

# OCULUS

an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 51, Number 5, January 1989



*1988 Architectural Heritage Ball in the Grand Ballroom of the Plaza Hotel.*

*Photo by Dorothy Alexander*



# OCULUS

Volume 51, Number 5, January 1989

## Oculus

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## The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

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# COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

The exhibition of the work of I. Leonidov  
"The City of the Sun," continues in the  
Chapter's Members Gallery.

**Tuesday, January 31.** The Public  
Architects Committee is sponsoring a  
panel discussion entitled "Quality  
Design in Public Architecture: Current  
Status and Future Possibilities." The  
panel will explore such issues as:

- Who should be guiding design  
decisions for the public sector?
- How can political leaders be  
encouraged toward greater concern for  
design quality?
- How can public officials who have  
design backgrounds exert an influence  
on design policy?
- Is there any consensus on the part of  
public officials as to what constitutes  
design quality? How "subjective" is  
design quality?
- Should NYC have a Public Design  
Commission?
- What are the special design  
responsibilities of the private  
practitioner in designing public works?

Panelists will include two Deputy  
Borough Presidents who are also  
architects: **Peter Magnani** of Queens  
and **Kenneth Knuckles** of the Bronx;  
**Sally Goodgold**, Chair of The City Club  
of New York; **Richard Dattner** AIA;  
**Marilyn Mammano** of the City  
Planning Commission; **Gene Norman** of  
the Landmarks Preservation  
Commission, and others. 5:30-8 pm. The  
Urban Center.

**Tuesday, February 7.** The Committee  
for Architecture in Education is  
sponsoring a panel discussion and  
exhibit of prototype school building  
work-in-progress for the NYC Board of  
Education. Representatives of the Board  
of Education, Richard Dattner AIA, The  
Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut, Gruzen  
Samton Steinglass, and Perkins & Will  
will discuss prototype concepts and  
execution. 5:30 pm. The Urban Center.  
838-9670.



# 1988 ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE BALL

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

Photos by Dorothy Alexander



*Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard; Toni Bennett; Roger Bennett, Chairman, Board of Standard & Appeals; Natlie Esnard.*

Not quite partied out after the Convention, members, our consultant colleagues, and friends gathered November 5, 1988 for the Chapter's annual gala and scholarship fundraiser. Saturday's drenching rains ended just in time for our revelers' arrival at the landmark Plaza Hotel.

In a departure from tradition, the only artwork on display this year was Albert Lorenz's specially commissioned rendering of The Plaza, which was reproduced for the cover of the November *Oculus*. Rather than an auction, this year scholarship funds were raised strictly through ticket sales and donations. Our heartfelt thanks to those who attended, and a special acknowledgement to those colleagues

friends who were not able to join us that evening, but whose donations added generously to the Architectural Heritage Ball Scholarship endowment.

Over three hundred guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres in the Terrace Room to the accompaniment of John Lehmann-Haupt on the classical guitar. After settling in for dinner in the Grand Ballroom, guests were welcomed by 1988 Heritage Ball Chair, President-elect Denis Glen Kuhn AIA. Following brief comments from Chapter President Martin D. Raab FAIA the evening proceeded as promised...dancing to the music of "Eight-to-the Bar," dining, mingling, and making new friends...a fitting celebration to end the year of the Convention.

Our guests had a chance during the evening to discuss possibilities for The Plaza with Hugh Hardy FAIA and Lee Harris Pomeroy FAIA, whose firms have been hired by the Trump Organization to renovate and restore The Plaza to its former glory; to review the state of the City with Deputy Mayor Robert Esnard AIA and Roger Bennett, Chair of the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals; and to join the crowds on the dance floor late into the evening. We've chronicled the 1988 Architectural Heritage Ball in photographs, and hope that you make it a New Year's resolution to join us this year for this increasingly exciting, elegant, and enjoyable event.



# ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE BALL

1. Ruth and Alan Schwartzman
2. Guests arrive for the big event.
3. Douglas Korves and Gail Raab
4. Michael Maas and Debbie Stark
5. Randolph and Kitty Croxton
6. Virginia Dajani and Lee Harris Pomeroy
7. Tiziana and Hugh Hardy
8. Sara and Jim Garretson
9. Maryjean and John Winkler
10. Eileen Ryan and Denis Glen Kuhn



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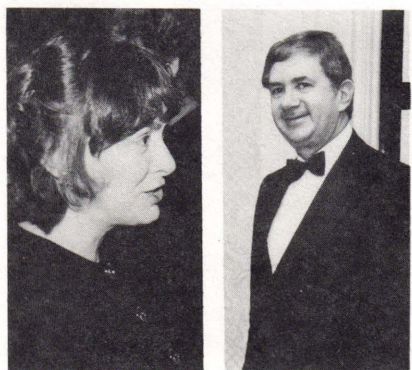
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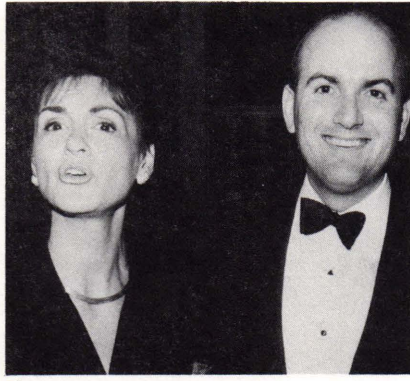


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11. Gudrun and Denis Glen Kuhn  
 12. Leslie Merlin and Reed Rubey  
 13. Ronnette Riley and Irwin Cantor  
 14. Joan Capelin and John Dixon  
 15. Abigail Sturges and G. Daniel Perry  
 16. Robert A.M. Stern and Suzanne Stephens  
 17. Martin D. Raab  
 18. The crowded dance floor.  
 19. Georgia Froom and Reed Thomas  
 20. Brad Perkins and Wendy Evans



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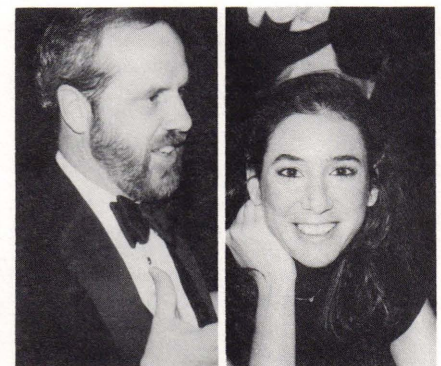
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## Architects' Reaction to Local Law 58

by John Ellis AIA

The many strongly worded reactions of New York architects to Local Law 58, the handicapped access law, in force since September 1, 1987, ranged from "Brings back the human purpose of architecture for society in general," "Expensive to architect and client," to "A total disaster!" and "Clients won't believe architects' interpretation of the law because it seems so unreasonable."

The NYC/AIA Housing Committee, representing those architects most directly affected by Local Law 58, has over the last year become a major conduit for members' questions and complaints about the law, for all building types, housing or otherwise. As such, we have heard firsthand many architects' anger and frustration on the issue. It was not clear, however, how representative these complaints were.

For a more objective view of members' experience with the new legislation, the Housing Committee circulated to all Chapter members a questionnaire aimed at identifying both the degree of support for the *concept* of equal access, as compared to support for the *reality* of what this law requires. The survey attempted to identify differences in the experience with the law on different types of projects. The wording of the questions was neutral and open-ended. For comparison, the views of those with no experience with the law were also solicited.

Some 232 architects took the time to complete and return the survey — 202 with firsthand experience, and 30 without. Some responses included a page or two of additional typed comment.

The response revealed wide support for the *concept* of equal access (73%), but an almost equal level of opposition to Local Law 58 as the vehicle to achieve that goal (68%). Of those who had worked with the law, 88% had encountered serious difficulty with it. Only 12% of architects found the law working as it was presumably intended. Problems included both procedural problems such as contradictory

interpretations, excessive rigidity, delays in processing, etc., and substantive problems such as prohibitive costs, unworkable kitchens, conflicts with landmarks requirements, and contradictory plan requirements.

Architects' reactions ranged from acceptance and support to frustration, anger, and disbelief. Problems were compounded by clients who refused to believe architects' interpretation of the law because it seemed so unreasonable. It was significant that the level of support for the law was far higher among those who had no firsthand experience with it than among those who had worked with it. Architects had started in support of the concept, but found the law itself poorly suited to its task.

The problems architects have been experiencing fall into a number of categories:

1. The procedural problems, can be expensive and time consuming. This may change as people get more familiar with the rules and as interpretations become institutionalized. The total absence of any waiver procedure for new buildings, however, continues to be a sore point, which architects find unnecessarily rigid. There was also substantial resentment that those reviewing waiver requests are reported to be unsympathetic to hardship requests which were based "only" on the expense of the extra work.

2. The substantive problems cited most often by respondents were:

- a. *The cost premium on housing.* Compliance with the law adds an amount variously estimated at 5-8% to the cost of housing, mostly for additional floor space. At 20,000 DU's (market and subsidized) per year, this means an additional cost of 100 to 160 million dollars for New York City housing each year.

- b. *Rehabilitation work, generally.* Members complain the law is not sufficiently flexible to deal with the myriad of special conditions endemic to rehab work. Although a waiver procedure exists, it is so cumbersome and time consuming that it is

perceived as not worth pursuing except in extreme situations. Many members report owners cancelling projects rather than comply with the extra requirements of Local Law 58. Smaller projects are seen as being particularly penalized.

- c. *Custom renovation of individual apartments.* Possibly no aspect of the law has generated so much emotion or is perceived as so unfair as the discovery that custom work on individual condo or co-op apartments must meet handicapped access regulations for areas such as kitchens, baths, corridors, level changes, etc. This has raised howls from apartment owners who see this as a violation of the principle that one's home is one's castle.

- d. *Rehabilitation of small commercial spaces.* The requirement that renovations of commercial spaces with areas over 2,500 sq. ft. must include handicapped access is perceived as unreasonable. Owners of small or marginal spaces find this requirement may double the cost of a renovation. This, however, has not been recognized as a valid basis for a waiver.

Changes proposed by respondents mirrored the problems they had identified. Typical responses were: "Apply only to new construction." "Make it understandable." "Make it more sensitive and responsive to extenuating circumstances." "Do not apply to small existing brownstones... where it is impractical and extravagantly expensive to comply." "Allow improvements without total compliance." "Liberalize it." "Abolish it."

The most frequently raised suggestions for change were:

1. Clarify requirements and interpretations. (Work in this area has been progressing now for several months.)

2. Provide a waiver process for new buildings in cases of particular hardship or unforeseen circumstances.

cont'd. p. 7, col. 3

John Ellis is Chairman of the NYC/AIA Housing Committee.



## Chapter Meeting on Local Law 58

by Robert J. Marino AIA

More than 100 Architects attended the November 15 meeting about Local Law 58 held at Chapter Headquarters. The meeting was sponsored by the NYC/AIA Housing Committee and organized by the Subcommittee on Local Law 58.

A panel of six speakers included Commissioner Carol Ann Roberson, Director, Mayors Office for the Handicapped (MOH); Shelly Goldstone, Architectural Consultant, MOH; George E. Berger, PE, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Buildings; James Weisman, Esq., Counsel, Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association (EPVA); John Ellis, AIA, Chairman, Housing Committee; and Robert Marino, AIA, Chairman, Housing Subcommittee on Local Law 58.

This was the first Chapter-wide meeting about the law that went into effect just over a year ago. It was successful in bringing together Architects, advocates for the Disabled community, and the Department of Buildings; to share firsthand their concerns about and experience with the law to date.

It was not possible to foresee the extent the law would affect design and construction. After over a year of working with the law, some issues are becoming clearer.

The technical clarifications issued by the DOB have gone far to mitigate some critical issues, especially relating to bathrooms and kitchens. However, it is clear from the comments and questions raised that Architects are still experiencing difficulties with the law.

New York architects' reactions to the law were expressed in a questionnaire distributed to all Chapter members. The results of that survey were summarized and presented at the meeting by John Ellis. (See related article in this issue.)

Difficulties can arise for several reasons: lack of information about the law, unfamiliarity with the details and interpretation of the law, a

misunderstanding of the law's intent, practical complications in meeting the requirements of the law, and the length and uncertainty of the review and approval process.

George Berger, in discussing the approval process, advised that architects, before going to MOH, submit drawings to the DOB, which ultimately interprets the law and approves plans. The DOB will object to non-complying items and refer all requests for waivers to MOH. MOH, which will in turn make recommendations to the DOB, said to expect a wait of two weeks for an appointment.

Architects found it easier to design requirements into new buildings, although some issues are still unresolved, such as balconies and terraces, privacy of ground-floor units, and office kitchenettes.

Renovations are more difficult, since changes are made within an existing envelope and structural framework. In some, more space given to bathrooms and circulation may reduce the size of or eliminate other rooms. A more flexible approach to renovations may allow for other solutions.

Renovations of privately owned co-ops and condominiums (and to some extent, tenant renovations of high-end rental apartments) seem to generate the most emotional response from owners and the architects who must design for them. Small firms that specialize in private apartment interiors are affected most, and some owners have cancelled projects, rather than meet the requirements.

James Wiesman discussed the national trend of the accessibility requirements, including the Fair Housing Act, which will require national standards by 1992, the trend towards an increasingly aging population, and EPVA's work in fostering legislation and standards.

Carol Ann Roberson was pleased with the meeting, wants to hear more about the concerns of architects, and welcomes their cooperation in resolving the difficulties that remain or will arise

in implementing the law.

The AIA Subcommittee on LL58 is currently formulating some recommendations on the law and plans to bring these to the Advisory Panel for consideration. These suggestions will include renovations and previously unaddressed issues in new construction.

The Advisory Panel (as described in December 1988 *Oculus*), is continuing to meet on a biweekly basis. The advocates for the disabled who participate express a desire to hear about practical difficulties and deal with issues raised by the architectural community.

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### Architects' Reaction to Local Law 58

*cont'd. from p. 6*

3. Allow a small number of units in new and rehab apartment projects to be exempt from Local Law 58, in order to accommodate design features such as elevation of ground floor apartments for privacy, changes of level, etc.
4. Exempt renovations of individually owned apartments.
5. Exempt small rehab projects.
6. Change the basis for determining what will trigger handicapped access requirements for small, commercial spaces above or below ground floor.

Taken as a whole, members have voiced support for the principle of facilitating independent living for the disabled community. However, they also observed that what may be good for handicapped users, may be bad for the non-handicapped. Members generally reflected a constructive attitude to resolving these conflicts in a situation that has tested architects' most humane instincts.

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*Robert J. Marino is Chairman of the Housing Subcommittee on Local Law 58.*



## Architectural Beacons

1. *Miniature lighthouse by Linda Gatter AIA.*

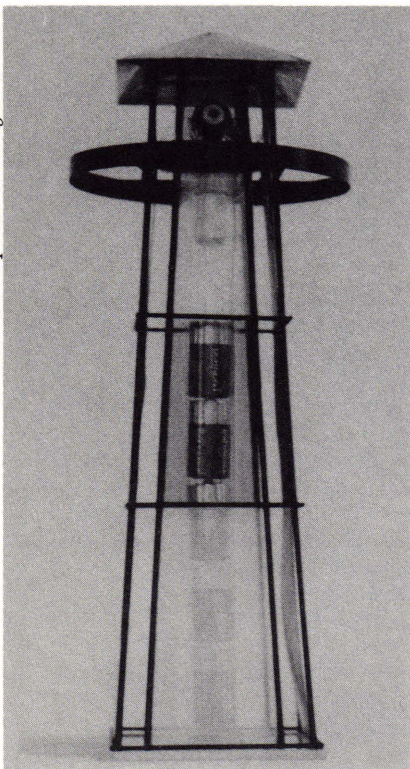
2. *Architect Ted Trussell Porter's lighthouse for the Lighthouse.*

3. *Miniature lighthouse by Alexander Cooper FAIA.*

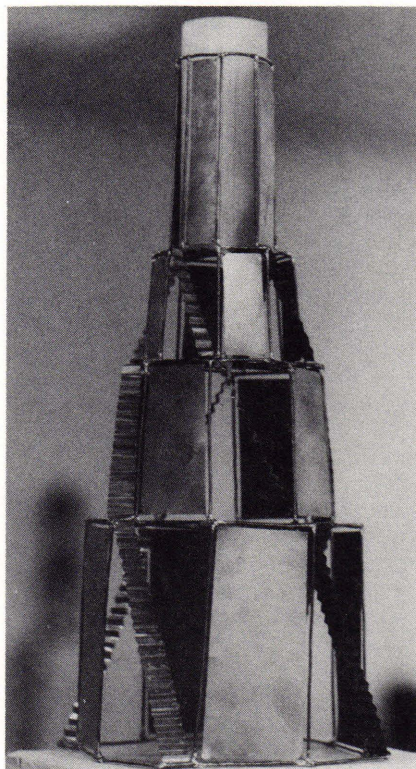
4. *Lighthouse designed by Alfredo De Vido FAIA.*

5. *A lighthouse creation by James D'Auria AIA.*

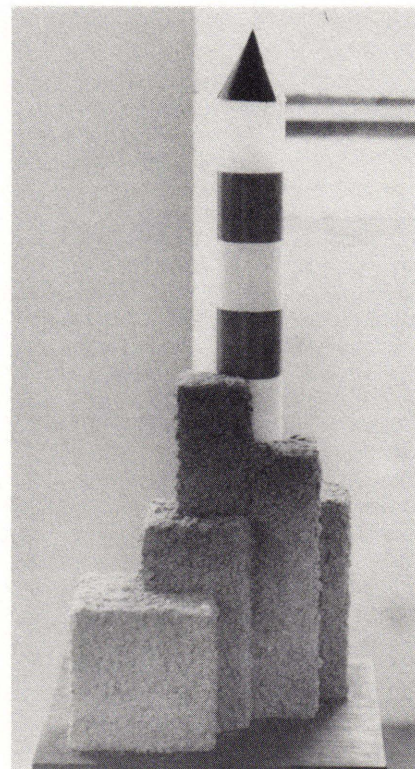
Photos except as noted by Stan Ries



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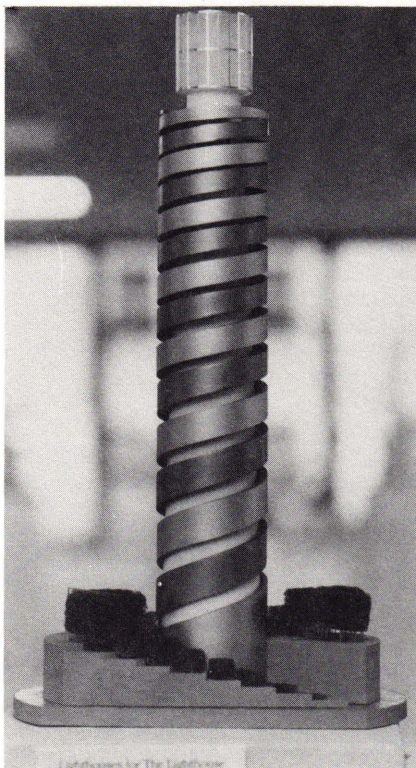
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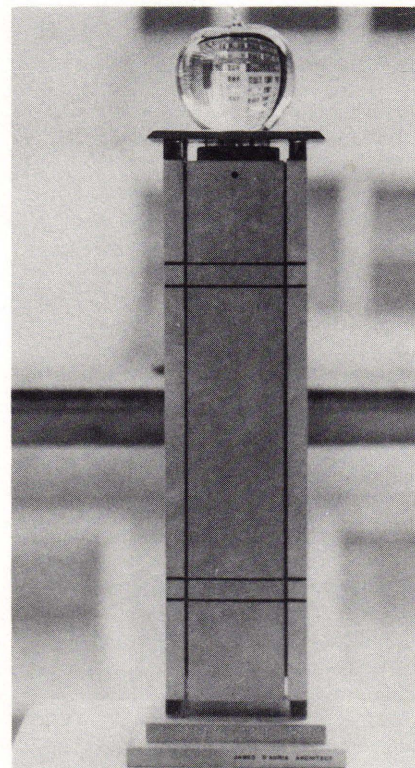
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Architects seem to enjoy playing hooky now and then whether it's designing chairs, miniature lighthouses, or whatever. A collection of the latter may be one of their most interesting forays into extracurricular design. "Lighthouses for the Lighthouse," as the collection was called, consisted of some 70 designs by architects and other designers. They were auctioned in November during Winternight '88 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Lighthouse's Child Development Center, which trains blind and visually impaired pre-school children for entry into mainstream public and private schools. Included in the collection were classic, postmodern, abstract, or just plain fanciful lighthouses. The only non-lighthouse was Peter Eisenman's model for a new low-rise building for the Lighthouse Child Development Center itself.

Over 31 AIA members were among the contributors who designed and donated miniature, self-illuminating lighthouses.



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6. "Montauk Point Light" by Michael McDonough AIA.

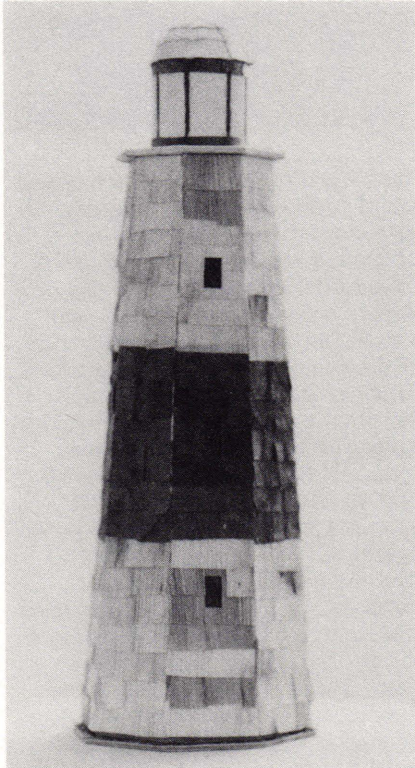
7. A collaboration by Bruce S. Fowle FAIA with Joy Siegel of Fox & Fowle Architects. Model by U. Kyle, C. Reidy, & S. Garlock.

8. A mahogany version of a classical cupola by Robert A.M. Stern FAIA.

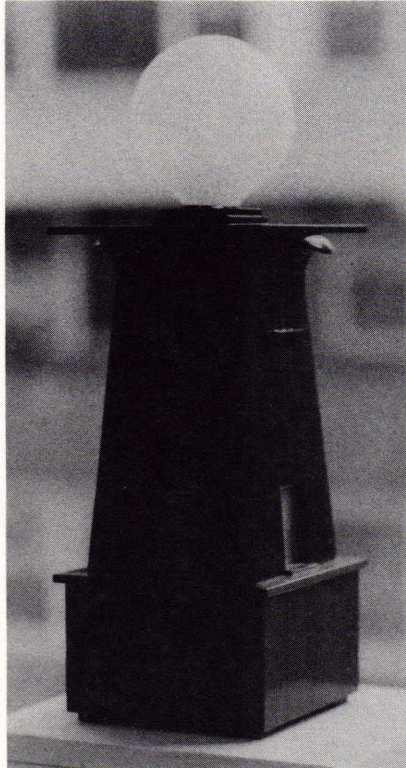
9. "Lighthouse/Darkhouse" by SITE architects, artists, & designers.

10. Miniature lighthouse by Arthur May AIA.

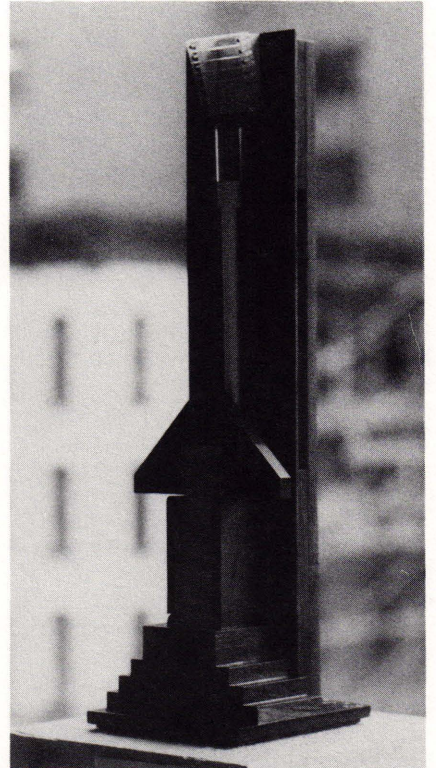
11. Lighthouse by David Paul Helpern AIA, Richard Bonanomi, & Yiling Mackay. Braille legend at tower's base reads "The Lighthouse Winternight, November 30, 1988."



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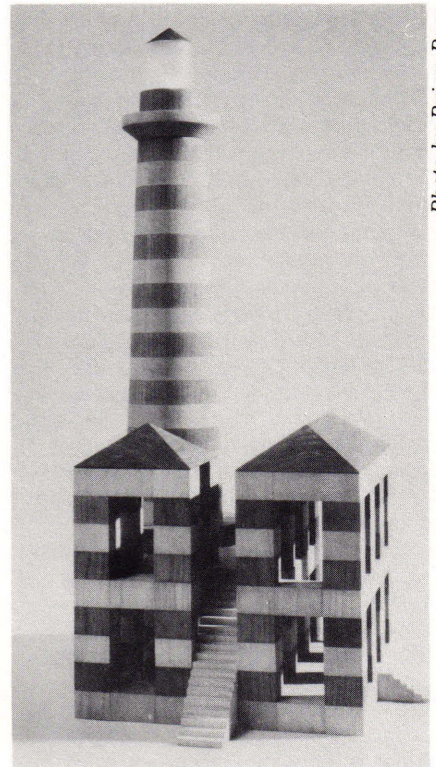
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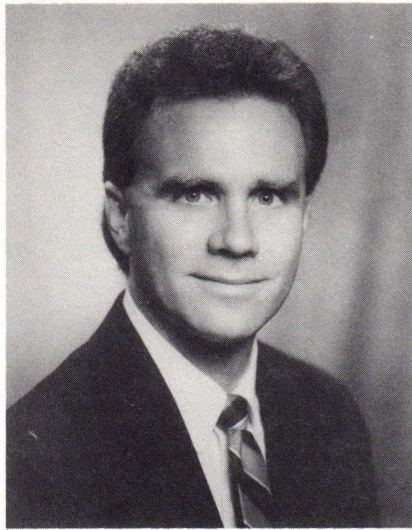


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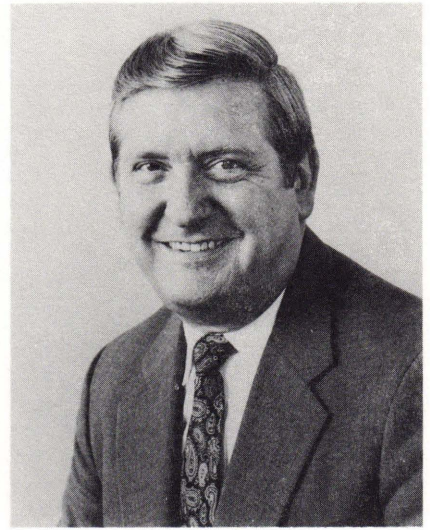
# NAMES AND NEWS

Photo by Pach Bros., N.Y.



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1989 marks the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography by **J.M. Daguerre**. . . **Bill Lacy** FAIA will be cochairman of the International Design Conference in Aspen, June 13-18, 1989, with Paolo Viti, Director of Cultural Relations for Olivetti. "The Italian Manifesto: The Culture of Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine Cities" is to be the conference title. . . **Michael Maas** FAIA received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from St. John's University in September. . . **Richard Meier & Partners, Architects**, have been commissioned to design the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona, Spain. To be located in the "Casa de la Caridad" area, originally a monastic enclave being developed as a cultural center, the "building," says **Richard Meier** FAIA, "will create a dialogue between the older existing context and the new, contemporary art of the museum. A building such as this has a responsibility to express the nature of its times." . . . **Henry T. Brumleve** AIA has joined **Brennan Beer Gorman/Architects** as an Associate. . . **Herbert Beckhard Frank Richlan & Associates** are the architects of a new manufacturing facility for Calumet Manufacturing Company of Somerset, New Jersey, in association with Brandt-Kuybida of Clifton, New Jersey. . . **The Boston Society of Architects** has invited AIA Chapter members to join a 14-day trip to the Soviet Union, April 2-15. The tour will cover architectural history, museums, private tours, gala dinners "with our colleagues," and so on. For more information: BSA 617-267-5175. . . **Eric DeVaris** AIA, a corporate architect with AT&T, is the designer for an \$8.5 million fit-out for the AT&T Microelectronics World Headquarters in Berkeley Heights, New Jersey. . . **Martin Holub Architects & Planners** have moved to larger offices at 116 West 72nd Street. . . The 121st annual **Convention of the American Institute of Architects** to be held in St. Louis, May 5-8, 1989, will focus on the changing profession of architecture in the year 2000 and beyond. . . A memo from **Edgar Tafel** FAIA: "Closed the lecture season yesterday with talk at N.Y. Tech—wonderful audience of students and faculty, it was part of the course on Wright. Interesting season—two sessions at Marymount and at the New Jersey Society convention, two locations in Wisconsin, and New York Society of Engineers, etc. Chautauqua next summer." . . . **A. Corwin Frost** AIA has reactivated his former firm, Frost Associates Architects, as a consulting firm known as **Frost Associates Consultants** to "render a wide range of professional consulting services to organizations contemplating a substantial expansion or relocation project." . . . **Gene A. Norman** RA has been appointed to head the new Harlem International Trade Center effective this month. . . **Emery Roth & Sons, Architects**, have signed an agreement with the Hungarian Hotel Association for the conceptual design of 10 hotels in Budapest to be completed for the 1995 World's Fair in Vienna and Budapest. . . **Jeffrey Parsons** has joined **The Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut** as Principal and Director of Operations. . . **HLW** have formed a new Programming and Facilities Management Division headed by **Robert Brandt** AIA. . . **The Stein Partnership** has been chosen by the National Park Service to complete the design of the Wesleyan Chapel Block of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, NY, based on the winning competition entry by **Ann Marshall** and **Ray Kinoshita**, who have joined the Stein Partnership as Associates. . . **William M. Trust, Jr.** has been named Executive Director of **Swanke Hayden Connell Architects**. . . **The Phillips Janson Group** announced the addition of the following employees: **Peter McNerney** as a member of the administrative staff; **Drew E. Hagenah**, **Charles I. Phillips**, and **Connie Mizzi** as project managers; **Matthew Xenakis** as a senior designer; **Caroline Day** and **Karyn Tucker** as junior designers; **Christine C. Friello** as a designer; **Michael P. Sheedy** as a junior draftsman; and **Dominik Soiron** as an intern. . . **Geddes Brecher Qualls Cunningham, Architects** announced the election of **Alan L. Fishman** AIA as Vice President,



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Finance and Treasurer. . . **Alan Gaynor** AIA of **Alan Gaynor & Company** announced that the firm has been retained by the New York Chiropractic College in Old Brookville, Long Island, to prepare a master plan for its 51-acre campus and to design a new building. He also announced that **Carmita Sanchez-Fong** has joined the Gaynor firm as Director of Space Planning and Facilities Management. . . **Freeman & Pizer, Architects**, have moved to offices at 110 West 40 Street. . . **Christopher K. Egan** AIA was elected president of the Museum Council of The Brooklyn Museum. He is also restoring the brownstone across from Bloomingdale's "that barely escaped demolition to make way for Helmut Jahn's new 30-story tower." Commissioned to restore the brownstone and convert its lower floors as an entry to Dollar Dry Dock's new banking lobby, says Egan, "rather than hide the little building in the tower's cladding, we chose to accentuate the brownstone's heroic status as a survivor" and reestablish its 1865 look. "Additional detailing and signage evocative of both the 1930s and the 1980s combine to suggest the site's complex history." . . . **The City Planning Commission** celebrated its 50th anniversary in November. . . Three projects were cited to receive the **1988 Presidential Awards for Design Excellence in Architecture**, which honor exemplary federal design achievements. They are: the **Delaware Aqueduct Renovation**, Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania, designed for the National Park Service by the firms of Abba G. Lichenstein & Associates, Fair Lawn, New Jersey; Beyer Blinder Belle, and Amman & Whitney, NYC. **The Vietnam Veterans Memorial** designed for the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund by architect Maya Ying Lin, NYC, with the Washington firm Cooper-Lecky Architects and sculptor Frederick F. Hart. The Department of Transportation's **O'Hare Transit Line** designed for DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration office in



1. Henry T. Brumleve AIA.
2. William M. Trust, Jr.

Chicago and Chicago's Public Works Department by the Chicago firms of SOM; Metz, Train, Youngren; Murphy/Jahn; and Perkins & Will. **Henry N. Cobb** FAIA chaired the jury. **Jack L. Gordon Architects** have moved to larger quarters at 43 West 23 Street. **Russo + Sonder, Architects** announced the following management changes: **Ephraim Wechsler** has been named a principal, **David Wilkow** an associate, and **Mitzi Bollinger** has been appointed Executive Administrator. **Joseph Shein**, a principal, has taken responsibility for the firm's management, which allows senior principals **Joseph L. Russo** AIA and **Richard Sonder** AIA to spend more time working with clients.

## Competitions

The Architectural League has announced its **eighth annual Young Architects Forum** with "Public Works" as its theme. Young designers across the country are invited to submit entries in the competition, which "addresses our inherent responsibility to our community and the challenge that places on our art" and "seeks to recognize work that combines individual expression and public improvement." Open to architects, designers, and planners who are ten years or less out of graduate or undergraduate school, the competition has a deadline of February 25 for submission of work. For entry forms and more information: 212-753-1722. ... Registration closes on January 16 for a two-stage **design competition for a performing arts center** at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. Finalists of the first stage will share \$100,000 in cash prizes and the winner of the second stage will be awarded a design commission. For program and more information: Clemson PAC Competition, The Moorman House, 115 North Palmetto Blvd., Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-5951. ... The Brick Institute of America has announced a new biennial **Brick in Architecture Awards Program** "in an effort to recognize outstanding architectural achievement in brick design." Any licensed architect in the U.S. or Canada is invited to submit a project completed since January 1, 1983

in which brick is the dominant building material. Entry blanks must be postmarked no later than February 23, 1989, and submissions no later than March 31, 1989. For more information: Brick in Architecture Awards Program Coordinator 301-657-6021. ...

## Design USA

The United States Information Agency (USIA) has issued a call for submissions from architects for an exhibit on United States housing. USIA is looking for a broad sampling of housing to be exhibited as "Design USA" in the Soviet Union during a 19-month tour of nine cities beginning in 1989. Submissions should be color slides, 8" x 10" color prints, transparencies, or negatives, consisting of one view of the exterior and one interior view (any room) of each project. Attach a full description of each submission, including name, firm, address, telephone number, project name, year of construction, number of rooms, number of baths, number of bedrooms, number of stories, and the "general style." Mail submissions to: USIA "Design USA" 311 W. 97th St., Room 4N, NYC 10025. For more information: Kathleen Krusko at 222-1929.

## Landmark notes

The Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously voted on November 1 to designate the **St. Regis Hotel** a New York City landmark. Designed by Trowbridge & Livingston and constructed in 1901-04 with a later addition by Sloan & Robertson, the "St. Regis, along with other hotels," said Commissioner David A. Garcia in his motion to designate, "heralded the transformation of Fifth Avenue from an exclusive residential street — nicknamed Millionaires' Row — to a fashionable commercial thoroughfare of tall buildings." It "is one of the most important elements in the architectural fabric of this section of Fifth Avenue and contributes greatly to its sophisticated character." Also designated was the **Paramount Building** at 1493-1501 Broadway which, said Commissioner Elliot Willensky in his motion to

designate "made an important contribution to the development of the world-famous theatre and entertainment district." It stands, he added, "as an important reminder of Times Square's boom in the 1920s during the early years of the motion picture industry." Designed by the Chicago firm of Rapp & Rapp, it was built in 1926-27. ... **Joan A. Rizzo**, former district manager of Community Board 6, has joined the Landmarks Preservation Commission as Director of Community Relations, in which capacity she will serve as the Commission's liaison to community boards, city agencies, preservation and other groups. She will also develop educational outreach campaigns aimed at informing the public about the landmark process.

## Exhibition

### Dreams and Details

On January 11, the Steelcase Design Partnership opens a long awaited retrospective of Paul Rudolph's work called *Dreams and Details*. The exhibition will include the Yale Art and Architecture Building and other work from the past as well as his most contemporary work in Southeast Asia. It will also explore the architect's use of details and materials such as wood, brick, concrete masonry, steel, plastics, light and reflection, which will be presented as a chronological record of the theoretician's growth. For more information contact the Steelcase Design Partnership, 305 E. 63 Street; 755-6300.



## AROUND THE CHAPTER

### Computerized Registration Examination

Architecture has become the first profession to implement computerized testing for professional registration on a national basis. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has developed an innovative program, which combines its expertise in exam writing with state-of-the-art computerized testing technology. This Computer-administered Architect Registration Examination (C/A.R.E.) is said to be a significant advancement in the examination of persons applying for registration as architects, incorporating numerous innovations over traditional, paper-and-pencil examinations.

In addition to the traditional June administration, which will continue to be offered in the paper-and-pencil format, applicants will now have two additional opportunities each year to pass portions of the exam in the computer-administered format. Unlike the paper-and-pencil tests in which all applicants take the exam at the same time, the C/A.R.E. allows the applicants to schedule their exam at their convenience. They may schedule any time during normal business hours, Monday through Saturday, during testing periods in October and February.

Advanced computer technology allows C/A.R.E. applicants to receive their scores within a few weeks after the examination period ends. Applicants who fail the exam will also receive with their exam scores a re-registration package to return to their state boards immediately, assuring a retake at the first opportunity.

A customized computer program developed for NCARB administers questions to an applicant in the form of mini-tests, or "testlets." A "testlet" is a group of questions, which have been carefully selected so that each testlet is equal in difficulty and subject matter to all others. The computer continues to issue testlets until the applicant has completed the required examination.

The C/A.R.E.'s structure provides for fast

evaluation of an applicant's competence with the same degree of accuracy as the paper-and-pencil version, to which field tests have attested.

No prior computer experience is necessary to take the C/A.R.E. Applicants sit before an ordinary personal computer and a page-size video screen. They select answers from the choices on the screen using only two keys. A tutorial preceding the actual exam allows applicants to practice these simple skills.

Administration of the C/A.R.E. is controlled by the individual state registration board. For more information regarding the computer-administered Architect Registration Examination, contact the architect registration board in your state, or NCARB in Washington, D.C.

### Organizational Peer Review

The American Council of Consulting Engineers is the developer and administrator of an Organizational Peer Review program, which is fully endorsed by the AIA as a valuable tool relevant to the practice of architecture. The goal of the program is "to provide insights that will help you build a stronger, more productive and competitive firm. The primary topics reviewed are general management, maintenance of technical competence, business development, and project management." How it works: At your request specially trained reviewers, who are practicing architects and engineers, will visit your firm to examine its overall business health. The review's aim is to determine the existence of a policy or procedure and how well it is understood and followed by members of your firm. For more information and/or to schedule a peer review, call AIA's peer review liaison at 202-626-7410, or the ACEC peer review program administrator at 202-347-7474.

### Correction

Ralph Heisel AIA was inadvertently excluded from the list of members of the Chapter's Allwork Scholarship Committee in the November issue.

### Eileen McGrath Leaves

After eight years as the Chapter's Bookkeeper, Eileen McGrath left us in December. Eileen, daughter of former Chapter Executive Secretary Evelyn McGrath, Hon. AIA, became the NYC/AIA bookkeeper in 1980 and has become well known to many of you as the key person in processing your dues invoices, concerns, and problems. Eileen's ever cheerful outlook and even handed disposition will be missed. We wish her a happy 'retirement' with her husband John J. Buehler, son J.J., and the expected family addition whose arrival is imminent as we go to press.

Our best wishes to Eileen!

### NYC/AIA Affiliates Committee

The Chapter is organizing an Affiliates Committee for anyone who has recently joined one of the Chapter's member firms in an administrative, human resources, marketing, or other "non-technical" capacity. Members will meet their counterparts, form discussion groups, and formulate topical programs for the membership. For membership application: Elisa Dantuonna 838-9670.

### Space Available

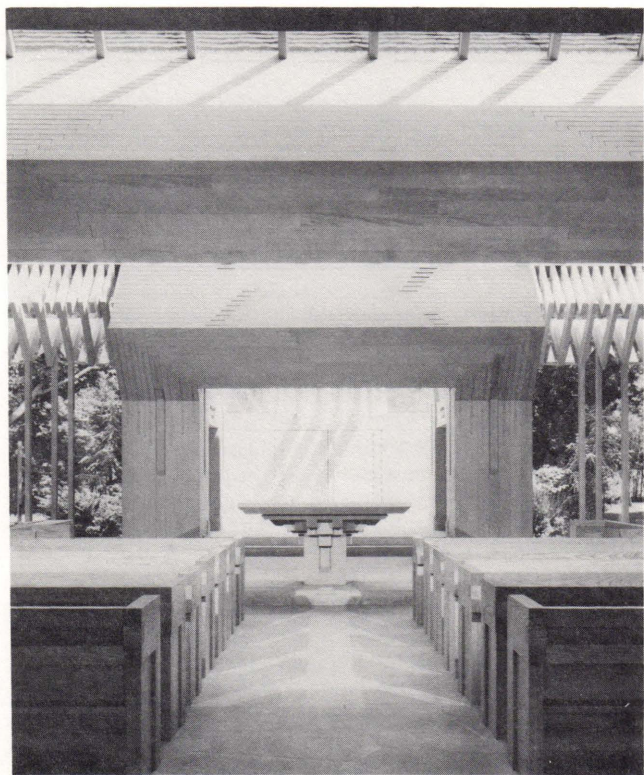
The Steelcase Design Partnership has announced that its new space at 305 East 63rd Street is now available to design professionals for meetings, seminars, and special events. This new resource center provides a design library, lounge, conference room, and exhibit space. The Steelcase Design Partnership will be presenting a complete program of events as well as exhibits. For exhibit or booking information call: 755-6300.



## Letters

1. *Gates of the Grove in East Hampton, New York, by Norman Jaffe AIA.*

2. *Port Authority's PATH Station at 23rd Street, part of the PATH Station Modernization Program.*



1

Dear Editor:

We are curious as to why we were not included in your write-up of Award winners for the N.Y. State Association of Architects. We did receive an award of excellence and are Chapter members.

**Norman Jaffe AIA**

P.S. 'Gates of the Grove' won a Merit Award from the IFRAA and Long Island AIA this year also.

Dear Editor:

I was disappointed that the chapter chose not to include the Port Authority in this month's *Oculus* article reporting on the NYSAA design award winners. I realize we're not a member firm and that our award for the PATH Stations design was in the citation category but I think it would have been appropriate to include us in the article.

The Port Authority has been a long time supporter of the AIA and the chapter. We encourage and subsidize individual

membership and urge our staff to be active; in fact, approximately 50 Port Authority staff are AIA members with many belonging to the New York Chapter and active in committees.

It had been my belief that, over the past several years, the public architects had become a vital part of the chapter and that new attitudes of mutual support between public and private architects were taking hold and strengthening. This omission certainly doesn't support that idea.

As one of the strongest advocates for AIA in the Port Authority and the public sector, I am personally embarrassed by this omission and at a loss as to how to explain it to my non-architect colleagues here at the Port Authority and the design team that did the award winning project.

I think the chapter has done us an injustice and you should do something about it.

**Sheldon D. Wander FAIA**  
Chief Architect



2

[Ed: *Oculus* apologizes for omitting the two projects mentioned in the above letters from its report, "Chapter Members Take 14 out of 17 NYSAA/AIA Awards" in the November issue.

*The Gates of Grove in East Hampton, New York by Norman Jaffe AIA, which won an Excellence in Design Award, was cited in part as "A powerful example of architecture as sculpture, this synagogue design utilizes thematic shapes drawn from Hebrew script and the drama of repetition to build a striking yet reverent place for worship. . . ."*

*The Port Authority's PATH Station Modernization Program, which won a Citation Award, was cited as bringing "a new dignity to six of the underground stations. Let it continue. . . ."]*

Dear Editor:

Happy Anniversary! We wish you another 50 of equal brilliance.

**BSA**

*Your colleagues in Boston*



## Copyrights For Architects: The Basics

by Steven M. Sharafian

A copyright is a right granted by federal law to the creator of an original work of authorship. The owner of a copyright has the exclusive right to copy, prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted work or distribute the copyrighted work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership. Under current law, an architect's plans and drawings are copyrightable if they are both original and fixed in a form of expression (i.e., drawn or entered onto a computer storage system) that can be perceived, reproduced or otherwise communicated either by the human eye or other mechanical means. The 1987 version of the American Institute of Architects B141 Owner/Architect Agreement provides that the architect owns the drawings, specifications and other documents produced under the terms of the agreement, as well as the copyrights embodied in them.

While a copyright would prevent another from making an actual copy of a copyrighted work, a copyright does not protect the ideas expressed in a work. Ideas cannot be protected under federal copyright law. For example, if an architect produces a set of plans for a house, a copyright would protect against unauthorized copying of the plans. Under current law, a copyright would not prohibit another architect from designing a similar house if the other architect did not actually copy the original architect's plans. Nor would a copyright prohibit an architect from sketching another architect's facade and incorporating certain elements into his or her set of plans. Although the above statements are general in nature, and cases would turn on individual facts, it is sufficient to note that copyright protects expressions and not ideas.

Copyright registration is generally not considered to be mandatory for a work to be legally protected. There are many advantages, however, to registering a work with the Copyright Office. Registration with the Copyright Office serves as a public record of the copyright claim, creates the right to file an infringement suit, creates a presumption of a valid copyright and makes available a broader range of remedies in copyright infringement suits. These remedies

include the right to an election of statutory damages and costs of the suit and reasonable attorney's fees.

Fortunately, registering a work with the Copyright Office is simple and inexpensive. Three items must be sent to the Register of Copyrights at the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559:

1. A properly completed VA application form, which can be obtained from the Copyright Office, Publications Section, LM-455, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559;
2. A non-refundable fee of \$10 to cover the filing costs of each application. Each registration can consist of any number of drawings, but the work must be related to a specific project or theme; and
3. A copy of the work being registered. The type of copy which has to be filed with the Register depends upon the past published history of the work itself. For unpublished design drawings, one complete copy of each print needs to be sent.

It may take as long as 90 days for the Register's office to process an application. The copyright registration, however, becomes effective on the date the copyright office receives all three required items in acceptable form, regardless of the time that it may take the Register to process the application and send the registration certificate.

If a copyrighted work has been published (i.e., there has been a distribution of copies of a work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or rental, lease or lending), registration must be made within three months after the first publication of the work. If the copyright owner fails to comply with this requirement, he or she will be foreclosed from collecting statutory damages or attorney's fees in the event an infringement action is necessary. Likewise, if publication has taken place, a copyright owner must also place a proper copyright notice on the work. This notice consists of three parts.

1. The word "Copyright", the copyright

symbol © (the letter "c" in a circle), or the abbreviation "Copr.";

2. The year in which the work was first published; and
3. The name of the copyright owner.

This notice must be affixed on all copies that can be visually perceived in such a manner as to give reasonable notice of the copyright claim. As a practical matter, it is simplest to place a copyright notice on all work whether or not they will be published. If more than a relatively small number are published without the required notice the work will be injected into the public domain unless registration has occurred prior to such publication, or within five years thereafter.

A copyright can help prevent unauthorized use, reuse or modification of an architect's plans. Used in conjunction with a well-drafted ownership of documents provision, it can effectively limit an architect's exposure to liability, as well as to protect the expression of his or her ideas.

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# OCULUS NYC/AIA

# JAN 89

## CONTINUING EVENTS

### NYC/AIA EXHIBITION

**"The City of the Sun,"** an exhibition of the work of I. Leonidov. NYC/AIA's Members Gallery, The Urban Center. 838-9670.

### EXHIBITION

Architecture on Paper: A Decade of Acquisitions. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 879-5500. Closes Jan. 8.

### EXHIBITION

Erich Mendelsohn: 1887-1953. Cooper-Hewitt Museum. 860-6868. Closes Jan. 8.

### EXHIBITION

Reconsidering Robert Moses: A Look at the Years Between the Wars. The Municipal Art Society at the Urban Center. 935-3960. Closes Jan. 14.

### EXHIBITION

Ogden Codman and the Decoration of Houses. National Academy of Design (originally designed as a private home by Codman in 1914-17), 1083 Fifth Avenue. 369-4880. Closes Jan. 29.

### UPPER WEST SIDE'S FUTURE

The Park Council's model of Upper West Side with 40 planned projects. Apple Bank for Savings, Broadway at 73 St. 580-9548. Closes Jan. 31.

### EXHIBITION

Courts and Colonies: The William and Mary Style in Holland, England, and America. Cooper-Hewitt Museum. 860-6868. Closes Feb. 12.

## FRIDAY 6

### ALL-DAY SYMPOSIUM

Taste and Style in Old New York: Ogden Codman, Edith Wharton and Friends. Opening remarks by Brendan Gill. National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Avenue. 369-4880.

## WEDNESDAY 11

### EXHIBITION

A retrospective and celebration of Paul Rudolph's use of materials and details and recent work in Southeast Asia. Opening party, Jan. 11, 6-9 pm. Steelcase Partnership, 305 E. 63 St. 755-6300. Closes Feb. 17.

## FRIDAY 13

### ART DECO WEEKEND FESTIVAL

Sponsored by Miami Design Preservation League (Jan. 13-15). On Ocean Drive the Heart of Miami Beach's National Historic District. 305-672-2014.

## SATURDAY 14

### A.R.E. CLASSES, JAN. 14-15

Review classes for 1989 Architects Registration Examination begin. For bulletin & dates: Institute of Design & Construction 718-855-3662.

## TUESDAY 17

### SYMPOSIUM

With Paul Rudolph and others presented by the Steelcase Partnership. 6-8 pm. For tickets: 755-6300.

## THURSDAY 19

### EXHIBITION

The Work of Jose Plecnik Architect presented by the Architectural League. The Urban Center. 753-1722. Closes Feb. 25.

## TUESDAY 24

### ASHRAE

Joint dinner meeting with AIA, 1407 Club, 1407 Broadway & 38 St. 777-7440.

## WEDNESDAY 25

### GRASSROOTS '89

AIA's national leadership training conference (Jan. 25-28). 202-626-7351.

## THURSDAY 26

### LECTURE

Paul Rudolph in series sponsored by Shope Reno Wharton Associates in behalf of the Historical Society of Greenwich. 8 pm. Greenwich Library Auditorium, 101 W. Putnam Ave., Greenwich, CT. 203-869-6899.

## SATURDAY 28

### SYMPOSIUM

"Preservation and the Quality of Life," sponsored by Preservation Alumni, Inc., Columbia University. For more information: 215-985-0609.

## TUESDAY 31

### NYC/AIA PANEL

**"Quality Design in Public Architecture: Current Status and Future Possibilities."** Sponsored by the Public Architects Committee (see Coming Chapter Events). 5:30-8 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

### EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE

1989 International Construction Industry Computer Exhibition and Conference (Jan. 31-Feb. 2). Barbican Exhibition Hall, London. For more information: RIBA Services Ltd., Finsbury Mission, 39 Moreland St., London ECIV 8BB. 01-251-5885.

## WEDNESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

### CONVENTION & EXPOSITION

The International Remodeling Contractors Association (Feb. 1-3). Resorts International Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ.

## TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY

### NYC/AIA PANEL

**Discussion and exhibit of prototype school building work-in-progress for the NYC Board of Education, sponsored by NYC/AIA's Committee for Architecture in Education.** 5:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

## THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY

### EXHIBITION

Emilio Ambasz and Steven Holl, fourth of five exhibitions in MOMA's Gerald D. Hines Interests Architecture Program. Museum of Modern Art. 708-9400. Closes April 4.



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