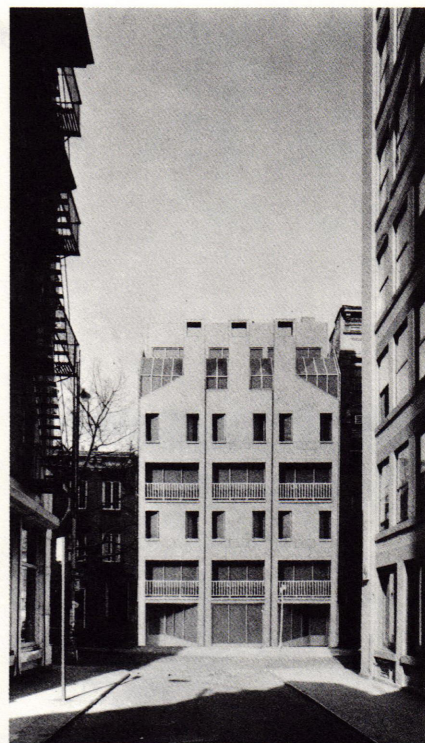
Multifamily Rehab, Not Built



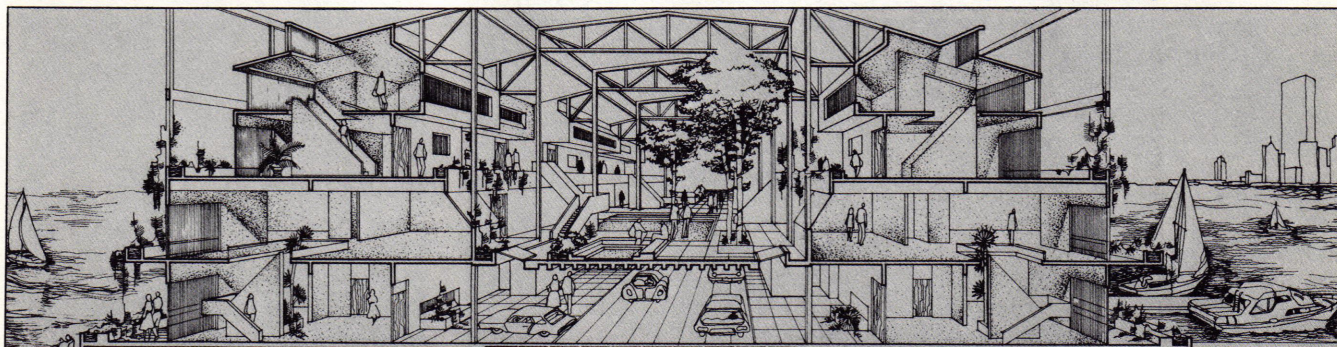
Shelly Kroop & James McCullar, Architects
EN REM Group 2, Bronx, NY



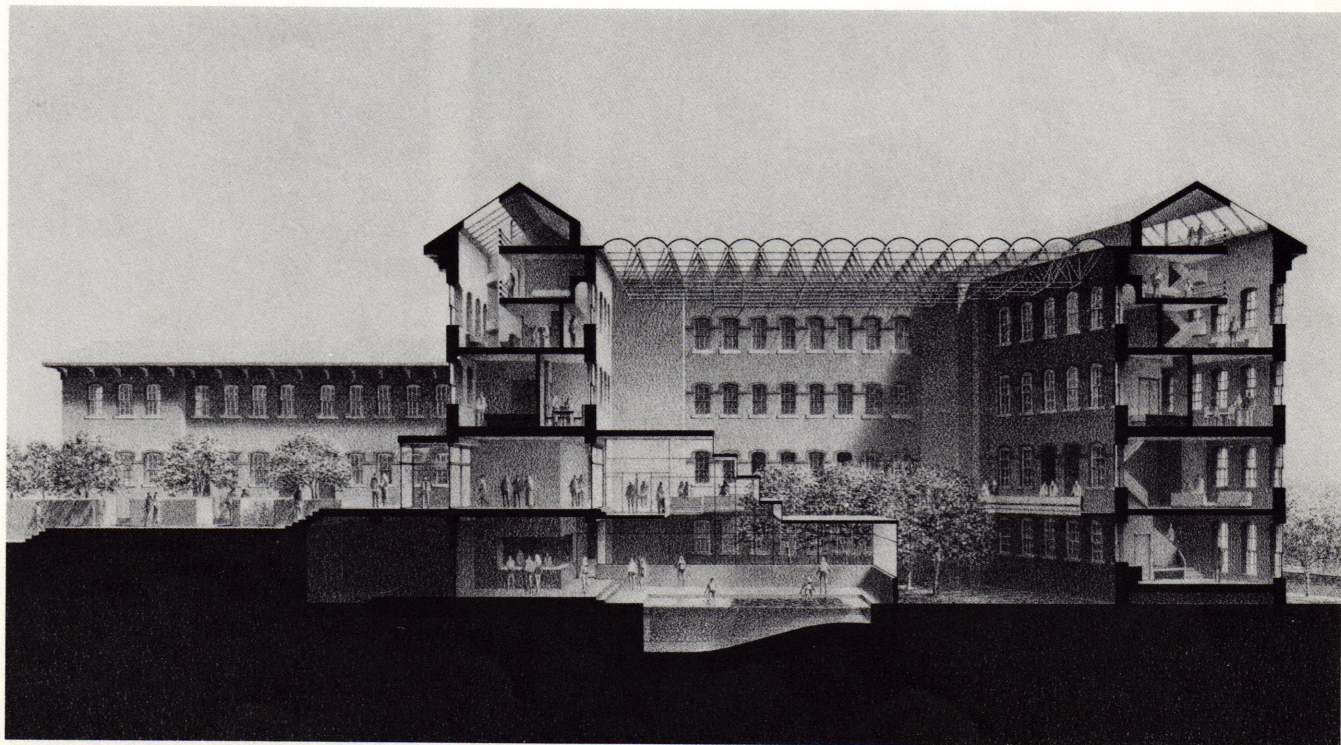
David Gura, Architect
Alexandria Condominium Apartments, NY



Stephen B. Jacobs & Associates, Architects
Christopher Street Housing, NY

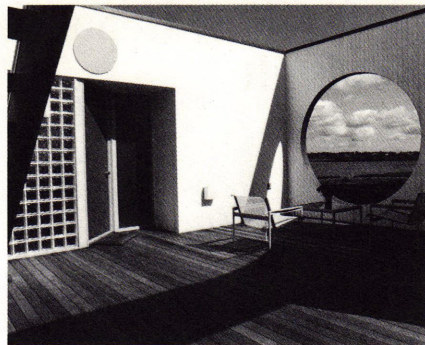


Perkins & Will, Architects
Brooklyn Army Terminal Development



The Croxton Collaborative, Architects
Bulova Watch Factory, Sag Harbor, NY

Single Family New Construction, Built

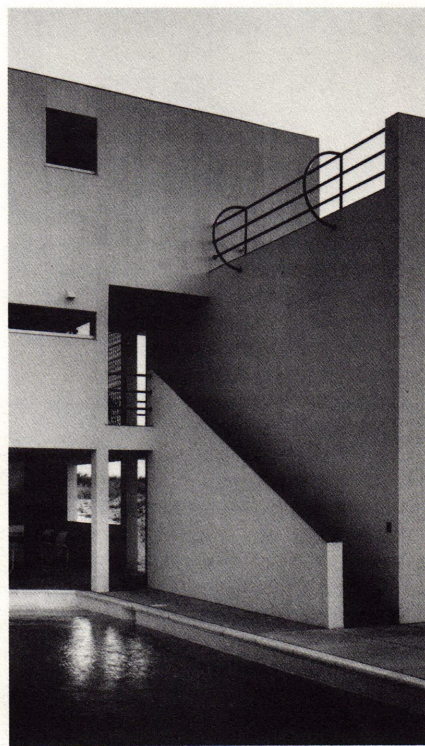


Ulrich Franzen & Associates
Photography: David Franzen



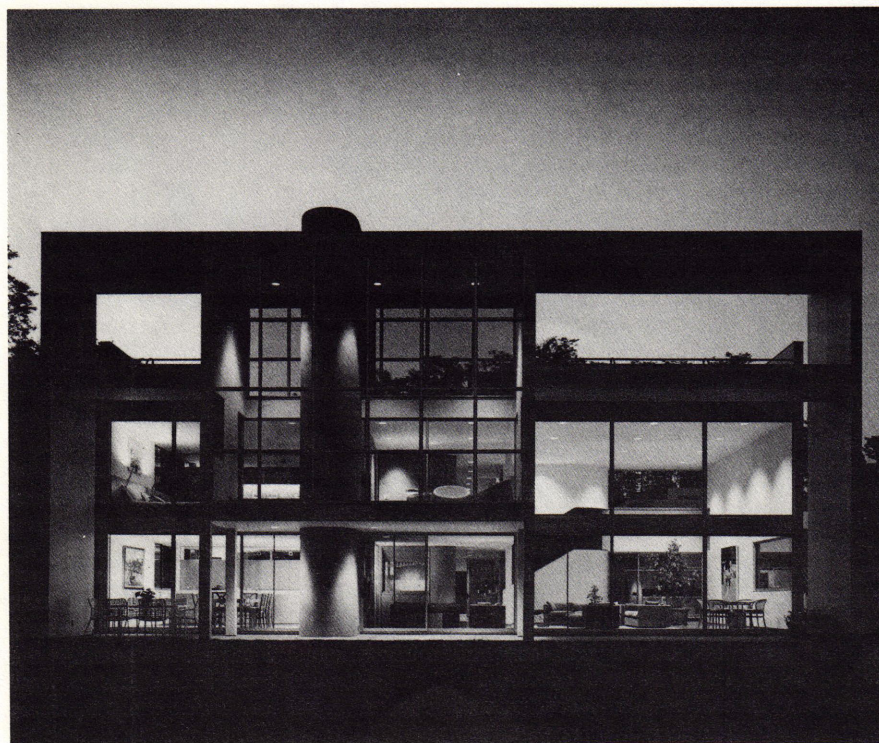
Gwathmey/Siegel Architects
Residence in Texas

Photography: Richard Payne AIA



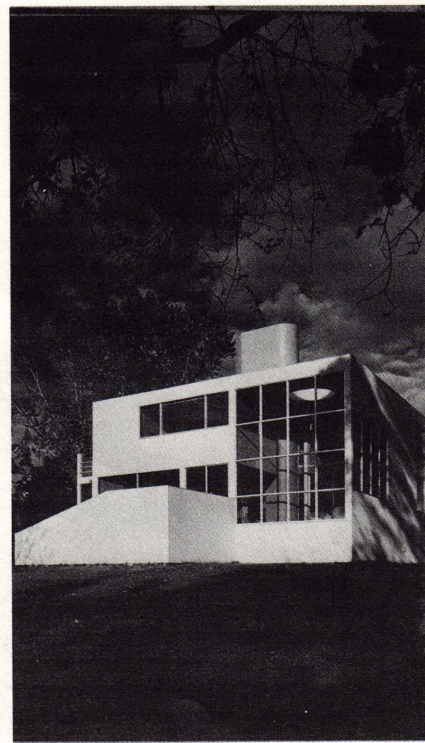
Gwathmey/Siegel Architects
Weitz Residence, Quogue

Photography by Norman McGrath



Gwathmey/Siegel Architects
Residence in Ohio

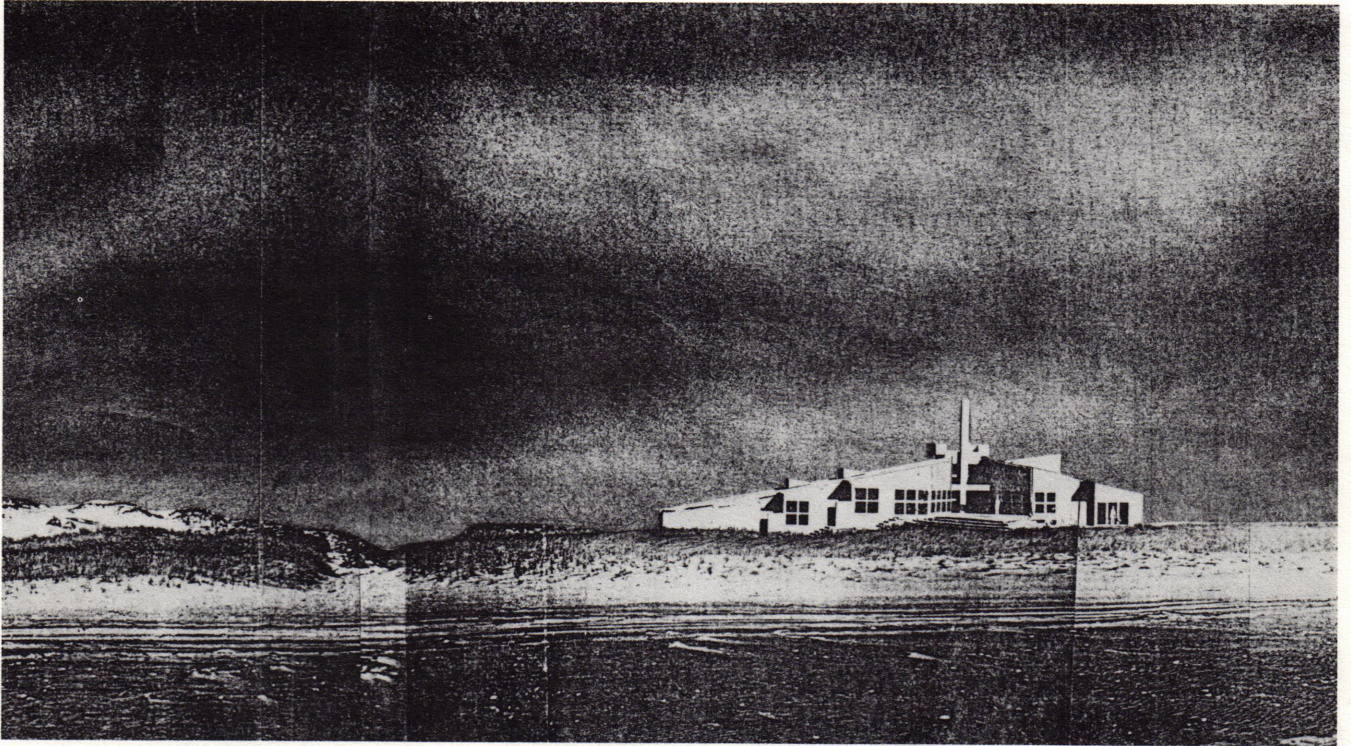
Photography: Richard Payne AIA



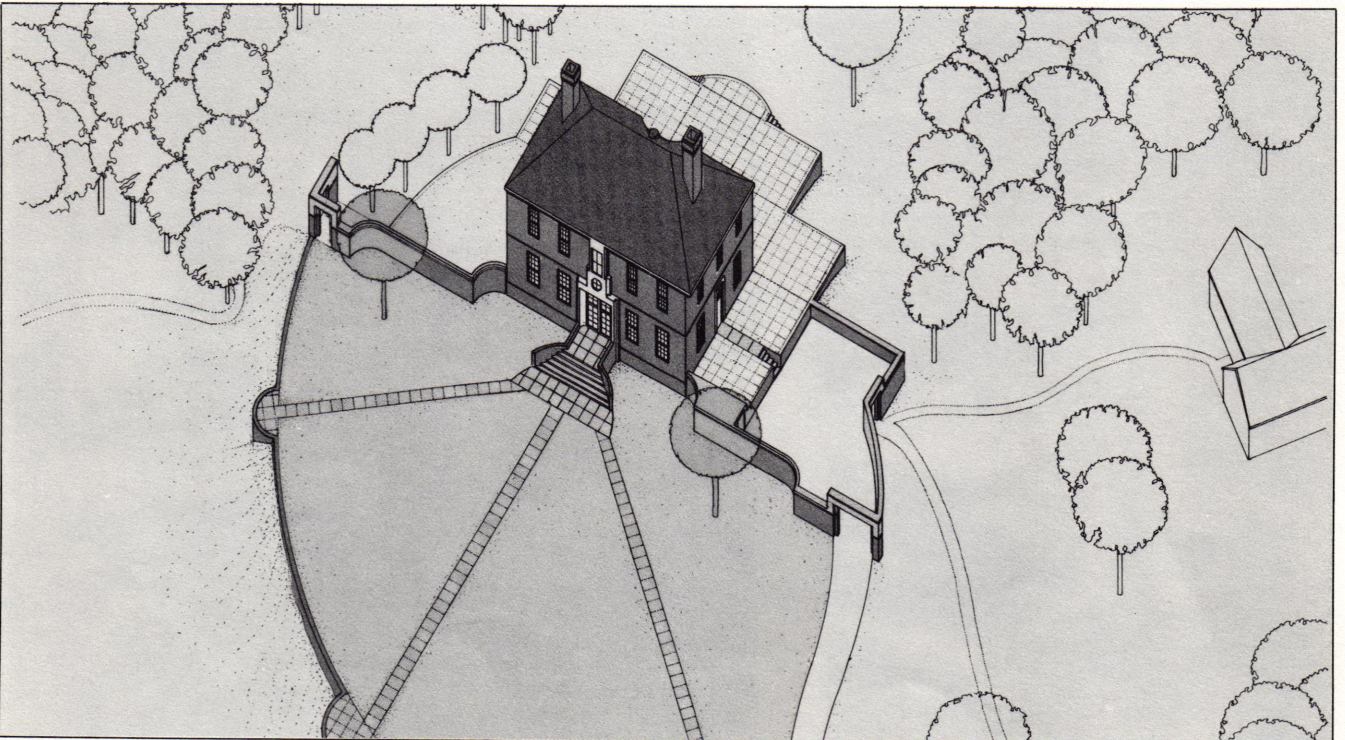
Gwathmey/Siegel Architects
Benenson Residence, Rye

Photography by Otto Baitz

Single Family New Construction, Not Built

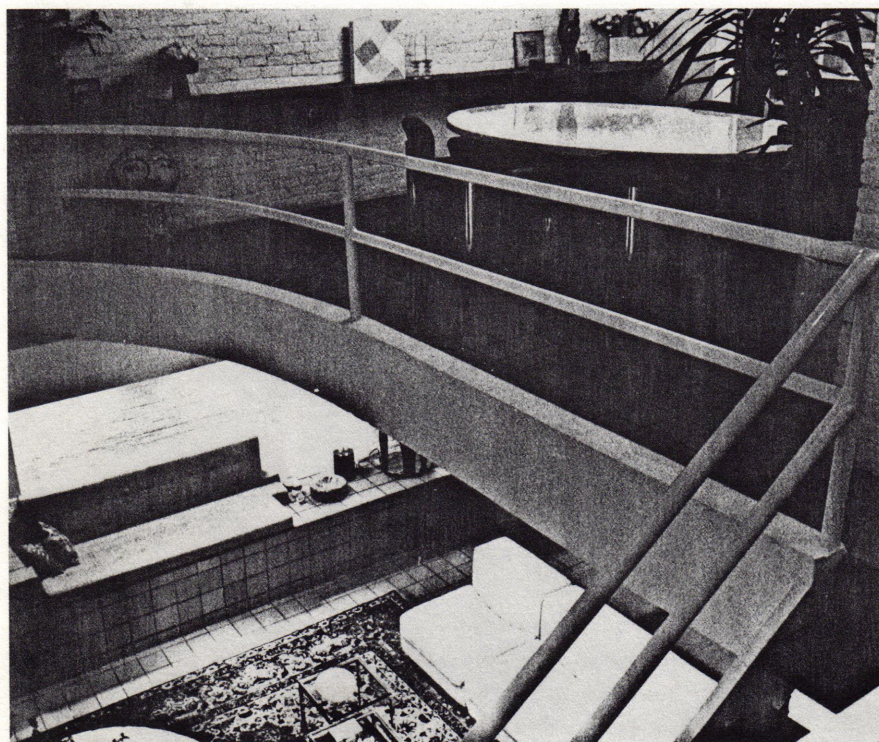


*Eisenman Robertson Architects
House in Dunes, South Hampton, NY*

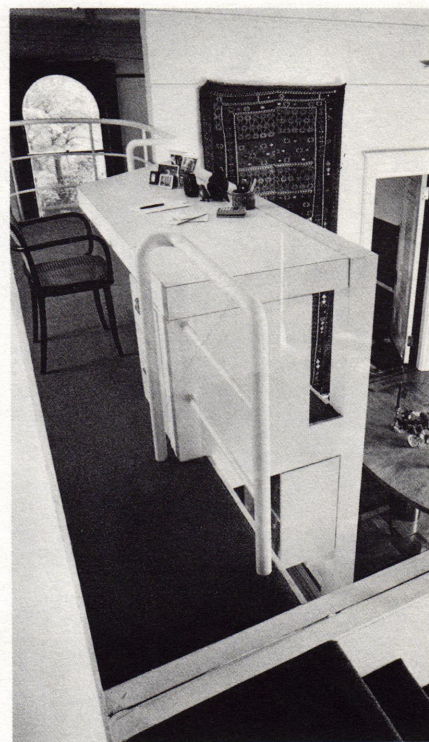


R.M. Kliment and Frances Halsband

Single Family Rehab, Built



*Lawrence Horowitz
Beylerian Residence, NY*



*Paul Segal & Associates
Rogers Apartment*



*Siris/Coombs, Architect
Ulick Loft, NY*