

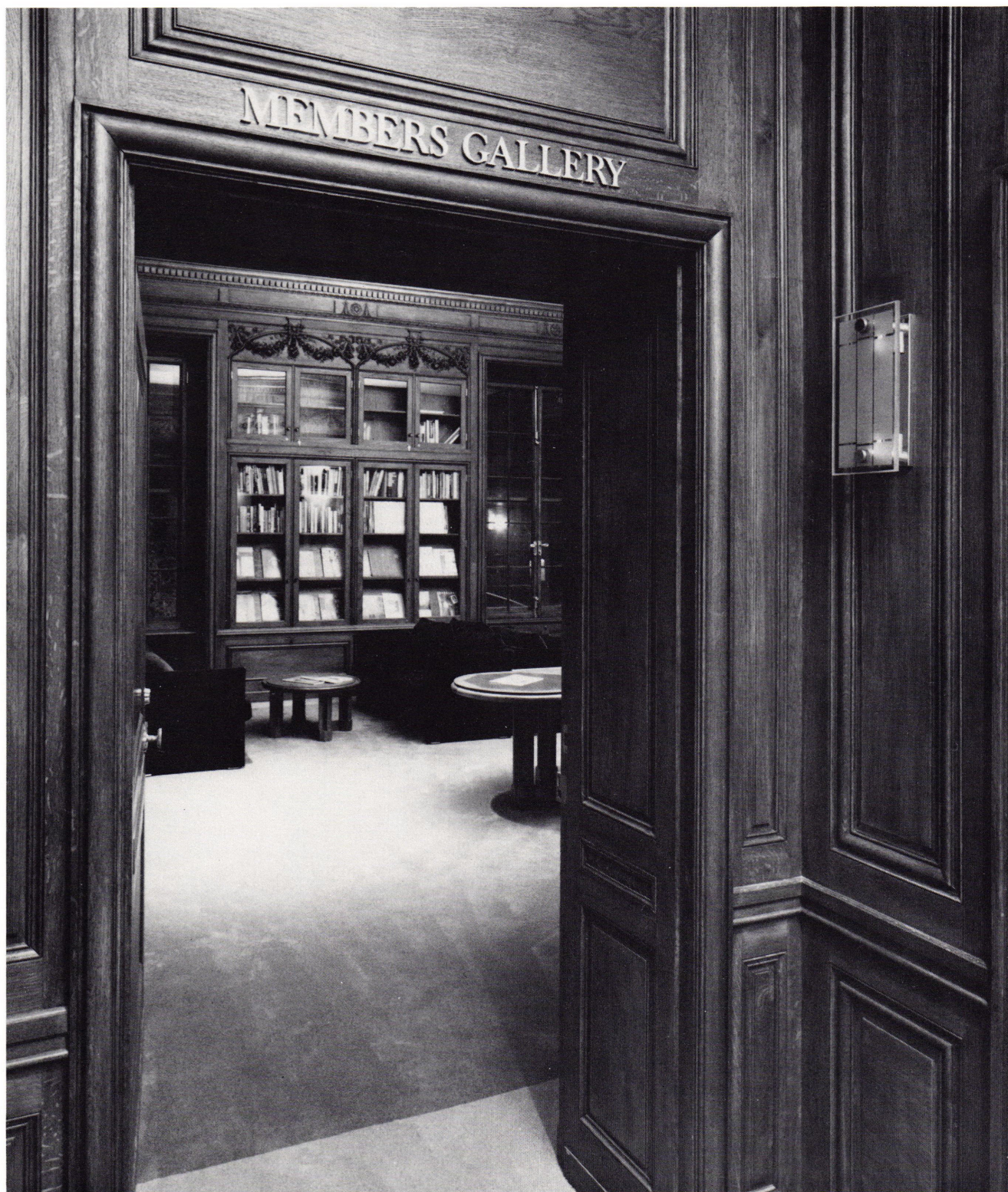
# OCULUS

on current new york architecture

## NEW HEADQUARTERS

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 45, Number 2, October 1983



*The Members Gallery welcomes you to the new New York Chapter/AIA Headquarters. Photo: Stan Ries/ESTO*



## OCULUS

## NEW HEADQUARTERS

Volume 45, Number 2, October 1983

### Oculus

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The New York Chapter of  
the American Institute of Architects  
457 Madison Avenue,  
New York, New York 10022  
212-838-9670

George S. Lewis, *Executive Director*  
Cathanne Piesla, *Executive Secretary*

**Executive Committee 1983-84:**  
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## How the Project Happened

The Chapter's 1980 move to the Villard Houses was an accomplishment applauded by all. Much credit was due The Municipal Art Society for having secured the North Wing, once the William Fahnstock house, a 1922 alteration by Charles Platt combining two of the original residences, and subsequently occupied by Random House.

The Chapter was assigned a very desirable space at the Madison Avenue end above the main floor, including a northwest room previously occupied by Bennett Cerf, a narrow center room, and the oak paneled southwest room, which had been the Fahnstock library, but which had been cut up by Random House. The question facing the Chapter was how to make this space workable and bring it up to the standard of the altogether remarkable Villard Houses location.

William Conklin, Chapter president at the time of the move, assigned Bartholomew Voorsanger, then an Executive Committee member, to make recommendations. It was at first felt that the main task would be to refurbish the paneled room. But Voorsanger and the Executive Committee kept running into the insoluble problem of designing a room where members could drop in, but where, more often than not, they would encounter a committee in session. This would not do if the new headquarters were truly to belong to the membership.

By 1981, in John Belle's term as president, it was seen that something more extensive than mere refurbishing had to be done, and Voorsanger & Mills Associates were commissioned to develop a plan. A representative panel of Chapter members — people interested in the Chapter but not currently active in it — was invited to review the architect's proposals and to advise on whether it would be feasible to raise the necessary funds. For it was felt that the project should be paid for entirely through voluntary contributions.

The result was that Voorsanger &

Mills was authorized to proceed with the scheme that has now been executed. There is a new committee room. There is adequate built-in storage for the staff. The executive director has a handsome new office in what was the Xerox room. What is most important is that the Chapter now has a Members Gallery where one can go to meet friends, or to read, and where it is intended that a series of exhibitions of distinguished architectural drawings will be on public view.

So the Chapter now has a headquarters that is more than merely a workable space. It is a center worthy of the New York profession. To quote from an editorial comment in the issue of *Oculus* that announced the project, "It is the contribution of what all architects mean by 'design' — the creation of something that meaningfully proclaims its use and users, its stature and prestige."

### Design Team

Voorsanger & Mills Associates,  
Architects  
*Partner-in-Charge:* Bartholomew Voorsanger  
*Project Architect:* Wanatha P. Garner  
*Project Team:* Lewis Jacobsen, Meg Azzoni  
*Graphics:* Carla Hall  
*Lighting Consultant:*  
Jules Fisher & Paul Marantz, Inc.  
*Structural Engineer:* Joel S. Weinstein  
*Mechanical Engineers:* Jansen & Rogan

### Construction Team

*General Contractor:*  
BIA Construction Corporation  
*Subcontractors:* Nordic Interior, Inc.  
Woodworking  
J.J. Rosenberg Electrical Contractors, Inc.  
Friedman Marble & Slateworks, Inc.  
Duncan Interiors (Lathing)  
Hudson-Shatz Painting  
*Custom Furniture:*  
North American Woodworking Corp.

*Model Maker:*  
George Raustiala





Magazines, books, and exhibitions of architectural drawings invite the perusal of members and their guests in the Members Gallery. Photo: Stan Ries

### Throughout

#### *Carpet:*

Wellington green, gray, mauve

Carpet Supplied by: Contract Distributors Corp.

Carpet Manufactured by: Bentley Carpet Mills

Yarn by: Dupont Chemical Co.

Installed by: Pioneer Carpet Service

#### *Paint :*

Benjamin Moore Custom Colors

### Foyer

#### *Wall Sconce:*

Designed by Voorsanger & Mills;

Jules Fisher & Paul Marantz, Inc.

Etched glass and polished brass Fabricated by Nordic Interior, Inc. Woodworking

#### *Glass Panel Doors:*

Designed by Voorsanger & Mills

### Members Gallery

#### *Four Lounge Chairs:*

Tilbury/Cassina Armchair

Upholstered in Velluto Ande, maroon, piping: claro, black; by Atelier International, Ltd.

#### *Two Couches:*

Tilbury/Cassina 3-Seat Sofa

Upholstered in Velluto Ande, maroon, piping: claro, black; by Atelier International, Ltd.

#### *Two Coffee Tables:*

Design by V&M; Fabricator: North American Woodworking Corp.

Marble Supplier: Domestic Marble Cherry wood frame with Fior di Pesca marble insert

#### *Table/Desk:*

Design by V&M; Fabricator: North American Woodworking Corp.

Marble Suppliers: Domestic Marble and Vermont Marble; Cherry wood frame with Vermont Verde Antique and Fior di Pesca marble inserts

#### *Desk Chair:*

Upholstered in Lasso Leather, plum. Leather and chair by Knoll

International

#### *Four Standing Lamps:*

Design by V&M; Fabricator: North American Woodworking Corp. Cherry wood and etched glass

#### *Window Blinds:*

Levelor Riviera Blinds, jasper Supplied by American Drapery & Carpet Co.

#### *Desk Lamp:*

Pausania Lamp by Artemide

#### *Inset Fabric Panels:*

J.M. Lynne linen

#### *Lighting:*

Polished brass picture lights by Cole Lighting, Inc.

Downlights: Edison Price Darklite

Track: Lightolier Mini Swivels

Basic Lytespan

#### *Frames:*

Bark Frameworks, Inc.

Pearwood





1.

## Architectural Drawings in the Members Gallery

The Members Gallery will on one hand be for meeting friends, for reading and relaxing. And a fund for subscriptions to foreign magazines has been contributed by Mrs. Douglas Haskell (who also initiated the Douglas Haskell Awards for Student Journalism).

It is also anticipated that the room will provide the setting for a new Chapter venture: regular public showings of distinguished architectural drawings selected from the collections of The Avery Library, The National Academy of Design, and other sources.

The Members Gallery has the potential of being the one place in New York, certainly in midtown, where architectural drawings from distinguished collections can be regularly put on view, and the Chapter sets great store on being able

to offer this opportunity to the general public in our superb midtown location.

### The Current Exhibit of Drawings

Now on the walls, through October 29 — in the first of what is hoped will be a continuing series open to the public — are drawings by Alexander Jackson Davis, James Renwick, Richard Upjohn, Richard M. Upjohn, and Birch Burdette Long, all lent by Avery Library.

This exhibit, which has involved one-time initial expenditures for reusable illuminated frames, daylight control, and insurance, is made possible by a grant from The J.M. Kaplan Fund. In overall charge as curator is Lindsay Stamm Shapiro, who worked closely with Janet Parks, Curator of Drawings at The Avery Library. Rob Sawchuck of The Metropolitan Museum assisted with the installation, and it should be noted that Bartholomew Voorsanger had everything to do with initiating the concept.

1. The desk in the Members Gallery serves as another work space for staff and also permits receptionist and inquiry functions.

2. The new exedra work station is crowned by the preserved garland woodwork.

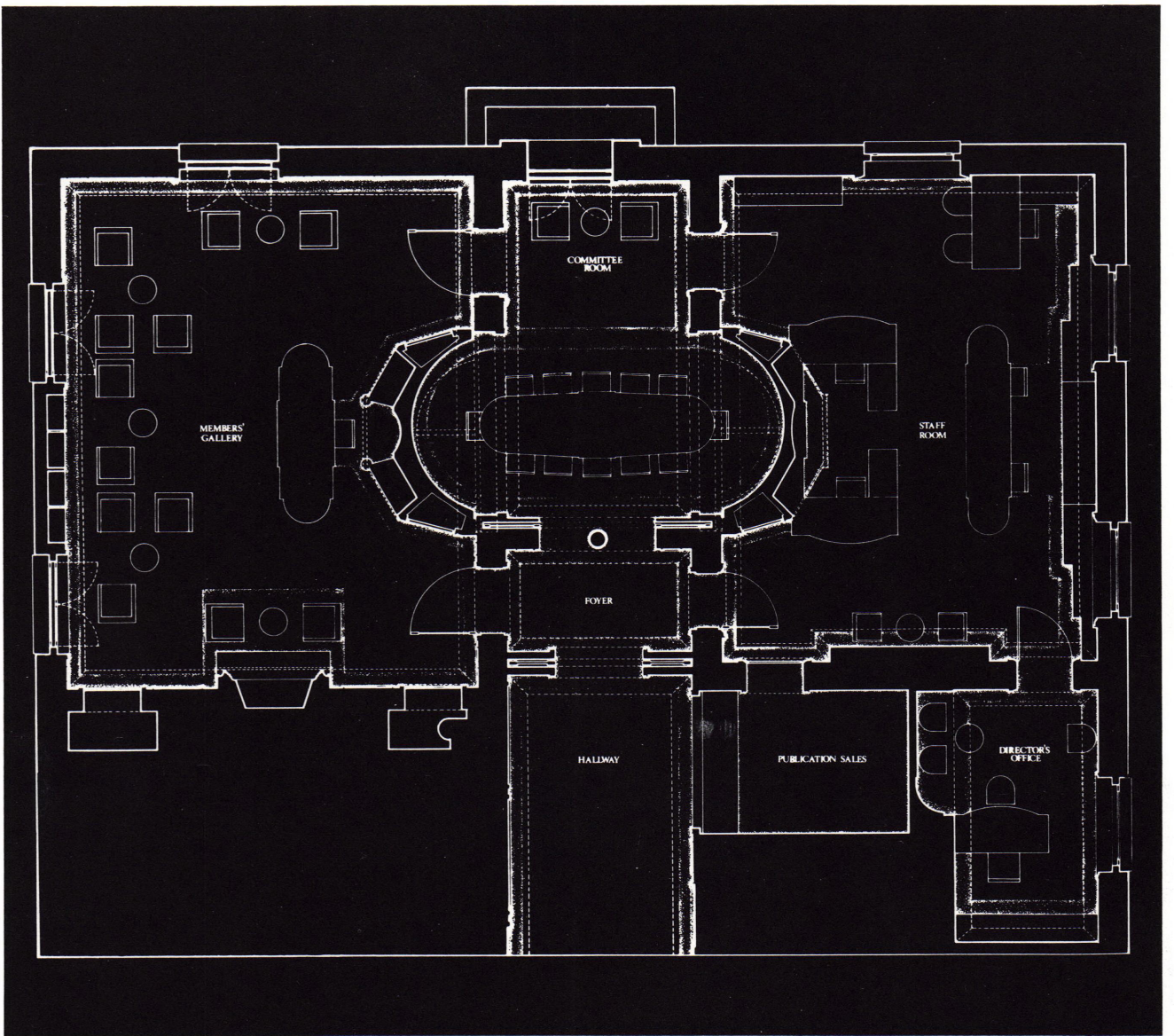
3. The carved old woodwork of the former Fahnestock house library is now juxtaposed to the new woodwork by Voorsanger & Mills.

4. Detail of the desk design in the Members Gallery.

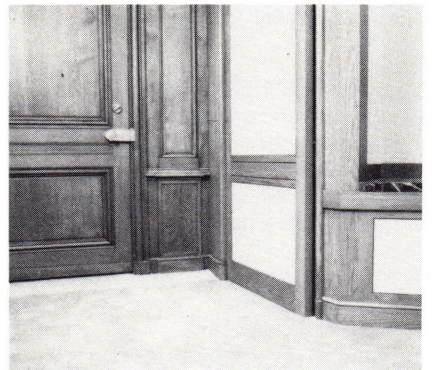
Photos: Stan Ries/ESTO

Opening on November 10 will be a second exhibit, "Remembering Josep Lluís Sert," with material selected by his partner Huson Jackson, including sketches, mementos, snapshots, and some architectural photographs, all providing a sense of the man's life.

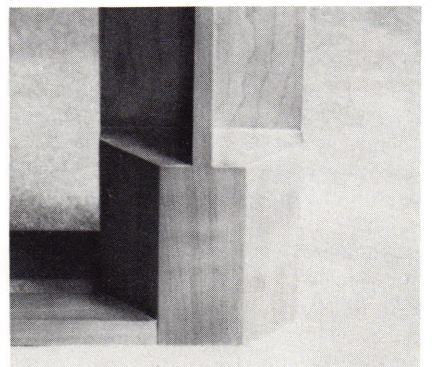




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### Committee Room

#### Table:

Design by V&M; Fabricator: North American Woodworking Corp.  
Marble Suppliers: Domestic Marble & Vermont Marble. Cherry wood frame with Fior di Pesca & Vermont Verde Antique marble inserts

#### Chairs:

Ward Bennett mahogany oiled ash/  
Brickel Associates  
Upholstered in Ankara  
Mint and natural cane/Brickel Associates

#### Coffee Table:

Design by V&M; Fabricator: North American Woodworking Corp.  
Marble Supplier: Vermont Marble  
Vermont Verde Antique marble insert in cherry wood frame

#### Wall Covering:

Carnegie Holliday GE

#### Lights:

Polished brass picture light by Cole Lighting, Inc.

#### Downlights:

Edison Price Darklite

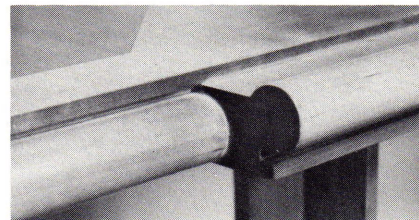
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1. The new conference room has been extended laterally with exedra and accommodates a new architect-designed conference table. Above the exedra are clerestories that let in daylight from the flanking rooms.

2, 3, 4. Details of the conference table.

Photos: Stan Ries/ESTO



## Chapter Reports

## Names and News

by George Lewis

• Theodore Liebman together with Kent Barwick, President of the Municipal Art Society, wrote a letter in *The New York Times*, August 27th drawing attention to the importance of careful selection of developers for the West 42nd Street project. They pointed out, "While it would be comforting to believe that the issue of who builds and what on 42nd Street is secondary to harmonious relations between the State and the City, the real question is whether or not the agencies involved are taking reasonable steps to see to it that something actually happens."

• On Thursday October 20, 6:00 p.m. Edward Logue, who has been central to some of the most exciting architectural projects undertaken in the last decade, will discuss his observations on architects, architecture, and the public and private sectors. The meeting is organized by the newly reactivated Public Architects Committee, chaired by Adrienne Bresnan and Sarelle Weisberg. There are many architects in government and quasi-government agencies in this vicinity, and a major effort is being made to reach as many of them as possible to attend this event in the expectation that this important part of the architectural profession can begin to identify common ground.

• The Interiors Committee, Kenneth van der Kolk, chairman, has arranged for a relaxation area from 10:00 to 3:00 for Chapter members attending Designers Saturday on October 15. It is on the ground floor of The International Design Center of New York, 919 Third Avenue at 56th Street.

• The Chapter testified in support of the Mayor's nomination of Gene Norman as Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission at a City Council committee hearing in July. Subsequently in *The New York Times* on July 30 a letter from George Lewis took issue with a correspondent who had called for an independent

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**The American Institute of Architects** is offering a new professional reference program in "Low Cost Micros for the Architectural Practice" authored by Charles E. Nolan, AIA, of Charles E. Nolan Associates, Alamogordo, New Mexico . . . **Norman Rosenfeld Architects** are restoring the main floor of Macy's Herald Square to its original Art Deco style . . . **The Norman Rosenfeld firm** was also awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award by the Institute of Business Designers and *Interior Design* magazine for its design of the new Roosevelt Hospital Emergency Department of the St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center . . . **Dr. Maxine Savitz** has been appointed president of the newly organized **Lighting Research Institute**, a non-profit organization created to promote research in lighting and related fields . . . **Interior designer Allan Neal Denenberg** has joined **The Grad Partnership** as Director of Interior Architecture and Associate of the firm . . . **Ronald H. Schmidt** has designed a three-story \$6 million building in the Cali Office Park in Cranford, New Jersey . . . **Jan Degenshein** recently addressed a forum of design research professionals sponsored by the City University of New York Doctoral Program in Environmental Psychology, regarding applications of psychology in architecture . . . **The Degenshein firm** are also the architects for a new sanctuary for the Reform Temple of Suffern, New York, and of the Department of Public Works Complex, Spring Valley, New York . . . **The Central Park restoration crew** has reconstructed a rustic summer house of unmillied red cedar in the Dene (67th Street and Fifth Avenue) based on historical photographs and etchings (see *Oculus*, April 1983, p. 6) . . . **Charles Gwathmey, Robert A.M. Stern, Peter Chermayeff, and James A. Murphy** of *Progressive Architecture* are not only the originators of the design problems but also the jurors for Columbus Coated Fabrics First Annual Wall Surface Competition called "Places." . . . **Todd Lee and Felicia R. Clark** of the New York- and Boston-based firm of **Todd Lee Associates**, report new assignments in New York including the first urban



Stuart Pertz, of Haines Lundberg Waehler, is new Chairman of the Department of Urban Design at Pratt Institute.

time-share condominiums in Manhattan, and a study for a highly visible new entertainment center for the New York Hilton; and in Boston, a waterfront planning report for a forthcoming major development area, and the design of private houses . . . **Helen Searing**, Professor of Art History at Smith College, will give the **Mathews Lecture Series** on five Tuesday evenings beginning November 15th on "The Spirit of the Gothic in Dutch Architecture and Design" at the Metropolitan Museum . . . **The Gruzen Partnership** has announced the appointment of **James H. Radin** as director of design for the firm's interior architecture department . . . **Stuart K. Pertz** has assumed the Chairmanship of the Department of Urban Design at Pratt Institute's School of Architecture . . . **Alfredo De Vido's** book, *Designing Your Client's House*, was recently published by Watson-Guptill Publications . . . **James Stewart Polshek and Partners** were selected as architects for the Master Plan Phase for the rehabilitation of the Miami Beach Theatre of the Performing Arts. The Polshek firm has also been named the coordinating architect for

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# OCULUS NYC/AIA OCT 83

## CONTINUING EVENTS

*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 institutions before attending.*

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

## MONDAY 3

### RESTORING AND PRESERVING HISTORIC PROPERTY

First in 8-session course subtitled "Opportunities for Homebuyers, Investors, and Amateur Developers," given by John Sanguliano. 6:30-8:30 pm. Norman Thomas Center, NYU School of Continuing Education. 749-6631.

## TUESDAY 4

### LECTURE

"Indian Summer: Imperial Delhi" by Robert Grant Irving (Yale) in Architectural League series. 6:30 pm.

### LECTURE

Raimund Abraham (Cooper Union) in Yale School of Architecture series. 6:30 pm. A & A Building, 180 York St., New Haven. 203-436-0853.

### ART DECO IN NYC

First of 6-session course. 7:45-9:30 pm. Center for New York City Affairs, The New School. 741-7690.

## MONDAY 10

### NEW WAVE FURNITURE

Exhibition of painted wooden and folding sculptural furniture by Tom Loeser. Heller Gallery, 71 Greene St. 966-5984. Closes Oct. 30.

## TUESDAY 11

### ARCHITECTURE IN ARGENTINA: COLONIAL TO POSTMODERN

Lecture by Jorge Glusberg of Argentina in the Architectural League's fall series. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 753-1722.

**METROPOLITAN OPERA: THE FIRST 100 YEARS**  
Drawings and photographs showing how a century of American architects envisioned the Metropolitan Opera House. National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Ave. 369-4880. Closes Oct. 27.

**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**  
Exhibition of drawings, 1893-1959, for the preservation of Taliesin, Spring Green, Wis. Max Protetch, 37 E. 57 St. 838-7536. Closes Oct. 14.

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND

**ARCHITECTURE 1839-1939**  
Exhibition. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Oct. 16.

### PASANELLA AND KLEIN

Exhibition of their work. Columbia Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, 100 Level, Avery Hall. 280-3473. Closes Oct. 21.

## WEDNESDAY 5

### THE APPROPRIATENESS OF

**PRIMITIVISM IN ARCHITECTURE**  
Mark Mack in Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture and Planning series. 6 pm. Avery Hall. 280-3473.

### FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Edgar Tafel in 5-Wednesday lecture series. 6:15 pm. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868.

### KNOLL: MODERN FURNITURE, TIMELESS CRAFTSMANSHIP

Cooper-Hewitt Museum tour. 7:30 am-5 pm. 860-6868.

## WEDNESDAY 12

### THE ARCHITECTURE OF CULTURE

A showing of Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" by Arthur Rosenblatt in lecture series presented by the Metropolitan Museum and NYC/AIA. 8 pm. The Met. 879-5500.

### FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

David Hanks on "Decorative Designs Part 1" in Wednesday series. 6:15 pm. Cooper-Hewitt. 860-6868.

### LECTURE

Robert Maxwell on "Classicism and Innovation" in Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture & Planning series. 6 pm. Avery Hall. 280-3473.

**RHAPSODY IN THE BLUE**  
Exhibition sponsored by the Municipal Art Society and Friends of Terra Cotta /NYS. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 935-3960. Closes Oct. 26.

### RICHARD MORRIS HUNT

Exhibition. The Octagon, 1799 York Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. Susan Stein: 202-638-3105. Closes Nov. 20.

### SYNTHETIC LINKS

Exhibition. John Margolies' photographs of miniature golf courses. P.S. 1, 46-01 21 St., Long Island City. 784-2084. Closes Nov. 20.

## THURSDAY 6

### NYC/AIA INTERIORS COMMITTEE

Panel Discussion on Marketing Interior Design Services by Architects. 6 pm. The Urban Center. Call David Howard 935-8500 for more information.

### Le Corbusier's Birthday (born 1887)

**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL**  
Exhibition. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Dec. 31.

**COMMUNITY INDUSTRIES OF THE SHAKERS**  
Exhibition featuring the expanded Shaker collection of the New York State Museum, Cultural Education Center, Albany. 518-474-5877 or 518-474-5842. Closes Jan. 8.

## FRIDAY 7

### NYSAA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Oct. 9-11. The Otseaga Hotel, Cooperstown, N.Y. Info: 518-449-3334

### WALKING TOUR ON SUNDAY

Oct. 9  
"Astor Place: Peter Cooper's New York" in Museum of the City of New York series. 1:30 pm. Meet at St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery, 2nd Ave. at 10th St.. 534-1672.

## FRIDAY 14

### NYC/AIA/HFC SEMINAR

Joint venture: Gruzen/Rosenfield. Tour & seminar speaker: Herbert Bienstock of Zachary Rosenfield. Hackensack Medical Center. 1 pm. RSVP: William Sarama 309-9500.

### BENEFIT PARTY

Private showing of drawings to be auctioned 10/19 allowing for sealed bids from anyone unable to attend. Info: Christie's 546-1102. Sponsor: Architects for Social Responsibility.

### TOUR ON OCT. 15-16

Cooper-Hewitt tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. 8 am. Oct. 15 to 7:30 pm. Oct. 16. 860-6868.

## THURSDAY 13

### NYC/AIA SEMINAR

Randy Croxton and Davis F.M. Todd to speak on Architectural Practice. 6 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 838-9670.

### NYC/AIA ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Open chapter meeting to review committee operations, and promote committee involvement among members. Each committee will be represented and able to speak on plans for the year. 4:30 pm. 457 Madison Ave. 838-9670.



## MONDAY 17

**AIA CONFERENCE ON DESIGN FOR THE ELDERLY**  
Washington, D.C. Information:  
Maurice Payne 202-626-7364.

### AIA COMMITTEE ON DESIGN CONFERENCE

"Turning Points: Pursuing Design Excellence in a World of Change," (Oct. 17-18). Warwick Post Oak Hotel, Houston, Texas. Joy Brandon: 202-626-7464.

## MONDAY 24

### FOLLIES: ARCHITECTURE FOR THE LATE 20TH CENTURY LANDSCAPE

Exhibition. Leo Castelli Gallery. 420 West Broadway. 431-5160. Closes Nov. 15.

### EXHIBITION

Explorations by Honor Students, College of Architecture, University of Houston, Texas. Columbia Graduate School of Architecture & Planning. 100 Level, Avery Hall. 280-3473. Closes Nov. 25.

## MONDAY 31

## TUESDAY 18

### THE AUTHENTICITY OF FORM

Lecture on "Mies van der Rohe and the Negative Mind" by Francesco Dal Co. Professor of Architecture, University of Venice, in Yale School of Architecture fall series. 6:30 pm. Hastings Hall, A & A Building, 180 York St., New Haven. 203-436-0853.

## TUESDAY 25

### THE AALTO CLIMATE

Lecture by Malcolm Quantrill of the University of Jordan in the Architecture League's fall series. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 753-1722.

### THE AUTHENTICITY OF FORM

Lecture on "The Question of Monumentality" by Colin St. John Wilson, Visiting Professor of Architectural Design, in Yale School of Architecture fall series. 6:30 pm. Hastings Hall, A & A Building, 180 York St., New Haven. 203-436-0853.

## TUESDAY 1 NOV

### EXHIBITION

"The Amsterdam School: Dutch Expressionist Architecture 1915-30." Architectural drawings, furniture, graphics. Cooper-Hewitt. 860-6868.

### LECTURE

"Aldo Rossi & Carlo Scarpa: Obstinacy and Hope" by Francesco Dal Co of Venice, Italy, in Architectural League series. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison. 753-1722.

### LECTURE

Gaetano Pesce in Yale School of Architecture series. 6:30 pm. A & A Building, 180 York St., New Haven. 203-436-0853.

## WEDNESDAY 19

### THE ARCHITECTURE OF CULTURE

Stanley Tigerman on "Towards an American Architecture" in series presented by Metropolitan Museum with NYC/AIA. 8 pm. The Met. 879-5500.

### FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

David Hanks on "Decorative Designs, Part II" in 5-Wednesday series. 6:15 pm. Cooper-Hewitt. 860-6868.

### AUCTION

Architectural and decorative drawings, watercolors. Christie's East, 219 E. 67 St. 546-1102. Sponsored by Architects for Social Responsibility.

## WEDNESDAY 26

### THE ARCHITECTURE OF CULTURE

Tician Papachristou on "Modern Architecture: Sisyphus and the Elusive Order" in series presented by the Metropolitan Museum with NYC/AIA. 8 pm. The Met. 879-5500.

### LECTURE

Giuseppe Zambonini on "Drawing, Design, and Form" in Columbia Graduate School of Architecture & Planning series. 6 pm. Avery Hall. 280-3473.

## WEDNESDAY 2 NOV

## THURSDAY 20

### EVENING WITH EDWARD LOGUE

Mr. Logue will discuss his observations on architects, architecture and the public and private sectors. Sponsored by the Public Architects Committee, 6 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave., Wine, 838-9670.

### BRONZE AND MASONRY IN THE PARK ENVIRONMENT

2-day conservation workshop (Oct. 20-21) co-sponsored by the Central Park Conservancy. NYC Department of Parks, and Center for Building Conservation. Info: Lux Salgado 360-8236.

## THURSDAY 27

### NYC/AIA HEALTH FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Talk by David Ginsberg, Office of Planning, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, on "The Master Plan & Project Development, The Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia Medical Center," 5 pm. NYC/AIA, 457 Madison Ave. 838-9670.

### THE AMSTERDAM SCHOOL: DUTCH EXPRESSIONIST ARCHITECTURE 1915-30

First in a 5-Thursdays lecture series. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 6:15 pm. 860-6868.

## THURSDAY 3 NOV

### STATE OF THE ART REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE

Panel discussion of the Architectural, engineering and Contracting points of view by Reginald Hough, I.M. Pei and Partners, Anthony Rizzi, Office of Irwin Cantor and Raymond Heun, of Concrete Industry Board, with J. Karl Justin as moderator. Co-sponsored by the Chapter and CIB. 6 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave., 838-9670.

## FRIDAY 21

**WALKING TOUR ON SUNDAY OCT. 23**  
"East Sixties: Mansions and Clubhouses" in Museum of the City of New York series. 1:30 pm. Meets at Hunter College, Park Ave. between 68 and 69 Streets. 534-1672.

## FRIDAY 28

**TOUR ON SATURDAY OCT. 29**  
"Paterson, The Factory Aesthetic," a Cooper-Hewitt Museum tour to the New Jersey City. 9 pm-4:30 pm. 860-6868.

### DISCOVER NEW YORK WALK, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCT. 29, 30

"Manhattan's Gold Coast" (Fifth Ave. from 78 to 94 St. Begins 2 pm. in front of old Duke Mansion (now NYU Institute of Fine Arts), Fifth Ave. and 76 St. The Municipal Art Society. 935-3960.



## Sir Nikolaus Pevsner 1902-1983

*Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the distinguished art historian whose monumental writings have so much influenced generations of scholars, architects, and preservationists all over the world, died on August 18th at his home in England after a long illness. Pevsner was born in Leipzig in 1902 and emigrated to England in 1934. He was editor of The Architectural Review from 1942 to 1945. His Pioneers of Modern Design from William Morris to Walter Gropius has been a bible for architects, designers, and historians ever since it was first published in 1936. His classic history, An Outline of European Architecture was first published in 1943 and has gone through many subsequent editions. His Buildings of England, the knowledgeable and eminently readable series of 47 volumes published between 1951 and 1974 is not only unique but what The Times of London has rightly called "super guide-books." He was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for architecture in 1969. These are but a few highlights of the 81-year-old historian's copious and many-faceted career. "What a man. And what a performance," in the words of his colleague Geoffrey Moorhouse. "More than any other historian," says Arthur Rosenblatt, "Pevsner excited and gave direction to my generation of architects." Below are a few quotes culled from obituaries and recollections of Pevsner appearing in London newspapers shortly after his death:*

"The best epitaph for any critic is that he made us see. Pevsner's eye, peering and quizzical behind his spectacles, did more than make us see. He made us angry. He did not do this with any strident call to arms. He abhorred the junk prose which nowadays passes for much specialist architectural writing. He came to the English language as he came to English buildings, fresh and eager but humble." Simon Jenkins in *The Observer*.

"He was that rarest of all observers, the man who knows better than most what the world outside contains but

who understands the heart of the most limited native within." Geoffrey Moorhouse in *The Times*.

"... one of the few historians of his or any other generation whose name has become a household word." J.M. Richards in *The Sunday Times*.

"He won the admiration of scholars all over the world and of all shades of opinion through the breadth of his knowledge... and the quality of his writing. In all this is combined deep learning, sound judgment and quiet humor. One of his most valuable characteristics at a time of conflicting theories was his good humoured refusal to be either bluffed or stampeded by extremists on either side, academic, preservationist or modernist, or to be shocked at the progress of events." *The Times*.

"Nikolaus Pevsner's place in the English pantheon is an exceptional one... Not even Banister Fletcher left such a legacy of architectural scholarship." Geoffrey Moorhouse in *The Times*.

"Pevsner's major contribution to art history was to bring to life the most brilliant and productive period of British architecture: that of the Victorian age... As with Wingaerde and Hollar, the British seem to require foreigners to unveil the treasures and delights of surroundings." Simon Jenkins in *The Observer*.

### *Of the Buildings of England:*

"Enter any cathedral or great house, village street or Victorian factory and Pevsner is at your side, stooping, omniscient, the ubiquitous chaperone... one of the major achievements of British art history... It honoured his dictum that architectural history should 'describe and convert'... Pevsner's technique was meticulous and Germanic: detailed research through county libraries, immaculate planning and a punishing series of tours... This catholicity of taste across the ages—for such an enthusiast for style—was itself a remarkable critical feat." Simon Jenkins in *The Observer*.

*Computer drawing of the proposed new skeleton of the Statue of Liberty renovation.*

"... with omnivorous appetite and discriminating taste, he aimed to record every notable product of architecture from the distant past to the present day, county by county, the two volumes on London alone being remarkable in the ground they covered." *The Times*.

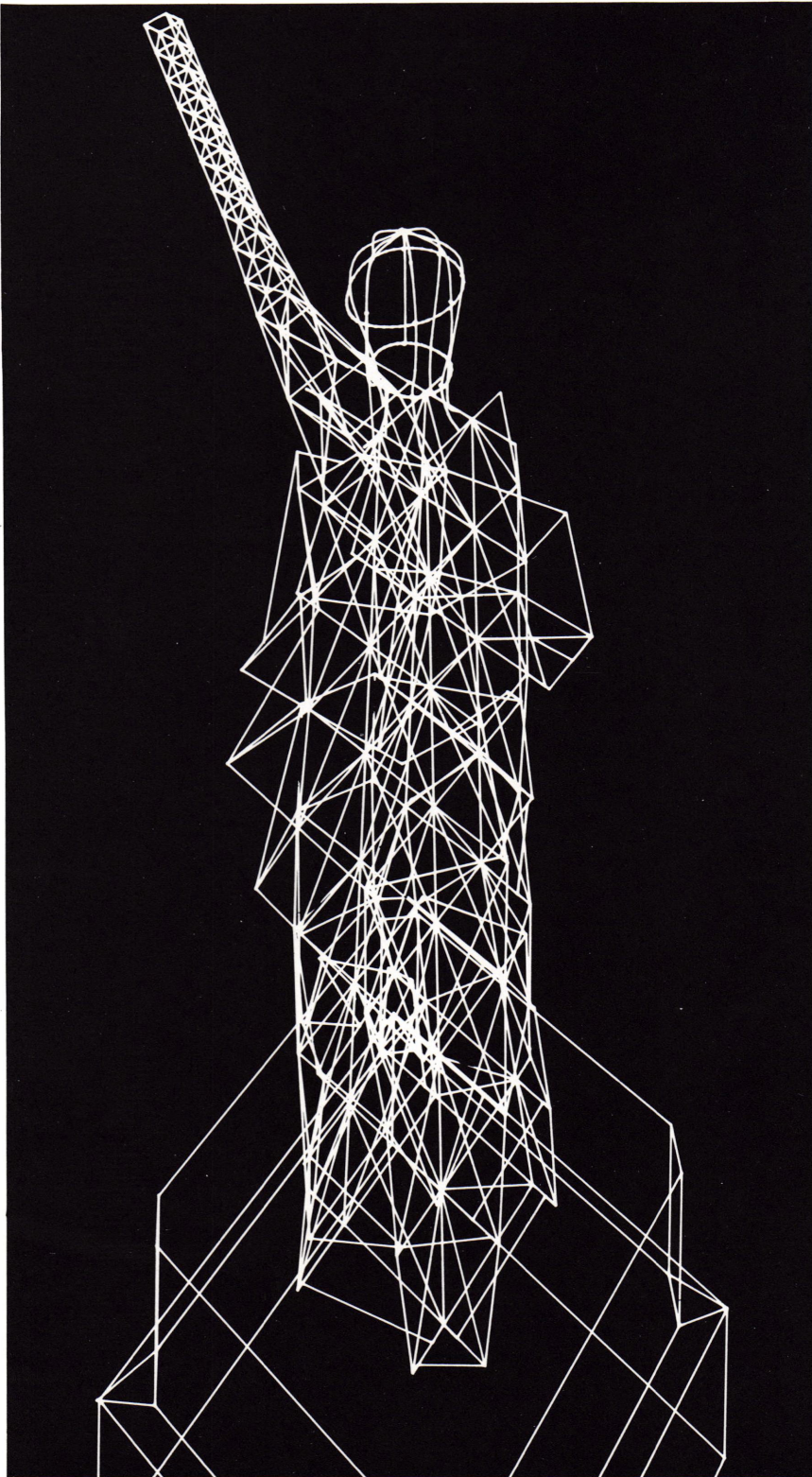
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## Names and News

*cont'd. from p. 7*

the Stroh Riverplace project in Detroit—a \$150 million public and private renewal project to convert former manufacturing and warehouse structures into a mixed-use complex... Beyer Blinder Belle have completed plans for the restoration of the 300-year-old Staten Island home of Alice Austen, America's first noted woman photographer... John F. Sanguiliano is giving an eight-session evening course starting October 3 on "Restoring and Preserving Historic Property: Opportunities for Homebuyers, Investors, and Amateur Developers" at New York University School of Continuing Education Real Estate Institute (see calendar)... Swanke Hayden Connell and the Office of Thierry W. Despont, as consultants to a group of French architects and engineers, recently reported to the National Park Service the results of a two-year study of the Statue of Liberty along with their proposals for its restoration. The French team consists of architect Ph. G. Grandjean, and engineer-advisors J. Levron, J. Moutard, and P. Tissier... The James Harrison Steedman Memorial Fellowship 1984-85 design competition, to be completed during any two weeks in November, is open to graduated architects between 21 and 31 who have one year of office experience, for a fellowship at the American Academy in Rome. For application forms: Steedman Committee, School of Architecture, Washington University, St. Louis 63130 (October 15 is deadline)... Andy Pressman and Peter Pressman announced the opening of their firm, Andy Pressman, AIA, Architect, at 83 Picadilly Road, Great Neck, at the same time their entry in the Evanston (Illinois) Art





Center's "2063 Competition" was one of 21 selected for exhibition at the Center this month . . . Marc B. Sweig has been named staff vice president, facilities and construction, by The Hertz Corporation . . . The New York Landmarks Conservancy presented its Chairman's Award 1983 to the Belvedere in Central Park (see *Oculus* April 1983, p.4), which was designed in 1867 by Calvert Vaux . . . The 1983 edition of *Design Compudata*, the annual Directory of Design Firm Computer Users, has been edited and

published by Frank A. Stasiowski, AIA . . . George Lewis will moderate a panel at the NYSAA Annual Convention (October 9-11 in Cooperstown) on *Should Religious Properties Be Exempt From Landmark Laws?* . . . Application forms for the 1984 Rotch Travelling Scholarship open to U.S. citizens under 35 are available prior to January 6, 1984, from Norman C. Fletcher, Secretary, Rotch Travelling Scholarship, 46 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02138 .

## Fireplaces and Architectural Design

On November 10, 1983 at 6 p.m. at the Urban Center, the Energy and Environment Committee of the NYC/AIA will sponsor a seminar on Fireplaces and Architectural Design. The seminar will focus on the role of fireplaces in creating thermal, spatial, and psychological environments, on energy considerations, and on the specific problems of constructing fireplaces in urban buildings. The speakers will be:

**Halsted S. Welles** of the Welles Fireplace Co., who will speak on the design and construction of fireplaces in New York City.

**Fred Zonsius**, an architect with Kohn Pederson Fox, and a member of the Energy and Environment Committee, who will speak on examples of fireplaces in Scandanavian architecture and in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.

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## Chapter Reports

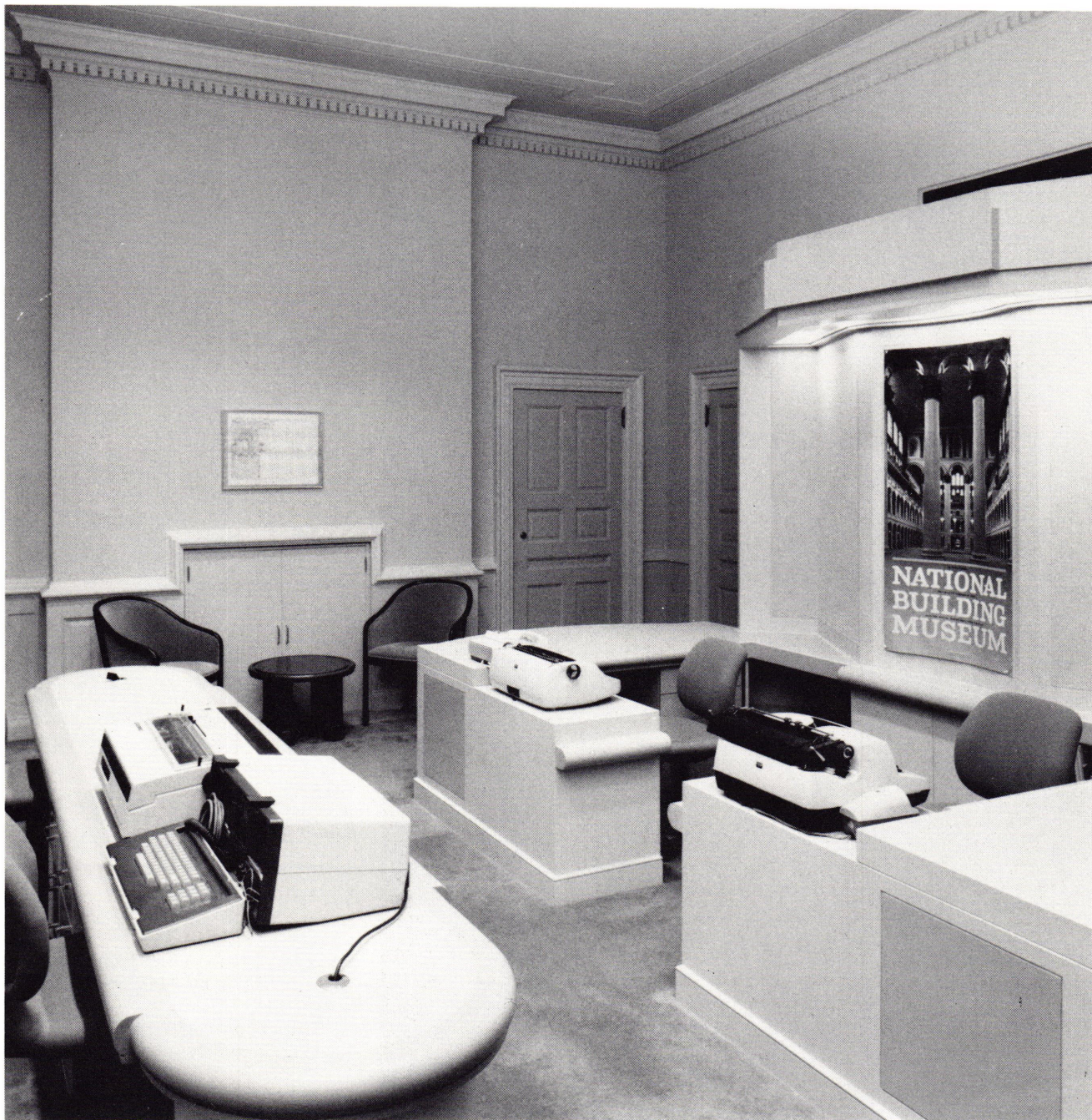
*cont'd. from p. 7*

mayoral commission to review aspects of landmarking procedures.

- At a Landmarks Commission hearing September 20 the Chapter recommended designation of that part of Rockefeller Center surrounding the skating rink. The Commission's proposal included all the buildings east of the Avenue of the Americas.

- An agenda of planning and preservation issues of uncommonly far-reaching importance will be addressed this fall by Chapter ad hoc committees, including the continuing question of theater preservation, which has raised unprecedented proposals for development rights transfers; the Planning Department's proposals for a general revision of Upper West Side zoning being prepared in company with a Community Board 7 committee chaired by Chapter member Diane Serber; and the legislation first introduced in Albany in late spring that would remove religious properties from mandatory provisions in landmarks laws throughout the State.





1.

*cont'd. from p. 6***Staff Office****Reception Chairs:**

Ward Bennett mahogany oiled ash/  
Brickel Assoc. Upholstered in Ankara  
Cloth/Brickel Assoc.

**Staff Table:**

Design by V&M; Fabricator: North  
American Woodworking Corp.  
Pickled oak and painted wood frame  
with Wilsonart dove gray matte finish  
laminated insert; pedestals by  
Charrette

**Secretary Chairs:**

Diffrient armless chair  
Upholstered in Desna Tawny  
Fabric and chair by Knoll  
International

**Filing Cabinets:**

Storwal 2-drawer lateral files,  
putty color

**Window Blinds:**

Levelor Riviera Blinds, alabaster.  
Supplied by American Drapery &  
Carpet Co.

**Fabric Inset Panels:**

J.M. Lynne linen

**Desk Pedestals:**

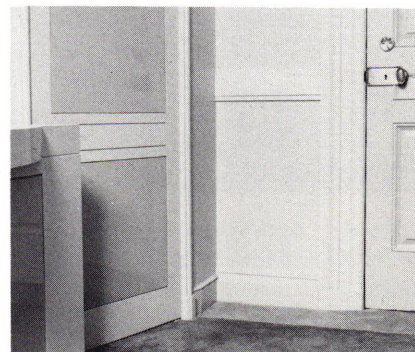
Design by V&M; Fabricator: North  
American Woodworking Corp.  
Painted wood frame laminated in  
Wilsonart dove gray

**Cabinetwork at Files and Built-in Desk:**

Design by V&M; Fabricators: Nordic  
Interior, Inc. in pickled oak, painted  
wood, and Wilsonart dove gray, matte  
and glossy finish

**Downlights:**

Edison Price Darklite  
Lightolier Basic Lytespan  
Lightolier Mini Swivels



2.

1. The staff office has two permanent built-in workspaces and a long table that now accommodates word-processing equipment (an Osborne 1). The exedra projecting from the conference room houses storage closets.

2. Detail of the Staff Office workstation adjacent to new and original woodwork.

Photos: Stan Ries/ESTO





1.

### Director's Office

#### Desk:

Designed by V&M; Fabricated by:  
North American Woodworking Corp.  
Marble Supplier: Domestic Marble.  
Cherry wood frame with Fior di Pesca  
marble insert

#### Credenza & Bookshelves:

Designed by V&M; Fabricated by:  
North American Woodworking Co. of  
cherry wood

#### Desk Chair:

Diffrient Low Back Executive  
Upholstered in Lasso Leather, plum.  
Leather and chair by Knoll  
International

#### Guest Chairs:

Ward Bennett mahogany oiled ash/  
Brickel Associates  
Upholstered in Ankara Feldspar/  
Brickel Associates

#### Coffee Tabletop:

Marble Supplier: Verde Antique  
marble from Friedman Marble

#### Lighting:

Work-O-Lite Strip Fluorescent  
Brushed steel picture light by Cole  
Lighting, Inc.

### Publication/Sales

#### New Shelving

Metal shelving in gray with laminate  
end panels of Wilsonart dove gray  
matte by Adjustable Steel Products Co.

#### Secretary Chair:

Diffrient Armless Secretarial Chair  
Upholstered in Desna tawny  
Fabric, Knoll International

#### Roll-Down Door

Door Distributors, Inc.

#### Counter Laminate

Formica Folkstone matte

## How the Project is Being Funded

As said above, it was decided that the new headquarters should be entirely paid for through voluntary contributions (certain related expenses such as the staff move and the cost of borrowed money have been covered by a withdrawal from the Contingent Reserve Fund).

The total project cost, in round numbers, is \$245,000: \$160,000 for construction, \$53,000 for furnishings (a very low figure that reflects contributions in varying degrees by all the suppliers), and \$32,000 for fees and reimbursables.

Of the \$245,000, \$187,000 has been contributed or pledged, leaving \$58,000 still to be secured. Four firms: Haines Lundberg Waehler, Johnson/Burgee, I.M. Pei & Partners, and Swanke Hayden Connell & Partners set the initial pace by pledging \$15,000 each. Certain firms have indicated that they do intend to pledge but have not yet done so. *It is urgent that the difference be made up.* Our fund-raising effort has been low key, perhaps too much so. But with the headquarters now complete it is very much hoped that firms and individual members who have not yet responded will see the worth to the New York architecture profession of doing so.

The furnishings constitute a large contribution, and Ms. Karen Haber of Swanke Hayden Connell & Partners should be singled out for her part in the arrangements. The list of suppliers is elsewhere in this issue. In all cases the furnishings were provided below the usual costs, and in some cases were contributed outright.

1. The Executive Director's office is now an appropriate inner sanctum.

Photo: Stan Ries/ESTO




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