

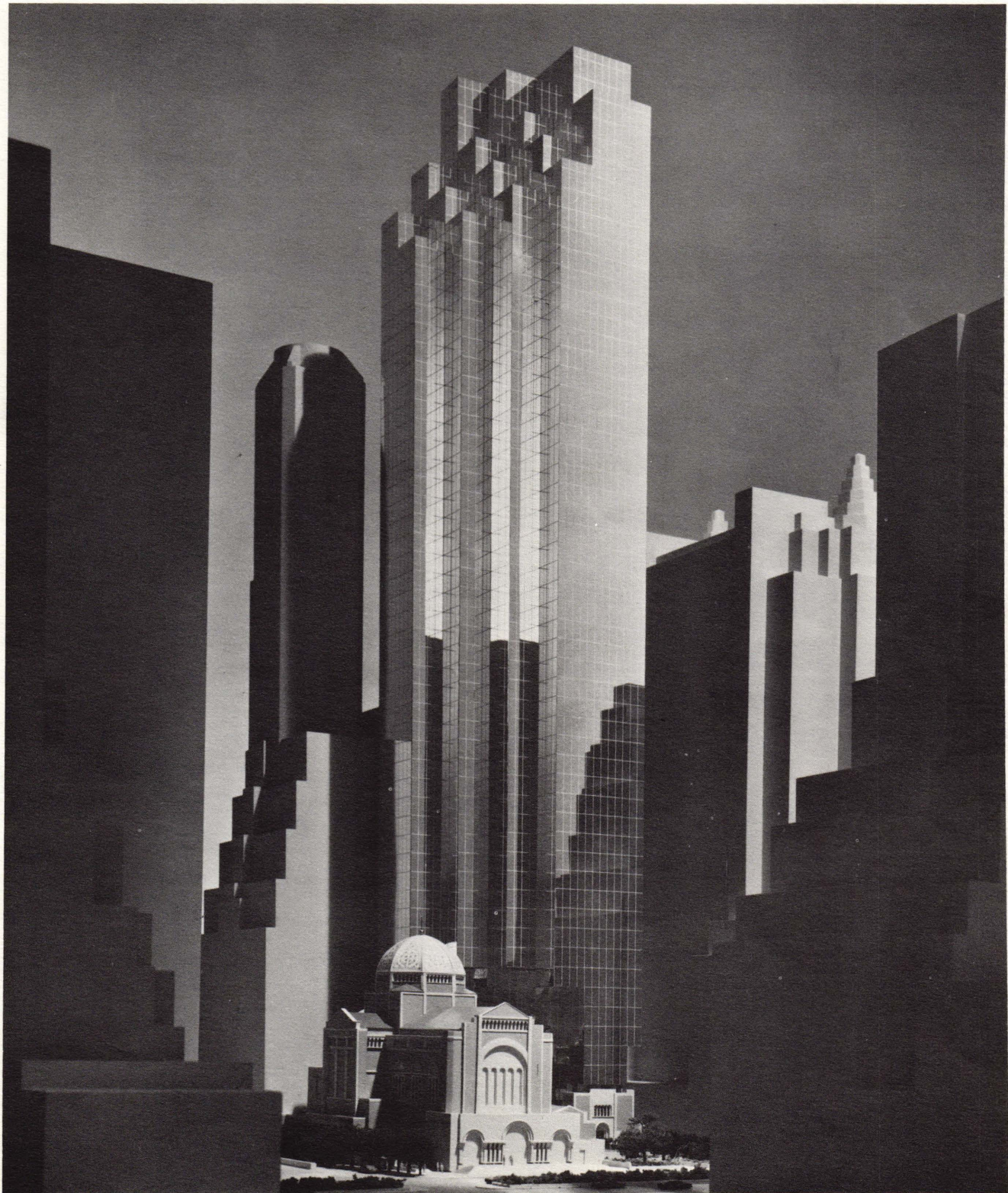
OCULUS

on current new york architecture

STOPPRESS EXTRA

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 43, Number 2, November 1981



The stepped roofline of St. Bart's proposed building amid its neighbors.

STOPPRESS

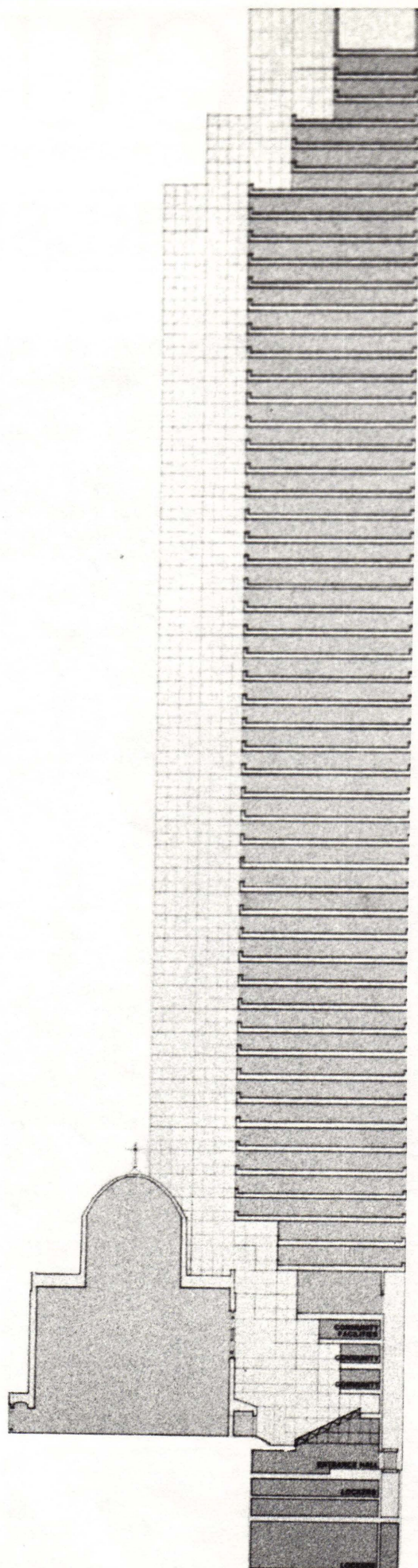
When this issue was already printed but not yet mailed, the announcement of St. Bart's cliffhanger decision was finally released. The editors have delayed this Oculus in order to bring this latest development to its readers along with the background material on the following pages.

Details of the announcement from St. Bart's on 29 October 1981 include the selection of British developer Howard P. Ronson and a building design by Edward Durell Stone Associates. The proposal of this team is for a \$110 million office tower--59 stories or 745 feet high--containing 760,000 square feet.

The building is set back 108 feet from Park Avenue on a line with the existing landmark Community House. The scheme thereby preserves the open space above the landmark terrace and garden. The entry to the tower would be through the reinstalled Park Avenue facade of the landmark Community House, which would be demolished.

The church building itself would not be touched, since the building is staggered in plan around the eastern apse, over which it is partially cantilevered. The skin is envisioned as highly reflective mirror glass--a shimmering model that is faceted, stepped at the skyline, and glittering.

In fact, the model and thinking about the details of the design almost make one lose sight of the overall fact: no matter how well done a thing may be, that performance will never make up for the fundamental mistake in doing the wrong thing. CRS



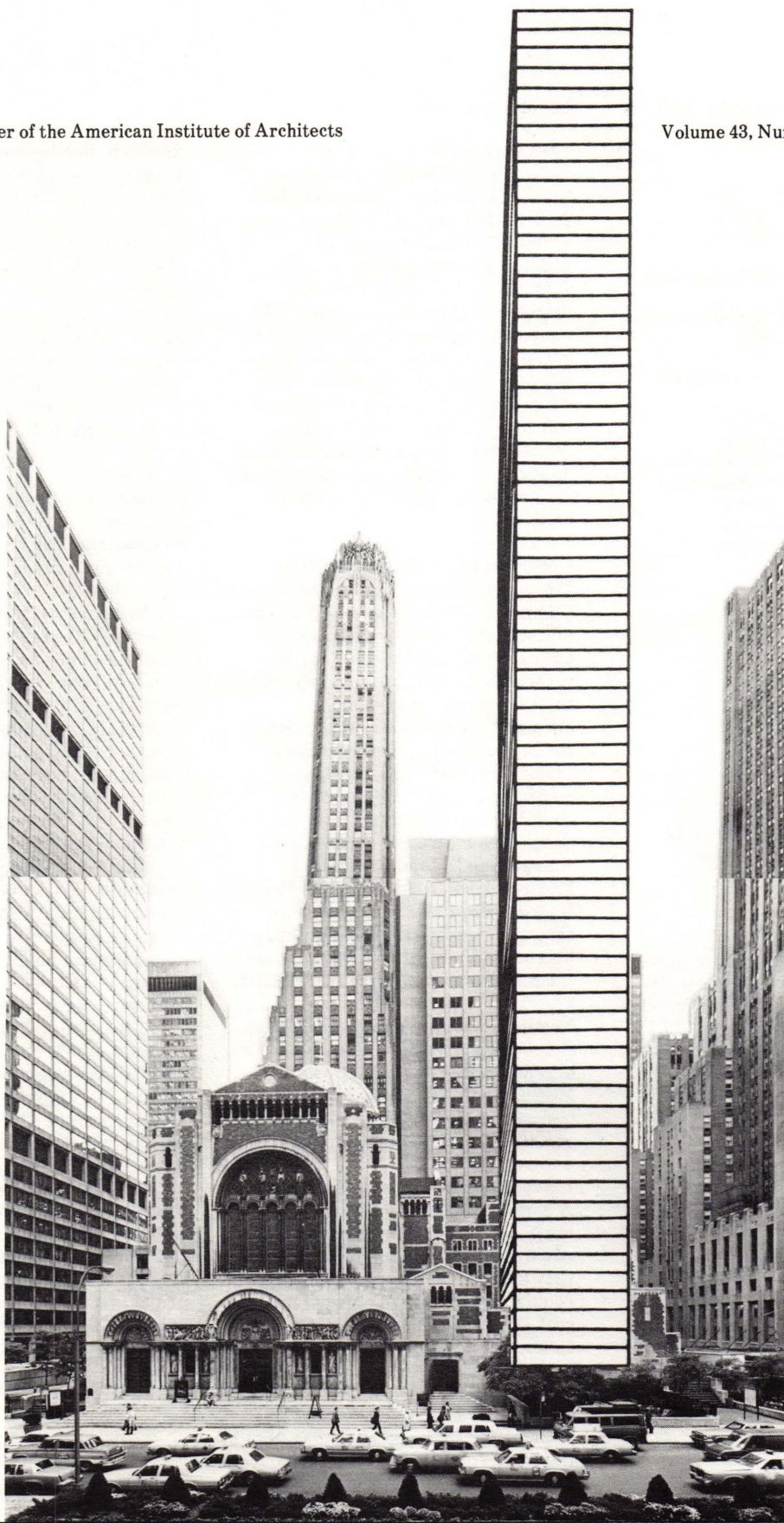
Section

OCULUS

on current new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 43, Number 2, November 1981



OCULUS

Chapter Reports

Names and News

Volume 43, Number 2, November 1981

Oculus

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Cover:

Montage illustrates the scale of building that current zoning would permit on the St. Bart's site, incorporating unused air rights over the church building. Assuming 662,000 sq. ft. of floor space, a tower could rise 77 stories (shown); a setback tower could rise 63 stories. (Courtesy The Municipal Art Society)

by George Lewis

Referendum November 3 on Correctional Facilities Bond Issue
On the November 3 ballot will be a \$500 million capital fund bond issue intended to meet the need for providing housing, program and support space for the dramatic increase in inmate population. The executive committee on October 14 voted to recommend that members support the proposal, noting that, while it is by no means a long-term solution to crime, there are more violent criminals being sentenced to imprisonment and the State's prisons are currently operating at 108% capacity.

Upper East Side Historic District
The Chapter supported the Landmarks Commission's designation at a Board of Estimate hearing in September, pointing out that the Chapter had recommended concurrent action by the Planning Commission, encouraging the chairmen of each agency to find a common ground. "This happened," the statement continued, "and the Chapter is confident that the Planning Commission through zoning text changes in the Madison Avenue Preservation District and the Park Improvement District, as well as through changes affecting building height in mid-block, will strengthen the purposes of the Historic District."

Nomination of Planning Commission
A special committee interviewed the Mayor's nominee Ms. R. Susan Motley, and the Chapter supported her nomination at a City Council committee hearing on October 15.

Percent for Art Legislation
A committee, Arthur Rosenblatt chairman, has been appointed to review a bill being introduced in the City Council which would, in essence, require a percentage of construction cost of City work to be allocated for commissioned art.

Westway Parks
On October 15 a special committee, Tician Papachristou chairman, met at the New York office of Venturi & Rauch to review plans in progress.

James F. Balsley has joined Haines Lundberg Waehler as director of landscape architecture and partner of the landscape, architecture, and planning partnership. Gershon Meckler, P.E., has joined the same firm as partner and director of engineering design . . . Oscar D. Turner, Jr. will speak on "Managing the Design Process" at the November 5th AIA conference on *Influencing Government Architecture in the 80s* in Washington, D.C. (see Calendar) . . . Architects Hugh Newell Jacobsen of Washington, D.C. and John D. Bloodgood of Des Moines are jurors in the American Plywood Association/Professional Builder plywood design awards program (see Calendar for December 1) . . . Gruzen & Partners are the architects for a proposed mixed-use 25-story building planned for the Bowery Savings Bank site at Third Avenue between 60th and 61st Streets; and for a 24-story office building in downtown Manhattan to be known as 40 Broad Street . . . Emery Roth & Sons have designed a 43-story office building—Seven World Trade Center . . . Johnson/Burgee Associates are the architects for a 25-story office building for 33 Maiden Lane . . . Skidmore, Owings & Merrill are the architects for a 58-story, mixed-use (office and condominium) building at 33 W. 52nd Street . . . Russo & Sonder are architects for renovations at the Hospital for Joint Diseases, 1919 Madison Avenue at 125th Street . . . The Urban Center Books' catalog of new and forthcoming books for Fall, 1981, describes 90 books and periodicals of interest to architects, designers, planners, preservationists . . . The new Max Protetch Open Storage gallery will open at 214 Lafayette Street on November 14 as a flexible environment for exhibition of large-scale art and architectural projects, for lectures and other events. The 37 W. 57 Street Max Protetch gallery will continue to function as well.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

The announcement by St. Bart's rector and vestry of their developer-architect team and the building design proposed for the site of the landmark Community House, terrace, and garden, has guardians of the city's heritage and cultural fabric in the trenches. St. Bart's statement, the Save St. Bart's Committee, and Chronology, below, provide a history of the battle to date.

Statement of Purpose

by St. Bart's Rector and Vestry

In June 1981 the rector and vestry of St. Bart's began to place ads in local newspapers outlining "A Theology for the Ministry of St. Bartholomew's Parish." Excerpts from that statement follow:

"The possible lease or sale of a part of St. Bartholomew's property on Park Avenue has been the subject of articles in every major newspaper in New York, as well as around the country and throughout the world. The overwhelming majority of articles have approached the issue predominantly from an architectural point of view.

We believe that the primary issue confronting St. Bartholomew's is the theological one: What is our understanding of the purpose of the Church, and how is St. Bartholomew's called to fulfill that purpose at this time? . . .

The fundamental question now before St. Bartholomew's is whether its worship and ministry can best be supported and enlarged by leasing a piece of property ancillary to the church building itself — the Community House, terrace, and garden . . .

. . . Recognizing the beauty and importance of St. Bartholomew's, the Vestry stated long ago that the church building was not for sale at any price.

However, mindful of the church's calling to life in the world, to ministry, the Vestry decided to consider the lease or sale of the piece of land and building next to the church . . . the Vestry is committed to the worship and ministry of God, and faithfulness to that commitment requires that any opportunity to enhance or expand that worship and ministry be considered.

Jesus commanded the rich young ruler to sell his possessions and to follow Him. The young man would not do so, for his possessions had become his god, an idol, and he was possessed by the very things he owned. St. Bartholomew's, mindful of this

cont'd. p. 8, col. 2

A Byzantine Chronology of St. Bart's Parish

1835 Parish founded. Opening services in Military Hall, 193 Bowery.

1836 First church building at Lafayette Place and Great Jones St.

1836-1900 Program of community outreach includes: educating thousands of non-English-speaking immigrant children, feeding tens of thousands of needy people, running a hospital, and operating a school for underprivileged girls.

1872 Parish moves to second church at Madison Ave. and 44 St. designed by James Renwick, Jr. in Lombardy style.

1902-03 Romanesque portals added as a family memorial to Cornelius Vanderbilt; designed by Stanford White after portal of St. Gilles du Gard at Arles.

1914 Parish buys land for third church building at Park Ave. between 50 and 51 Streets for \$1.5 million. Commissions design by Bertram Goodhue.

1915 Goodhue proposes use of entire property for large church. At Vestry's request, also submits two other studies for partial use of site for rental income. Vestry votes for use of entire property.

1918 Parish moves to Goodhue's Venetian-Byzantine building.

1927 Community House opens. Designed by Mayers, Murray & Philip, associates of Goodhue, before his death in 1924.

1930 Dome completed.

1931 General Electric Building by Cross & Cross opens. Acclaimed for sensitive juxtaposition of scale and style, consistency and appropriateness.

26 APR 66 Rector Terence J. Finlay objects to proposed landmarks designation.

cont'd. p. 6, col. 3

Civic Arts Committee to "Save St. Bart's" founded

The New York Chapter/AIA, along with the Municipal Art Society and other organizations, announced on October 1, 1981, the formation of "Save St. Bartholomew's: The Landmark Sanctuary, Community House, Terrace, and Garden," a committee dedicated to oppose the sale of the Church site and to uphold the Landmarks Law.

NYC/AIA joins the Municipal Art Society, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Parks Council, the New York Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, the New York Chapter on the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the Friends of Cast Iron Architecture in this effort. Excerpts from the statement follow:

New York, N.Y., October 1, 1981 . . . The pastor and vestry of St. Bartholomew's have announced their intention to sell or lease the Church's Community House, terrace, and garden for commercial development. Such development would be destructive of the aesthetic and historic values that make St. Bartholomew's a landmark. Leading architects in the city have publicly announced that they would not participate in such a project and the vestry has been forced to secure an architectural consultant from outside of New York City.

The commercial development of all or a substantial portion of the St. Bartholomew's site would be a clear violation of the Landmarks Preservation Law. The Law forbids the destruction of a designated landmark, or the substantial alteration of a landmark in a fashion unsympathetic to those qualities which go to make it a landmark, unless there is a showing, in the case of a property such as a church, that the building is no longer suitable or adequate for its intended use. The Law, as interpreted by the highest courts of the State of New York and the Supreme Court of the United States, plainly forbids destruction or mutilation of a landmark where the

cont'd. p. 8, col. 2

OCULUS NYC / AIA NOV 81

Oculus welcomes information for the calendar pertaining to public events about architecture and the other design professions. 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, final details of events are likely to change. It is recommended, therefore, that events be checked with the sponsoring institution before attending.

Send Oculus Calendar information to: New York Chapter/AIA, 457 Madison Avenue, N. Y. 10022.

MONDAY 2

BARD AWARDS

Deadline for entries of architectural projects executed in New York City and completed after Jan. 1, 1980. Large urban development projects are eligible if a sufficient portion has been completed to indicate character and quality of design. The City Club of New York, 33 W. 42 St. 921-9870.

MONDAY 9

GROWTH OF AMERICAN CITIES

Opening lecture by Thomas Bender, Samuel Rudin Professor of Humanities, NYU, in series on *Cities*. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 6:15 pm. Members \$40; nonmembers \$50 for the five-Monday series.

EAST 23rd STREET WATERFRONT: DIVERSE RESPONSES

Panel discussion moderated by Raquel Ramati with panelists Joana Battaglia, Ulrich Franzen, David Acheson, Harold Fredenburgh. Jordan Gruzen. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia Campus, 6 pm. Information: 280-3414.

CONTINUING EVENTS

THE ZONING GAME

Exhibition designed to explain zoning and its affect on the quality of city life. The Municipal Art Society, in the Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 935-3960. Closes Nov. 13.

BUILDINGS IN PROGRESS II

Exhibition in models, drawings, and photographs of midtown office towers. The Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison Ave. Closes Nov. 16.

TUESDAY 3

REVIEW OF REVIEWS

A monthly roundtable discussion of architectural events as reported in the press. 6:30 pm. The Architectural League, The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. Members free, nonmembers \$5. 763-1722.

TUESDAY 10

FORUMS ON FORM

Lecture by Paul Goldberger on his book, *The Skyscraper* (Knopf). Urban Center Books, 457 Madison Ave. 12:30.

SUBURBS

Exhibition on architecture of the planned American suburb from its 19th-century origins to speculative plans for the future. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. Closes Jan 24.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF MORGAN LIBRARY BUILDING

Exhibition of sketches and plans, of building by McKim, Mead & White. Morgan Library, 29 E. 36 St.

ARCHITECTURAL ARTIFACTS

Exhibition of stained glass, hardware, doors and gates, grillwork. SPACED Gallery, 165 W. 72 St. 787-6350. Closes Nov. 28.

P.B. WIGHT: ARCHITECT, CONTRACTOR, CRITIC 1838-1925

Exhibition of architectural drawings. National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Ave. at 89 St. Closes Dec. 6.

WEDNESDAY 4

BUDGET COST ESTIMATING FOR ARCHITECTS

Lecture by Mike Greenberg of Haines Lundberg Waehler in series sponsored by Construction Specifications Institute. McGraw Hill Building, Ave. of the Americas at 49 St., conference room 208. 5:30 pm. Information: Talbot Love, 925-4305.

PROJECTS IN GERMANY, THE U.S., AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Lecture by James Stirling. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia. 6 pm. Information: 280-3414.

WEDNESDAY 11

INSTALLATIONS IN THE NEW AMERICAN WING

Opening of three new permanent galleries as part of the continuing 19th-century installations. Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Ave at 82 St.

ARCOSANTI

Video and slide presentation covering Paoli Soleri's town under construction in Arizona. Zona Gallery, 484 Broome St. Opened Oct. 1; closes Dec. 31.

THE BEST LAID PLANS . . .

ALTERED NEW YORK BUILDINGS Exhibition of blueprints, drawings, plans from 1866 to 1981, presented by the Municipal Archives, Surrogates Court House, 31 Chambers St. Opened Oct. 1; closes Dec. 31.

THURSDAY 5

INFLUENCING GOVERNMENT ARCHITECTURE IN THE 80s

Conference, organized by AIA's Architects in Government Committee, with lectures by architects and business leaders, workshops. AIA, 1735 New York Ave. N.W., Washington. 202-626-7434.

THREE PROJECTS: ONE FORM

Lecture by Giuseppe Milani of GRAU in fall series. The Open Atelier of Design, 12 W. 29 St. 6 pm. \$11 with advanced reservation. 686-8698.

THURSDAY 12

RESTORE/RESTORATION WORKSHOP

Intensive 3-day workshop offered by the RESTORE/Restoration Skills Training Program, Nov. 12-15, at The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. \$495 tuition includes lunches, lab fees, materials. Application: Jan C.K. Anderson, 935-3960.

THREE PROJECTS: ONE FORM

Lecture by Michael Webb, Professor of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology, in fall series. The Open Atelier of Design, 12 W. 29 St. 6 pm. \$11 with advanced reservation. 686-8698.

BEYOND TRADITION

25th-anniversary retrospective exhibition of American crafts since World War II. American Crafts Museum, 44 W. 53 St. Opened Oct. 3; closes Jan. 10.

MANHATTAN ADDITIONS

Exhibition of drawings and models of two apartment buildings designed by Diana Agrest and Mario Gandelsonas. Both incorporate new architecture into the existing urban fabric. The Lobby, 359 Lexington Ave. at 41 St. Opened Oct. 27; closes Jan. 15.

FRIDAY 6

WATERFRONT

Exhibition in conjunction with Waterfront panel discussions. Avery Hall, Columbia Campus. Information: 280-3414. Closes Nov. 15.

FRIDAY 13

MONDAY 16**ENERGY EFFICIENT CITIES**

Lecture by Barry Commoner in five-Monday series on *Cities* starting Nov. 9. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 6:15 pm.

THE WORKING WATERFRONT

Panel discussion moderated by John B. Hightower with panelists Jerome McCabe, Michael O'Keeffe, Anthony Tozzoli. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia Campus, 6 pm. Information: 280-3414.

THE WORK OF KARL SCHINKEL

Exhibition. Avery Hall, Columbia Campus. Information: 280-3414. Closes Dec. 15.

MONDAY 23**SUBURBS**

Lecture by Robert A.M. Stern in five-Monday series on *Cities* starting Nov. 9. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 6:15 pm.

REYNOLDS AWARD

Deadline for mailing nominations for the AIA-administered 1982 Reynolds Award for distinguished architecture using aluminum to: Reynolds Memorial Award, AIA, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC, 20006.

WATERFRONT RENEWAL: CITIZEN SUCCESS

Panel discussion moderated by Ann Breen. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia Campus, 6 pm. 280-3414.

MONDAY 30**VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE**

Lecture by Steven Izenour in five-Monday series on *Cities* starting Nov. 9. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 6:15 pm.

WINDOW, ROOM, FURNITURE

Exhibition of 103 responses to each of these elements by artists and architects. Houghton Gallery, Cooper Union, Third Ave. and 7 St.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Panel discussion in Waterfront series. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia Campus, 6 pm. Information: 280-3414.

TUESDAY 17

TUESDAY 24**FORUMS ON FORM**

Lecture by Charles Gwathmey on his book, *Gwathmey Siegel* (Whitney Library of Design). Urban Center Books, 457 Madison Ave. 12:30-1:30 pm.

TUESDAY 1 DEC**AWARDS**

Deadline in the American Plywood Association/*Professional Builder* plywood design awards program, which honors outstanding aesthetic and structural applications of softwood plywood in projects completed since Dec. 1, 1979. Plywood Design Awards, P.O. Box 11700, Tacoma, Washington 98411.

FORUMS ON FORM

Lecture by Robert A.M. Stern on his book *Robert A.M. Stern 1965-1980: Towards a Modern Architecture after Modernism* (Rizzoli). Architectural League director Marita O'Hare will introduce. Urban Center Books, 457 Madison Ave. 12:30-1:30.

WEDNESDAY 18

WEDNESDAY 25

WEDNESDAY 2 DEC

THURSDAY 19**THE MAYOR'S HOUSE: GRACIE MANSION AND OTHER DWELLINGS**

Exhibition of photographs, drawings, paintings, and prints from the 19th century to the present illustrating Gracie Mansion as it evolved from private home into official mayor's residence. The New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West. Closes Mar. 1.

THREE PROJECTS: ONE FORM

Lecture by David Slovik of Friday Architects in fall series. The Open Atelier of Design, 12 W. 29 St. 6 pm. \$11 with advanced reservation. 686-8698.

THURSDAY 26

THURSDAY 3 DEC**THREE PROJECTS: ONE FORM**

Lecture by George Ranalli, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Yale University, in fall series. The Open Atelier of Design, 12 W. 29 St. 6 pm. \$11 with advanced reservation. 686-8698.

HARMONY IN HEALTH CARE DESIGN

Lecture by Emily Malino, vice president of Perkins & Will, on hospital interiors. New York Chapter/ AIA, 457 Madison Ave. 5 pm. Information: 838-9670.

FRIDAY 20

FRIDAY 27

FRIDAY 4 DEC



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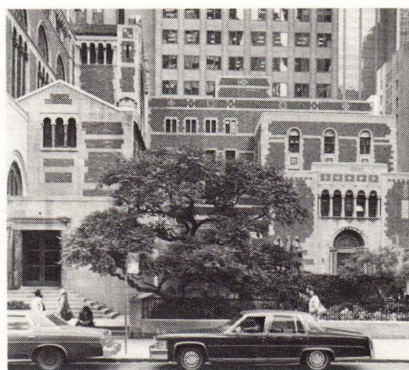
1. The announcement of how the Rector and Vestry of St. Bart's propose to develop their landmark property—destroying the Community House, terrace, and garden—is imminent.

2. In the canyon of Park Avenue, the unique corner garden—bright, unexpected, miniature—is maintained by the Women of St. Bart's. Can this carpet and vast vertical space be a luxury in our dense midtown that should be destroyed?

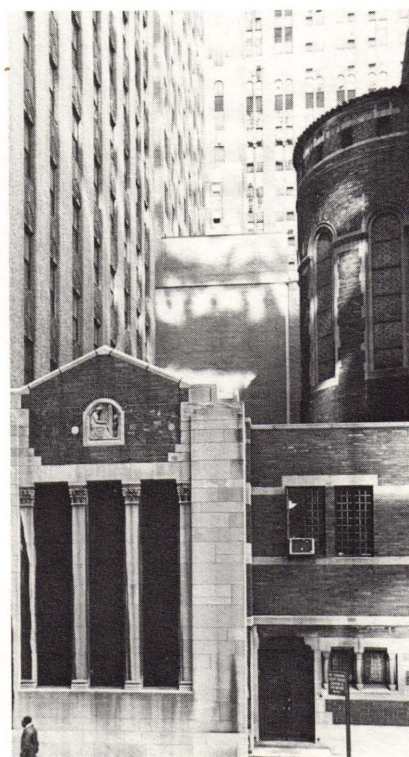
3. St. Bart's cork tree, some ten to twenty years old, would be a treasure of any Japanese garden. Will it be chopped down?

4. Behind St. Bart's on 51st Street is a sliver of property, including the choir rehearsal room, that is also considered by Rector and Vestry as leasable—meaning "destroyable."

Photos: Stan Ries



3



4

A Byzantine Chronology

cont'd. from p. 3

16 MAR 67 Church and Community House designated as a landmark. Landmarks Commission writes its understanding that the church may have to move again or may have to build "other structures to meet the church's requirements in the future . . ." In such a case, "the Commission will give due consideration and act promptly in accordance with the provisions of the Landmarks Preservation Law."

1977 Rev. Thomas D. Bowers selected as Rector. Formerly rector of St. Luke's, Atlanta, where he opened soup kitchen for neighborhood derelicts. At St. Bart's he instituted use of new prayer book, abolished pew rents, started family service and invited laity to take part in liturgical readings.

JAN-SEPT 78 ULURP discussions about the Rudin Building—560 Lexington Avenue, behind the Community House on the site of the former Cathedral High School—find proposed design by The Eggers Group harmonious with St. Bart's—especially the consistent use of brick and the setback relating to GE tower. Why didn't St. Bart's sell its air rights to the Rudin Building at that time?

19 SEPT 80 Rector, Churchwardens and Vestry announce plans via *The New York Times* to demolish entire complex. Front-page *Times* article by Carter Horsley states \$100 million offered by "unidentified 'very prestigious' American corporation."

9 OCT 80 Parish meeting. J. Sinclair Armstrong presents resolution to amend St. Bart's by-laws in accordance with Article 3, Section 5 of the New York State Religious Corporation Act, which requires any sale or dispersal of church property to be voted on by all church members and decided by the majority's opinion. Access to church's financial records requested.

10 OCT 80 Letter to parish members from J. Sinclair Armstrong, Donald E. Chappell and John W. Chappell

announces formation of "Committee to Save St. Bartholomew's Church" and states intention of presenting new slate of Vestry candidates who "share our loyal concern." Sinclair Armstrong's name to be proposed.

14 OCT 80 Vestry resolution: "The Vestry will not consider a sale of church property that would result in the demolition of the church building, but will pursue sale or lease of Community House property.

22 OCT 80 Sinclair Armstrong and John Chappell go to meeting with church treasurer H. Peers Brewer to see church's financial records as promised; access then denied; instead, treasurer supplies summary of finances.

3 NOV 80 Meeting at Union Club at which then Senior Warden Mark Haas explained origins of sale and options: "A real estate expert had said, 'If I can offer the whole thing I can bring back a check for \$100 million in 10 days.'" Haas thereby revealed the hypothetical basis of the \$100 million offer.

13 NOV 80 Letter to Friends of St. Bartholomew's Parish from Committee to Preserve reports "lack of response" to attempts to see church's audited financial statements.

16 DEC 80 Committee to Preserve St. Bartholomew's Church—J. Sinclair Armstrong, Elizabeth Wigton Bristol, Marjorie V. Brown, Donald E. Chappell, and John W. Chappell—are served with summons and complaint of the Rector, Churchwardens and Vestry, accompanied by temporary restraining order prohibiting the use of the name "Committee to Preserve St. Bartholomew's Church or any other designation which includes the name St. Bartholomew's Church" and from soliciting funds.

17 DEC 80 Letter to parishioners and club members from Committee to Preserve informing them of the injunction lawsuit, asking for expression of approval and consideration of implications "of a

repressive governing body, not permitting discussion and preventing it by court-enforced gag."

24, 26, 29 DEC 80 Hearings at State Supreme Court determine new name for Committee as "Committee in Opposition to the Sale of St. Bartholomew's Church." Also ruled that Sinclair Armstrong's name as a candidate must be mailed out on the Vestry ballot to all eligible voters.

29 DEC 80 Rector's letter to parishioners enclosing revised ballot for Vestry, and urging a vote for "these candidates [who] will work tirelessly *WITH ME* to see that this parish becomes the strongest and most vital in this city."

4 JAN 81 Rector's letter to parishioners: 1) "Vestry voted unanimously *NOT* to sell the church." 2) Financial duties of Vestry require them "to investigate . . . any option for fund raising, including the possible sale of air rights or the leasing of the property adjacent to the church . . ." 3) Lawsuit "was undertaken to prevent the 'Committee' from using a name that was confusing to our parishioners and the general public . . ."

8 JAN 81 Committee to Oppose letter urges a vote for all Vestry candidates nominated by petition. Also states, "We think it preposterous that a church with \$12 million of endowment and income of \$2.5 million cannot balance its budget without sacrifice of present programs or sale of the church."

14 JAN 81 Vestry election: 8 candidates elected were those endorsed by the Rector; no opposition committee candidate elected. "It is more than a landslide," said an exultant Rev. Bowers to *The New York Times*, "we blew 'em in the weeds—that's a Southern expression."

JAN-MAR 81 Vestry appoints Real Estate Committee: Anthony P. Marshall, chairman; Charles Sanford Jr.; and Richard A. Williamson.

21 JAN 81 Vestry votes to engage John White, chairman of Landauer Assoc. as real estate consultant.

23 JAN 81 Letter from Committee to Oppose states, ". . . we strongly object to the demolition of the Community House, terrace and garden. They must be saved from the wanton destruction the Rector intends."

20-21 FEB 81 National AIA Urban Planning and Design Committee passes resolution on St. Bart's: "Be it resolved: To confirm the Committee's admiration for Goodhue's work as a unity; the church building and the open space around it. To insist on the value of the continuation of building and gardens as a design solution contributing to the quality of the environment and to the character of that location for appreciation of citizen and visitors alike."

APR 81 Vestry hires public relations firm of Brennan & Brennan as communication consultants.

3 MAY 81 Carter Horsley in *The New York Times* announces proposals by: Cohen Brothers Realty & Construction Co., designed by architect Richard Dattner; and a joint venture by The Trump Organization and H.J. Kalikow & Co. Attia & Perkins are later reported as architects for latter.

6 MAY 81 St. Bart's Church, Community House and Garden designated a distinguished landmark and historic place by the National Register of Historic Places.

13 MAY 81 Letter from Committee to Oppose announces Vestry's Real Estate Committee is listening to options presented by several developers. Letter continues: "Why does the Real Estate Committee conceal what its architects intend, which it describes but won't let us see?" The proposed building, the letter explains, "rests on tall stilts over what is now the garden; except for its front facade, the Community House is gone, and no sunlight will
cont'd. p. 8, col. 1

A Byzantine Chronology

cont'd. from p. 7

ever again hit the beautiful rose window of the south transept of the church . . . Why must we read about our church, first, in *The New York Times*, while that very Sunday, May 3rd, we sat in our pews and nothing was mentioned?"

26 MAY 81 Court orders Rector and Vestry to turn over to the Court the church's audited financial statements. Vestry appeals this ruling.

27 MAY 81 Vestry Real Estate Committee appoints architectural consultant: Robert Geddes of Geddes, Brecher, Qualls & Cunningham of Philadelphia.

27, 28 MAY 81 Parish Conference on real estate: More than 80 Church and Club committee coordinators, Vestry, staff members and others gather to hear Rector, John White and Senior Warden speak. "Artists' renderings illustrating three proposals were shown at the conference."

29 MAY 81 Court orders Vestry to supply an expert to answer questions about the financial statements in Court. Vestry appeals.

4 JUN 81 *The New York News* reports St. Bart's has narrowed to half dozen developers the potential builder . . . of a hotel or office tower at Park and 50th. States choice will be announced at summer's end.

8 JUN 81 Meeting of supporters to oppose sale of St. Bart's at Women's National Republican Club: nearly 200 attend.

10 SEP 81 Judge Charles S. Whitman Jr. (Supreme Court State of New York) finds: Church has violated Religious Corporation Act, and is directed to put resolution to amend by-laws to vote of Parish. Pending results of vote, Church is restricted from selling or leasing of real property owned by the church.

??? Vestry announces selection of developer-architect team and exhibits proposed building.

Statement of Purpose

cont'd. from p. 3

temptation, is seeking the proper use of its possessions. The present possibility of using part of its real estate offers an opportunity for ministry that is staggering in its potential and at the heart of the Christian calling.

St. Bartholomew's would strive to use at least fifty percent of its income each year beyond itself . . .

At the same time this income would insure that the Church building, itself, would remain at its present site for generations to come; it would support and expand the worship and historic ministry of the parish . . .

We at St. Bartholomew's believe that faithfulness to our Lord leads to a moral and Christian imperative to seize upon the extraordinary opportunity before us to consider the lease of the Community House, terrace, gardens and the air rights over the church. The possibility exists to provide permanent ministries to the most broken and destitute of this city and the world—people who would probably never be so fortunate as to observe the air over the church that was used to feed them. To do less would be blasphemy because it would be idolatrous. By devoting part of its possessions to this ministry in the world, St. Bartholomew's would be faithful to its tradition and to its Lord.

Civic Arts Committee

cont'd. from p. 3

sole or principal reason for such destruction or mutilation is to "cash-in" on the unused speculative development potential of the property.

The pastor and vestry of St. Bartholomew's have not suggested that the Church or its Community House are not suitable or adequate for their intended purpose and, on the contrary, have made it clear that the principal purpose for the proposed commercial development is to realize on the development potential of the site, i.e. to make money. The only

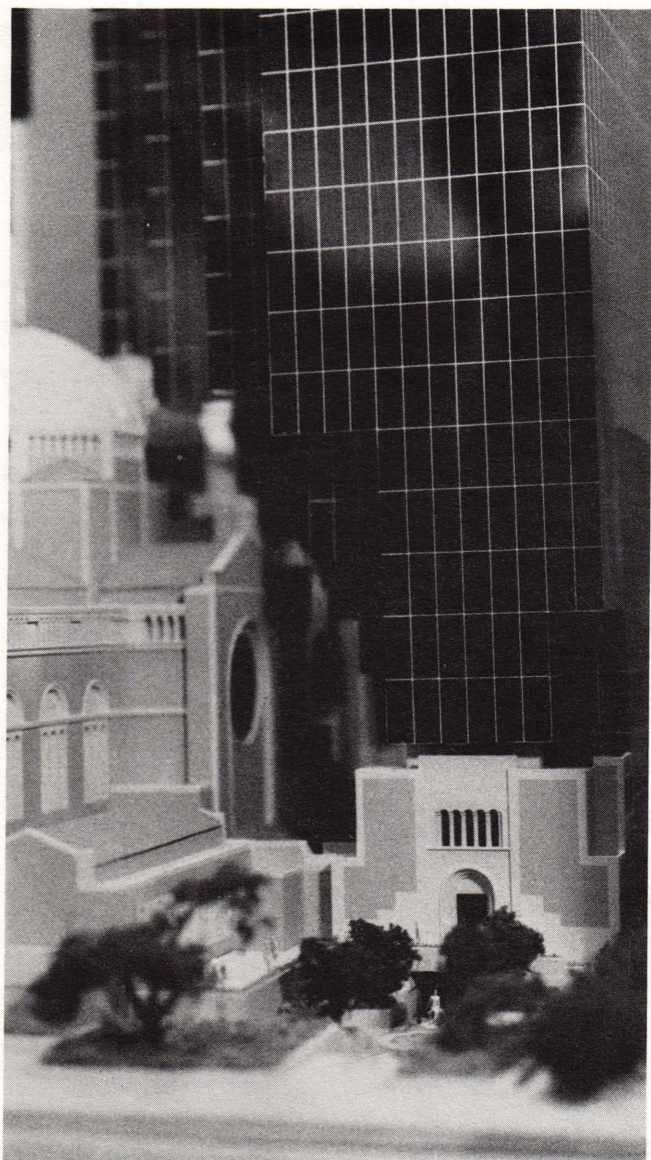
rationale given for their intent to violate the letter and spirit of the Landmarks Preservation Law is that the Church would use the profits for charitable purposes, including charitable activities outside the Church's own parish.

Obviously, the rationale advanced by the pastor and vestry is equally available to all of the institutions that own the more than one hundred other churches, museums, and other structures that have been designated as landmarks. If accepted, the position of the pastor and vestry would in effect repeal the Landmarks Preservation Law with respect to all landmarks owned by charitable organizations. This would be thoroughly unacceptable to most New Yorkers.

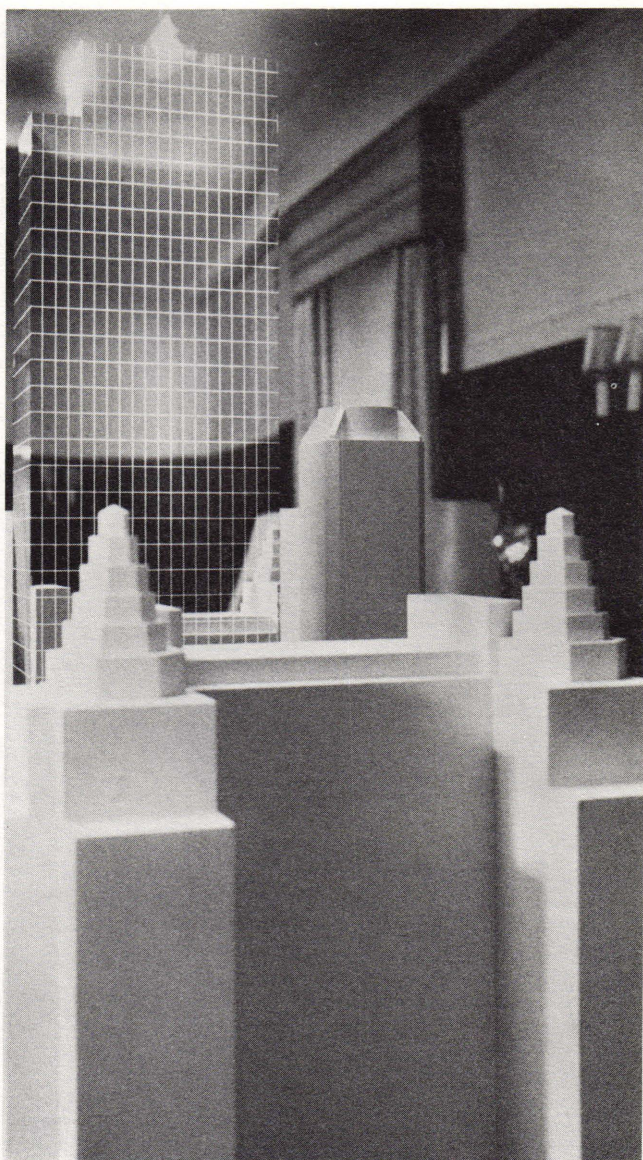
The "theological" position publicly stated by the pastor and vestry of St. Bartholomew's expresses their individual moral judgment. It is a judgment not shared by a substantial number of parishioners of St. Bartholomew's, who are strenuously opposing the proposed development, or those in the Episcopal Church who have chosen to devote a very substantial part of the Church's resources to the completion of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. It is a judgment not shared by the peoples of the great cities of Europe, who have treasured their architectural heritage not only for their benefit but for the benefit of the entire world. It is a judgment not shared by the elected representatives of our City, who enacted the Landmarks Preservation Law.

The undersigned organizations support the Landmarks Preservation Law and urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to enforce the Law to prevent the mutilation of one of our City's great landmarks—St. Bartholomew's Church.

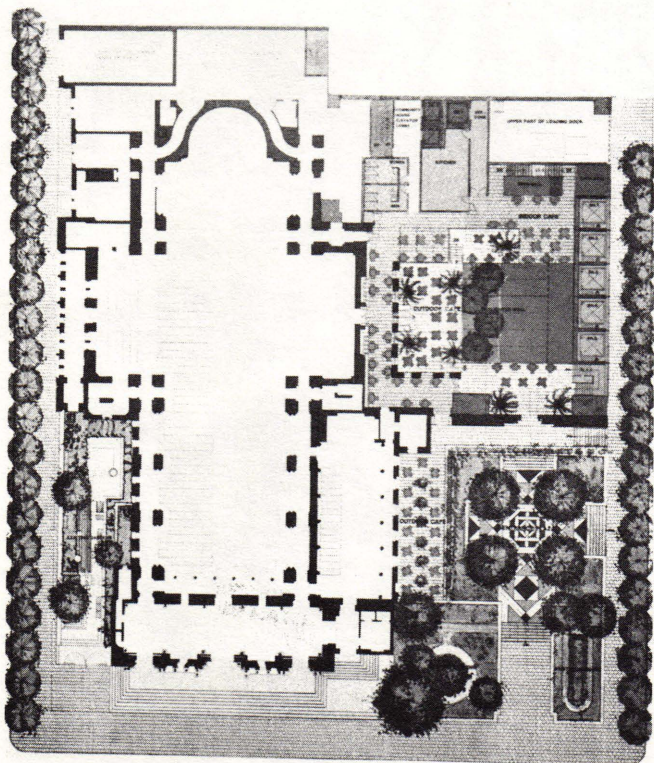
The Municipal Art Society of New York
New York Landmarks Conservancy
The Parks Council
New York Chapter, AIA
New York Chapter, Victorian Society
New York Chapter, ASLA
Friends of Cast Iron Architecture



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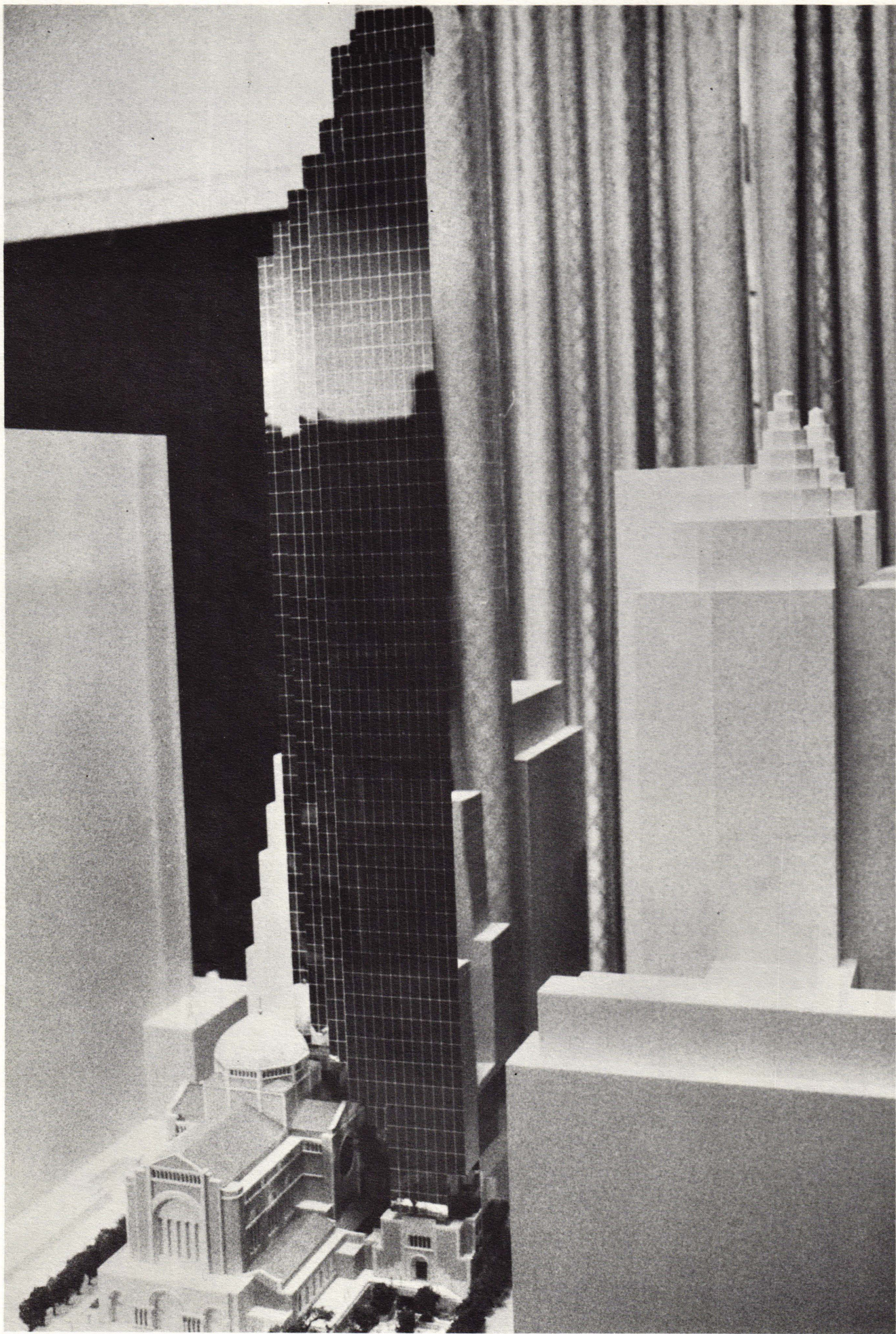


Plan

1. View onto new garden shows reinstalled Community House facade.

2. The stepped roofline of the proposed 745-foot high building is compared with the 625-foot high Waldorf Towers and the 570-foot high General Electric Tower.

Photos: Stan Ries



St. Bart's proposed building, from Park Avenue at 50th, conceals the G. E. Tower.