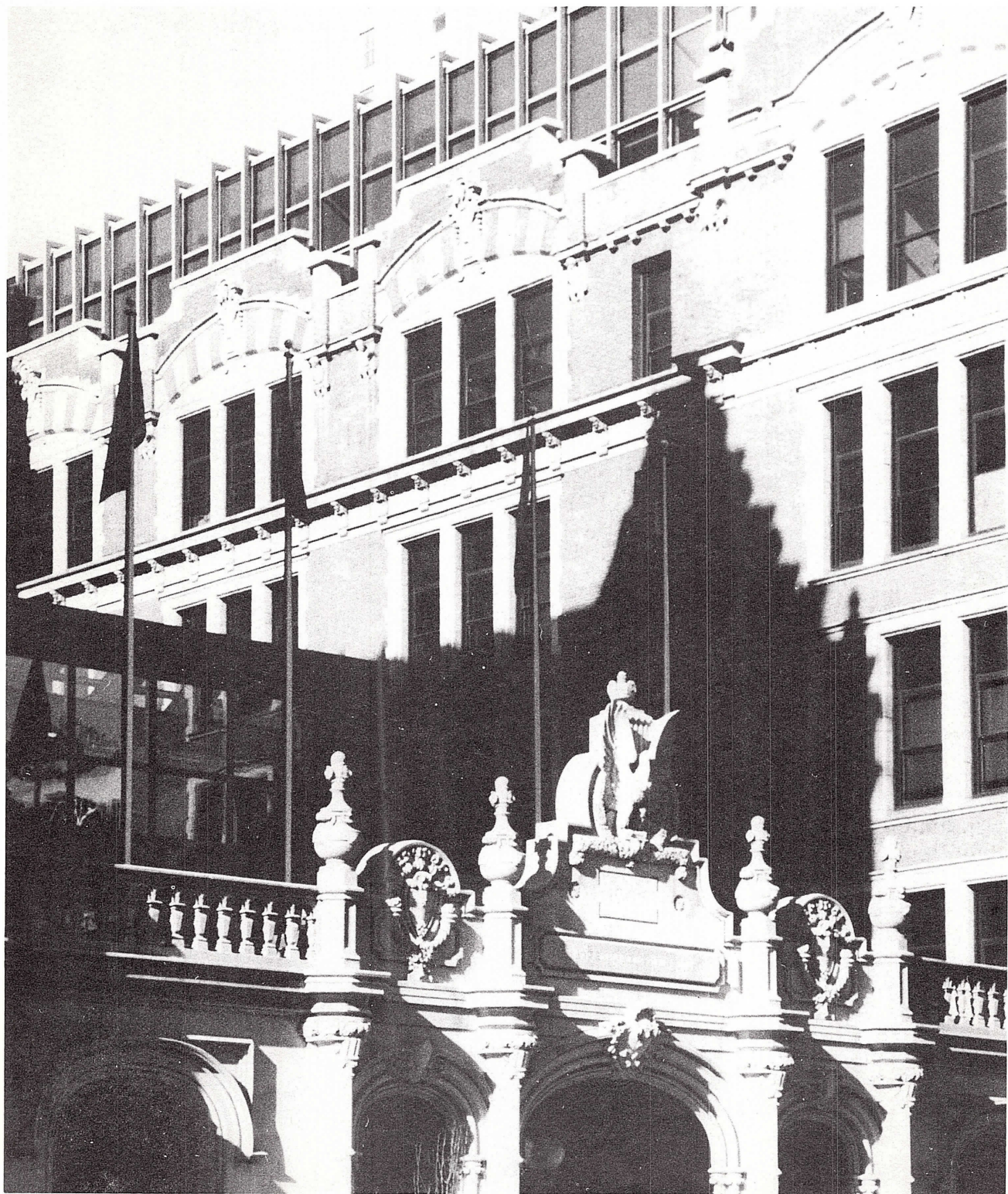


# OCULUS

an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 51, Number 6, February 1989



*Renovation and addition by Rafael Vinoly Architects to a former high school, now the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. See article inside on prototypical schools. Photo by Stan Ries.*



## COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Volume 51, Number 6, February 1989

### Oculus

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

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The views expressed in this publication  
are not necessarily those of the Executive  
Committee or Staff of the NYC/AIA.

For more information on professional and  
public memberships please call the  
Chapter, at 212-838-9670.

**Tuesday, February 7.** The Committee for Architecture in Education is sponsoring a seminar on the **NYC Board of Education's Prototype School Program.** The discussion will be moderated by Ben Graves, Hon. AIA, vice president of the Academy for Educational Development, and director, Educational Facilities Laboratories Division. Rose Diamond, Ken Karpel and Trakesh Nair of the NYC Board of Education will explain what they hope to achieve in time and cost savings with prototypes. James Garretson AIA of Perkins & Will, and Peter Samton FAIA of Gruzen Samton Steinglass will discuss their work on primary schools for 600 and 900 students. Ezra Ehrenkrantz FAIA of the Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut will talk about their prototype for 1200 primary school students and Richard Dattner FAIA of Richard Dattner Architect will present his firm's work on intermediate schools for 1200 and 1800 students. 5:30 pm. The Urban Center.

**Tuesday, February 14.** **"Collaboration and the Beaux Arts Tradition"** is the title of a panel discussion sponsored by the Art and Architecture Committee. It will be moderated by Carol Krinsky with Jean-Paul Carlhian, Thierry Despont, and Pierce Rice as panelists. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center. Admission: \$5.

**Tuesday, February 21.** The Religious Architecture Committee is presenting the first of a series of lectures called **"Sacred Architecture: Places for Worship."** (See also page 13.) Norman Jaffe AIA, Gunnar Birkerts FAIA, and E. Fay Jones FAIA will present slides of their work and lecture on the specific qualities that help make some places of worship more sacred than others. Mr. Jaffe will present slides of his most recent project, Gates of the Grove in East Hampton, for which he has received IFFRAA's 1988 Award of Merit, NYSAA/AIA 1988 Honor Award, and LI/AIA 1988 Merit Award. Gunnar Birkerts, who has designed religious buildings in the U.S. and Europe, has been described by Norman Jaffe as the "master of the unexpected, one of the few architects left who still designs in the Saarinen tradition, and whose designs are radical, improvisatory, adroit and facile." Mr. Jones's designs have been published in *Architecture* and are of interest for their lightness of form, clarity of structure, and sacred quality. 6 pm. The Urban Center. For reservations: 838-9670. The series will continue on March 21, April 18, and May 23.

**Thursday, February 23.** The Chapter, ADPSR, and the Architectural League are cosponsoring a lecture and slide presentation by Vzacheslav Glazychev, V.P. USSR Union of Architects, on **contemporary architecture in the Soviet Union.** Mr. Glazychev is an erudite and interesting speaker on current soviet architecture (lecture in English). 6 pm. The Urban Center.



# PROTOTYPE SCHOOLS

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Are prototype schools a “design trend?” The attention being given the approach in New York City may well be the start of a national trend as districts with increasing enrollments look to prototype schools as a way of saving time and money. It is a trend which has occurred before, sometimes under different names.

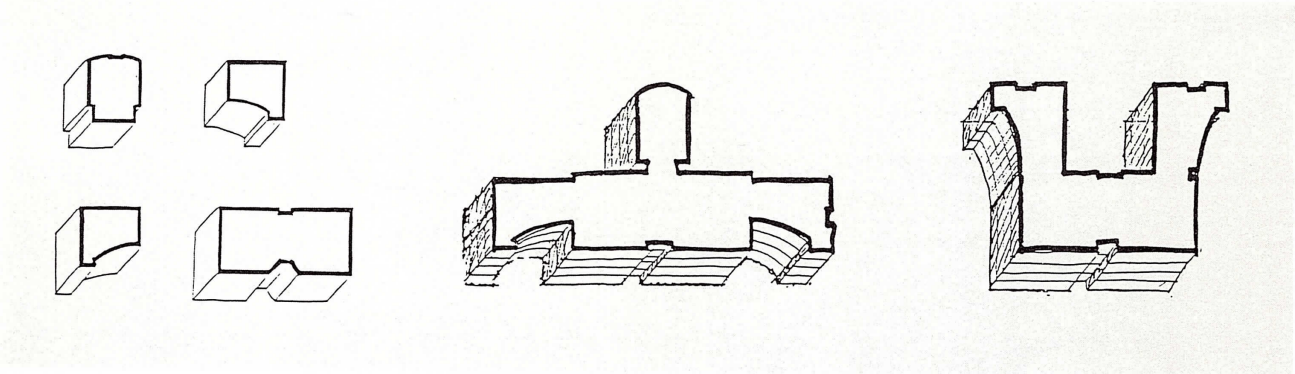
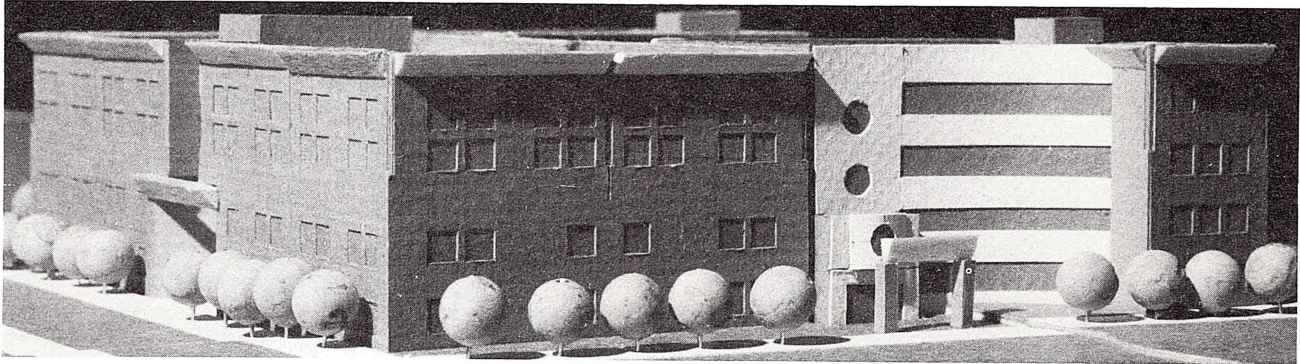
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**Prototype School Program:  
 New York City Board of  
 Education Background**

*Model of Intermediate School, Queens  
 Boulevard/Hillger Street and isometric  
 drawings by Richard Dattner, Architect.*

by NYC:BOE



A need was identified to develop a Citywide plan to relieve the severe overcrowding in CSD #6, Manhattan (Washington Heights, Inwood), CSD #10, Bronx (North of 180th Street, West of Bronx River Parkway); CSD #24 Queens (Elmhurst, Corona), and CSD #17 Brooklyn (Prospect Park, Crown Heights).

Existing city process for planning, site acquisition, programming, design, and construction for a new school required an 8-10 year time frame; with each of the following sequential steps:

Site selection	3 years
Programming	1 year
Design	2-3 years
Construction	2-3 years
<b>Total</b>	<b>8-10 years</b>

Mayor's Task Force formed to streamline intra-city agency site acquisition process. By July 1, 1987, 20 new school sites were identified. To date, seven have received certification, 12 are awaiting certification, and one has completed

Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) agrees to Board of Education's request to fund design simultaneously with site acquisition.

Concept of prototype developed by the Division of School Buildings for the design of a school for a given capacity, which could be adapted to a variety of sites. RFPs for consultant selection written for the following:

- 600 student primary school expandable to 900 students
- 1200 student primary school
- 1200 student intermediate school expandable to 1800 capacity.

Four architectural firms selected as follows:

- Perkins and Will  
 P600/900 capacity, CSD #10, Bronx  
 Sites: Washington Avenue-P600  
 La Fontaine-P600  
 Walton Avenue-P900

- Gruzen Samton Steinglass  
 P600/900 capacity, CSD #6, Manhattan  
 Sites: Amsterdam/160th-P600  
 Broadway/204th-P600  
 Sherman Creek-P900

- The Ehrenkrantz Group and Eckstut  
 P1200 capacity  
 Sites: Poyer/Barnwell, CSD #24, Queens  
 Webster Avenue, CSD #10, Bronx  
 Loring Place, CSD #10, Bronx

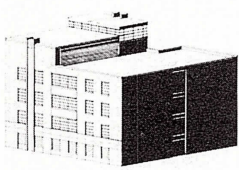
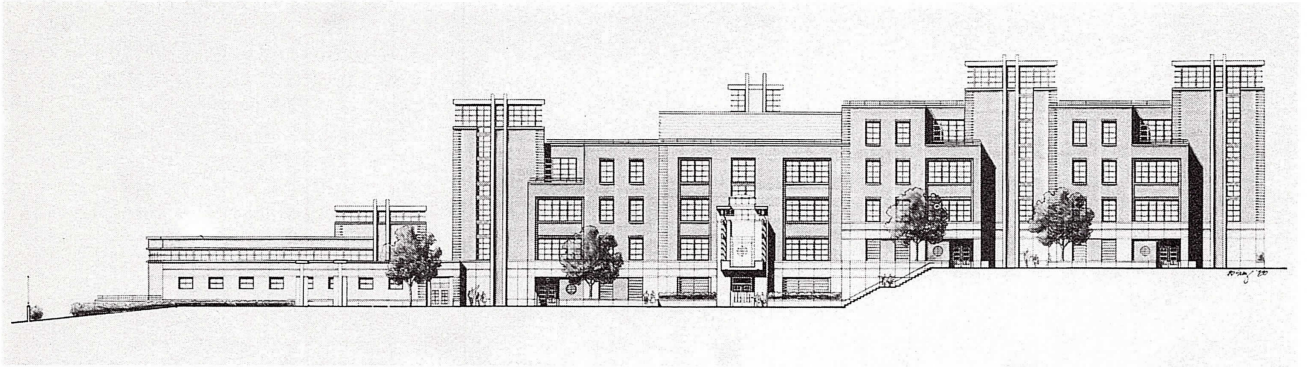
- Richard Dattner Architect  
 I1200/1800 capacity  
 Sites: Parkside/Nostrand Avenues, CSD #17 Brooklyn  
 Hillyer/Ireland, CSD #24, Queens  
 Jumel Place, CSD #6, Manhattan



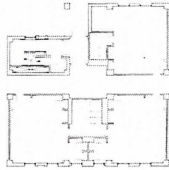
## Prototype Schools: A Design Trend?

*Elevation of Walton Avenue prototype school by Perkins and Will. Teaching cluster component below.*

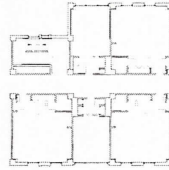
by Ben E. Graves



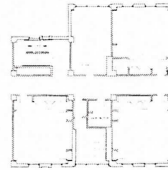
Teaching Cluster



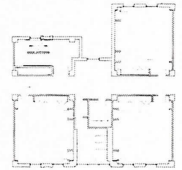
Teaching Cluster



Teaching Cluster



Teaching Cluster



Teaching Cluster

Are prototype schools a "design trend?" The attention being given the approach in New York City may well be the start of a national trend as districts with increasing enrollments look to prototype schools as a way of saving time and money. It is a trend which has occurred before, sometimes under different names.

More than 25 years ago, for instance, there was a "stock plan" approach for the State of New York. Architects were assigned schools to design such as an elementary school for 750 pupils on an urban site, a high school for 1,500 students on a rural site, and a high school for 2,500 students on a 50-acre suburban site. To my knowledge no schools were constructed in New York State from these stock plans.

In the early 1960s the Educational Facilities Laboratories (EFL) was

*Ben E. Graves, Hon. AIA is Vice President Academy for Educational Development, Director, Educational Facilities Laboratories Division.*

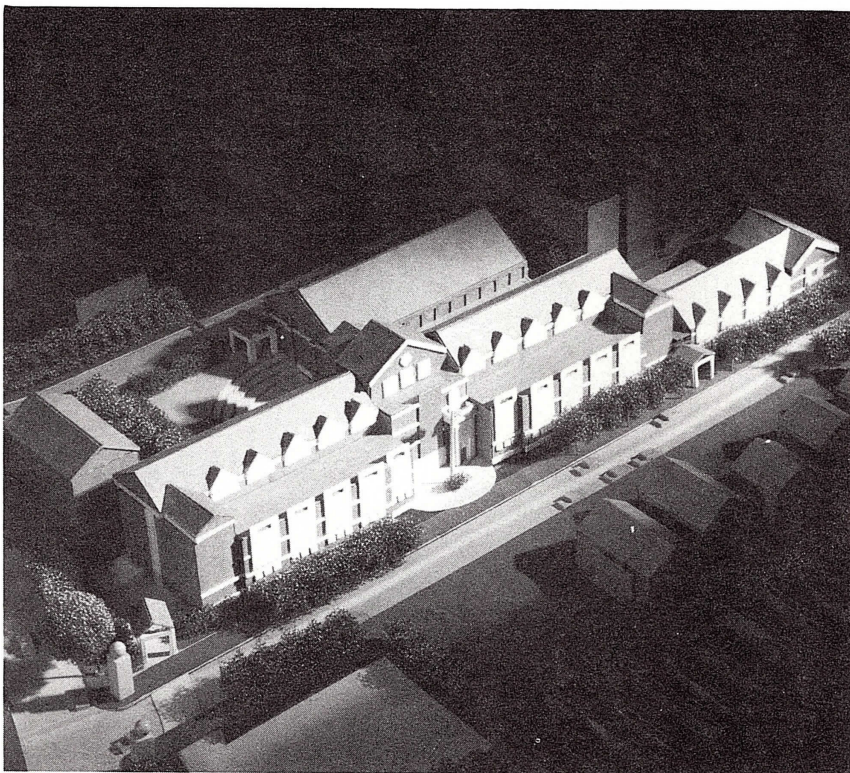
instrumental in the development of variation on the theme of prototype schools. The program, which started in California, was called the School Construction Systems Development (SCSD) project and received worldwide attention. Ezra Ehrenkrantz FAIA, a leading exponent and developer of SCSD and one of the architects in the current New York program described the concept: "The basis of this approach was organizing to meet a given set of requirements, and to find the best way to meet each of the performance requirements of buildings with respect to space, acoustics, thermal conditions, luminous environment, and so forth. We developed a system of performance, and not a system of hardware. This meant new products could be developed by different manufacturers (i.e., roof, ceiling/lighting, partitioning, floor, structure, casework, HVAC) and be put on the market to compete with those which were successful in the original SCSD bids. These products have now entered the mainstream, and are part of the general practice." This quote is from an interview in the April 1969 issue of

*Nation's School.* The SCSD influence is apparent in the Ehrenkrantz design solution for his prototypical school.

Some architects embraced the SCSD approach and philosophy. Others had concern for anything termed "systems," which they felt could reduce their freedom. Ehrenkrantz maintained that SCSD actually added to the level of choice of an architect and that SCSD components "...have entered the mainstream of architectural practice, whether the architects are pro system or against it."

Richard Dattner FAIA, one of the architects involved in the current prototype school project for New York, reminds us in the introduction to his pre-schematic report, that there are numerous historic precedents to the problem of standardizing construction "...covering the spectrum from the most rigid repetitive systems to prototypes allowing for a great deal of variation. The inflexible standard is demonstrated by the thousands of barracks built by the Army during two World Wars in locations





all over the United States. While reflecting some regional diversity to account for climate, thousands of versions of each prototype were replicated across the landscape.”

Gruzen Samton Steinglass, in their introductory submission, also address precedents “...Prepackaged structural and mechanical systems, as exemplified by Habitat, Operation Breakthrough or even the SCDR school systems have all failed in their early promise...We propose to be more modest and thereby allow for the easier introduction and incorporation of innovations, whether technical, pedagogic or political.”

The current New York program is concerned with reducing time—design, approvals, construction—and cost, while maintaining quality and appropriateness to the educational program. Four nationally-recognized architects were selected and each given a program and up to four sites with the charge to design a prototype school that could be adapted to the restrictions of each site.

A Value Engineering Study was conducted by the New York City Office of Management and Budget. The primary object of the VE study was to analyze the program of requirements and to make recommendations to achieve the most cost-effective project. Ensuring the adaptability of the designs to various sites was a secondary objective. Another concern was to suggest ways to minimize the time-frame for the design and construction of the new schools.

There are a number of other considerations that pertain to the subject of prototypical school buildings.

- Will better environments for learning result?
- Recognizing the realities of the New York construction industry, will real savings result from prototype design?
- Will time be saved by prototype design if the numerous independent reviews now required are not changed?
- How does the prototype effort relate to the recently created New York School Construction Authority?
- With site restrictions, does program

suffer as space is compromised to fit the “system?”

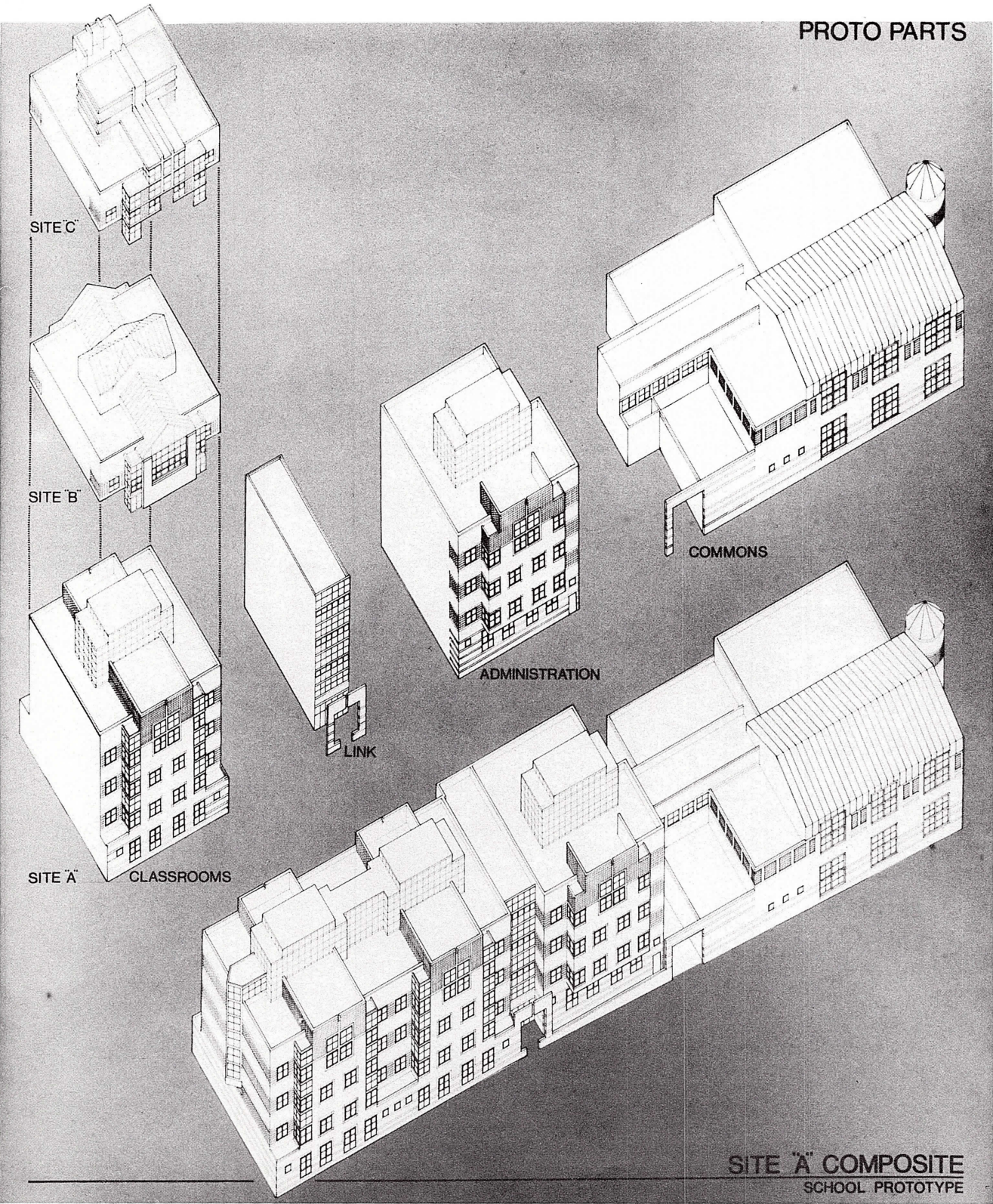
- Does the tendency to design blocks of space open the possibility of forcing program to fit a module?
- Does the prototypical approach restrict design creativity resulting in “cookie cutter” schools?
- Can prototypical designs respond to different community concerns and characteristics?

In conclusion, it is significant that two of the architects began their presentations to the Value Engineering team with remarks about their design philosophies and their concern for the statement any building makes to the community in which it is located. One architect indicated he was deeply influenced by a particularly well-designed fire station adjacent to one of his sites. Another architect identified the importance of relating to a community college campus. This concern is reflected in remarks by architect C. William Brubaker (Perkins & Will) in the 1968 book *The Schoolhouse in the City*: “In sharp contrast to the suburban school, which stands alone, unaffected by its neighbors, the urban school does not stand alone and is strongly influenced by neighboring buildings that help create the urban environment. This fact suggests that the city school should be planned with other urban facilities, and should be closely related to streets, parks, community social and cultural facilities, as well as commercial and government facilities.”

No matter what the approach, we would be selling the design professionals short if we assume they would permit the process to overshadow what they are trained to do—design appropriate environments for the users, in this case urban children seeking an education.



*Composite of school prototype by Gruzen  
Samton Steinglass.*





## Exhibitions

**Frederick Kiesler**, a retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art through April 16, highlights the work of this architect educated in the Secessionist milieu of turn of the century Vienna. Included in the exhibition are drawings, sculptures, architectural plans and models, furniture, and paintings by the Romanian-born architect, who for more than 30 years was engaged in exploring his theory of continuity through the design and planning of the never realized Endless House. A full-scale reconstruction of Kiesler's famous L + T installation system for gallery exhibitions, and the Surrealist room he designed for Peggy Guggenheim's Art of This Century gallery, as well as a video reconstruction of the utopian City in Space, a de Stijl environment for the 1925 Exposition Internationale des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris, are included in the exhibition.

The Architectural League is presenting **Jože Plečnik: Architect, 1872-1957**, the first retrospective of the Slavic architect's work at the Urban Center Galleries through February 25. Included are examples of his designs in decorative arts and furniture as well as his architecture and urban design.

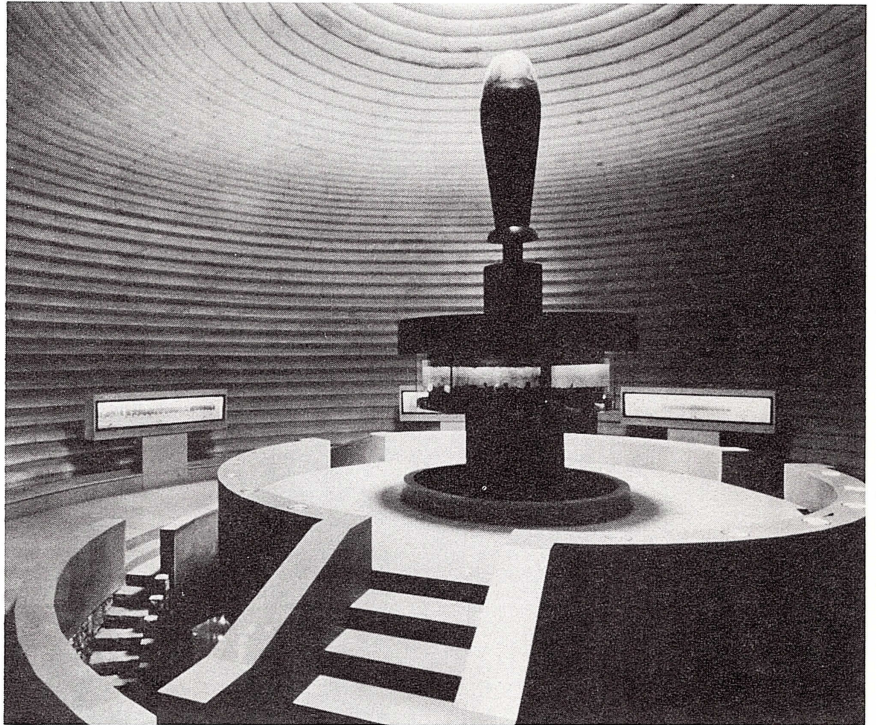
Plečnik's architectural career began at the turn of the century in Vienna where he was a student and employee of Otto Wagner. His built work, primarily in Vienna, Prague, and his home city of Ljubljana in Yugoslavia, is distinguished by a rigorous and highly personal design ethic. Plečnik felt that architecture must transmit a social and moral message that could be directly understood by the public. To this end, he employed both classical and regional design elements, their union assuring a link between this message and the users of his buildings.

1. Sanctuary interior of *The Shrine of the Book, Jerusalem, 1965*, by Frederick Kiesler. (Photo: Estate of the Artist).

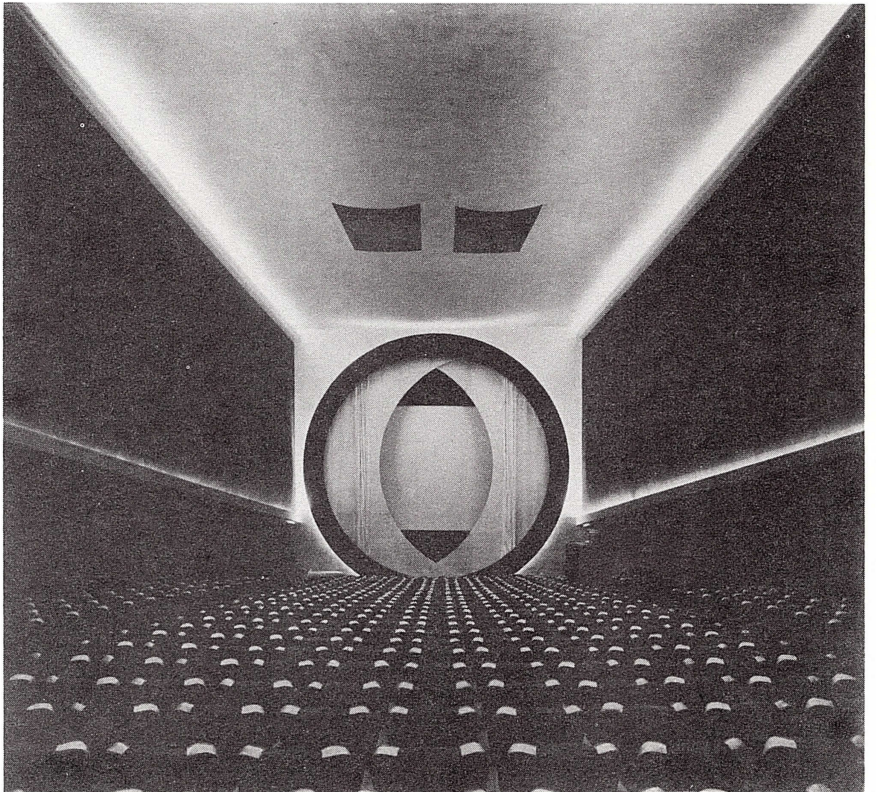
2. *Film Guild Cinema auditorium, New York, 1929*, by Frederick Kiesler. (Photo: Ruth M. Bernhard; Estate of the Artist). Both in Kiesler retrospective at Whitney Museum of American Art.

3. Context of proposed Whitney expansion by Michael Graves FALA looking north along Madison Avenue.

4. Model of Madison Avenue facade of Graves's proposed Whitney expansion.



1.



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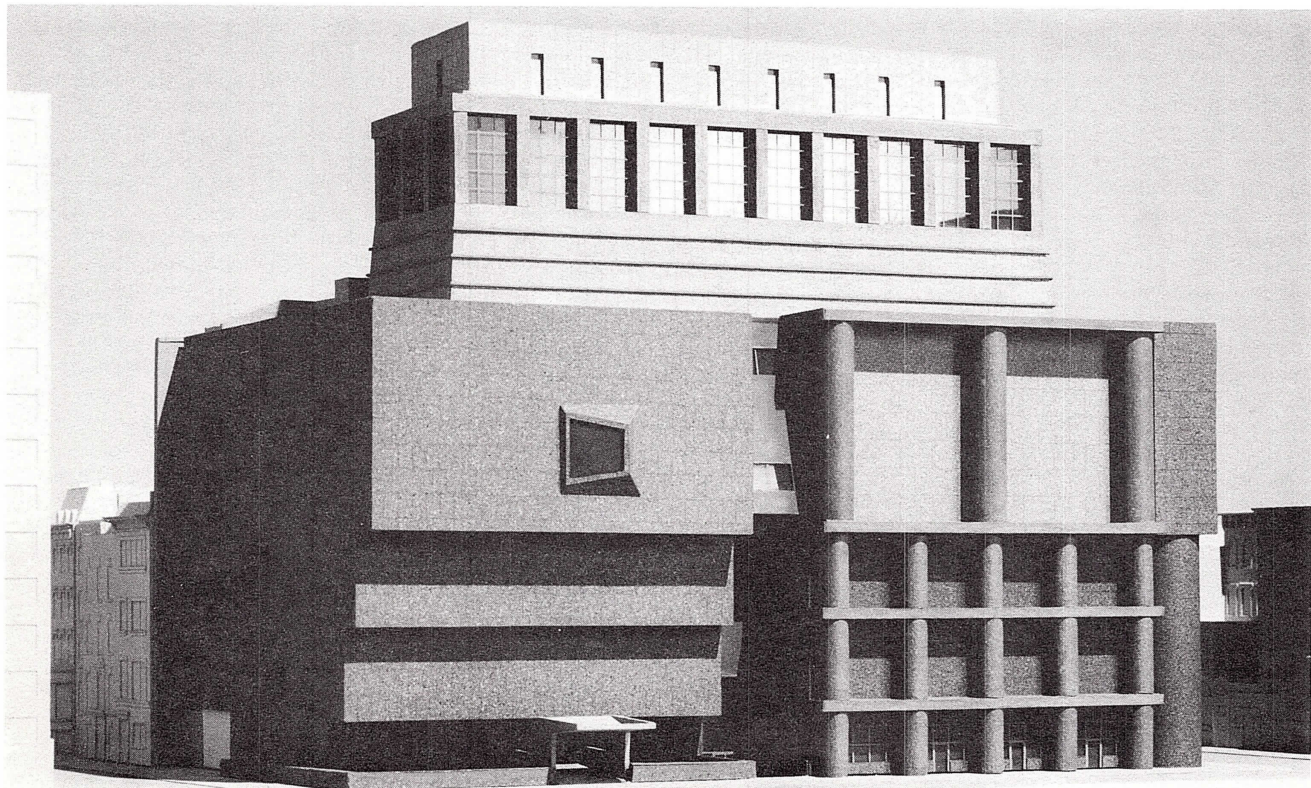




## The Proposed Whitney Expansion No. 3

The Whitney Museum of American Art has unveiled a third proposal by Michael Graves FAIA for the expansion of the Museum's building on Madison Avenue. The new proposal is more abstract and less Gravesian than the earlier ones. Moreover it doesn't try so hard to be part of the Breuer building (see *Oculus*, April 1987). The previous cylindrical hinge that connected the proposed expansion to the Breuer building has been removed allowing the distinctive Breuer stairway to remain visible and the new addition to keep its distance. Whereas the rooftop addition of the new proposal has been reduced to a more appropriate and less overpowering size, the new design of the addition plus the existing building, contain a total of 184,410 gross square feet, a little more than the 183,660 square feet total of the prior design. The basic space allocations also remain essentially the same.

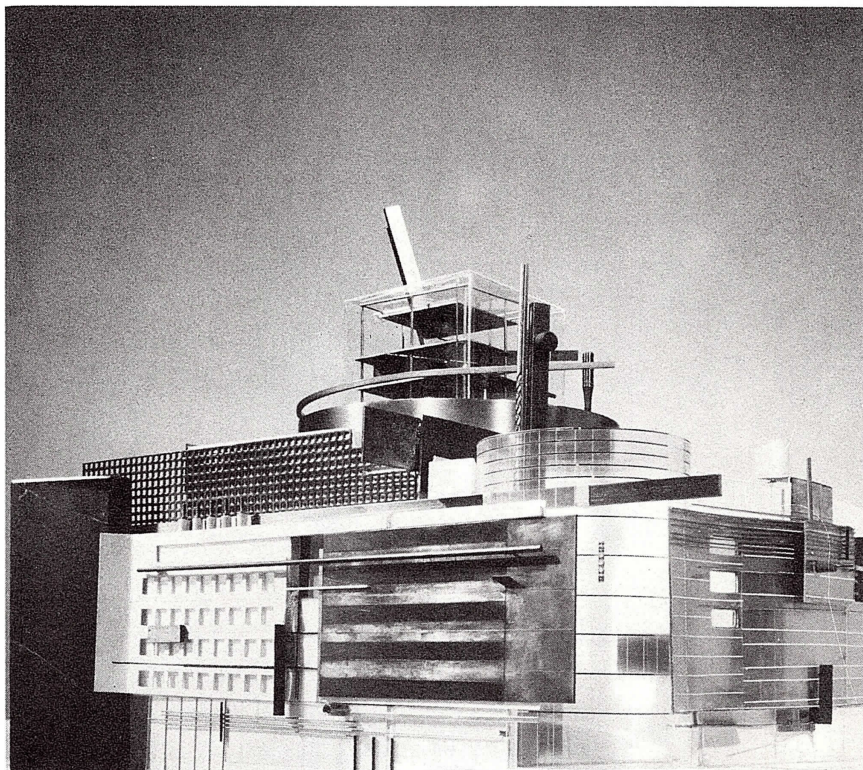
The new proposal will come up for approval by the Landmarks Preservation Commission in the spring.





## NAMES AND NEWS

**Ellerbe Becket**, with design principals **Peter Pran AIA**, **Carlos Zapata**, and **B. Wayne Fishback**, won the international architecture competition for the \$80 million Schibsted-Ditten Newspapers Headquarters in Oslo, Norway. The project was also cited by *Progressive Architecture* for a Design Award last month.... **Christopher T. Cowan AIA**, **Charles Ayes AIA**, **Peter G. Bachmann AIA**, have been named associates of **Conklin Rossant Architects**.... **Peter Gisolfi Associates** of Hastings-on-Hudson are overseeing the restoration of the University Club at Fifth Avenue and 54 Street. Designed by McKim, Mead & White (1897-99) in the Italian Renaissance palazzo tradition, the building was designated a New York City Landmark in 1967.... The engineering firm of **Atkinson Koven Feinberg** has recently been formed to provide mechanical, electrical, sanitary and control systems consulting engineering services for the design of new and renovated buildings.... **Andrew Alpern AIA** was a member of the jury chaired by Seymour B. Durst, which selected the 16 New Yorkers who are being posthumously honored in "The Creators of New York," a photographic exhibition sponsored by the Real Estate Board of New York. It can be seen in the Pan Am Building Promenade through February.... **William S. Wheeler** has been made an associate of **Butler Rogers Baskett**.... Two Chapter members, **Warren Temple Smith AIA** and **Jennifer Deanne Fier AIA**, won first prize in the Affordable Housing Competition sponsored by Connecticut architects and planners to design housing for a model site in Greenwich (announced in *Oculus*, September 1988, pg. 7). Selected from 50 entries, the jury called the Fier-Smith entry "a great example of high density housing without crowding the space" and "the most architecturally distinguished.".... **Glen Garrison AIA**, Chairman of the AIA National Committee on Design in 1988, served as a member of the AIA Institute Honors Jury for 1989 Awards. He is with the firm of **Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates**.... **Howard B. Stussman** has been named editor-in-chief of *Engineering News Record* (ENR). He succeeds **Art Fox** in that



position.... **Abraham Geller FAIA**, architect of Cinema 1 and 2 on Third Avenue above 58 Street, which opened in 1962, has overseen a \$3 million renovation of the two theaters and the addition of a third small facility called Cinema Third Avenue. The latter is tucked into the Cinema 1 and 2 premises.... The First Edition Restaurant in Bayside, New York, designed by **M. J. Macaluso & Associates**, was awarded the first prize bronze plaque for design excellence by the Queens Chamber of Commerce Building Awards.... **The Building Congress** is seeking architects to serve on a new Building Code Review Committee. Contact: Harold I. Thropp 212-982-1410.... "From Street to Skyscraper," the working title of an exhibition on the architectural history of lower Manhattan, is being planned by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the South Street Seaport to open in April 1990. The exhibition is to be accompanied by a guide to lower Manhattan buildings, lectures, walking tours, and programs for school children.... **Richard A. Fox** and **Fredric M. Bell AIA** have been named partners of **WBTL**.... **The Eggers Group** were the designers of the Lanvin Boutique at 872 Madison Avenue in collaboration with the Paris-based architecture firm Agence d'Architecture Agasse-Beauvais.... **Edgar Tafel FAIA** has been made a member of the Taliesin Council of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.... **Bonsignore Brignati & Mazzotta Architects** have announced the following additions to their staff. **Leena Kipp** and **John Fleming** as senior associates; **Maurice Restrepo** and **Dan Jacoby AIA** as

associates; and **Christine Graziano** as vice president of the BBM Services Corporation.... Two office buildings designed by **Herbert Beckhard Frank Richlan & Associates** have been completed on a 26-acre site in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. They are the first of five 62,000 square foot office buildings for the Sylvan Corporate Center.... **The Rambusch Company** has completed its renovation of the side chapel in Saint Bartholomew's Church. The refurbishing included the stained glass windows, mosaic floors in the sanctuary, limestone capitals, the gilded wood beams and ceilings.... The office of **Peter W. Charapko Architect** has begun construction on an expansion of the West End Collegiate Church in Manhattan built in 1891 from the designs of architect R.W. Gibson.... **Jeffrey L. Raven**, associate member of the AIA, represented the U.S. at the US-USSR Emergency Leaders Summit: Commission on Urban Development and Administration in Philadelphia in December.... Architects **Michael McDonough AIA**, **Ross Anderson**, **Frederic Schwartz AIA** and **Frederick Biehle**, a recent architecture fellow at the American Academy in Rome, are among the designers, architects, artists, and photographers whose work is included in a collection of "Grand Windows" displayed throughout Grand Central Terminal through February 28. "The Terminal — its spirit, its iconography, and its architecture" is the show's theme.... **Eric Dluhosch**, Associate Professor of Architecture at MIT, is leading an exclusive Soviet-American Architecture Conference in Russia, April 16-30. The focus will be on "Architecture in the USSR: Discovering





1. Ellerbe Becket prize-winning design for Schibsted-Ditten Newspapers Headquarters in Oslo, Norway.

2. Renovated chapel of Saint Bartholomew's Church.

## Competitions

February 10, 1989 is the deadline for entries in the **25th Bard Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design**. Sponsored by the City Club of New York, they are intended to be "awards for projects with architectural distinction, a public purpose and a conscience." Projects executed anywhere in the five boroughs and completed after January 1, 1987, are eligible. Entries should be received by 4 pm, February 10, at the City Club of New York, 33 West 42 Street, NYC 10036. Lee Harris Pomeroy FAIA and John Ellis AIA are Bard Awards co-chairmen . . .

**A National Peace Garden** is the subject of an open, one-stage design competition sponsored by a California-based private citizens' organization and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The site is a four-acre area on Hains Point, the southern tip of East Potomac Park along the Potomac River and two and a half miles south of the National Mall area of the capital. The competition is open to artists, architects, landscape architects, who are citizens or bona fide permanent residents of the U.S. May 26, 1989 is the closing date for registration. Designs will be due on August 25. For more information and registration forms: Paul D. Spreiregen FAIA, Professional Advisor, Peace Garden Design Competition, P.O. Box 27558, Washington, DC 20038-7558. . .

*Architectural Record* has announced its second annual **In the Public Interest awards program** aimed at encouraging and recognizing excellence in the design and planning of public architecture. This year *Record's* editors have selected Recreational Buildings as the type of entries solicited from architects, private developers, government agencies, private/public development consortiums, and community design centers for building projects completed during the past three years. May 1, 1989 is the deadline for postmarking entries. Winning entries will be featured in the November 1989 Issue of *Architectural Record*. For more information: Paul Sachner at 212-512-3088. . . **PC Glass Block**, Pittsburgh Corning's second Annual Architectural Awards

Competition, calls for exterior, interior, or specialty construction incorporating PC Glass Block products as a central design element in residential or commercial applications. Architects, interior designers, and architecture students are eligible. April 28, 1989 is the deadline for entries. For more information: 800-992-5769 . . . The Architecture, Planning and Design Program of the NYS Council on the Arts has announced the third year in its **"Sponsored Projects"** category. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be available for architects, designers, and scholars to realize specific projects, which advance the field and contribute to the public's understanding of the design environment. The program is particularly interested in innovative ideas being explored outside of traditional practice. Projects may relate to any of the program's funding categories, and to any of the eleven disciplines it covers including architecture, architectural history, landscape architecture, urban and rural planning, urban design, historic preservation, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, and architectural documentation. Preference will be given to residents of New York State and/or projects that clearly and directly benefit New York State residents. Applicants must be sponsored by a non-profit organization. The Architecture program staff will assist individuals in identifying an appropriate group, but this must be decided before submitting an application. March 1, 1989 is the deadline for applications. For further information: 212-614-2962.

## Request for Proposals

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District, is requesting proposals for a \$5 to \$10 million project to design and construct 100 new family housing units at Fort Drum, New York. Anyone interested in the project (#DACA 65-89-R-0007) should contact: District Engineer, Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers, Attention Contracts Branch, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, VA 23510-1096. Proposals must be completed and submitted by February 21, 1989.

2.

its Common Sources and Regional Varieties." Visits to Moscow, Leningrad, and the Central Asian region of the Soviet Union is on the agenda. The deadline for registration is February 15, 1989. For more information: 800-541-1345 . . . **"Architectural Artisanry: Preservation in Design"** is the title of a symposium to be held at Southeastern Massachusetts University in North Dartmouth, March 17-18. It "will address the professional, economic, and educational needs of artists, artisans, and craftspeople who work in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, contemporary construction, and public art." For registration information: 508-999-8046 . . . *Oculus* regrets the death at 84 of **Isamu Noguchi**, whose interest in the relationship between sculpture and architecture is exemplified by his work in this country and abroad. His 1968 "Red Cube" in front of the Marine Midland Bank at 140 Broadway is a modern New York City landmark.



# AROUND THE CHAPTER

## NYC/AIA Architects Renovate the World

NYC/AIA member firms represented over 20% of the December 1988 issue of *Commercial Renovation* magazine listing of "The 1988 Premier Renovation Architects." Of fifty firms listed (with at least one interior design firm), the following were singled out (ranking):

Gensler and Associates/Architects (1)  
Ellerbe Becket (2)  
Swanke Hayden Connell Architects (4)  
Beyer Blinder Belle (8)  
Walker Group/CNI (10)  
Bonsignore, Brignati & Mazzotta, P.C. (14)  
STV/Michael Lynn & Associates (16)  
HLW (Haines Lundberg Waehler) (22)  
Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK) (27)  
Brennan Beer Gorman/Architects (37)

In addition, William A. Hall Partnership was recognized as one of eight firms expected to exceed \$2 million in billings in 1989.

Also, thirty Chapter sustaining member firms were listed in the *Crain's* top architecture firms by billings in New York in their year-end "top Business Lists" issue.

## Committees

Over 640 members have signed up for appointments to the Chapter's Committees this year — but there is still time for you to join them and make a difference. If you have lost (or otherwise ignored) the committee preference sheet, check the list below of Committees and their Chairs, then call the Chapter office to become an active member. Please call the Chapter office, also, if you have any questions or need more information on a particular committee.

*Architects in Development:* Fereshteh Bekhrad

*Architects in Education:* Carl Hauser AIA

*Architecture Dialogue:* Edward Mills AIA

*Architecture for Education:* Frederic Bell AIA

*Art & Architecture:* Robert Landsman AIA

*Associates:* François de Menil

*Communications in the Built*

*Environment:* Leslie Blum AIA

*Computer Applications:* Tomas Hernandez

*Corporate Architects:* Judith Solomon AIA

*Design Awards Programs:* Michael

Goldberg AIA & Jackie Welsh AIA

*Exhibits:* L. Bradford Perkins AIA

*Historic Buildings:* Johnathan Butler AIA

*Housing:* John Ellis AIA

*Interiors:* Theodore Hammer AIA

*Professional Affiliates:* (no chair)

*Professional Practice:* Jack Suben, AIA;

Wallace Berger AIA; & Ira Grandberg AIA

*Public Architects:* Jerry Maltz AIA

*Public Relations:* (no chair)

*Public Sector Contracts:* Michael Ressler AIA

*Religious Architecture:* William E. Gati AIA

*Visitors:* Peter Heerens AIA

*Zoning:* Michael Parley AIA

## Internal Revenue Code Section 89

In 1986, Congress passed the Tax Reform Act which added Section 89 to the Internal Revenue Code. This Section will affect every employer (regardless of size) who provides a Life, Accident, Health, or other statutory employee welfare benefit plan. Compliance with the requirements of Section 89 becomes mandatory for plan years beginning after December 31, 1988.

The intent of Section 89 is to encourage employers to offer the same or comparable coverage to all employees (in essence, prohibiting the discrimination of benefits in favor of highly compensated employees) and ensure that employees are able to receive benefits from the plan. A secondary intent is to raise revenues through additional tax income, via penalties for non-compliance.

Section 89 imposes both "qualification testing" and "nondiscrimination testing"

requirements on each employer for all employer provided benefit plans, and there are severe tax penalties for a firm's failure to comply with these requirements. Compliance with Section 89 is strictly the responsibility of each employer.

This information represents the tenets of Section 89 in very simple terms. Because of the complexity of the law, including the absence of final IRS regulations and interpretations, you may wish to contact your tax advisor for guidance in making the required good faith effort to be in compliance with this law.

## Stephen Suggs Joins Chapter Staff

We welcome Stephen Suggs as the Chapter's new Bookkeeper. Steve joined us in late December and is the person you should talk to directly on invoicing and dues matters.

Steve joins us from the Lamb's Manhattan Church of the Nazarene where he was Business Administrator. His extensive background in not-for-profit institution finances, as well as a BFA from Auburn, will well serve the Chapter.

Stephen lives in Weehawken, New Jersey, with his wife Joyce and their daughter Molly.

## Corrections

Our apologies to Jean Carlton Parker AIA whose last name was inadvertently omitted from *Oculus's* announcement of her being made a new partner of Buttrick White & Burtis (December issue, pg. 8).

Apologies also to Richard Dattner FAIA, whose Fellowship was not acknowledged in the January issue.



## James P. Cramer Appointed Executive Vice-President of AIA

The Board of Directors confirmed the appointment of James P. Cramer, Hon. AIA, to the senior staff position of the Institute at its December meeting. Cramer, President of the American Architectural Foundation and Deputy EVP of the Institute, succeeds Louis L. Marines who recently announced his resignation.

As President of the Foundation, Jim has guided the development of the Institute's public outreach efforts and held direct responsibility for the Octagon Museum and historic house. As Deputy EVP he has served as publisher of *Architecture* magazine and provided general assistance to the Executive Vice President in the management of AIA operations. He has served on the adjunct faculties of the University of Minnesota Graduate School, Harvard University, the University of Maryland, and the University of Wisconsin; as an architectural advisor to several Fortune 500 companies; and as a consultant on the design and education programs of the Mott Foundation. Cramer is a former executive vice president of the Minnesota Society of Architects and has served on the AIA Board of Directors as chairman of the Council of Architectural Component Executives (CACE). He pursued his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Northern State College, The College of St. Thomas, and the University of Minnesota; and post-graduate studies at the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania.

Cramer is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), and an active member of the American Society of Association Executives, the Magazine Publishers Association, and the Greenway Civic Association. Jim and his wife Corinne reside in McLean, Virginia with sons Ryan and Austin.

## More on Asbestos

by David Castro-Bianco AIA

Last August some 500 local architectural and engineering firms received a letter from the Department of General Services, under the signature of the Deputy Commissioner, Rudolph Rinaldi, stating that the City of New York wanted to simplify its procedures and accelerate the process of construction. One of the obstacles to this simplification was the multiplicity of consultants that are necessary to remove asbestos in city-owned buildings, the letter stated. Therefore the Department of General Services was looking for firms that would agree to assume the responsibility for asbestos abatement incidental to larger projects. Those firms would be placed on a "preferred" list and would be called upon for major projects, which might require asbestos removal incidental to the scope of the design work.

When brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Chapter, the letter naturally caused concern, not because of the asbestos issue, which the Committee felt was a decision that each firm must make on its own, but because the creation of a "preferred" list effectively negated the uniform consultant selection procedures, which architects and engineers had worked out with the Mayor's Office of Construction after years of negotiation. In response to Chapter President Marty Raab's letter expressing the Executive Committee's "strenuous opposition" to the new policy, Mr. Rinaldi wrote that his earlier letter had been misunderstood and offered to meet with a small group to air our differences. President Raab, Vice President Castro-Blanco and the Chairman of the Public Contracts Committee Michael Ressler met with Mr. Rinaldi on December 5, 1988. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that his intent was to determine whether design consultants would be willing to perform, as part of their traditional coordinating role, asbestos abatement design incidental to larger projects. The ultimate goal of DGS is to simplify its procedures in this area by having one consultant, rather than two, execute the

design of asbestos abatement. He reassured us that "certainly, a design consultant's comprehensive qualifications are more important than just their willingness to undertake asbestos abatement work; however, on some routine projects, given a choice of architects of equivalent capability, it may be in the City's best interest to select an architect that will serve all our needs."

The issue of the creation of a "preferred" list may be moot, however; of 500 firms that received Mr. Rinaldi's original letter only 33 responded, 29 of them affirmatively. The 29 firms who responded affirmatively were "overwhelmingly" engineering firms. Architects, showing either great wisdom or great restraint—or perhaps both—expressed their opposition to DGS's new policy by their silence.

## Sacred Architecture: Places for Worship

by William E. Gati AIA

Sacred architecture is the built environment used for the purpose of worship. Light, fire, water, and solid mass are often used in harmonious contrast to delineate the main focus of our attention to the act of supplication. The arrangement and the function allow, and the composition and design create the act of worship. The commonality is ritual and sequence, highlighted with natural or artificial lighting, appropriate coloration to set the mood, and form to emphasize the importance of the space. Other considerations include art, fixtures, materials, textures, and other embellishments that add to an other-worldly quality.

This is not an architecture of iconography but is one in which the entire building becomes a symbol for our beliefs and for the experiences and services which will occur inside. A place of worship is not sacred because of its architecture, but only for what its architecture helps communicate to people in communion with God and the space.



Dear Editor:

Your *Names and News* section in your December issue refers to my trip to the USSR in October. A few facts must be added, however, to complete the story.

I travelled as part of a delegation that included Sidney P. Gilbert FAIA, Mary Goldsmith AIA and Kenneth Smith. The trip was made at the invitation of the USSR Union of Architects as a part of a continuing relationship between Soviet architects and ADPSR (Architects Designers Planner for Social Responsibility.) This relationship is based on an agreement signed last year at the Chapter headquarters during a visit of four Soviet architects, among them Yuri Pavlovich Platonov, President of the Union. In the agreement, ADPSR and the Soviets established programs for the exchange of students, faculty and practitioners; a joint construction project and a joint travelling exhibition. Implementation of these programs is already under way.

We hope that the New York Chapter will continue its support of ADPSR and its effort to bring together US and Soviet design professionals.

**Tician Papachristou FAIA**

Dear Editor:

For centuries it has been the prerogative of an editor to determine what does and does not get printed, to include or exclude, to emphasize or diminish, and to play historian by determining what is reported and therefore what is history. I have always wondered how editors make their decisions, and I am especially curious how you made a particular decision in your "Names and News" section of the December 1988 issue of *Oculus*.

The Fifth Avenue Association's architectural design awards presentation was duly reported in your newsletter, with the presenter being noted as Michael Maas FAIA. A second Fellow of the Institute, Max Abramovitz, was noted as being a member of the awards committee. Had you left things at that it would have been obvious that you chose

to report on the doings of Fellows but not corporate Institute members. However, you indicated that Wendy Evans AIA was also a member of the committee. You apparently omitted the names of committee members Richard Knapp and Jonathan Rose because they are not architects. But may I ask why you omitted the name of the final committee member, Andrew Alpern AIA?

**Andrew Alpern AIA**

Dear Editor:

An interesting follow-up to your piece, in the December 1988 *Oculus*, "Chapter Firms Build New York" might be "Chapter *Firm* Builds New York Schools."

Of the 41 schools mentioned in "The Parent's Guide to New York Grade Schools (A Calm, Rational Report)" in *7 Days* (vol. 1.1, No. 27), our firm did Master planning, renovations or recent additions to 6\* (15%), of all the independent schools listed—an impressive statistic for our medium-size practice.

- P.S. 3. Planning Study for renovation
- Birch Wathen. Planning Options for relocation
- Village Community School. Modernization and Expansion Study
- The Hewitt School. Expansion and Modernization Project
- Calhoun New Early Childhood building
- Friends Seminary. New Special program wing, Cafeteria, Science Labs. Master Plan Study

**Robin Guenther, Partner  
Norman Rosenfeld AIA Architects**

Dear Editor:

Just a personal note of praise for the December issue of *Oculus*.

I was particularly taken with the cover photo and the subsequent "snow scenes," and in the spirit of your first paragraph on page three, I wish that each issue could contain a few photographs showing the admirable qualities of the city's public spaces. We

can use monthly reminders of our successes, both past and present.

We've all enjoyed the Library restoration (and its cafe terraces). Likewise, the lighting of Rockefeller Center enhances one of the best architectural spaces of this century. It brings Hugh Ferriss' renderings to the real world. (Perhaps Stan Ries could give us a night shot?)

Most of us perceive architecture as pedestrians. The Library lions loom larger in use of the building than they do in an architect's elevation. Likewise, a finely wrought iron railing at a brownstone door, the detail in a wall or path in Central Park, the ambience of a brick tavern building juxtaposed with a brick-glassed office tower, all of the details of our buildings and the interplay with their surroundings are the delight and the strength of the city.

I hope we can see more in each issue.

Many thanks.

**James H. Heyle AIA**



# OCULUS NYC/AIA

# FEB 89

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

Oculus welcomes information for the  
calendar pertaining to public events  
about architecture and the other design  
professions. It is due in writing by the 1st  
of the month for the following issue.

Because of the time lag between  
information received and printed, final  
details of events are likely to change. It is  
recommended that events be checked with  
sponsoring institutions before attending.

## 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

Richard Haas Architectural Projects  
1982-1989. Brooke Alexander, 59 Wooster St.  
925-4338. Closes Feb. 4.

### EXHIBITION

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

### EXHIBITION

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

### EXHIBITION

The Work of Jože Plečnik: Architect  
1872-1957, presented by the Architectural  
League. The Urban Center. 753-1722. Closes  
Feb. 25.

### EXHIBITION

Erik Gunnar Asplund. Max Protetch, 560  
Broadway. 966-5454. Closes March 11.

### EXHIBITION

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

### EXHIBITION

Frederick Kiesler Retrospective. Whitney  
Museum of American Art. 570-3633. Closes  
April 16.

## TUESDAY 7

### NYC/AIA Seminar

The Committee for Architecture in  
Education is sponsoring a seminar on  
NYC Board of Education's Prototype  
School Program (see Coming Chapter  
Events). 5:30 pm. The Urban Center.  
838-9670.

### LANDMARK HEARING

NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
public hearing to consider landmark  
designation for the Scribner's Building  
interior, Lundy's restaurant, Gotham Hotel  
(now Peninsula Hotel), among others.  
Beginning at 9:30 am. Board of Estimate  
Chambers at City Hall. 553-1113.

## WEDNESDAY 8

### SEMINAR

Designing Brick to Work. 11:30 am.  
Glen-Gery Brickwork Design Center, 211 E.  
49 St. 319-5577.

## TUESDAY 14

### NYC/AIA PANEL

Collaboration in the Beaux Arts  
Tradition, sponsored by the Art and  
Architecture Committee. (see coming  
Chapter events). 6:30 pm. The Urban  
Center. 838-9670.

## MONDAY 20

### CONFERENCE (FEB. 20-24)

"Staying Small Successfully," an executive  
roundtable for CEOs who want to keep their  
design firms small, sponsored by PSMJ.  
Beaver Creek, Colorado. Elisa Dam:  
617-965-0055 or 800-537-PSMJ.

## TUESDAY 21

### NYC/AIA LECTURE

The Religious Architecture Committee  
is sponsoring the first of a series of  
lectures with Norman Jaffe AIA,  
Gunnar Birkerts FAIA, and E. Fay Jones  
FAIA (see Coming Chapter Events).  
5:30 pm. The Urban Center. For  
reservations: 838-9670.

## THURSDAY 23

### LECTURE

NYC/AIA, ADPSR, and the Architectural  
League are sponsoring a lecture and  
slide presentation by Vzacheslav  
Glazychiev, V.P. USSR Union of  
Architects, on contemporary  
architecture in the Soviet Union. 6 pm.  
The Urban Center.

### LECTURE

Brendan Gill 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.

## MONDAY 27

### CONFERENCE (FEB. 27-28)

Better Buildings Conference: Residential  
Energy Efficiency and Indoor Air Quality.  
Sponsored by NYS Energy Office with NAHB  
National Research Center. Albany, NY.  
518-473-7243.

## SATURDAY 4 MARCH

### A.R.E. CLASSES

Review classes begin for Building Design  
Section of Architects Registration Exam.  
Institute of Design & Construction:  
718-855-3662.

## WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH

### SEMINAR

Movement Joints in Brickwork. 11:30 am.  
Glen-Gery Design Center, 211 E. 49 St.  
319-5577.

### LECTURE

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



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