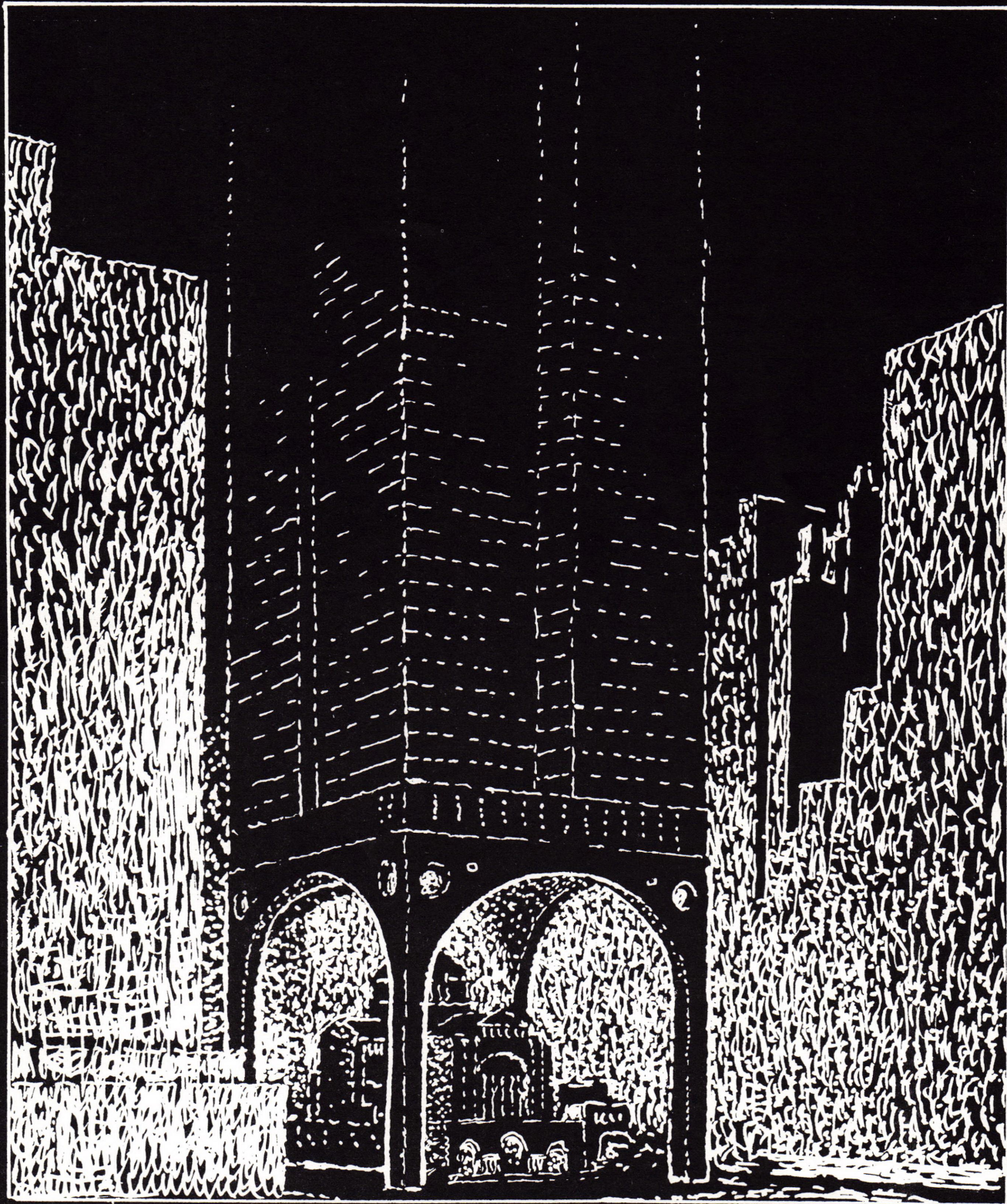


# OCULUS

on current new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 45, Number 5, January 1984



*Percival Goodman has proposed this sardonic alternate scheme for the "protection" of St. Bart's.*

# OCULUS

## Chapter Reports

Volume 45, Number 5, January 1984

### Oculus

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by George Lewis

### Executive Committee Meeting



Lenore M. Lucey and John S. Hagmann



Thomas K. Fridstein

- Steven Goldberg has been appointed a member of the Executive Committee to replace Garrison McNeil, who had to resign because of scheduling conflicts.

- A Steering Committee of the Women's Caucus has been formed for the purpose of increasing the opportunities of women architects to compete for commissions with public agencies. A series of meetings will be held with representatives of the City, State, and Federal governments to open channels of communication. All women architects will be invited to attend. Members of the Steering Committee are: Rachelle Bennett, Judith Edelman, Laurie Maurer, Nancy Miao, and Barbara Neski. Adrienne Bresnan and Sarelle Weisberg will act as consultants.

- A group of Chapter members selected at random met December 9 with Buildings Commissioner Esnard to comment on proposed revisions to the fire safety requirements of the Buildings Code.

### Coming Chapter Events

- January 12, 6 pm. "Proposals, Contracts, & Letters of Agreement—How to Avoid Litigation When Practicing Interior Design," a panel discussion moderated by Barry LePatner, Esq., will discuss how properly authored proposals for services can help architects and designers avoid conflicts, lawsuits, and actually increase profitability. Actual proposals will be reviewed and discussed. Sponsored by the Interiors Committee.

- **Getting Your Feet Wet**, a talk on the use of micro-computers in spare-slates and data based applications will be moderated by Lee Kennedy on January 19, at 5 pm. This talk is one of a series being scheduled this year by the Computers Committee.

- **Double Wall Construction**. Two approaches for energy efficient commercial office buildings (Hooker Chemical Co., Niagara Falls, NY. and Enerplex, near Princeton, NJ) at 6 pm, Thursday, January 26. Sponsored by the Energy and Environment Committee.

# THE RELIGIOUS PROPERTIES BILL

On December 12, 1983, St. Bartholomew's Church applied to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness for its plans to build an office tower on the site of its Landmark Community House. If the application is complete, the Commission will consider the item at its January 24, 1984 hearing.

The debate will focus on the appropriateness of the alteration and addition to the Landmark. The Chapter will testify at the hearing.

The fight over St. Bartholomew's is closely related to the effort to exempt all non-commercial religiously owned property from Landmark laws across the state. That legislation — the Flynn/Walsh Bill (reprinted in this issue) — is now being considered in Albany. If it passes, St. Bartholomew's and other religiously owned landmarks could alter and demolish their landmarks without the review of the Commission and the public-hearing process.

The Executive Committee of the New York Chapter at its December meeting formally acted to oppose the Albany legislation.

Send your letters opposing  
S6684-A/A.7942-A to Albany today.

## The Religious Properties Bill

*The legislation that would require municipal landmarks commissions to obtain the consent of a church or synagogue before religious properties could be designated as landmarks is reprinted below (See also Oculus, December, 1983, p. 3.)*

*Bill 7942-A was introduced on 25 May 1983 to the State Assembly by Committee on Rules—at request of Majority Leader Daniel B. Walsh, D-Cattaraugus—read once and referred to the Committee on Local Governments—committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended, and recommitted to said committee.*

*Bill 6684-A was introduced on 31 May 1983 to the State Senate by Senator John E. Flynn (R-C-Yonkers)—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules—committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended, and recommitted to said committee.*

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to the applicability of certain preservation regulations to the property of religious organizations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1. Legislative findings. The legislature finds that in some cases the application of historic preservation laws, regulations, or restrictions has constituted a governmental interference with the free exercise of religion by depriving religious organizations of the best use of their resources to the detriment of their religious mission and ministry.

The legislature finds that the principal victims of any such interference are the worshiping congregation and, in disproportionately large numbers, the poor and disadvantaged who receive spiritual, human, emotional, and material support through the mission and ministry of religious organizations.

cont'd. p. 6, col. 1



*First Presbyterian Church, Fifth Avenue at 12th Street.*



*Calvary Episcopal Church, Park Avenue South at 21st Street.*

## A Free-Will Offering to St. Bart's

by Percival Goodman

Albeit clever, the cantilevered squeezed-in shoehornitecture proposed to replace your community building is perhaps the result of too narrow a vision.

For instance, consider the implications of the appended sketch. The concept is simple, St. Bart's is framed and protected by a vast dome (almost twice that of Hagia Sofia); above it rises an office building covering the entire site.

Such a scheme has several advantages:

Neither the church or community house are touched (there are slight infringements on the open areas).

The office building provides the huge single floor areas deemed necessary for modern corporate efficiency.

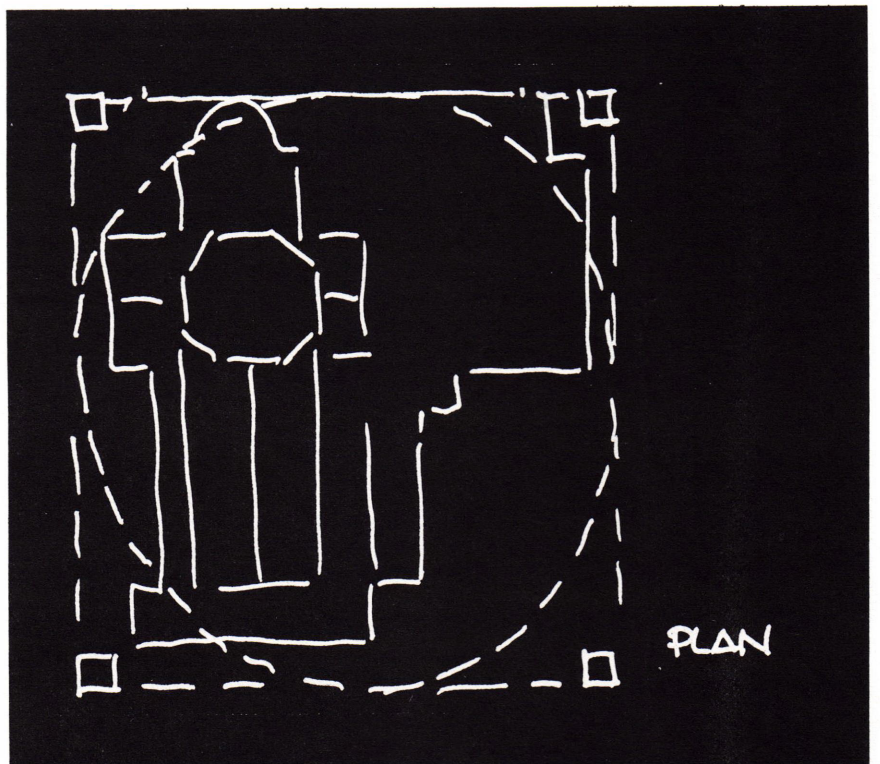
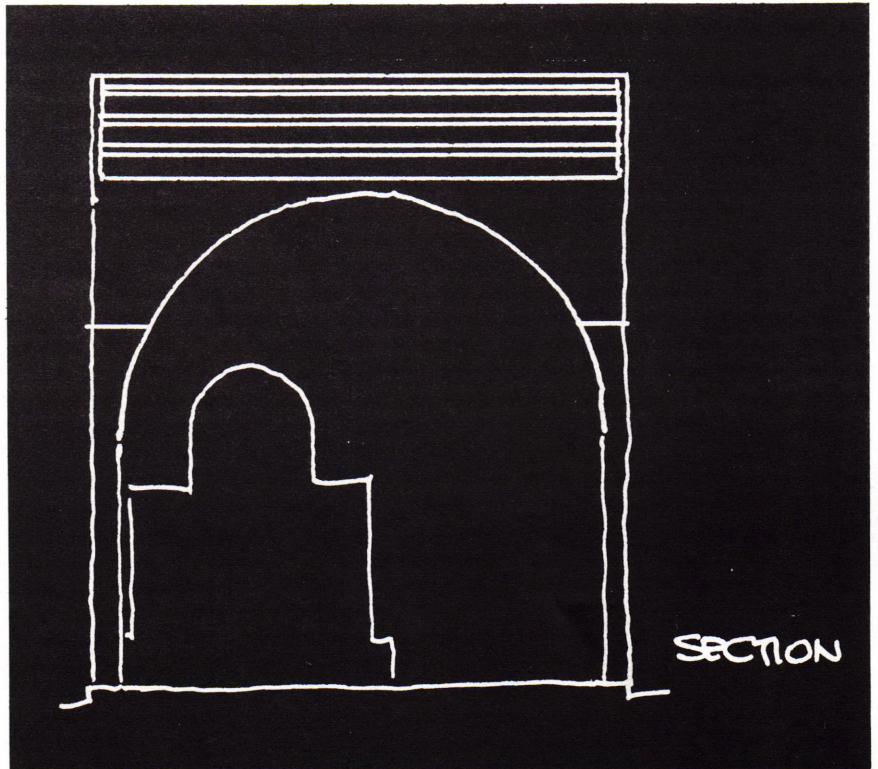
But aside from practical matters think of aesthetics and perhaps symbolism:

In other days the church was the tallest structure on the skyline; now it is lost among the skyscrapers. Suppose that St. Bart's, instead of being lost in the amorphous mass of huge business buildings as it now is, were encapsulated, set off like the small jewel it is, within a frame such as the concept suggests.

St. Bart's smiling and flood-lit under the veritable dome of Heaven! (if it were not hubris, one could almost say St. Bart's private Heaven!).

Who would create what could be the greatest decoration of our time? If I were asked, and they were still alive, I might propose a team — Giovanni Battista Tiepolo and Louis Comfort Tiffany. Failing the possibility I might recommend that bright fellow — the special effects man from "Star Wars".

May I also add that the above thoughts were prompted by the issue of the Oculus ("stoppress extra" Vol. 43, #2, November 1981) published by the N.Y. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



## The Religious Properties Bill

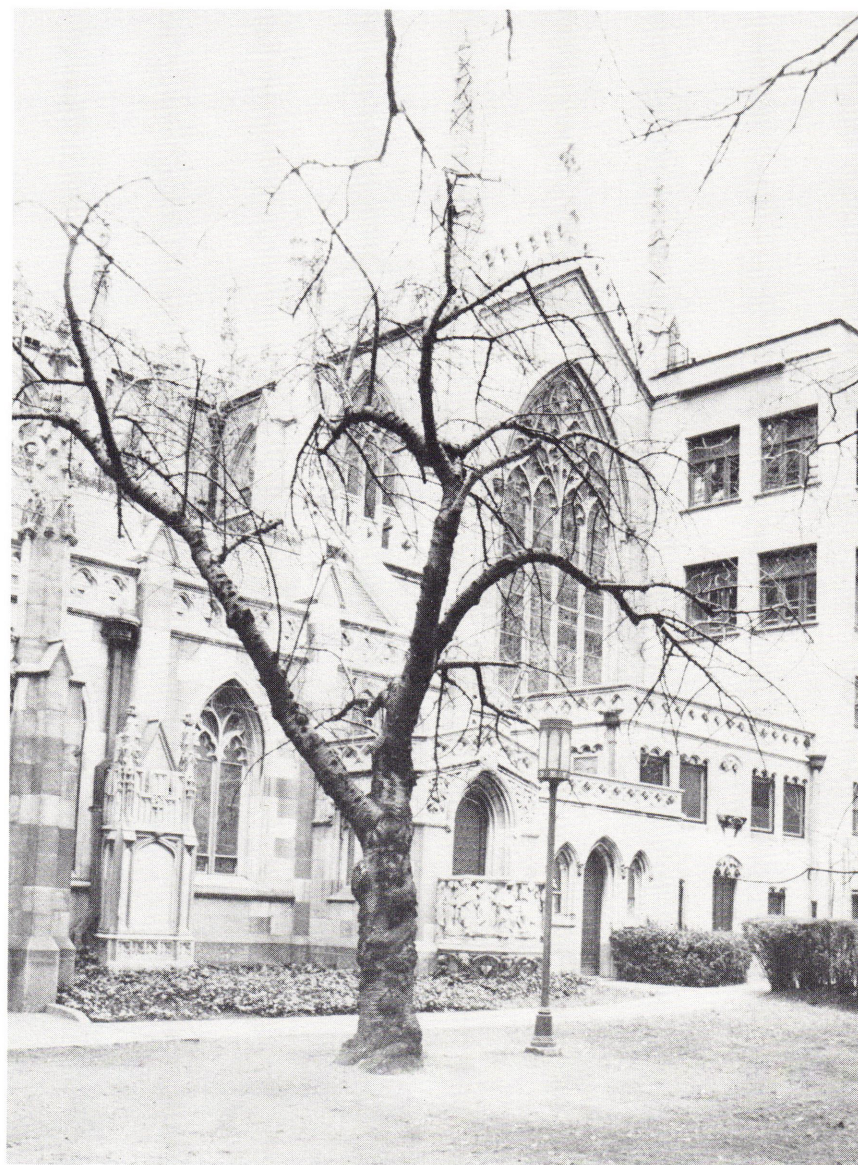
*cont'd. from p. 4*

The legislature further finds that the preservation of the constitutional right to the free exercise of religion without governmental interference is a value of greater importance than the otherwise laudable goal of preservation of objects and buildings of "special character."

The legislature further finds that resources dedicated for religious purposes should not be diverted by government to the nonreligious cause, however worthwhile, of historic preservation.

2. The opening paragraph of section ninety-six-a of the general municipal law, as added by chapter five hundred thirteen of the laws of nineteen hundred sixty-eight, is numbered subdivision one and a new subdivision two is added to read as follows:

2. No local law, regulation, special condition, or restriction adopted pursuant to subdivision one of this section shall, after the effective date of this subdivision, be applicable to any real property that is used or leased, or that is intended in good faith to be used, or leased with reasonable promptness for religious, charitable, or educational purposes and is owned (a) by a corporation or association that is organized and operated for religious purposes, or (b) by an organization operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization unless and until the owners of such property shall have filed a consent to such applicability with the governing board of the local legislative body that adopted such local law, regulation, special condition, or restriction. Any consent or notice authorized by this subdivision shall describe the property affected and shall be subscribed and acknowledged in the same manner as required by law to entitle a conveyance of real property to be recorded. When the owner of such property is an incorporated church referred to in section twelve of the religious corporations law, any such consent or



*Grace Church, Broadway at 10th Street.*

notice shall also include a certification that the consent to the filing thereof has been obtained from the ecclesiastical official or body whose consent would be required by said section to the sale, mortgage, or lease of real property. When such consent or notice has been filed with such governing board or local legislative body, a copy thereof, to which shall be annexed an affidavit showing proof that such filing, may be recorded in the office of the clerk of the county

where the property to which it relates is situated. Such county clerk shall, upon request and on tender of the lawful fees therefore, record the same in his said office.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

## Haskell Student Journalism Awards

*The following is excerpted from an article by Stephen Kliment:*

The first year of what will be a permanent national award program to recognize quality writing by students in architecture schools came to a close December 2 at a lunch for New York-based winners at Chapter headquarters. Out-of-town winners will receive their awards from their local AIA Chapters in Seattle, St. Paul, and Boston.

The program, named in honor of the late Douglas Haskell, long time editor of *Architectural Forum* and a 1979 AIA Medal Winner, awards \$1000 in prizes each year, made possible by a fund first started with gifts from friends of Douglas Haskell, made permanent by his widow Helen.

The Haskell Awards for Student Journalism are designed to turn the tide in what the jury felt is the low state of writing by architects. The grading system in architecture schools rewards design, to the exclusion of other forms of expression. It ill prepares future practitioners for a business world where the written word often makes the difference between one firm being hired over another, or between a scheme being accepted by a client or rejected.

The program was announced to school deans and faculty in late 1982; submittals either had to be published, or else be "publishable" in the view of a jury, which has a high proportion of members from publishing. The jury consisted of Walter Wagner, John Morris Dixon, Roberta Gratz, Stephen Kliment, and Abraham Geller.

In choosing from among the 39 entries, the jury had no difficulty picking three winners of the monetary award and added entrants to receive citations.

First prize winner **Victor Gardaya**, Graduate School of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, won with an article entitled "Tradition and Identity: Towards an Anthropological Architecture,"



*John Hagmann, Graham S. Wyatt, Walter Wagner, Stephen Kliment, Daralice Boles, Terrance Williams, Mrs. Haskell, Roberta Gratz.*

published by *Argus*, a Pacific Northwest journal.

Second prize winner, **Graham S. Wyatt**, School of Architecture, Columbia University, for an article entitled, "Power Plays: The Battle over Preservation," published in the spring 1982 issue of *CRIT*, published by the Associated Student Chapters, AIA.

Third prize was won by **Daralice Donkervoet Boles**, School of Architecture, Columbia University, for a piece in the September 1982 issue of *Interiors* magazine entitled "Cranbrook Comes Back: The Cranbrook Academy of Art is once again on the rise and celebrating its 50th Anniversary."

**Tim Quigley**, School of Architecture, University of Minnesota, won a citation for an unpublished academic paper entitled *Le Corbusier and Surrealism*.

**Michael J. Badamo**, Boston Architectural Center, won a citation for an unpublished class paper entitled *To Build (a) Man*.

# OCULUS NYC/AIA JAN 84

## CONTINUING EVENTS

*Oculus welcomes information for the calendar pertaining to public events about architecture and the other design professions. It is due by the 17th 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 2

1821: American architect Napoleon LeBrun born

### TUESDAY 3

1870: Groundbreaking for the first tower of the Brooklyn Bridge

### WEDNESDAY 4

**CLUB MID**  
"Hudson River Gothic." 12:30-1:30 pm. Municipal Art Society, Urban Center, 457 Madison. 935-3960.

### THURSDAY 5

**EXHIBITION: RESTORING BROOKLYN'S CITY HALL**  
Municipal Art Society at the Urban Center, 457 Madison. 935-3960. Closes Jan. 30.

### FRIDAY 6

1818: Land purchased for Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia

#### 5 SCULPTORS

Siah Armajani, Scott Burton, Jackie Ferrara, Mary Miss, and Richard Fleischner. Max Protetch Gallery, 37 W. 57 St. 838-7436. Closes Jan. 6.

#### DESIGN SINCE 1945

Exhibition. The Philadelphia Museum of Art. Closes Jan. 8.

#### "HABS" IN NYC

Exhibition. Municipal Art Society, Urban Center, 457 Madison. 935-3960. Closes Jan. 30.

#### THE AMSTERDAM SCHOOL

Exhibition of Dutch Expressionist Architecture, 1915-1930. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Feb. 5.

#### GOTHAM IN GRIDLOCK

A historical survey of traffic congestion in NYC. Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103 St. 534-1672.

#### RENEWING CENTRAL PARK

"A Management and Restoration Plan in Progress." The Dairy in Central Park at 64 St. between the Zoo and the Carousel. 397-3156. Closes April 1.

#### SHANTIES TO SKYSCRAPERS

Exhibition of Robert L. Bracklow's photographs of early New York. The New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West. 873-3400. Closes May 6.

#### ASTOR PLACE SPACE

Proposals for photographic murals and monuments for the Astor Place Environs. Houghton Gallery, The Cooper Union, 7th St. at Third Ave. By appointment: 254-2873. Closes Feb. 3.

#### KANDINSKY: RUSSIAN AND

BAUHAUS YEARS 1915-33  
Exhibition. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. 360-3557. Closes Feb. 12.

### MONDAY 9

### TUESDAY 10

**THE GRAND PRIX DE ROME**  
Exhibition of "Paintings from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts 1797-1863." National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Ave. 369-4880. Closes Mar. 1.

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

"Saving the Theatres - is Planning up to the Task?" with members of Theatre Advisory Council, Kent Barwick, and Con Howe. Sponsored by the NYMetro Chapter, APA. 6-8 pm. Community Room, Bankers Trust Building, 280 Park (at 48th St.)

### WEDNESDAY 11

**CLUB MID**  
"The Brooklyn Nobody Knows." 12:30-1:30 pm. Municipal Art Society, Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 935-3960.

### THURSDAY 12

**AIA INTERIORS COMMITTEE**  
Presentation: "Gentlemen: We propose to furnish professional services for . . . How do we establish the fee? How specific in outlining scope of work? Will this proposal become the owner-architect agreement?" 6 pm. AIA Headquarters, 457 Madison. 838-9670.

#### WEST SIDE WONDERLAND

Seminar focusing on architectural development in Manhattan and its impact on neighborhoods, sponsored by *Interiors & Stending International*. 6-8 pm. Stending Showroom, 410 E. 62 St. 838-6050.

### FRIDAY 13

**THE ROBOT EXHIBIT: HISTORY, FANTASY, REALITY**  
Exhibition. American Craft Museum II, International Paper Plaza, 77 W. 45 St. 397-0605. Closes May 25.

#### NEW BUILDINGS, OLD PLACES

Exhibition of "Contextual architecture in New York's Historic Spaces." Municipal Art Society at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 935-3960. Closes Jan. 30.

## MONDAY 16

1757: American architect Samuel McIntire born

## TUESDAY 17

**AMERICAN PATENT MODELS**  
Exhibition of models for proposed improvements "in all aspects of human existence." Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Apr. 1.

**DAC PRESS CONFERENCE**  
Talk by Joan Kron on "Whose House Is It Anyway: the Client's or the Designer's?" 6-8 pm. Dux Showroom, Decorative Arts Center, 305 E. 63 St. 427-9949.

## MONDAY 23

**PERSPECTIVE AND DESIGN**  
Opening session of Classical America's Monday evening drawing course for the winter season. 6:45 pm. National Academy School of Fine Arts, 5 E 89 St. 369-4880.

## TUESDAY 24

**SAVING ST. JAMES**  
Exhibition celebrating the Roman Catholic church's history, its distinctive architecture, and its future. Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison. 935-3960. Closes Feb. 29.

**DRAFTING OF THE ORDERS**  
Opening session of Classical America's Wednesday evening course taught by Alvin Holm. AIA. 6:45 pm. National Academy School of Fine Arts, 5 E. 89 St. 369-4880.

## MONDAY 30

1902: Architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner born (died 18 August 1983)

## TUESDAY 31

## WEDNESDAY 18

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL**  
Slide/lecture program with Brendan Gill, Jeffrey Simpson, and William Conklin on how it came to be, how it weathered over the past century and a quarter, and what is planned for its future. 6 pm. Municipal Art Society, Urban Center, 457 Madison. RSVP: 935-3960.

**CLUB MID**  
"Two Cities." 12:30-1:30 pm. Municipal Art Society. Urban Center, 457 Madison. 935-3960.

## WEDNESDAY 25

## THURSDAY 26

**DOUBLE WALL CONSTRUCTION: 2 APPROACHES FOR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**  
Sponsored by NYC/AIA's Energy and Environment Committee. 6 pm. AIA Headquarters, Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 838-9670.

## THURSDAY 19

**NYC/AIA COMPUTER APPLICATION COMMITTEE**  
An introduction to micro-computers for both CADD and word processing, one of two lectures chaired by Lee Kennedy. 5-7 pm. Chapter Headquarters, 457 Madison Ave. 838-9670.

## FRIDAY 27

1924: Louis Sullivan completed *System of Architectural Ornamentation*

## FRIDAY 20

**LEONARDO DA VINCI**  
"Anatomical Drawings from the Royal Library, Windsor Castle." Metropolitan Museum of Art, 82 St. and Fifth Ave. 879-5500. Closes April 15.

## THURSDAY 2 FEB

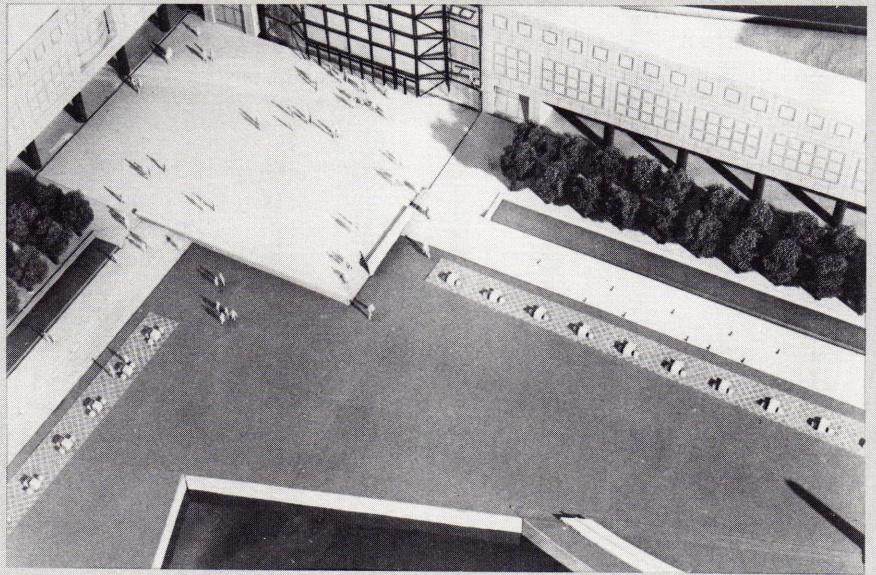
**NEW YORKERS' TASTE: CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN 1750-1865**  
Exhibition. Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103 St. 534-1672. Closes Sept. 5.

## WEDNESDAY 1 FEB

1793: Jefferson praised William Thornton's plan for the U.S. Capitol building

## Names and News

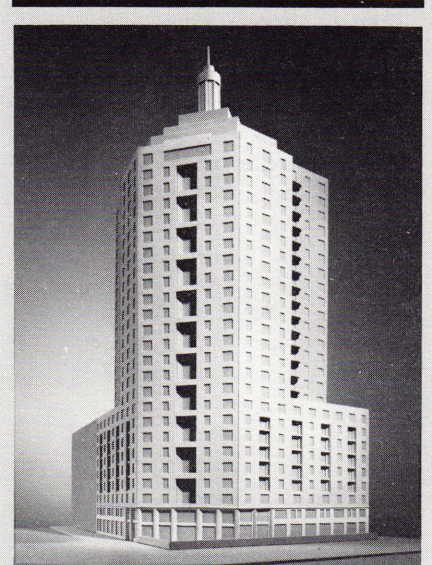
The 34th International Design Conference in Aspen (June 17-22) will have as its theme "Neighbors: Canada, Mexico, and the U.S." . . . Peter Samton of The Gruzen Partnership is a member of the panel, which includes Ruth Messinger, City Councilwoman; Roslyn Willett, Small Business Task Force; Carter Wisemen, New York Magazine; and Andrew MacNair, Express Newspaper, to discuss "Design and the Urban Environment" on January 12 (see calendar) . . . Diana Agrest, Emilio Ambasz, Turner Brooks, Alan Chimacoff, and James Freed will judge the entries in the Architectural League's 3rd annual Young Architects Competition, Kindergarten Chats 1984, joined by members of the League's Young Architects Committee who conceived this year's forums: Ben Benedict (Bumpzoid), Daralice Donkervoet-Boles (Progressive Architecture), Ethelind Coblin (Fox & Fowle Architects) and Peter Wheelwright (Anderson, Wheelwright Associates) . . . Martin D. Raab and Gershon Meckler, both of HLW, spoke at a Tradeline conference in San Francisco on "Planning New Research and Technical Facilities" . . . Wilson J. Woodridge, Jr. of The Grad Partnership in Newark, New Jersey, has been named the 1983/84 coordinator of the two-year architectural program at Essex County College in Newark, which grants students an associate degree and prepares them for drafting positions or for entry into professional degree programs at accredited five-year architectural schools . . . The Grad Partnership was also in the news as having been named "Architect of the Year" in the 12th Annual Awards of the New Jersey Subcontractors Association . . . The Friends of Cast Iron Architecture have produced a 32-page book, "A Walking Tour of Cast Iron Architecture in Soho." . . . "New York Mosaics," a 20-minute color slide show featuring existing works inside and outside some famous Manhattan buildings, is based on research and photography of The Mosaic Documentation Project sponsored by The New Wilderness Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts . . . The husband-and-wife



Plaza design for Battery Park City's World Financial Center.

architect team of Jane Siris and Peter Coombs (Siris/Coombs Architects) recently completed a studio penthouse for themselves atop a Manhattan apartment house, which was the subject of an article in the November issue of *Metropolitan Home* . . . A three-day symposium "to explore international-stature products" being presented by the Pacific Design Center (March 22-24) during WestWeek '84, will feature guest participants Robert A.M. Stern, Robert Siegel, Stanley Abercrombie, Lella Vignelli, Charles Gandee, Bruce Graham, J. Stewart Johnson, Wolf Von Eckardt, and Charles Jencks, among others . . . The design for Battery Park City's 3½-acre waterfront plaza, the public space of the World Financial Center, is the result of a collaboration between the center's architect Cesar Pelli, landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg, and artists Siah Armajani, and Scott Burton . . . Der Scutt Architect has been commissioned to design the Hand Surgery Clinic to be constructed in the Russell II Wing at Roosevelt Hospital . . . A symposium on "Style and Practice, Image in the Marketplace" at Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture and Planning in November was moderated by James Stewart Polshek with Diana Agrest as one of the speakers . . . James Melchert, artist and teacher, has been appointed Director of the American Academy in Rome, which awards the Rome Prize fellowships each year to American artists and scholars . . . Hugh Hardy is the designer of a pavilion-like restaurant to be built along the back wall of the public library in the proposed rebuilding of Bryant Park . . . There was a screening at Knoll International in November of "Beyond Utopia: Changing Attitudes in American Architecture," a new film from Michael Blackwood Productions . . . Frederic

Zonsius and Halsted Welles were speakers at the NYC/AIA Energy and Environment Committee seminar on "Fireplaces and Architectural Design." . . . "Cities in the Round" by Norman J. Johnston, published by the University of Washington Press, is said to be "the first book devoted to the planned circular city, a persistent theme in urban history from the ancient world to the present."



Joint Venture of Ulrich Franzen & Assoc. and The Vilkas Group.

Dear Editor:

Your Volume 45, Number 4 issue of December 1983, carried a story on "Residential Building Designs for Battery Park," page 10. The building for Site "K" (photo at bottom left) is being developed by our office in Joint Venture with Ulrich Franzen and Associates. Elliott Vilkas, AIA  
The Vilkas Group, Architects & Planners

## National AIA Economic & Compensation Task Force Submits Report

*The following is excerpted from The LePatner Report, December 1983, by permission of Chapter affiliate member Barry LePatner, who is a member of the Task Force.*

The Task Force's mandate was to identify the reasons why architectural compensation and profits have been experiencing a downward trend in recent years and to recommend a course of action to the Board for improvements in this area. In its introduction, the Task Force report pointed to three critical factors that have impacted upon the ability of architects to provide a quality work product to clients while, at the same time, receiving a fair financial return on their efforts:

1. There has been a continuous pattern of declining profitability in architectural practices.
2. Architects' compensation is failing to keep pace with inflation and is significantly lower than that of the other professions—engineers, accountants, lawyers, and so on.
3. The architect's primary role in the building process is being usurped by others, and there is a gradual decline in the demand for architects' services.

These disturbing trends, highlighted by statistics gathered from surveys taken over the past fifteen years, show that the income of architects ranks behind all other construction industry parties, i.e., engineers, contractors, and design-builders. In addition, employees of architectural firms receive lower compensation than any other group of professionals—average compensation in 1981 for technical employees ranged from \$11,900 for new graduates to only \$28,200 for top supervisory personnel. Even more significant is the fact that base salaries for principals of architecture firms fell more than 5 percent from 1980 to 1981. Finally, and portending a frightening trend, the share of total design services in the country that were paid to architects for their services has declined from almost 31 percent in 1972 to only 21

percent of total receipts in 1977. This is at a time when engineering receipts increased during the same period from 64 percent to 74 percent.

The Task Force addressed major areas of concern for present and future architects who seek to improve this financial prospect in the years ahead. These concerns included a noticeable lack of awareness on the part of architects to see, in perspective, the economic morass confronting them in today's construction industry climate. A second concern was the profession's lack of confidence in asserting itself as an integral, dynamic force in the design and construction that takes place in our society. This lack of confidence expresses itself in the willingness of architects to accept levels of compensation that often fail to cover costs.

Third, the Task Force identified the failure of architects, individually and collectively, to explain to their clients what they do to earn a fair fee. "This lack of public recognition may be due in part to the fact that only a miniscule portion of the population ever has the opportunity to deal with an architect." More significantly, architects must go out of their way to educate clients on the complexities of the design process, the inordinate detail that must be attended to, and the breadth of different disciplines that must be mastered for an architect to bring each project to a successful conclusion.

Fourth, the process by which architects are selected for projects has created a never-ending spiral of destructive, profitless competition. Costly and wasteful competitions have led clients to reduce the selection process to a marketing extravaganza. "This," the Task Force states, "is not something we can totally blame on clients, however, as it is of our own making. We allowed it to happen and we are watching it get worse by the day."

Finally, and perhaps of greatest importance, the Task Force expressed its serious concern over the

profession's lack of business acumen. Although schools of architecture stress the elements of design in their programs, the fact that the business side of the profession has risen to greater importance than ever is almost universally disregarded during a young architect's schooling. The Task Force notes that, "to survive in the real world, one must have a keen business sense . . . Today's architects are poorly equipped to respond to the essentials of business and financial management. They are not trained to compete in the construction industry. The financial success (for the architect) of any project is frequently determined at the very beginning—during contract negotiations." Sadly, most architects lack the business and negotiating savvy to have a fighting chance against the sophisticated owners and contractors whom they face on a daily basis.

The Chapter's Economic & Compensation Committee, Eason Leonard, Chairman, will conduct a survey of architects' compensation, with forms being mailed to members in mid-January. This survey will follow up the remarkably comprehensive survey of two years ago, which received wide attention.

## Times Tower To be Demolished?

## Excerpts from a Statement by John Burgee Architects with Philip Johnson:

*The Chapter sent the following letter on December 6 to Lawrence Graham, President of the Times Square Redevelopment Corp, as well as to William Stern of UDC, Steven Stinola of Public Development Corp., and Herbert Sturz, Planning Commission Chairman.*

The Chapter has not seen the proposed development plan for four sites at the south end of Times Square, but it has become well known that demolition of the Times Tower is contemplated. This would be a decision which the Chapter would oppose.

One of the most appealing and persuasive elements in the 42nd Street Development Project Design Guidelines of May 1981 was its very imaginative recognition of the Times Tower's potential. To quote, "The Times Tower is to be preserved. Developers, however, are encouraged (though not required) to seek arrangements that will permit, at reasonable cost, the modification of the existing structure to incorporate special features . . . which would dramatize the Times Tower's function as a night-time civic sculpture and focal point for Times Square/42nd Street."

To breach the Guidelines in so important a respect would be a most serious matter, particularly since there would apparently be no public review. A decision affecting one of the half dozen major New York public places should not be made behind closed doors, especially since the wide publicity surrounding the Guidelines in 1981 established the Tower's future so strongly in the public mind.

We would like to meet with you on this subject at the earliest opportunity. And please know that the Chapter regards the Times Square Redevelopment Plan with great admiration.

In our Master Planning efforts, we have come to the conclusion that it is essential to create a more open Times Square—which is the result of the new towers surrounding it—than to preserve a building that has been entirely reconstructed. The historic significance of the area remains in the vitality of its commerce, entertainment, and retail use.

It is important to the success of the new office towers that they relate to one another, to 42nd Street, to Broadway, and to Seventh Avenue. The present Times Tower destroys this continuity between the development sites because of its prominent central position.

To create a public square in scale with the towers that are planned, it is essential that the Times Tower be removed. The present building was refaced and the decorative stonework which everyone associates with the Times Tower was removed. The quality of the former Times Tower no longer exists. This open space is greatly needed to create a public square in a scale with the towers that are planned.

While a program has not yet been developed, it is possible that a low pavilion to house public services or retail facilities could be accommodated on the site; however, such a pavilion should be low to maintain the feeling of openness. The New Year's Ball, which is one of the most popular features of the Times Tower, will be relocated to a more prominent position on the tower at the south end of the square. By keeping this space open, the sense of place of Times Square will be significantly strengthened.

Without the removal of the tower, the new office buildings are merely individual structures with very little relationship to each other. Grouping the new buildings around an open public plaza gives it a sense of place not unlike the grouping of buildings at Rockefeller Center. It is this sense of urban center, which Times Square now lacks, that we feel is so important.

This project offers a unique opportunity to realize an urban design of international importance. This opportunity may never present itself again in New York.

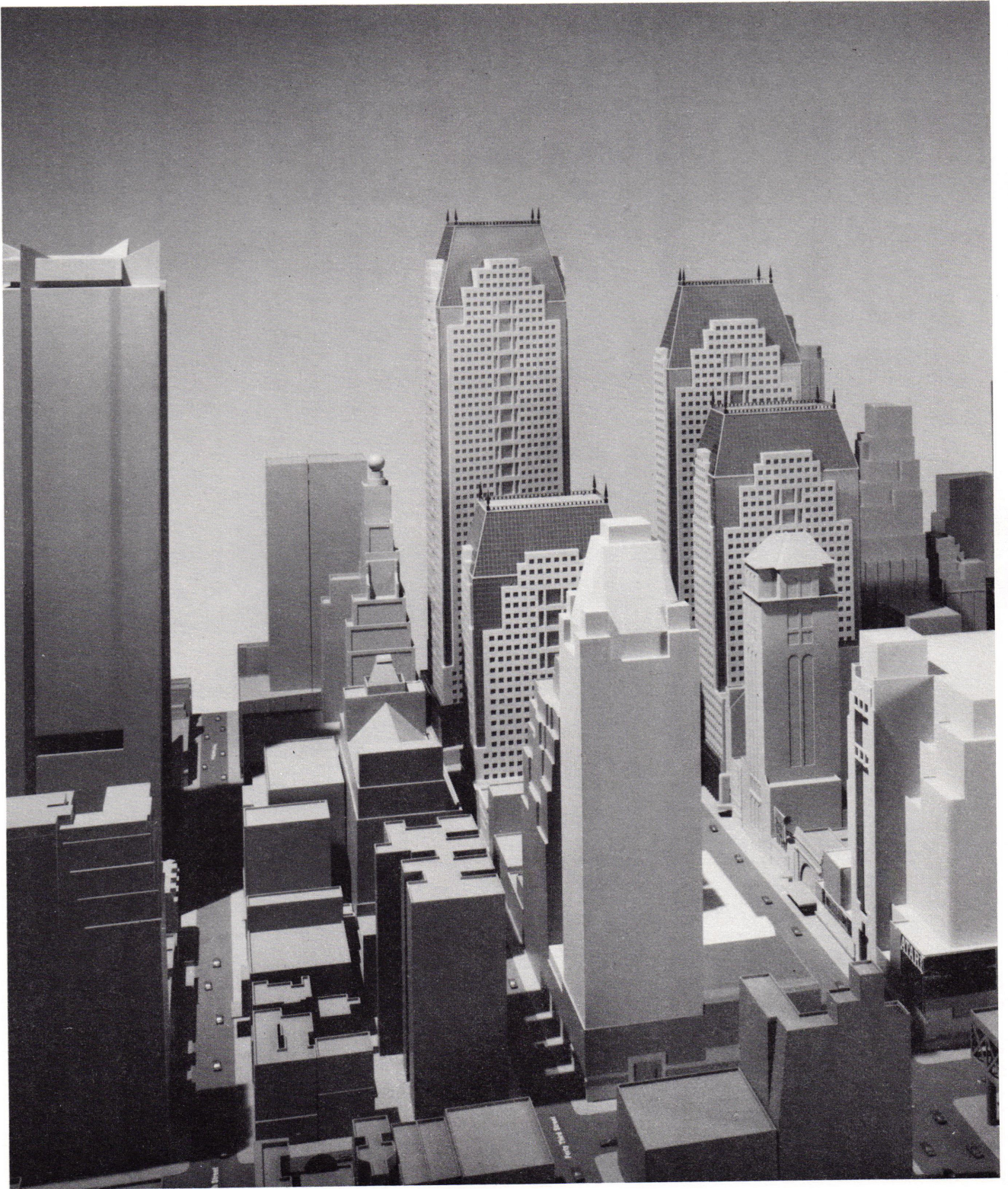
### History of the Present Times Tower

In 1903, excavation for a new home for *The New York Times* began. The original Times Tower was constructed as a 375-foot steel structure with an Italianate limestone and cream-colored brick skin. It was considered a landmark for midtown Manhattan. In 1904, a campaign began for naming the subway stop below after the newspaper and, on April 19, the triangular site of the structure was officially named Times Square.

Initially intended as a single-tenant building for *The New York Times*, the tower proved viable only until 1913. The newspaper company had grown too large for its small structure, and the decision was made to move from Times Square into a larger site.

The tower was sold to Douglas Leigh and in 1961 resold to the Allied Chemical Company. In an attempt to revitalize the structure, the tower was stripped of all the Italianate stonework and ornamentation, its most appealing feature.

*View east along 42 Street.*



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