

POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

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OF
ARCHITECTS
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POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

July/August • Volume 9, No. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION • POTOMAC VALLEY
CHAPTER OF MARYLAND AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS

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Published bi-monthly by the Potomac Valley Chapter of Maryland, American Institute of Architects, 912 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. Entered as second class matter at the Silver Spring Post Office. Subscription price: 50c per copy, \$2.50 per year. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

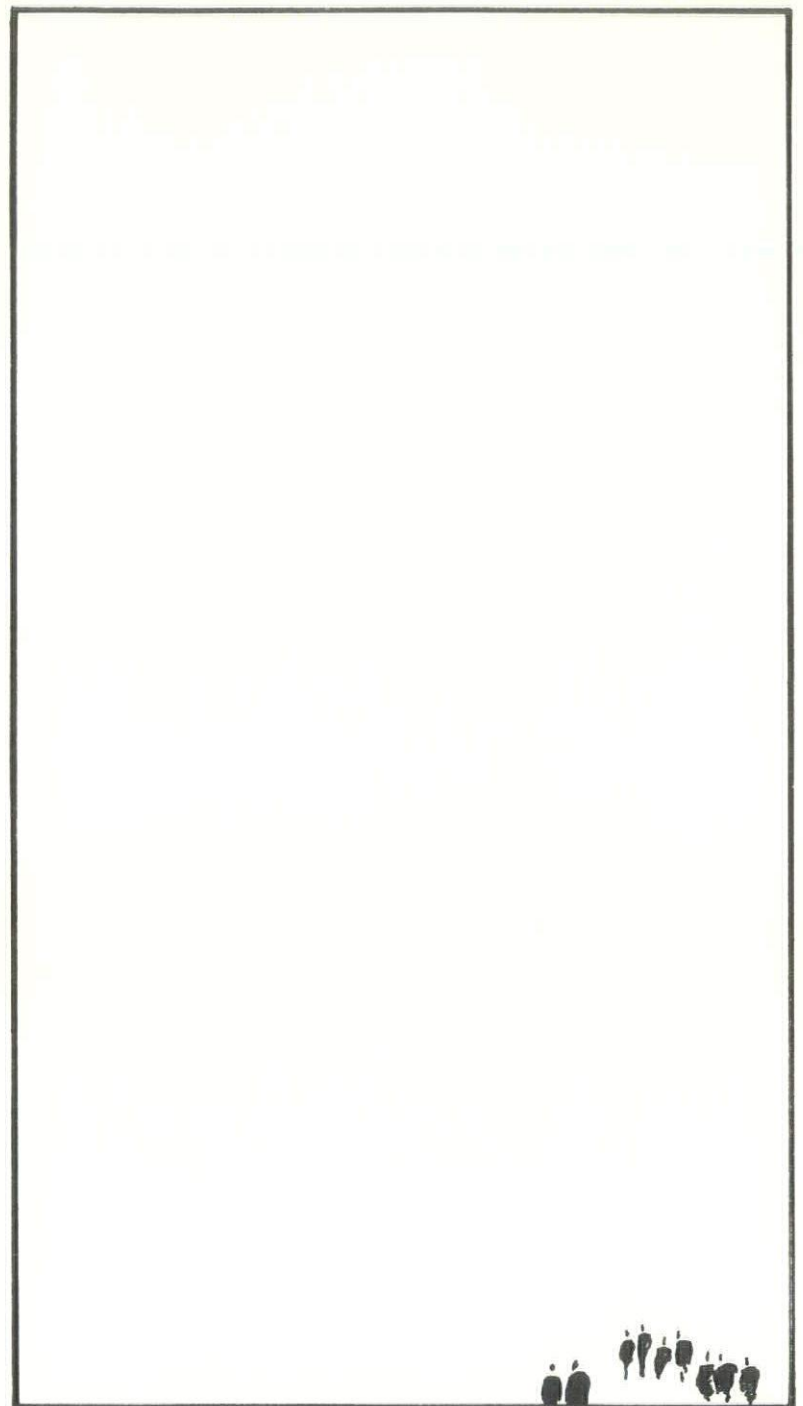
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The articles in this magazine represent the personal opinions of the authors and/or the editor and should not be construed as representing the viewpoint of the Potomac Valley Chapter, A.I.A.

MARYLAND ARCHITECT ELECTED

The Potomac Valley Architect would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Charles M. Nes, Jr., FAIA, former Director of the Middle Atlantic Region, on his elevation to First Vice President-President Designate of the American Institute of Architects.

Judging by our knowledge of his past performance on a local and national level, we can expect inspired leadership in the future. Our sincere best wishes will pave the route.



But Mr. Greene said in the Potomac Valley Magazine last month that this Kennedy Center foyer would be a magnificent space. But I told him 600 feet high is too high.

Ed.: Oops! our slip

ON THE COVER

Whether caught up in the summer building fever or just summer lethargy, this timely photograph by Lowell A. Kenyon, Chevy Chase, Md. is open for personal interpretation.

JACK GRUSS

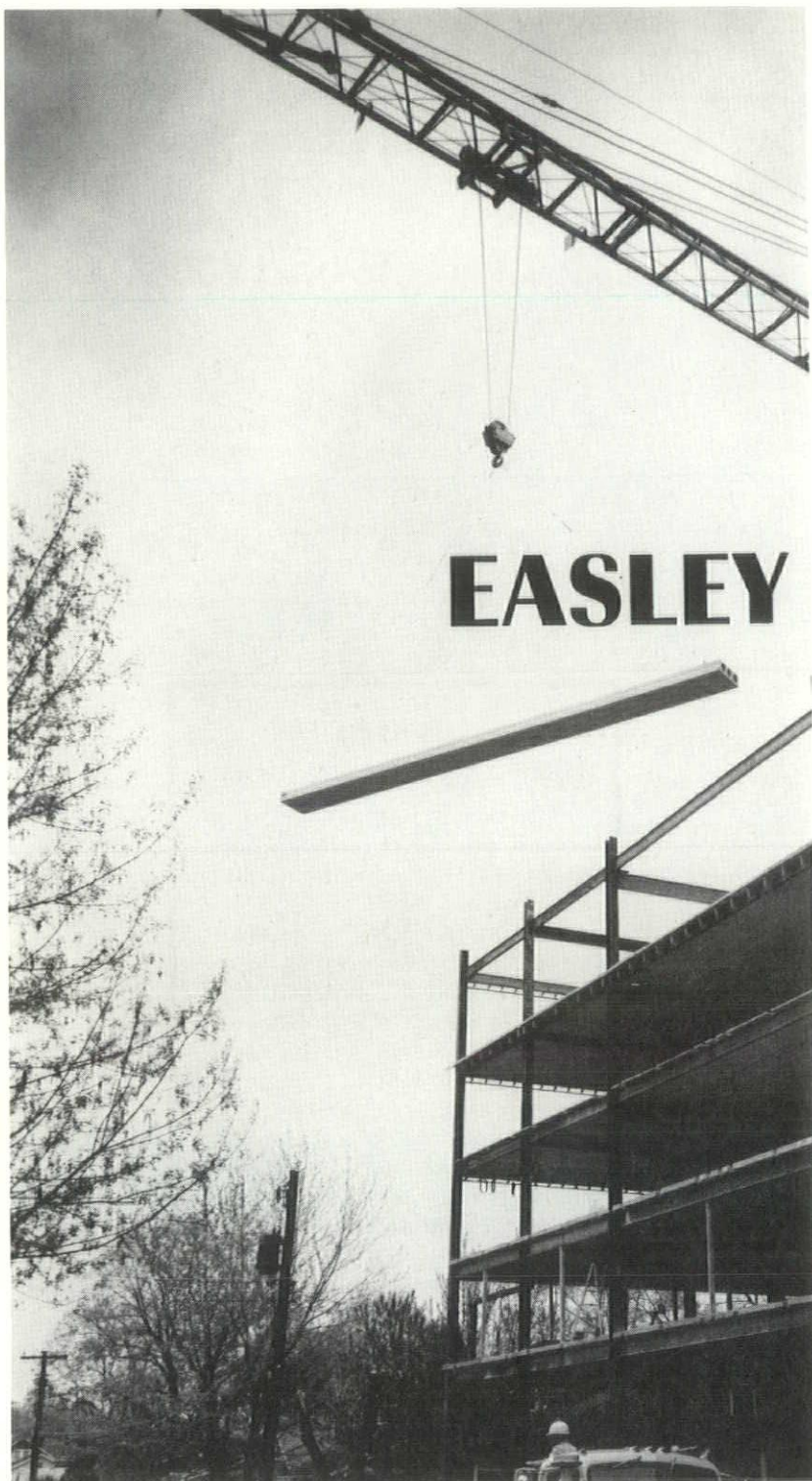
1928 - 1965

The recent untimely death of one of our Chapter members, Jack Gruss, had a profound effect on all of us.

It seems much less tragic when an architect, advanced in years, leaves behind a concrete record of achievement. There is a feeling of fulfillment in an architectural sense which, though not compensating, is consoling.

This was not Jack's case, for he was just making a valiant beginning and left little visible record of architectural achievement. But to his friends and acquaintances his true achievement was one of spirit. His dedication, determination, consideration and kindness, coupled with his ever present cheerfulness and humor are his legacy to his friends, and through his friends I hope that this legacy will continue to exert an influence in the profession.

. . . Hilleary



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POINT OF VIEW — NEIL R. GREENE

DOWNTOWN RENEWAL BILL reached significant agreement in the House and Senate in July with plans authorizing renewal of the old downtown retail district north of Pennsylvania Ave. between the Capitol and the Treasury. Finally, after nearly five years, city officials and Downtown Progress can now expect approval by the Administration backed plan so long opposed by the House District Subcommittee. Washington has been, to this time, the only major city without authority to use urban renewal powers in its business district.

30 ACRE CHANCELLERY COMPLEX is now being sought by the White House to establish an international community probably on an undisclosed Northwest site. One possibility is the use of eminent domain on a site between George Washington Circle and Massachusetts Ave. Bitterness resulting from Washington real estate problems has caused the White House to seek such an international site for chancelleries, the O.A.S., the State Department offices and perhaps the Foreign Service Institute.

WHAT CHALK WANTS, CHALK GETS even if it is against free enterprise, even if he says he doesn't want the subway — he wants it. If the government won't give him a franchise to run the subway for a guaranteed percentage of the profits he wants the U.S. to buy D.C. Transit for \$63 million. His cash outlay was only \$500,000. It is a mighty cool game and the way he is playing it he will probably have it his way.

FORRESTAL BUILDING SPANNING TENTH STREET MALL at Independence Avenue, S.W. is the first of a new federal complex to get underway soon. The design models unveiled by President Johnson at the A.I.A. Convention indicates an eight story square block and the main wing crossing the mall 30 feet above the street level providing an arcade entrance to the Southwest. The \$37½ million building was designed to reflect the finest of contemporary archi-

tectural thought.

\$85 MILLION MARYLAND PARK PLAN proposed by Maryland State Department of Forests and Parks. Land acquisition and development plans for 43 existing and potential recreation areas will be used by an estimated 9.3 million persons in 1976 compared with 4.4 million last year. Top priority will include acquisition of land at Gun Powder, Seneca Park, Assateague, Calvert Cliffs, and Point Lookout.

BILLBOARDS GO BY THE BOARDS, if states fail to establish effective control on billboards and junk yards after January 1, 1968. President Johnson's proposal to cut all federal highway aid, to those states gained support from the Outdoor Advertising Association speaking for a majority of concerns owning billboards.

BACK TO THE CLASSIC REVIVAL may be the next F.D.R. memorial competition. The F.D.R. memorial commission has officially announced its opposition to the eight vertical tablets designed for the Washington, D.C. memorial. Results of years of debate include: the juries high praise; Fine Arts Commission approval; resignation of F.D.R. Commission Chairman Francis Biddle; much acclaim from contemporary architects; the Washington Post's crusade against the design; and, of course, the Roosevelt family's constant opposition. Now Representative James Roosevelt says the next question to be settled is whether the memorial should be built now or whether it should be put off a number of years to seek a better historical perspective.

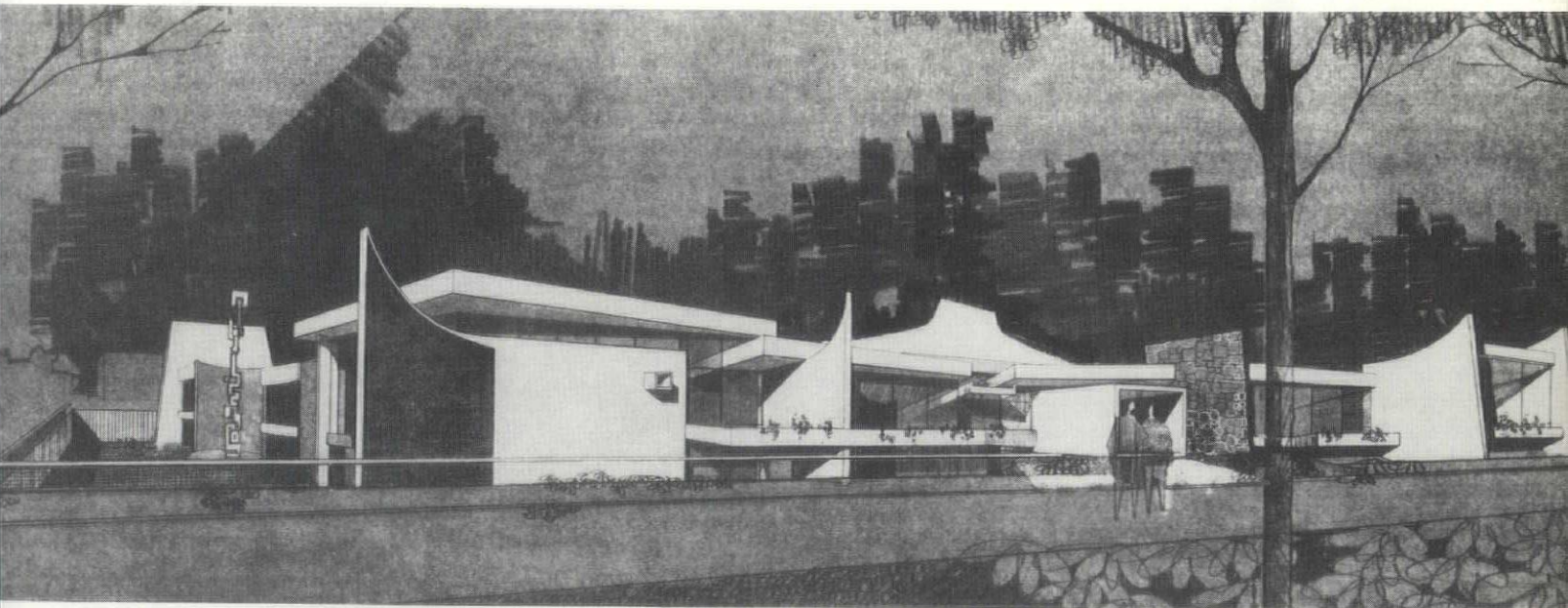
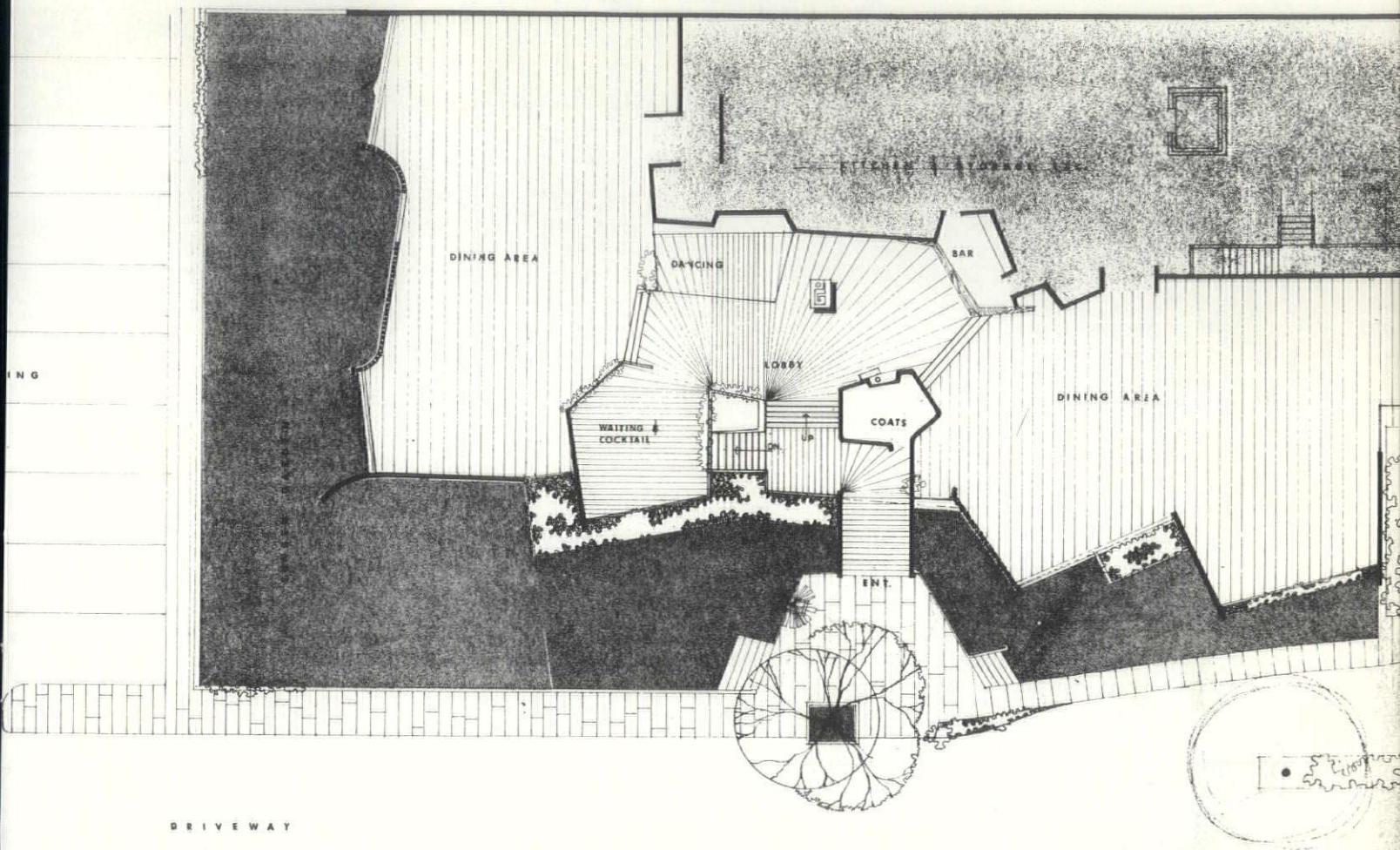
One might think, that to cause such frustration, animosity, name calling, time consumption, financial hardship and verbage perhaps competitions may, in effect, mar the image of the people they are trying to commemorate and that the commission should be granted to the architect whose ability is acceptable to the heirs of the commemorated, thus following the time-honored tradition.



VERSAILLES PLAZA EAST APARTMENTS
HYATTSVILLE, MARYLAND

CHAPTER WORK

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SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND



LEECH & LEECH RESTAURANT
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

PROJECT DESIGNER: NANAK MANKU

SUMMERTIME

And the Living is Easy

So goes the Gershwin song, and for some it may be true. But we in architecture know better. "And the living is frantic" would be more apt.

All of this is by way of defense or apology for an editorial slump which I hope is not too visible. After a day of supervision, spec. writing, designing, working drawings, telephones and crises, it is very difficult to concentrate on anything for more than five minutes in the little time that is left.

And so at press time, I find myself with a long list of possibilities for a feature and no time for development. Giving way to the laziness which is a universal truth of summer, I shall predigest my topics for individual embellishment by more ambitious readers.

A PIPE DREAM

Recently, having decided on a night out we were faced with the dilemma of whether to wolf down dinner before a show or to postpone dinner until much too late afterwards. Playing the gourmet, we decided on making dinner the sole evening's attraction, which left a little time gap before and after. Having just commented that it would be nice if an art gallery were open, we passed the National Gallery and found, to our surprise, that it was. Not having seen the expanded Chester Dale collection we dashed in hoping also to see the recent White House Show. Where we dearly love the National Gallery, we do find it a bit hallowed and finding that the White House Show had

ended, we have speculated since on what some of this dynamic work must have done to those serene spaces. I am sorry we numbered among those who missed it and hope the National Gallery will again sponsor such a showing. This, however, did not diminish the enjoyment of the Dale Collection.

But pursuing the topic further, we started dreaming of a place where good food, books, movies, theatre, painting, sculpture and amusement could be available in close proximity and at hours that would suit the hectic schedules of most of us. Wolf Von Eckardt recently wrote of the Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco and offered the suggestion that the abandoned Power House, scene of the AIA Convention Gala, might find a similar revitalization. Where my dream might be too expansive for the Power House, it might find a home on the Avenue. The only drawback to the dream is that if it became second rate in any aspect its usefulness would be diminished for us. And since it is only a summer dream anyway, we would like to elaborate further. It should occupy a space similar to Tivoli Garden in Copenhagen with the advantages of the Lincoln Center, The Museum of Modern Art, Saville Bookshop, The Four Seasons, The Shoreham Terrace, The Arena Theatre, Philips Gallery, Paris' Cafe de la Paix, the Hayden Planetarium and the Naval Observatory. Guess that's about enough for one's dream, but oddly enough it is possible. Anything is in a Great Society.



*Start with a
space similar to
Tivoli Garden*

LOCAL ART MOVEMENT FURTHER RECOGNIZED

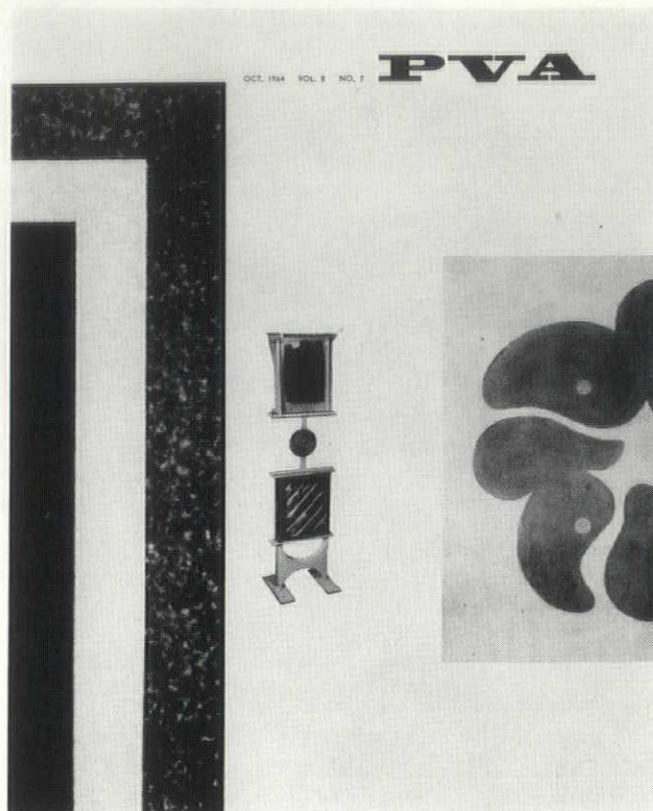
For those who keep abreast of the allied art of painting, or read of it from time to time between our covers, perhaps the news is stale, but I would be remiss not to make further comment on the recognition recently accorded our Colorist Movement (see PVA, October 1964). Though some of the members have long since gained international recognition, it represents a significant step for others and the acceptance of Washington as an art center. A comprehensive collection of colorists' paintings have occupied the walls of the Washington Gallery of Modern Art through the summer before setting out in the fall on a long tour. It is not too late to go see for yourselves what the movement is all about. A visit is better than an essay anytime.

COMPETITIONS

With fall around the corner the mail is full of competition announcements. In addition to those of national interest, we have a few of local significance. The Baltimore Chapter of the AIA, in conjunction with the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce, is sponsoring a competition to encourage excellence in architecture.

And from the Washington Board of Trade comes news of its forthcoming 23rd competition dedicated to the same service — excellence.

These competitions do a great deal of good not only for those premeated, but in education of public taste. We urge all with the time and qualifications to compete.



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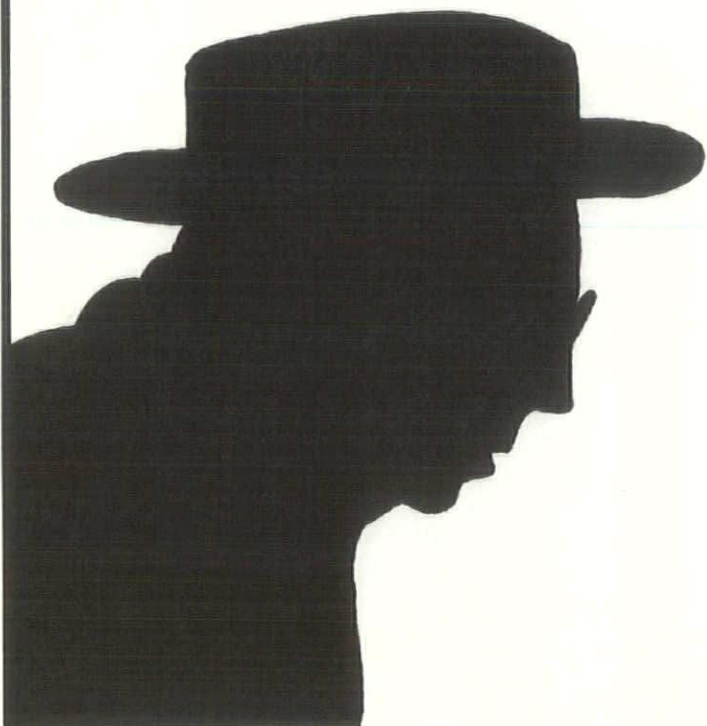
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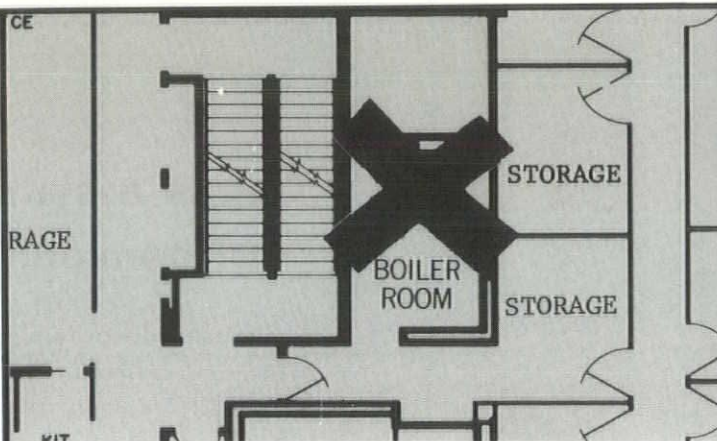
Needless to say this item has more than news interest for members of the Potomac Valley Chapter. This appointment is one many of our practitioners would like to be in the position of accepting if it weren't for a conflict of interest with private practices. It is no exaggeration to say that the man occupying this post is in a position of strongly influencing much of the public architecture of Montgomery County. He can be, as John Blake Murphy was, an ally for those trying to upgrade public work. In addition, he is in a position to educate the skeptics in official position, enlighten the public and render a vital service to his profession sorely in need of all assistance and understanding it can muster. This is the why of its vital interest for us and our hope that the man accepting the position proves equal to the challenge. Architecture in the county is at stake.

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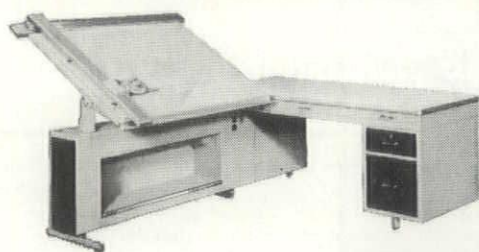
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