

OCULUS

an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

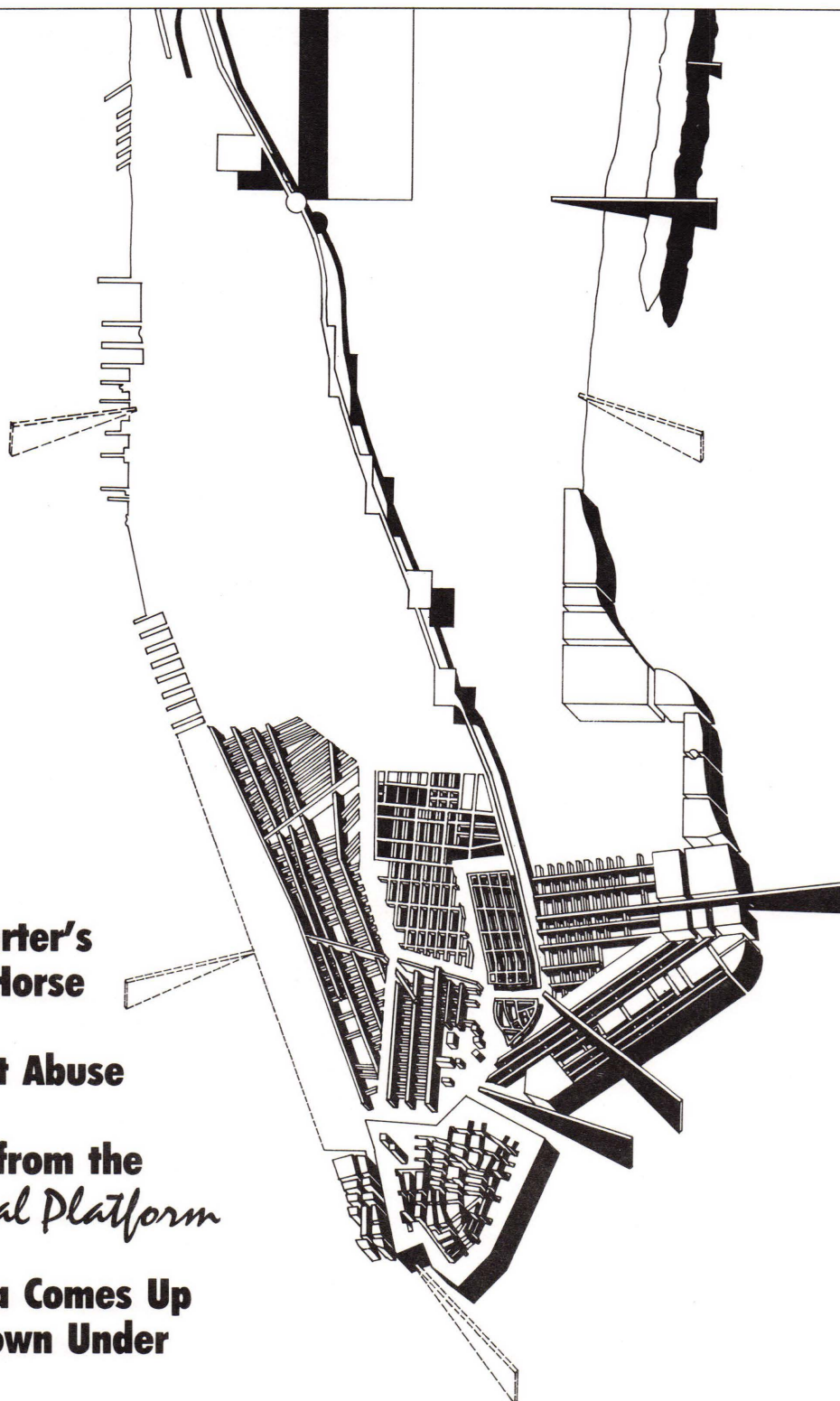
Volume 51, Number 9, September 1989

**The Charter's
Trojan Horse**

Architect Abuse

**Planks from the
*Mayoral Platform***

**Giurgola Comes Up
from Down Under**



OCULUS

Volume 52, Number 1, September 1989

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

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Cover: Drawing by Mario Gandelsonas. *The absent gridiron, a solid-void reversal of lower Manhattan's street and bridge structure. From his book, "The Order of the American City", Princeton Architectural Press, forthcoming.*

Letters: Architecture Sold Out?

Dear Editor:

As a member for 27 years I have seen some odd things done by the AIA leadership, but never so crazy as to sell off the Institute's journal [Architecture]. Can you imagine the RIBA selling off its journal or the AMA or the Bar putting its house organ up for sale to the highest bidder? It's beyond anyone's wildest speculation to imagine anyone in leadership of the AIA condoning such an embarrassing thing.

Could the NY Chapter send a strong protest letter on this and demand the reconstitution of the journal with Canty as editor? They owe Canty an apology and reinstatement as editor of a revived Journal. The editor of *Interiors*, of all things, can't speak for us. We need a new house organ. The best American architectural magazine has been sold, because it lost money? It's a disgusting act.

Richard W. Snibbe, FAIA
New York

P.S. If *Oculus* is not sold, you can print this, please!

From the Executive Director, NYC/AIA

Response to the recent announcements about the Institute's sale of **Architecture** to Billboard Publications Inc. has been significant and angry. Member dissatisfaction with the business decision was aggravated when long-time editor Donald Canty resigned. Many of the members felt that they should have been better informed about the sale of publication rights to BPI in the first place.

Both NYC/AIA and NYSAA have protested this strange development to AIA president Benjamin Brewer. NYSAA is also studying the ethics, and perhaps legality, of a mandatory dues appropriation for a privately owned magazine. We would welcome your comments, in writing, to the Chapter.

Lenore M. Lucey

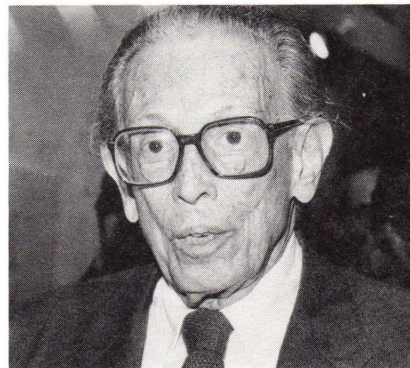


Photo: Dorothy Alexander

Obituary: Edgar Kaufmann, Jr.

Edgar Kaufmann Jr., who died July 31 of leukemia at the age of 79, was an admired and respected figure in the architectural world. As is well known, his decision to become an apprentice at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Fellowship in 1934 soon led to the commission — Fallingwater — that turned around Wright's then faltering career. Edgar Kaufmann's father, the department store owner, decided to have Wright design the landmark cantilevered concrete house outside of Pittsburgh.

While he had only studied painting in Europe before Taliesin and had skipped college altogether, Edgar Kaufmann Jr. was to become one of the leading architecture and design historians in the U.S. In the 1940's, he was the director of industrial design at the Museum of Modern Art, and subsequently curated exhibitions, wrote articles and books, and taught at Columbia University. He was also a founding director of the Architectural History Foundation.

His opinions and commentary on buildings, styles, and movements were often acerbic, and on target. When spoken, they were delivered in a wry, elegant manner that gently reminded one of the depth and breadth of his knowledge and experience — and of his genuine commitment to the art of architecture and design.

Corrections

In the June *Oculus*, an editor's note to Paul Goldberger's letter on Emilio Ambasz's licensing status incorrectly referred to the recent MOMA exhibition of the work of Mott/Ambasz. The exhibition featured the work of Steven Holl and Emilio Ambasz.

In the June *Oculus*, a report on the Bard Award received by The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey overlooked the fact that the Engineering Department Architectural Staff of the Port Authority provided design services to the Rail Transportation Department.

NEWS NOTES

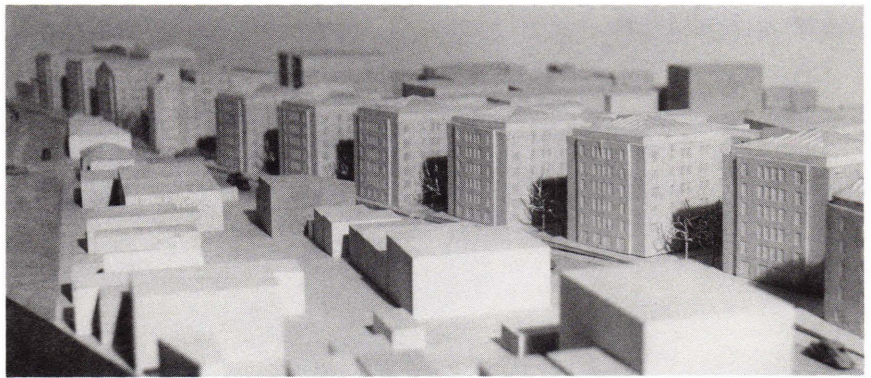
New Projects in Town

James Stewart Polshek & Partners hopes to place an apartment condominium tower atop the Siegel-Cooper Dry Goods Store on Sixth Avenue between 18th and 19th Street. Since the hugiyama (10 million-cubic-foot) store, built in 1896 by DeLemos & Cordes, is in the Ladies Mile Historic District, Polshek's scheme has had to go before the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Even though the Tishman-Speyer project includes renovation and restoration, and the tower was embedded in the block 425 feet (!) from Sixth Avenue, Landmarks got a little queasy over the 38-story height. So Polshek has brought it down to 29 stories, and has restored the building's southern annex facade. The modified proposal was scheduled to appear before Landmarks in late August.... **Michael Kwartler and Associates** is the architect and urban designer for a low-rise housing development with 600 dwelling units to be built in Queens. Called Franklin Development, the steel frame and masonry apartment buildings will be developed on a six-acre site near Roosevelt Avenue and the BQE, not far from Jackson Heights. The developer for the market-rate housing is Vitale Development Corp.... Architects **Peter Pennoyer** and **James Turino** are nearing completion of their renovation of the Mark, a hotel at 77th Street and Madison Avenue that formerly was the Madison Avenue Hotel. They have been working with Mimi Russell, an interior designer, on the public spaces and rooms. Owners include New York developer E. William Judson and the Rafael Group, a London-based hotel management and investment company....

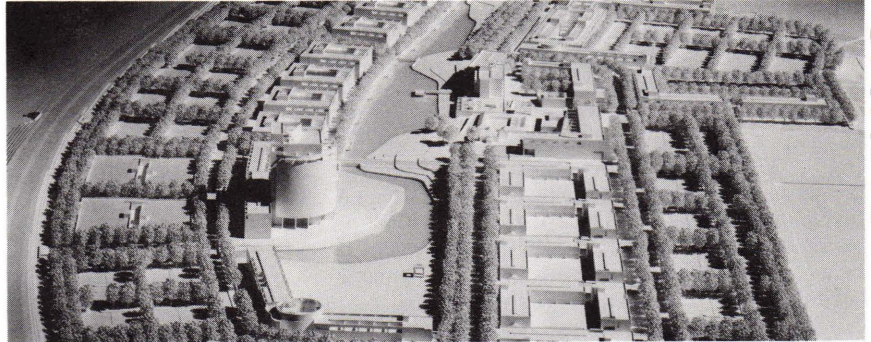
Beyond City Limits

Tourism is expected to soar in the next few years in Eastern Europe, since it

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Franklin Development, Jackson Heights Queens; Michael Kwartler and Associates.



Maybury Business Technology Park, Edinburgh, Scotland. Richard Meier and Partners.

Photo: ©Jock Pottle/Esto

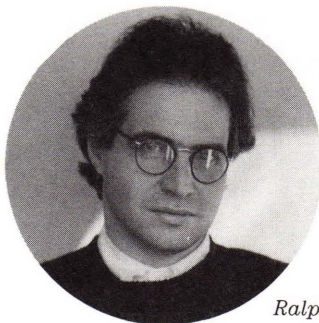
hasn't been spoiled by rampant commercialism yet. But some of the countries need a few hotels with western amenities. **Emery Roth & Sons** is doing 10 hotels alone in Budapest (with Hungarian associate architectural firms Lakoterv and Materv). One hotel will involve the restoration of the Beaux-Arts style facade and major interior spaces of the Gresham Palace, built in 1910.... Budapest is also where **Robert A.M. Stern Architects** is designing the America House, a cultural facility for the American Embassy there. Meanwhile, Stern just received the commission to design the Roger Tory Peterson Institute in Jamestown, New York. The natural environment institute is named for the author of field guides to birdwatching and will include exhibit, research, and teaching space.... On a different threshold of scientific concern, **Richard Meier and Partners** has come out with the design for the Maybury Business Technology Park in Edinburgh. The plan makes Ludwig Hilberseimer's city plans look almost picturesque.... Architects **Tod Williams** and **Billie Tsien**, along with sculptor **Elyn Zimmerman** and landscape architect **Cheryl Barton** of EDAA in San Francisco, have been selected as one of the five teams to design an art park in the Sepulveda Valley basin in L.A.... Meanwhile, in Seattle, the team of **Barbara Kruger** (artist), **Laurie Hawkinson** and **Henry Smith-Miller** (architect), and **Nicholas Quennell** of Quennell-Rothschild Associates (landscape architect) has won a competition to design a waterfront art park — the Elliot Bay Harborfront Redevelopment, which will link to the Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown-designed Seattle Arts Museum.

Whatever Happened To....

In May, the **Guggenheim Museum** went back to the Board of Standards and Appeals to get variances on its variances... or amendments to its zoning variances. Official word at the Guggenheim said that minor interior modifications to the expansion plans are needed, resulting from some changes in the program which now call for 1) eliminating three planned balconies to allow for higher ceilings for large-sized artworks; 2) moving conservation workshops, photographic documentation services, and storage to an offsite location; 3) placing the restaurant back in its original location on the ground floor with an entrance on East 88th Street; and 4) adding space for support services and offices underground along Fifth Avenue.

Opposition sources say that the changes in the program, which occurred since Thomas Krens took over as director, are interesting: If the changes had been there initially, they would have cast the Guggenheim's argument to the BSA for a variance for its addition in a weaker light. The opposition had originally contended that the addition was not necessary since the Museum could expand by building underground at the Guggenheim and placing conservation facilities elsewhere.... Meanwhile, Landmark stalwarts are hoping to get the Guggenheim on the calendar of the Landmarks Preservation Commission soon, so that no changes can be made to the Guggenheim without Landmarks' review. They constantly bring up the fact that the Museum had its official

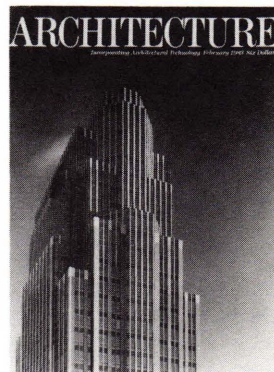
NEWS NOTES



Ralph Lerner



Peter Eisenman
Photo: Dorothy Alexander



dedication October 20, 1959, and that it had even mounted a show in July before the dedication, making it a functioning museum for the obligatory 30 years.

Nothing much seems to be happening with the **Whitney Museum** expansion. The Whitney plans to take Scheme III to the Landmarks Preservation Commission in the late fall, when it will request a certificate of appropriateness for the scheme as well as permission to demolish the adjoining brownstones. Recently the Museum has been renovating the brownstones for offices, an activity that has raised speculation within architectural circles. Observers wonder if the Museum actually has the money to go ahead with the new building. The Whitney responds that right now it has enough money raised "within the family," from friends and trustees of the Museum, and so it can proceed. However, it won't get into full gear with the funding campaign until the building is approved....

The Search Is Over

Ralph Lerner has just been named the dean of Princeton University's School of Architecture. He is replacing **Robert Maxwell**, who is stepping down but will remain on the faculty. The decision was made finally between Lerner, who has been teaching at the school, and **Peter Eisenman**.

In the heat of the "finals" last spring, both candidates talked to the students in the undergraduate, master's, and Ph.D. architecture programs.

When Eisenman was asked how he would juggle his burgeoning New York practice with the deanship, he said in an oft-quoted response, "If my office is my wife, Princeton will be my mistress." Lerner left no such trail of blazing metaphors. But he told students he felt the undergraduate program should have a wider intellectual base, instead of

simulating a professional one. He proposed that the master's program be reorganized in part — particularly in the design studio sequence — and expanded along with the graduate program.

Lerner graduated from Cooper Union in 1974 and received his master's from Harvard's Graduate School of Design in 1975. Currently he has one job in his Princeton-based office. But it is a big one — to design the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in New Delhi, India, which goes into construction late this year.

Eisenman's response to the decision to make Lerner dean: "It was a wise choice."

Media Notes

If you were summering in Patagonia, you may not have heard that a bit of a keffuffle has been raised in architecture circles since **Architecture**, the magazine of the American Institute of Architects, first sold its publication rights to the New York publishing company BPI Communications (formerly Billboard Publications Inc.) last spring. The sale, voted on by the AIA Executive Board, reportedly was for \$12.5 million. For a while everything was fine.

Then, on July 1 BPI installed Beverly Russell, the editor-in-chief of the Billboard-owned **Interiors**, as the editorial director over both **Architecture** and **Interiors**. Don Canty, the editor-in-chief of **Architecture**, resigned, saying he feared editorial interference and a difference in editorial standards between "architecture journalism" and "interiors journalism." (See page 2 for some AIA members' reactions.) **Architecture's** readers questioned **Interior's** "market-driven outlook" and voiced fear of rampant commercialism.

While Billboard owns **Interiors**, up until this acquisition, it had no architecture publication. Since the two magazines operate in (usually) compatible fields, ownership of both seems to offer certain advantages in selling advertising space as a package. Ironically, Billboard owned and published **The Architectural**

Forum in 1973-1974 with Bill Marlin as the editor. But it folded the unprofitable **Forum** in 1974 and sold the subscription list to **Architecture Plus**. **Plus**, founded in 1973 by the former editor of **Forum** Peter Blake, didn't survive either and stopped printing in 1975.

According to the AIA, the sale of publications rights is not too different from the actual sale of a magazine, except that the AIA gets to retain a supervisory role on the magazine's editorial board. The deal allows the AIA to buy **Architecture** back if it becomes unhappy with the product and/or if Billboard decides to fold or sell it.

The question, of course, is why sell it at all? As explained by a representative for James Cramer, the chief executive officer of the AIA, "It gets us over the hurdles of business — its ups and downs." This is a reasonable response, considering that ads have been down in architecture publications in the first six months of 1989. According to the July 31 ad scoreboard of **Magazine Week**, **Progressive Architecture's** ads for the first six months of this year were down 9.65 percent compared to the first six months of 1988, and **Architectural Record's** were down 6.8 percent. Paradoxically, **Architecture's** were only down 0.1 percent. So, comparatively speaking, it hasn't had the same numbers problem. But pages are one thing and income from ads is another. A source within the advertising field said that rumors had it that **Architecture** was losing money "to the tune of \$1 million a year." Ads were up because of a "rubber rate-card."

Any day now **Architecture** is deciding on a replacement for Don Canty. Needless to say, the choice of an editor is rather critical. A decision is expected to be made by September, and the names being bandied about most are Peter Blake and David Dillon.

For the time being, BPI is keeping **Architecture** in Washington (but no longer occupying space at the AIA headquarters) so it won't be under daily scrutiny of the New York BPI. In any case, architects will certainly be watching **Architecture**. — S.S.

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PROFILE

John Whiteman



In 1987, John Whiteman was installed as the first director of the Institute created by the SOM Foundation. The CIAU moved into the SOM Foundation's newly renovated Charnley House on Chicago's North Side in the fall of 1988.

The 35-year-old architect, planner, and theorist comes from Manchester, England, armed with enough academic credentials to start an intellectual revolution: two undergraduate degrees, in architecture and philosophy, from Cambridge University; two masters, in architecture and in city and regional planning (the first from Bristol University and the second from Harvard); and a Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Philosophy from Harvard. On top of that, he is registered as an architect and planner in both England and the United States.

Since the initial hoopla when Whiteman was announced the director, the CIAU has been relatively quiet. While research programs, symposia, and exhibitions have been taking place there, some observers have been quick to assert that the projects are too arcane.

Nevertheless, the CIAU is the first center to take up the theoretical reins dropped with the demise of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in New York in 1985. Whiteman has also attracted a group of young architects/theorists/critics who are quickly becoming known as the successor generation to the heavy-hitters of the old IAUS. At the same time, rumors are rife that heavy-duty supporter of CIAU, Bruce Graham, will soon be much less active in SOM—which could affect CIAU's future.

Oculus has excerpted a series of statements from Whiteman's lecture to SOM and his talk with Oculus to clarify these issues.

On Institute Programs

Things are "quiet" when you are doing research. Right away the Institute initiated a series of fellowships, at the

Last July, John Whiteman, the Director of the Chicago Institute for Architecture and Urbanism (CIAU), came to town to talk about the Institute at the New York office of Skidmore Owings & Merrill. The next day Oculus took the opportunity to question him further.

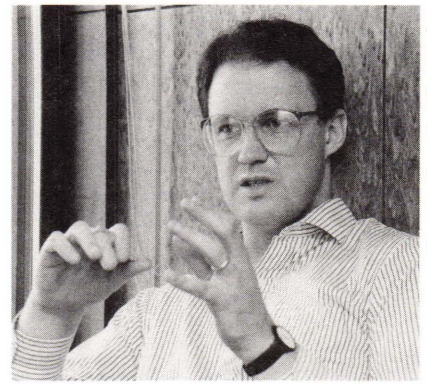
senior and junior levels, to seed projects in architectural and urban research that are both integral to the work of the individual fellow and also contribute to issues the Institute wants to explore. We also try to bring in people from outside the field whose research would contribute something to the discussion of architecture. For example, Richard Sennett [professor of Humanities at New York University and author of *The Fall of Public Man*] was a research fellow last year. He is working on a book about the city's spatial and formal structures and the notion of time. The working title is *The Conscience of the Eye*.

At the same time, we want to research architectural issues through drawing and construction as well as writing. Mario Gandelsonas, a practicing architect in New York, was a fellow this past year studying the urban morphology of Chicago and of Des Moines. Other fellows involved in projects and seminars include Liz Diller and Ricardo Scofidio (who just had an exhibit this summer at the Museum of Modern Art) and Benjamin Gianni. I too am a fellow, because I spend half my time working on architecture and writing projects.

The Institute will be publishing much of the 1988-1989 research this year. For example, this fall we will issue the proceedings of a conference on architectural theory we held a year ago. It contains papers and responses to them given by Beatriz Colomina, Ann Bergren, Mark Wigley, Jennifer Bloomer, K. Michael Hays, Catherine Ingraham, Jeffrey Kipnis, and Robert Segrest.

On the Institute's Effect

It is true that a group of theorists have been coalescing around the Institute, people who are in a generational sense coming to architecture at a moment when the avant-garde architects and theorists of recent years have become very "establishment." This younger generation is continuing certain philosophical explorations that you might have seen at the IAUS 10 years ago, but they are doing it in a different way. Most of us, incidentally, do not agree with each other theoretically.



Photos: Dorothy Alexander

On the Future of the Institute

While I am only director for three years, I do hope to see the Institute continue as a viable research center. As you know, Bruce Graham was very instrumental in getting the Institute off the ground. If and when he does retire from SOM, the CIAU should keep going on. I am trying to make the Institute financially independent from the SOM Foundation. A legal separation is occurring, but we'll have a small endowment and 20 years of rent-free space in the Charnley House. It still means raising a lot of money, and so far donors are reluctant. The Institute could be fantastic, but it can't change the world of architecture tomorrow.

On the Difficulty of Architecture

There is great difficulty relating two aspects of architecture—thinking and building—to each other. That is why I'm interested in theory, but not necessarily just in words. At the Institute we are exploring the relationship between building and thinking.

There are two fields at play in any one architectural object, or what we might call two fields of description. One is pragmatic. Will the building function, will it stand up, etc.? In that selfsame space we also want the building to perform in a cultural way, as an artistic gesture. Since most of us like a singular logic, we tend to think that if two things contradict each other, something is wrong. This is not true of course in a work of art, but that doesn't suit the pragmatic person. It is so easy to prize rational, clear logic. But architecture as an art can't be explained this way.

On Criticism and Architecture

You frequently find criticism based on optical discourse, but we understand little about bodily movement in a building. When I see a building by Louis Kahn, there is a sensation in my chest where my breath is caught. It hits me around the rib cage. This is a real part of understanding a building. Buildings are experienced in relationship to the body, in relationship to the memory and influence of past buildings, and to the larger urban morphology.

URBAN STORIES

Report by Alex Cohen

Photo: Harper & Row, Robert Wilson



Trump City Never Sleeps

The Trump Organization moves toward certification of its 2,000-page Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for development of the Penn Yards site by City Planning while Westpride, Community Board 7, and other civic groups prepare a multifaceted battle against the project.

West Side activists are particularly concerned about the city's attitude toward the project. Worried about the possibility of a lawsuit against an "over-regulatory" city review, the city is trying to treat this massive project like any typical residential or office project requiring several standard zoning variances. But the Trump Organization plans to build eleven 60- to 70-story residential towers, the world's tallest building, and a 1.5 million-square-foot super-regional indoor shopping mall.

Trump has completely ignored the precedent of the Board of Estimate-approved Lincoln West Plan for the site, which called for less than half the number of residential units. In addition to not obliging Trump to fulfill the requirements of the Lincoln West Plan, the city has made no attempt to masterplan this significant chunk of the West Side waterfront running from 59th Street to 72nd Street.

Only after being threatened with a lawsuit has City Planning required Trump to provide wind analysis of the 150-story office tower as part of his EIS. Discussions between the developer and the community have been perfunctory: "Trump's people just threw chapters of the draft EIS on the table," said one witness. Meanwhile, the Department of City Planning has devoted three years of staff time to detailed "micro-negotiations" on realizing Trump's plan in its proposed form.

All of the candidates for mayor, including Mayor Koch, say they oppose the size and scale of the project. Election year positioning might not be sufficient to block the project in its present form. Meanwhile, Westpride has been building a consensus of opposition to the project

and also making preparations for legal action if City Planning certifies the project in its current form, and approval by the Board of Estimate appears inevitable.

The Natural Resources Defense Council, which will legally and financially back a suit by Westpride, has taken a "no compromise" position on the project. John Cowal, co-chairman of Community Board 7's Penn Yards Committee, says the Trump proposal is "not environmentally sound and ignores the overburdens of existing development on the West Side."

Lawsuit Threatens NYC Housing Capital Plan

Insisting that the Mayor's Housing Capital Plan is not an equitable plan but a "blueprint for gentrification," the Housing Justice Campaign has asked the New York State Supreme Court to grant a preliminary injunction to prevent the city from building or renovating any middle-income housing units.

The Housing Justice Campaign, a coalition of housing and minority advocacy groups, has submitted testimony to Judge Leonard Cohen to show that 60 percent of the new units to be constructed under the management of HPD are only affordable to individuals earning \$32,000 or more. Richard Rivera of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, a litigant in the suit, maintains that only 181 of 7,000 planned new apartments are reserved for the non-homeless earning under \$10,000. Only 9.2 percent of these 7,000 non-homeless units will house people earning under \$19,000.

The Campaign argues that any housing initiative must reflect the actual proportions of income level of city residents. According to a New York City Housing Authority study, 35,000 families are currently doubled up in public housing. The Campaign feels this housing crisis is not attacked by a plan that aims to primarily house the homeless and the middle class. In July, Judge Cohen denied a motion by the city to reject the suit.

Update on conflicts, controversies and other tales of strife in this wonderful town.

School Construction Plan Leaks

Joan Griffin McCabe of the Public Education Association researched and helped write this article.

The revised Five Year Capital Plan, adopted by the New York City Board of Education and the first step of the Board's Master Plan, identifies the placement of new schools and the major modernizations and renovations to be undertaken by 1995.

Originally, the plan included projects totalling \$10 billion. However, because only \$4.3 billion was included in the city budget, a recent draft includes only 42 new schools — of 210 additional schools needed by the year 2000 — will be built.

Twenty-six of these new buildings will be elementary schools, most likely constructed with the Board's prototypical modular designs. Each 600-seat elementary school is projected to cost \$30 million, with \$2.7 million allotted to design. The Board estimates that using prototypes saves between 40 percent and 50 percent in design costs per school. But design costs represent less than 10 percent of total expense.

Ignoring questions of design appropriateness, this small savings casts doubt on the actual economic efficiency of using and reusing prototype school designs. Does the prototype architect receive \$2.7 million each time an identical prototype school is constructed? An inside source says, "Each time a prototype design is reused the architect receives a royalty payment of less than \$500,000. The \$30 million figure [for the cost of a 600-seat elementary school] is much larger than what architects are costing out to the Board for construction. The difference must go to site modifications, financing, and professional fees."

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1.

Treading Water at the McCarren Park Pool

Since the decision several months ago by the Parks Department not to demolish the McCarren Park Pool and Bath House opened in 1936 by Robert Moses, little has been written about the fate of the pool complex.

In April, the Landmarks Preservation Commission heard the testimony of Phyllis Yampolsky, in addition to Robert A.M. Stern, the Landmarks Conservancy, and others, in support of landmarking the site. The Commission decided to neither calendar the issue nor to cancel it, but to monitor it. The Commission is considering designating the 11 WPA pools as a group at a later date.

Factions in Greenpoint have different visions for the site. Yampolsky's Independent Friends of McCarren Park fights for full restoration of the complex.

In a July 27 vote, Community Board 1 of Greenpoint voted to support a "compromise" plan to restore the bath houses, reduce the pool to Olympic size, and build a multi-use gymnasium on the site. The Parks Council, the Landmarks Conservancy, consultant Michael Kwartler, and others have most recently moved to block Parks Department plans to build a new playground on the site. According to Kwartler, "Our group wants the Parks Department to design a complete plan for the park before it contracts for a new playground that might be counterproductive to a master plan." This position is not inconsistent with the plans of the Community Board.

Charter Revision Furor

Claiming victory over the Charter Revision Commission's attempt to modify the city's landmarks law, preservation interests were nonetheless shocked and outraged by the Commission's August 2 approval of a separate ballot question which includes provisions on landmarks hardship.

In a hasty vote, the Commission agreed to ask voters in November to approve

the separation of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) from the Parks Department and the creation of a hardship review panel, an independent tribunal of five, to be appointed by the mayor. This group will hear appeals only from non-profit property owners who have been denied hardship exemptions to their landmark status by the LPC.

Appendix Dropped

Despite intense lobbying by the Interfaith Commission (a coalition of churches and synagogues), the Municipal Art Society, the Landmarks Conservancy, and others were successful in demanding that the Revision Commission drop the main planks of proposed Appendix A.

The Appendix, heavily debated in public hearings, would have granted the new City Planning Commission a vote on landmark designations, given the mayor the power to veto designation of a property, and mandated that "economic and social considerations" be weighed by the Council and mayor before approving designation.

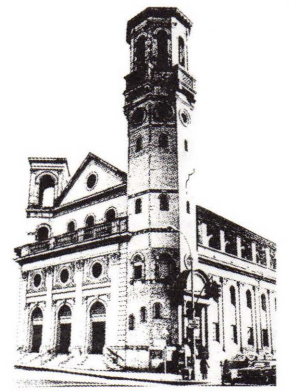
Hardship Panel Incites Criticism

"We won the greatest battle in damage control as far as the official Charter provisions on landmarks," says Tim Bradley, Ralph C. Menapace Fellow in Urban Land Use Law at the Municipal Art Society, "but this late-breaking ballot question is totally inappropriate in both content and in the recklessness in which it was passed by the Commission." He explains that there was little reason to meddle with the hardship provisions of the current landmarks law because the system works.

According to Franny Eberhart of the Landmarks Conservancy, "only three of 16 properties, owned by either private or non-profit interests, that have applied for hardship exemption in the last 24 years were not accommodated by LPC-negotiated sale of their buildings or denied the right to tear down their structures." Property-owners always have the right to go to court to challenge a hardship decision, and yet only two have done so (St. Bart's and St. Paul & St. Andrew).

1. McCarren Park Pool, 1936, Greenpoint, Brooklyn.
Photo: Courtesy NYC Parks Dept.

2. St. Paul and St. Andrew, R.H. Robertson, 1897, West End and 86th Street.
Photo: Courtesy Landmarks Preservation Commission



2.

Open-ended in format, the hardship ballot issue, if approved, leaves it to the mayor to create standards for procedural review, to be modified and enacted by the City Council through local law. The ballot statement does not specify whether the panel will perform only a standard review of administrative procedures or enact a "fresh start" factual reappraisal of hardship by a panel of landmark non-experts.

Bradley comments, "Not only is the possibility of de novo hearings dangerous, because they undermine the legitimate preservation expertise of the Commission, but the hardship appeal specifically applies only to non-profits. Private property owners will undoubtedly demand the same right to appeal."

Though the work of the Charter Revision Commission was predicated on building an opportunity for greater public participation in policy debates and decisions, the hardship panel ballot issue was never publicly debated. An inside commission source reports that several of the Charter commissioners did not know enough about landmarks law, and particularly about the hardship provisions, to make an informed vote.

This source told *Oculus*, "We faced enormous pressure from the Interfaith Commission. Several of the commissioners, particularly Mario Paredes and Amy Betanzos, felt from the very beginning that we had to do something for the religious property owners. There were hardball tactics on all sides."

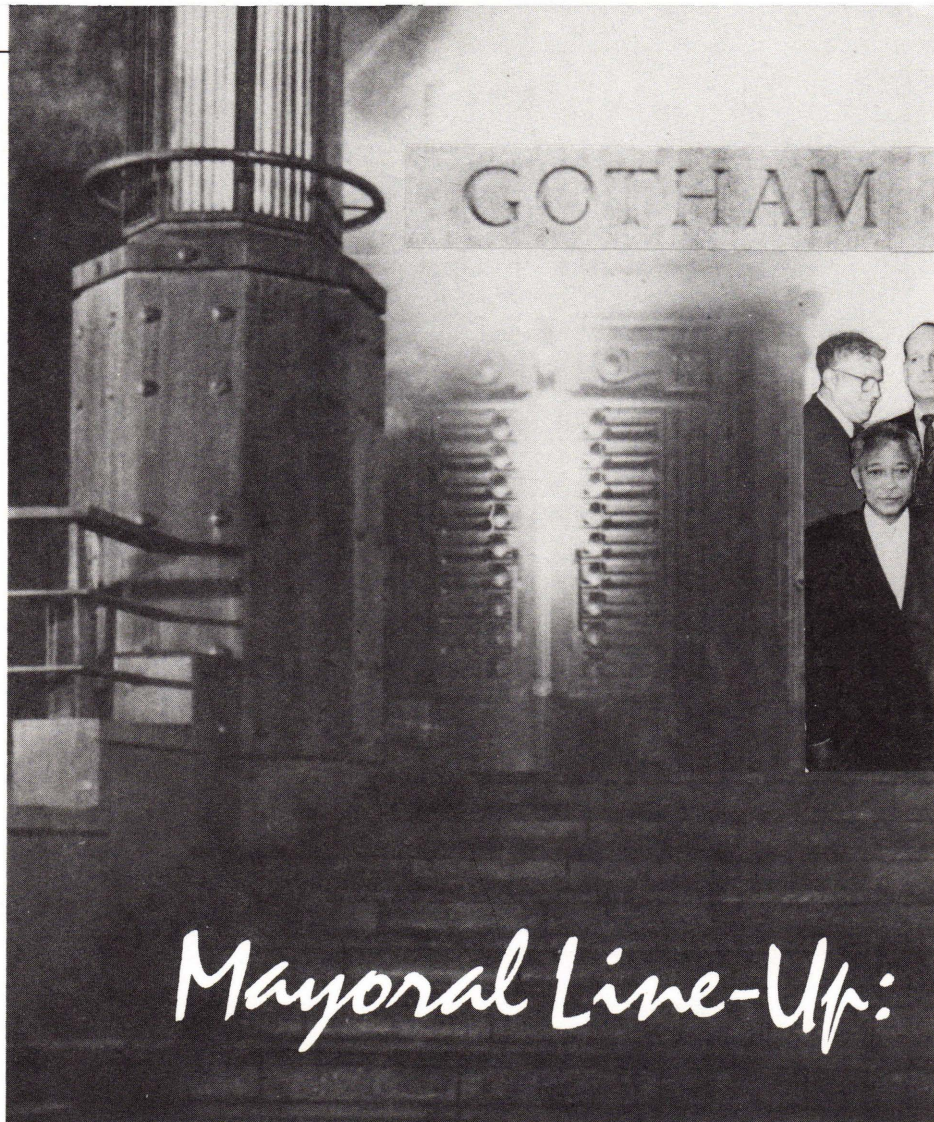
The source added that the commission's chairman, Frederick A.O. Schwarz Jr., indicated that the panel had not had sufficient time to discuss and debate the proposal. He remarked that "Paredes and Betanzos had other responsibilities to attend to on Wednesday and so a vote by 12:00 noon was forced. By that point, Commission Secretary Nathan Leventhal doubted we should be touching what seemed to be a relatively fair procedure."

Future tactics by opponents of the hardship ballot question have yet to be formulated.

September 12 is primary day when some serious choices need to be made. Oculus presents condensed versions of campaign promises on issues that concern the architectural community.

Left to right: Ravitch, Dinkins, Lauder, Koch, Giuliani and Goldin.

Photo: ©1989 DC Comics, courtesy Warner Brothers; New York Times Don Hogan Charles, (candidates), Beverly Chewront, (Ravitch) ©1989



Mayor Edward Koch *Democrat*

Zoning and Development: Supports balanced policies for zoning, taxes, and the city's own investment in infrastructure. But, he is still Koch: "We have felt the pain of the no-growth years of the 1970's."

Housing: City must continue spending capital funds as part of the 10-year, \$5.1 billion housing plan to develop 252,000 housing units, including creation of 84,000 new units. Housing will be distributed 60 percent to families earning below \$19,000, and 27 percent to families earning less than \$32,000.

Transportation: Will develop a plan to meet federal Clean Air Act standards currently being violated. Tolls and fees to discourage vehicle traffic in the city would clearly be unpopular measures, but they may be unavoidable.

Borough Growth: Supports expansion of core economic areas in downtown Brooklyn, Long Island City, Astoria, and the Teleport in Staten Island. Future development must balance the need for growth with the need to preserve and protect livable neighborhoods.

David Dinkins *Democrat*

Zoning and Development: For City's developing community-sponsored plans. Waterfront planning must focus on the impact on upland neighborhoods, accessibility to transportation, and public access to the water's edge.

Housing: Supports linkage of luxury housing to create moderate-income housing or contributions to city housing fund. Dinkins favors preservation of low property taxes for owners of single-family houses and supports anti-warehousing legislation. He believes SRO's must be preserved and that Koch's election-year housing plan is insufficient and late.

Transportation: Police officers on every train every night are a necessity.

Borough Growth: Comprehensive planning of neighborhoods by a partnership of the city and communities can identify and address specific community needs and determine areas for preservation, growth, and the placement of services. New development should be planned in context with existing neighborhood character.

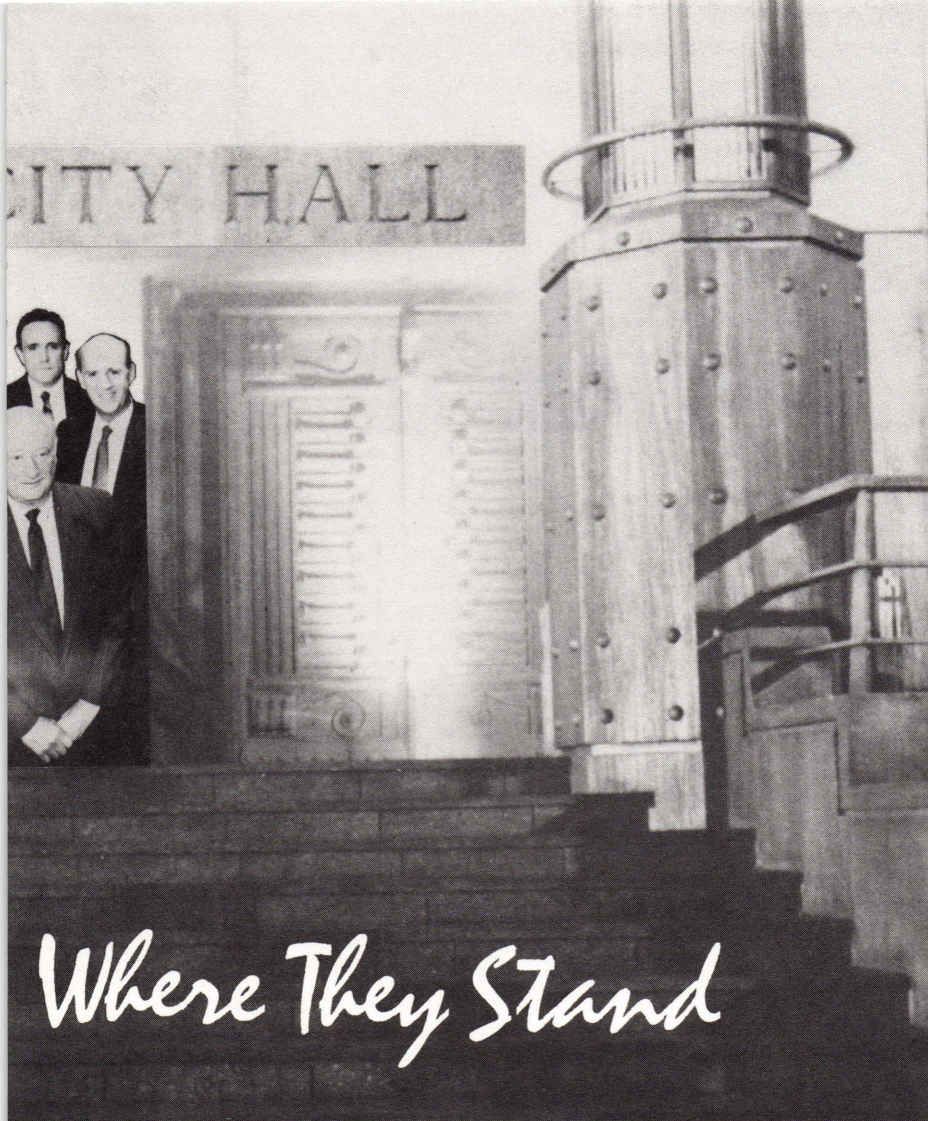
Harrison Goldin *Democrat*

Zoning and Development: Supports streamlining of the city's land disposition procedures with priority given to developers of low-income housing. He favors creation of unnegotiable zoning envelopes which restrict increases in allowable FAR obtained through bonuses and transfers of development rights.

Housing: Opposes tax abatements and other public subsidies for market-value, luxury housing. Goldin favors smaller shelters, housing 20 to 50 people, for the homeless which are dedicated to segments of the heterogeneous homeless population.

Transportation: Opposes unregulated proliferation of express buses and the congestion they cause. He proposes "architectural solutions" to turnstile jumpers.

Borough Growth: Supports tax abatements to encourage the construction and preservation of low- and middle-income housing, especially in targeted neighborhoods in the outer boroughs and in Manhattan above 110th Street.



Where They Stand

Richard Ravitch *Democrat*

Zoning and Development: Supports writing of a new zoning law to reflect the needs and values of New York today. Ravitch says the goal of the revision should be to preserve neighborhood integrity and diversity.

Housing: Would create a single-purpose housing construction authority with the sole mission of building low-income housing and rehabilitating vacant city-owned buildings. Ravitch says "18,000 people sleeping in the streets is a blight on the city and shows government is not working."

Transportation: Will work to keep mass transportation a viable option—both improving service and keeping fares down. Ravitch proposes a fare-card system to encourage greater use of subways and buses.

Borough Growth: Feels future of the city lies in the expansion of outer boroughs. Ravitch foresees enormous revitalization of neighborhoods and growth of economic opportunity outside Manhattan.

Rudolph Giuliani *Republican*

Zoning and Development: Opposes Trump City because density is too great. He advocates a master plan for the West Side waterfront, and feels that regardless of charter revision, the City Planning Commission should be required to develop a plan for the city, with the involvement of each of the communities.

Housing: Would form an agency for low- and middle-income housing. He supports creating small community-based housing for the homeless to get them out of the shelters. Repeatedly has advocated that vacant lots in residential areas be turned into baseball fields.

Transportation: In spite of repeated phone calls, Giuliani's press and issues offices were unable to come up with a position on this matter.

Borough Growth: Giuliani's campaign office again was unable to provide a position on this matter.

Ratings on Response

The candidates all differed in the alacrity of their responses to a magazine they had not heard of and whose name they could not easily spell. On the theory that Oculus represented the "little guy," we thought the manner in which their responses were given would be a good test to see how the candidates, once in office, would treat regular folks. As they say, you are what your campaign is.

David Dinkins: His office moved smoothly and quickly; already had position statements prepared on these issues.

Harrison Goldin: Provided general campaign material readily.

Rudolph Giuliani: The campaign office repeatedly passed calls to other people who promised to get back to us immediately. One person came up with partial information.

Edward Koch: A little casual, but generally responsive.

Ronald Lauder: The press office promised on numerous occasions that it was putting together material for *Oculus*. After a personal visit, it produced the paper.

Richard Ravitch: Very slow, but got a quick response after threat of omission from this column.

Ronald Lauder *Republican*

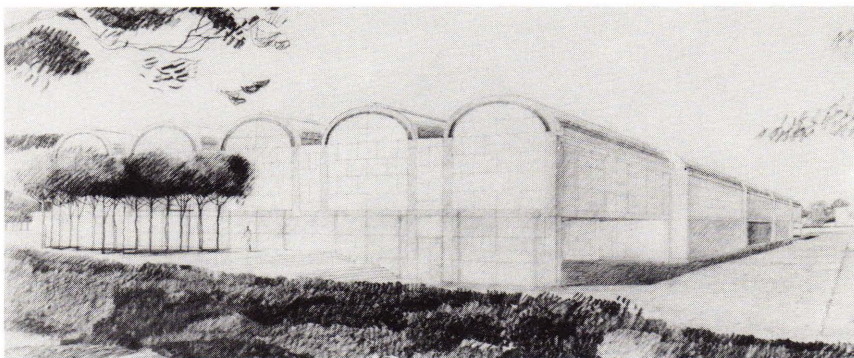
Zoning and Development: Supports revamping of 1961 zoning resolution to allow mixed land use. Lauder recommends higher-valued construction in areas zoned for lower-priority uses. For instance, residential construction would be allowed in areas zoned for manufacturing, but manufacturing would not be permitted in residential areas. Lauder wants to see New York City development approval process centralized and streamlined.

Housing: Feels rent regulations have created a housing shortage by removing incentives to owning or improving rental property. To restore incentives, suggests "vacancy decontrols," rent-regulated apartments would be deregulated. Lauder supports revamping the building code to allow new, less expensive materials.

Transportation: Considers Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority's 25 percent toll hike unjustified.

Borough Growth: Available and underused land should be targeted for economic expansion with lower taxes and less regulation imposed by the city.

CRITIQUE



Kimbell Art Museum, Gallery extension and new covered garage; Romaldo Giurgola.

The Kimbell Expansion

by Suzanne Stephens

Somehow we never thought it would be attempted — the expansion of Louis Kahn's Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth. What is often called the best example of museum architecture built in America in this century is not exempt from demands of growth. And so Romaldo Giurgola of Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorpe Associates in Canberra, Australia, has come up with a plan to add 14,000 square feet of gallery space to the Kimbell.

The extension, announced by the Museum's director, Edmund Pillsbury, is actually composed of two parts added to the north and south end of the museum, with 20-foot gaps separating the old and new structures. The architects have used the same cycloid vaulted galleries of the old building in the new scheme — along with the same proportions and the same materials, concrete and travertine. In other words, a careful cloning appears to be taking place, occurring at the short ends of the building where the site easily accommodates the expansion. Yet the plans and faint sketches released by the Museum still raise certain issues about the nature of adding on to landmark icons.

At what point does an individual work of architecture — even one that suggests its own expansion in the open-ended nature of its extrusion-type modular design — lose its intimacy? Intimate spaces were stressed heavily by the Kimbell's original director, Richard Brown. Kahn still wanted a sense of grandeur, and turned the horizontal into the monumental. The park elevation was 16 times as long as it was wide. Now 10 more cycloidic vaults will be added to the 16 and the museum's horizontality will indeed be even more emphatic. It is dangerous to risk the balance that exists between the eye and the foot of the museum goer and the sense of human scale. But here the final effect cannot be fully tested until the thing is already built.

Certainly the scheme is not following in the architecturally assertive paths of the

controversial first schemes for the Whitney and Guggenheim museum additions. It is so discreet. After all the fewfaraw over the Whitney and Guggenheim additions, it is easy to see why a museum would want to stick too closely to the original. Even so, choosing an architect to add on to Kahn would be a killer. Aldo Giurgola was strongly recommended by a series of different architects, notes Pillsbury, who led an informal hunt to choose Kahn's successor. Giurgola had the right standing in the architectural ministry for this anointed role: He had taught at Penn with Kahn and had written a book about him (*Louis I. Kahn*, co-authored with Jaimini Mehta, 1975), all of which Pillsbury found convincing.

Pillsbury admits he was surprised to find that Giurgola, so long a New York-based architect, is now living most of the time in Canberra. Giurgola decided to stay there after completing the Australian Houses of Parliament and to form a partnership with his project architect, Richard Thorpe, an Australian.

While Giurgola is still a partner in the New York office of Mitchell/Giurgola, that office is not involved with the Kimbell expansion. Stephen Goldberg of the New York office comments that the set-up "is an exception." (Giurgola is no longer affiliated with the Philadelphia firm of Mitchell/Giurgola, which is now a separate partnership.) A Fort Worth architectural engineer who worked on the Kimbell originally, Frank Sherwood, of Karlsberger and Associates, will be in charge of the construction documents for the new wing. And of course the fax should help decision-making between Canberra and Fort Worth.

Architect Abuse

by Miguel Rivera and PariNaz Ziai

The following article is written by two 1989 graduates of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation and Planning. The research was compiled while they were in their last term and is based on interviews with a small selected sample of 20 architecture firms of various sizes, including

Anderson Schwartz Architects, Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Whitelaw, Steven Holl, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, Richard Meier and Partners, Mitchell/Giurgola, and James Stewart Polshek & Partners.

We didn't enter architecture to become rich, but we did expect to be able to afford an occasional movie or nice dinner, or at least a decent living space. But the financial realities of practicing as an architect-in-training in New York City are even grimmer than we had expected. Discussing money, however, has always been taboo. Yet the issues reflect an underlying crisis in architecture today.

Half of the starting salaries in the firms surveyed fall in the range of \$17,000 to \$24,000 a year. Twenty percent of the firms pay architects more than that — \$24,000 to \$28,000, and 30 percent pay less, from \$10,500 to \$17,000.

Based on the 40-hour week, these figures translate into wages ranging from \$5.00 to \$13.50 an hour. As we all know, however, the architect is consistently expected to spend anywhere from 10 to 30 hours a week overtime, for which 75 percent of the firms do not pay. Thus, the \$5.00 an hour is more like \$3.35 an hour, and the \$13.50 is \$9.00.

Can graduates from architecture school pay their bills? Many have to meet student loans which can add up to \$30,000 and can only be deferred for two years.

A characteristic situation would be the following budget per month:

<i>Rent including utilities</i>	\$ 700.00
<i>Transportation</i>	50.00
<i>Food</i>	350.00
<i>Misc.</i>	150.00

<i>Monthly Expenses</i>	\$ 1,250.00
<i>Yearly Expenses</i>	15,000.00

Can this lean budget be met on a salary of \$17,000 to \$24,000 in New York City? First, the gross salary must be reduced by 30 percent for federal, state, and local taxes, and for social security. After taxes, the net income ranges from \$11,900 to



Drawing: W. Raashid Saxton ©1989.

\$16,800. If you subtract the yearly expenses from this net income, you can either end up \$3,100 in debt, or, if you are lucky, with \$1,800 in your pocket. And now you can begin paying off that student loan.

During our conversations with the various practicing architects in our survey, we heard, "We have received resumes from students with professional degrees who are willing to work for free." Or, "Young, talented people straight out of school are a dime a dozen." Such attitudes persist, along with the myth that a poor architect is a good architect.

Meanwhile our colleagues in other professions remind us what they make: Several students who graduated this past May from Columbia University Law School joined corporate firms at starting salaries that averaged \$70,000 to \$75,000 a year.

We understand that professional organizations (such as the AIA) can't make recommendations about salaries and fees being increased without being accused of conspiring to restrain trade. But, regardless, the architecture profession is still allowing itself to be taken advantage of by society at large.

Housing Capital Plan: A Future Disaster?

by Alex Cohen

After years of federal and local neglect, New York City has embarked on an ambitious 10-year program to create new and rehabilitated housing for homeless people and low- and moderate-income families. Last year the city committed \$5.1 billion to create 84,000 new housing units and rehabilitate 160,000 units by the end of the next decade. In the 1990 Executive Budget, \$908 million will be earmarked in support of the 10-year plan, and is itself a one-year commitment to the creation of housing far greater than in any other American city.

In July, Mayor Koch flew by helicopter to Crotona Park in the South Bronx to kick off a "massive reclamation" of 20

buildings which this year will result in 563 clustered apartments for homeless and low-income families, a Special Initiatives Program effort. No act could more dramatically illustrate the importance Koch places on the housing initiative in his campaign strategy for re-election or demonstrate the tremendous inadequacies of the housing plan.

Crotona Park, Bed-Stuy, and East Harlem are neighborhoods without an economic or social base that the City virtually abandoned except for the placement of NIMBY programs for the homeless, mentally ill, and drug abusers.

It is in these neighborhoods that the city plans to house the formerly homeless and other low-income residents the fastest, cheapest way it can—within rehabilitated, city-owned buildings.

Crotona Park is located within Community Board 3, where the median income is \$7,200 and single women head more than half of the area's families. According to Eldred Hill, district manager of Board 3, "Day care facilities are already overwhelmed, employment opportunities scarce and some of the schools are overcrowded." Crotona Park lacks a full-scale shopping corridor, and does not have a single bank.

Instead of integrating the housing initiative into an actual comprehensive planning framework to rebuild depressed neighborhoods like Crotona Park, the city is perpetuating entrenched ghettos for the underclass.

Formerly homeless and low-income people need access to employment opportunities, adequate health care, day care, and other social services in order to achieve economic stability. Areas like the South Bronx and parts of Harlem were unofficial victims in the 1970's of "planned shrinkage." In rapidly depopulating neighborhoods, empty schools were sold and subway stations were allowed to deteriorate or were closed by the city. Small businesses and industry failed or fled.

Today the city refuses to fix Crotona Park's only subway station, saying it is



Crotona Park housing in Bathgate.

Photo: Andre Lamberison

"underutilized." Without adequate public transportation, the city has not made it clear how the neighborhood's new residents will travel to jobs outside the depressed community.

The primary occupants of SIP housing, homeless single women and their children, have tremendous needs. Many poor women in the city receive insufficient or negligible pre- and post-natal care. Children, born at risk into a world of poverty, need to attend programs such as Head Start to encourage their future educational and personal achievement. Unfortunately, the placement of SIP and low-income housing in already deprived areas, without a commitment to creating or enhancing these programs, further destabilizes fledgling communities.

At the borough and community levels, some are working to accommodate new Housing Preservation and Development housing into evolving community plans. Community Board 3 has already created a 197-A community plan for the Crotona Park area. The Planning Department of the Bronx Borough President's Office is trying to masterplan Crotona Park East, monitoring housing creation and speculation, planning health and social service centers, and lobbying the city for a real income mix in the HPD housing. In the Broadhurst section of Harlem, the Harlem Urban Development Corporation is trying to rebuild the commercial and social foundation of this depressed area which will soon see an influx of temporary and permanent homeless housing.

If the city's housing plan is to succeed in permanently housing the homeless and poor, their economic and social needs must be addressed. Rehabilitating vacant buildings is essential to restoring a community's built fabric. But planning the reintegration of the homeless and underclass into society requires much more of a commitment than building decent roofs over their heads.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the editorial staff of Oculus and are not those of the Executive Committee or Staff of the NYC/AIA.

THE CHAPTER



Denis Kuhn

From the President

Denis Kuhn

Denis Kuhn was inducted as President of the New York Chapter of the AIA at the annual meeting on June 20, succeeding Martin Raab. The following are excerpts from his address.

I have often been asked what will be the theme of my administration of the New York Chapter of the AIA.

I believe the Chapter can have an impact on the civic affairs of the city. We can positively influence the planning and development of the city, and help shape the role that our profession plays in this process.

On the Environment

We practice at a time where there is great and justifiable concern about our environment. Yet it affects us in various ways when we find that approvals for projects are becoming more difficult to obtain and time-consuming to get. The need for housing and social service facilities must be given equal or better consideration. We are not trying to compromise environmental concerns, but to make sure that housing and social service facilities are not endlessly delayed by minor concerns and criticisms. During the approval process our society as a whole can be far too critical and lose sight of the real objectives and needs of our city.

On Housing

We particularly need more affordable housing. If you want to have a family, in all likelihood you have to leave town. Three people in our office [Ehrenkrantz, Eckstat & Whitelaw] left this year for the same salary or less to go to Seattle, Washington, and Albany. We cannot turn this shortage around singlehandedly. But we should join with other organizations such as the New York Building Congress and the New York Real Estate Board, among others, to simplify and streamline the building process.

On Urban Design and Planning

We shall be activating our Urban Planning/Urban Design Committee to issue timely, well-considered professional recommendations on complex issues. We want to see that issues get resolved, and not always lead to further dispute.

In addition, we must increase the pressure to upgrade the design of public spaces and parks and the quality of related amenities in our city.

On Preservation

Preservation of the past for the future will be high on the agenda for this chapter. This past year, the Historic City Committee, a study group organized by the Municipal Art Society and chaired by William Conklin, issued recommendations for short- and long-term planning in such matters to the Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York. We need to follow up on the recommendations and be sure we have a strengthened Landmarks Commission.

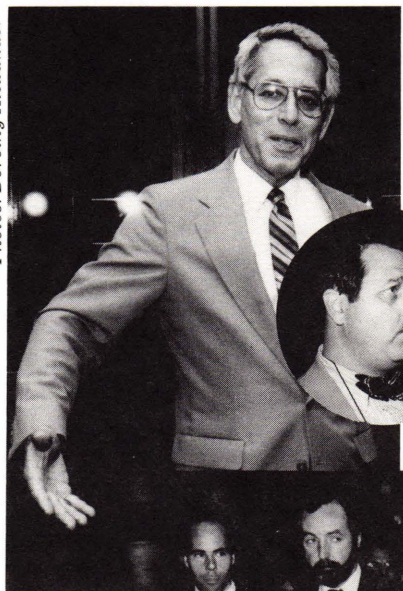
On Local Law 58

This recently enacted handicapped accessibility law still needs some refining. We are currently working with the Real Estate Board and others in trying to make it more workable while still helping achieve its goals for the handicapped. The provisions not only benefit the handicapped, but in the long term will help us deal with an increasingly older population.

On Compensation

All our offices are strapped with rising costs of practicing in New York. So we move our offices further downtown and out to the fringes of the city and cut sharper deals to stay in the game and keep up some decent level of compensation for everyone in our offices. Compensation for our work is always a subject of concern. Our State Association of the AIA will be undertaking an initiative this year. The Chapter should participate in this effort, as we attempt to work within the guidelines established

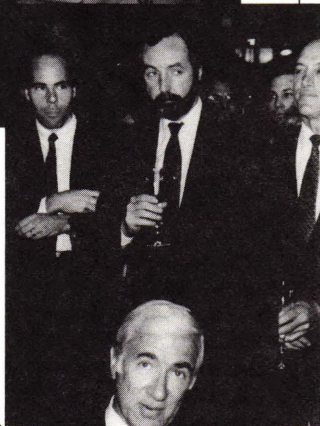
Photos: Dorothy Alexander



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4.



5.

by the U.S. Justice Department "consent decree."

On Scholarship and Education

In addition to our Brunner Grant, the Eleanor Allwork Scholarship, and the Haskell Grant, we have a number of scholarships that need to be administered, consolidated, and used. We shall be looking into those, including mid-career scholarships. We want to continue our architects-in-training courses for young architects in New York.

On Legislative Affairs

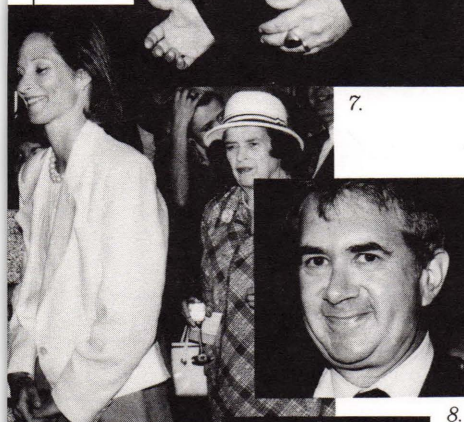
We shall continue our efforts with the New York State legislature regarding our position on interior design licensing, and the statute of limitations.

On A Third Regional Director

To represent our state region at the national AIA, we shall continue to press for a third regional director reflecting recent shifts in membership in favor of corporate members.



1. Martin Raab
2. John Winkler
3. Amanda Burden
4. Valerie Baker
5. Gene Kohn
6. Lew Davis
7. Ted Liebman
8. Lee Pomeroy
9. Cathanne Piesla
10. Robert Kliment



NYC/AIA Presents Awards and Bestows Medal of Honor at 122nd Annual Meeting

Recipients

Seymour 'Sy' Sheldon, architect, received the President's Award for his "extended contribution to the city" and the profession.

Donald J. Cogsville and the **Harlem Urban Development Corporation** received a Special Citation for "planning environments in the Harlem Community which inspire an improved way of life."

Robert M. Hayes and the **Coalition for the Homeless** received a Special Citation for "mobilizing the social conscience and economic resources" of the City to battle the homeless crisis.

Ronald Shiffman and the **Pratt**

Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development

received a Special Citation for "leadership and professional support" to communities seeking architectural solutions to remedy the problems of the underserved.

Alan Schwartzman, partner in Davis, Brody & Associates, was presented The Harry B. Rutkins Award for Service to the Chapter, Institute, and the Profession for his "constancy of support and unbounded goodwill" which embody the highest goals of the profession and the New York Chapter.

Theodore Liebman received the Andrew J. Thomas/Pioneer in Housing Award for initiating "housing types and strategies offering vision and another chance for our cities."

Joan K. Davidson was presented the George S. Lewis Award for her "patient search for creative ideas," and her leadership and devotion to improving New York City.

Amanda Burden was granted Honorary Membership in the Chapter for her "enthusiastic and tireless efforts...to help realize the architectural and public arts vision" of Battery Park City.

Kent Barwick and the **Municipal Art Society of New York** received the Award of Merit for their "advocacy of the highest in civic standards...in the continuing quest to make New York a truly livable city."

The Chapter's highest award for distinction in the profession, the Medal of Honor, was presented to **Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates** for their "extraordinary contribution to our built environment and their creative energy in elevating the business of quality design." Accepting for KPF were A. Eugene Kohn, Sheldon Fox, William Louie and Arthur May. Unable to attend were partners Robert L. Cioppa, Robert Evans, William Pedersen, and Lee Polisano.



I.M. Pei

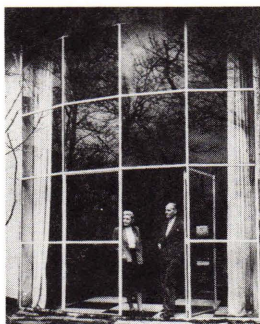
The Ties That Bind

Effective September 1, the architectural firm of I.M. Pei and Partners is known as **Pei, Cobb, Freed & Partners**. The announcement has inspired the expected speculations: What about I.M.'s initials? Will he really retire? Where is his son C.C. in all this? According to Pei, "Remember Cobb and Freed have been with me for more than thirty years. We are proud of the firm, and the loyalty shown should be rewarded." As far as retiring goes, he says (laughing), "An architect never retires. I'm still active and will still have an ongoing relationship with the firm.".... The firm known as Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut is now known as **Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Whitelaw**. Graeme Whitelaw, formerly president of the New York office of HOK, has been in charge of the Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Whitelaw project for Newport Tower in Jersey City, now about to go into construction....

Naturally, with the recent political uprisings in China, *Oculus* wondered what would become of the **China-U.S. Architectural Alliance**. This is not a State Department travel group but an association formed last spring between **Emery Roth & Sons** in New York and the **Beijing Institute of Architectural Design** in Beijing. The Beijing Institute, an architecture and engineering firm founded in 1949, designed the Beijing Airport Terminal and the Beijing Kunlun Hotel. Emery Roth, founded in 1903, designed the China World Trade Center in Beijing. The two firms, one with 2,000 Chinese employees, the other with 100 Americans, thought an association would allow them to exchange people and technologies and provide a set-up to work together on projects around the world. As president of Emery Roth, Robert Sobel explains that the alliance is not a normal equity joint venture. But the political events have indeed frozen the relationship for the time being. "We haven't had active communication since the unrest," says Sobel....

Peter Samton, a former Chapter president, was elected president of The City Club of New York, effective July 1.

BOOKS



Ellen and Wallace Harrison, in their house in Huntington, Long Island, c.1940

Recent Arrivals

Thoughtful

Rodolfo Machado and Jorge Silvetti, **Buildings for Cities**, Peter G. Rowe, Editor; Gabriel Feld, Project Assistant (produced by Harvard University Graduate School of Design; published by Rizzoli, \$25). Surreally rationalist projects of a civic scale from Palermo to Pittsburgh by two award-winning practitioners in Boston who teach at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Informative

The Experimental Tradition, Helene Lipstadt, Editor (The Architectural League of New York and Princeton Architectural Press, \$34.95). War stories and other tales about open competitions. After reading historical essays and case studies by Lipstadt, Barry Bergdoll, Sarah Bradford Landau, Mary McLeod, and Helen Searing, it is easy to understand why invited competitions are more popular with many architects—and clients.

Useful

Friends Preservation Manual

(Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts). This manual will be given free to owners of designated properties. Includes maps, guidelines, and commission application forms. For copies, call 644-2828.

REVIEW

by Anne Rieselbach

Wallace K. Harrison, Architect

by Victoria Newhouse
Rizzoli, 1989

Wallace K. Harrison, who never went to architecture school, was able to work hard and to choose his friends, mentors, and partners wisely. Victoria Newhouse's very readable and comprehensive study of Harrison's life and work, enriched by interviews with the architect, sheds light on his remarkable combination of persistence and diplomacy—as well as the development (and ensuing compromise) of his unique architectural designs.

The book is notable in its identification

and description of the critical relationships between Harrison, his clients, and his partners. Harrison's skill in working with and often being the voice for the team of firms for Rockefeller Center gave him a strong footing within the profession early in his career. He also attracted supportive and powerful patrons including Nelson Rockefeller, Robert Moses, and William Zeckendorf, Sr. Thus he was to play a central role in the design of two World's Fairs, the United Nations, La Guardia Airport, Lincoln Center, and the Albany Mall.

Newhouse also explores Harrison's smaller private commissions, unfettered by the design-by-committee modus operandi. In these projects he explored the sensual, expressionistic forms that are only hinted at in his larger buildings.

Best Selling Books

(as of August 1, 1989)

1. **The Daring Flight**, Santiago Calatrava (Electa/Rizzoli, paper, \$35), tied with **Engineering-Architecture**, Santiago Calatrava; Werner Blaser, editor (Birkhauser Verlag, cloth, \$50).
2. **Hugh Newell Jacobsen, Architect**, Massimo Vignelli, designer and editor (AIA Press, cloth, \$50; paper, \$35).
3. **City: Rediscovering the Center**, William H. Whyte (Doubleday, \$24.95).
4. **The Architecture of the American Summer: The Flowering of the Shingle Style**, Vincent Scully (Temple Hoyne Buell Center/Rizzoli, cloth, \$25; paper, \$14.95).
5. **The Le Corbusier Guide**, Deborah Gans (Princeton Architectural Press, paper, \$17.95).
6. **Deconstruction II**, editors of **Architectural Design** (Academy Editions, London; St. Martin's Press, New York, paper, \$19.95).
7. **The Most Beautiful House in the World**, Witold Rybczynski (The Viking Press, cloth, \$18.95).
8. **The AIA Guide to New York City**, Norval White and Elliot Willensky (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, cloth \$34.95; paper, \$21.95).

*Based on figures released by Urban Center Books.

THE CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 1989

SATURDAY 2

EXHIBITION

Remembering the Future: The New York World's Fair from 1939 to 1964. The Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows. 718-592-5555. Closes December 31.

WEDNESDAY 6

MEETING

Public Architects Committee of the NYC/AIA. 6:00 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

SATURDAY 9

EXHIBITION

Aldo Rossi USA. Max Protetch Gallery, 560 Broadway. 966-5454. Closes October 21.

MONDAY 11

LECTURE AND EXHIBITION

Japanese Architecture and Urban Technology. Speakers include Kenneth Frampton. 6:00 pm. Nikken Sekkei: Its Ninety Years and the Modernization of Japan. Closes Oct. 13. Both at Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia University. 666-2433.

WEDNESDAY 13

RECEPTION

Architecture: A Place for Women. Publication party, sponsored by the Municipal Art Society. 6:00 pm. RSVP 935-3960.

EXHIBITION

Michael Graves Designs for Steuben. Crystal vessels on display. Steuben Glass, Fifth Ave. at 56th St. 725-3570.

THURSDAY 14

EXHIBITION

Dean Hoffman's "Grand Design" for the General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave. 243-5150. Closes December 17.

EXHIBITION

Irving Browning: City of Contrasts. The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West. 873-3400. Closes December 3.

BENEFIT (Sept. 14 - Sept. 17)

Third Annual Ultimate Warehouse Sale to benefit DIFFA at IDCNY, Building 4, Long Island City. Admission \$10. 727-3100.

FRIDAY 15

FORUM

Panelists will discuss the recent Women's City Club and National Resources Defense Council report, "New York City Zoning: The Need for Reform." Co-sponsored by the Municipal Art Society. 8:30 am. The Urban Center. 935-3960.

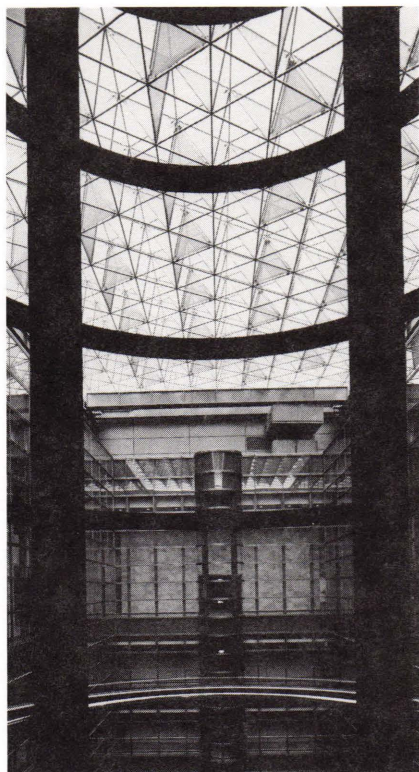


Photo: Courtesy New York Historical Society

Itoh Building, Tokyo, by Nikken Sekkei.



Irving Browning, The Empire State, 1931.

MONDAY 18**MEETING**

NYC/AIA Housing Committee. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

TUESDAY 19**EXHIBITION**

Fantasy Furniture: The First 50 Years of the Newel Art Galleries. National Academy of Design, 1083 Fifth Ave. 369-4880. Closes October 22.

WEDNESDAY 20**COURSE**

Inside the City Planning Commission. First of four weekly sessions on the history and procedures of the Commission, instructed by senior staff members. Sponsored by the Municipal Art Society. 6-7:30 pm. The Urban Center. 935-3960.

TUESDAY 26**LECTURE**

Architecture on the Pacific Rim. Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates and Pei, Cobb, Freed & Partners present current and future work. Sponsored by the NYC/AIA. 6:00 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

WEDNESDAY 27**EXHIBITIONS**

Low Density Contextual Zoning. Co-sponsored by the Municipal Art Society and the City Planning Commission. Arverne: the winning schemes. Both at The Urban Center. 935-3960.

THURSDAY 28**INFORMATION MEETING**

New Schools for New York. Information and registration meeting for school design study project, co-sponsored by the Architectural League and the Public Education Assoc. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center. 753-1722.

UPCOMING IN OCTOBER**TUESDAY 3****LECTURE**

Architecture on the Pacific Rim. Emery Roth & Sons and Paul Rudolph present current and future work. Sponsored by the NYC/AIA. 6:00 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

THURSDAY 5**EXHIBITION**

The Manhattan Municipal Building 75th Anniversary. Photographs presented by the NYC Department of General Services. The Tweed Courthouse Gallery, 52 Chambers St. Closes October 30. 669-2379.

SATURDAY 7**TRIP (Oct. 7-Oct. 21)**

Travel Program for Architects in the Soviet Union and Finland. Sponsored by Citizen Exchange Council. Call Leslie Allen at 643-1985.

MONDAY 9**EXHIBITION**

Franco Albini, Architecture and Design, 1934-1977. The New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture, Old Westbury. Closes November 4. 516-686-7659.

TUESDAY 10**LECTURE**

Toward a Civilized City: Architecture, Development and Preservation. Sponsored by the NYC/AIA. Admission: \$7. 5:30 pm. The Urban Center. 838-9670.

THURSDAY 12**EXHIBITION**

The Architecture of Jean Nouvel. The AIA Headquarters, Washington, D.C. Closes December 3. 202-626-7300.

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. Information 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.

DESIGNER'S SATURDAY (Oct. 12 - Oct. 14)

Spotlight on a cavalcade of international design celebrities at IDCNY. Contact Alexia Lalli at 718-567-1288.

SUNDAY 15**SYMPOSIUM (Oct. 15 - Oct. 17)**

Conservatories for the 21st Century, sponsored by NYC/AIA and the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. 718-622-4544.

SATURDAY 21/ SUNDAY 22**MAS FALL HERITAGE TOUR**

Historic Homes and Other Delights of the Hudson River Valley. Including visit to Joan K. Davidson's estate. 935-3960.

COMPETITIONS**SEPTEMBER 15**

Submissions due for seventh annual Lighting Design Awards program sponsored by the International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD). 620-3028.

Designs due for construction of a candlestick. Sponsored by Audets and the Dawson Gallery. To be judged by Massimo Vignelli and Jack Lenor Larsen. Exhibition in November. 716-325-4880.

OCTOBER 31

The Isaac Perry and Philip Hooker Prizes for professional and student research in local architectural history, sponsored by the Turpin Bannister Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Write to School of Architecture, Greene Building, RPI, Troy, NY 12180.

NOVEMBER 15

1990-1991 Rome Prize Fellowship. Applications due for fellowships awarded in architecture, design arts, landscape, etc. 517-4200.

**1989 Architectural Heritage Ball
November 18, 1989**

Hold the date for the Ball at the Celeste Bartos Forum, The New York Public Library.

Special Event

On October 5, Robert Geddes will be inaugurated into the first Henry Luce Chair at NYU. His talk will be entitled "Citybuilding: The Leaf and the Stone." The inauguration is co-sponsored by the NYC/AIA, the Luce Foundation, and NYU.

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