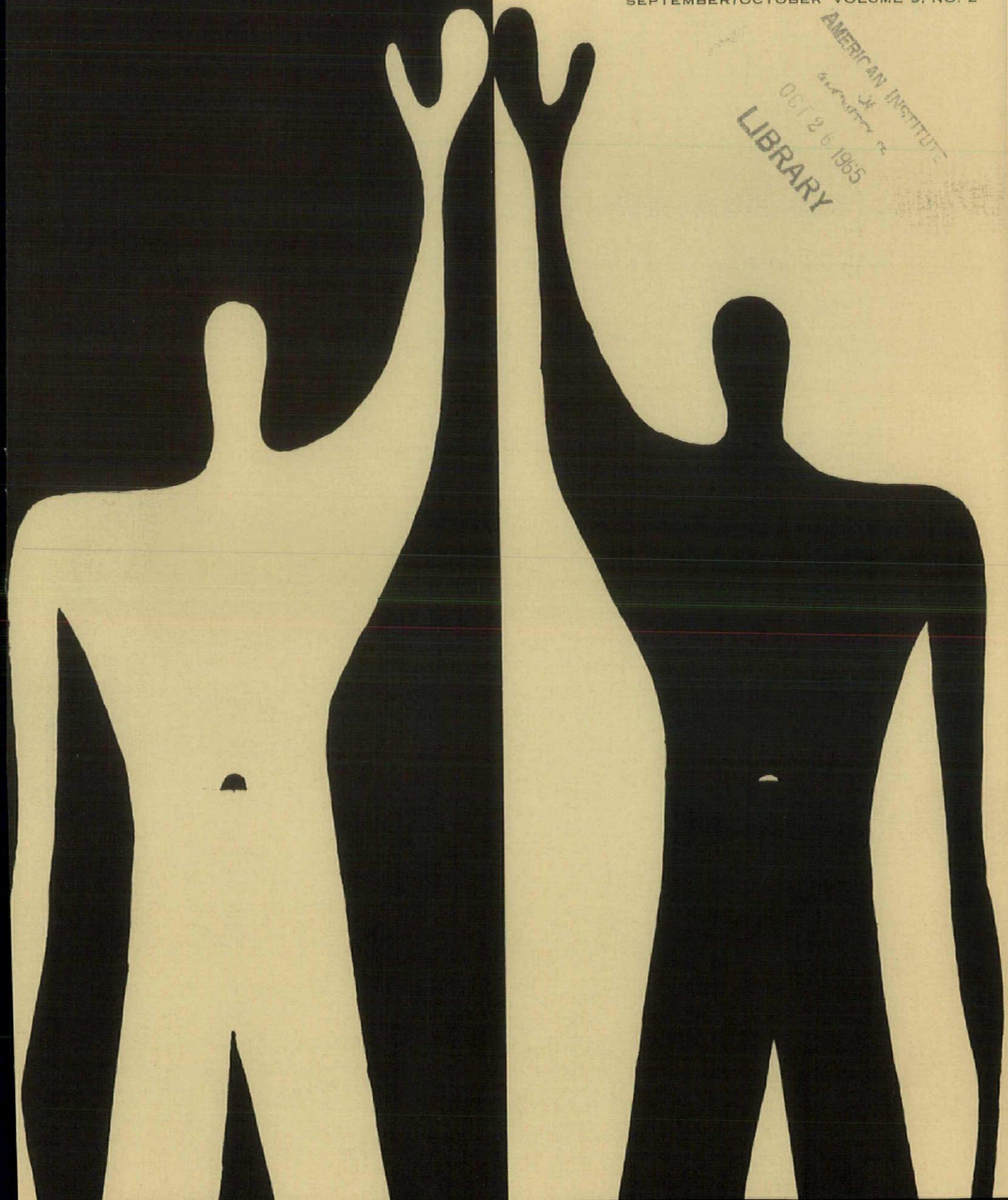


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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER VOLUME 9, NO. 2

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## POTOMAC VALLEY ARCHITECT

Sept./Oct.

Volume 9, No. 2

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

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### ON THE COVER

A sketch by your editor dedicated to the memory of Corbusier. His module figure is something frequently encountered representing his personal interpretation of human scale and a system of dimension by which all his work was measured. The system, however, is something of a mystery to the uninitiated, leaving only the figure as personal as a signature.

### NEW ADDRESS

Cohen, Haft and Associates announces the removal of their offices to 814 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, Md. 20910. The telephone number remains the same: 588-7683.

## EVENTS and EXHIBITIONS

### CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 19th at Shos. Somerville, 6th and Buchanan Sts., N.E.

Cocktails: 5:30, Dinner: 6:30, Program: 8:00 P.M. Reservations: Dick Schoenfelder — OL 4-8500.

Program: Slide lecture by Senior Regional Director of AISC, John F. Soule, P.E. Subject: "Modern Methods for Fireproofing Steel Frame Buildings."

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 16th — "Specifications Critique."

### CORCORAN GALLERY

*through October 31st*

Romare Bearden — Photographic Collages

Jack Davis — Oils

*opening November 9th — December 5th*

Alfred McAdams — Oils and watercolors

*opening November 12th — December 19th*

17 Biennial Area Show

### PAN-AMERICAN UNION

*October 13th — November 3rd*

Carlos Canas of Argentina — Oil paintings

Lilian Gomez Molina of Argentina — Graphics

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

*through October 31st*

John Sigleton Copley — Paintings, pastels, miniatures and drawings

*October 15 — November 28th*

150 ceremonial and ornamental gold objects from ancient Peruvian tombs

*November 13th — December 12th*

Durer and His Time

### PHILLIPS COLLECTION

*through November 2nd*

Clarence John Laughlin — Photographs: "Sculpture Seen Anew: The Bronze Age of Brancusi"

*opening November 20th*

Loren MacIver — Paintings

### TEXTILE MUSEUM

*opening November 2nd — January '66*

Joseph V. McMullan Collection of 100 Exceptional Oriental Rugs (prior to Smithsonian Travelling Exhibition tour and showing at Metropolitan Museum of Art)

### WASHINGTON GALLERY OF MODERN ART

*through October 24th*

Painting and Sculpture from Connecticut Collectors

*October 29th — December 30th*

Joseph Albers — Paintings

## CHAPTER NEWS

### NEW MEMBER

The Chapter welcomes Harry A. Pollack, AIA, who has transferred from the Queens Chapter, New York.

Mr. Pollack is a graduate of Cooper Union, 1931. His professional experience includes such offices as Emery Roth & Sons, York & Sawyer, Joseph Douglas Weiss, Chapman, Evans & Delehanty and Bloch & Hesse. His background has been chiefly in the field of multiple housing production.

Now with the firm of Cohen, Haft & Associates, Mr. Pollack resides in Silver Spring. A veteran bridge player, he also teaches the game.

### FLORIDA'S GAIN

Aron Miller, long an active Associate member of our Chapter, has recently moved to Florida. Aron has served the Chapter in many valuable capacities, not the least of which has been in connection with the first Draftsmens' Competition, held in 1963. He will be missed by the membership, all of whom wish him well in his future ventures.



# KENNEDY CENTER

## THIS QUESTION OF LOCATION

Since the first intimation of a Pennsylvania Avenue development plan, we have felt that this is where the Kennedy Center should make its home in preference to the waterfront site selected. We discussed it at length with several people, but met with no enthusiasm. This is why we were delighted when Nicholas Satterlee and The American Institute of Architects were able to make themselves heard on the subject.

Being native, with a certain amount of travel to our credit, it is apparent to us that what ails Washington is the absence of people. It is easy to fill the many exciting foreign boulevards, for residences are proximate and life spills out into the street, but in Washington it is impossible to lure the suburbanite or even the resident, who must live some distance, back to deserted, attractionless streets, one having left town for the day. Two exceptions which have become our favorite night strolling spots are Connecticut Avenue from Dupont Circle to K Street and lower Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown, for they have a pulse of activity making even window-shopping fun. The Kennedy Center could furnish this pulse to yet another street — Pennsylvania Avenue, and would certainly get its redevelopment off to a racing start.

Another facet on which we have previously waxed poetic is our desire to see all the wonderful facilities of The Kennedy Center separated and dispersed along the Avenue for a couple of reasons.

First, we have always felt that Washington has been remiss in not availing itself of the services of the giants of architecture. It is just as important to have our streets display the representative works of great architects as it is to house in museums and galleries representative works of the allied arts of painting and sculpture. An enlightened city should give its citizens who can't afford to travel the opportunity to become acquainted with the best talents in all fields. We lament the absence of Frank Lloyd Wright and Corbusier buildings in Washington. Fortunately G.S.A. and private groups are remedying the situation by commissioning younger talents which is great, but there are a few old masters still overlooked. Had the Kennedy Center been broken up in components and commissioned separately we perhaps would have been the beneficiaries of a sampling of other talents in addition to that of the estimable Mr. Stone. Secondly, each component is of such complexity that singly they would offer a challenge to the best talents. Collectively they present a staggering burden to one man.

By designing the components along the Avenue, we feel that we would be increasing the chances of the success of an Avenue development which will require, in addition to great design and fine buildings, the continual presence and support of people. We join those who have signed a petition for a 60 day moratorium with the hope that all is not lost.





JOB NAME: South Hill Luxury Apartments/ARCHITECT: Robert Calhoun Smith/ENGINEER: Gurewitz & Werner/CONTRACTOR-OWNER: Howar Brothers

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**THE TRAINS WILL ROLL IN 1970** — Thank you Cody Pfanstiehl! Signed into law, the Rapid Transit Bill provides \$9 million for engineering design funds and consultants, rights-of-ways and incidental construction. Twenty five miles of rapid transit will run from G Street to Silver Spring and Woodside via Union Station; from D. C. to the D. C. Stadium and Kenilworth Avenue via the Capital; G Street to Rosslyn and the Pentagon on G Street up Connecticut Avenue to Van Ness Street and the Bureau of Standards through Columbia Heights. Planners, Architects and business men in the next ten years are about to witness a significant growing influence upon commercial and residential centers as rapid transit routes stimulate the potential of high density and efficient transportation.

**OUT OF THE FOGGY BOTTOM COMES COLUMBIA PLAZA** — At last, under contract with the Redevelopment Land Agency, Columbia Plaza Corporation is well into construction of the long delayed project which became a congressional football for the opponents of urban renewal. The project, handsomely designed by architects Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon, will have 800 apartments, 400 hotel rooms, parking garages to accommodate 1500 cars and a shopping plaza at 23rd Street and Virginia Avenue, N.W.

**WEDGES AND CORRIDORS UPHELD BY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD** as Blair Lee III calls for down-zoning of three large areas to conserve a key open space wedge between interstate Rte. 70S and the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. This unprecedented attempt is a last-ditch effort to preserve wedges of park land and low density zoning between corridors of urban development along major transportation routes.

The plan, which was attacked by the land development interests, stands as the last physical limit to the phenomenon of "Sprawl", the uncanny Amercian System of "Space Resource Disposal".

**MISSION 66 NEARS COMPLETION** as the National Park Service's 1966 deadline takes shape in a remarkable contribution to the beauty and environment of Washington. Everything from town squares and shrines, parks and planters, swimming pools and bird sanctuaries, restorations, forts, park benches, yacht basins, aquariums and canals, from Hains Point, Asateague, to Lafayette Square are in the program. The volume of work in the Mission 66 program indicates the growing national emphasis the Federal Government is paying to the study of improving leisure space.

**CULTURE'S LAST STAND** — "It has long been obvious that the Potomac site for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is just about the worst possible location for the building" — so says the "Architectural Forum." Most people concerned with planning in this city would agree, but have hesitated in the last year to slow the fund-raising drive and delay construction of the \$46 million memorial for fear of losing it altogether. Others have hesitated to become involved in another controversy of the "Washington Memorial

Merry-Go-Round" bearing the name of another famous president.

The A.I.A. has unofficially made the facts clear and they are listed here so that we may ourselves guide the public opinion as the issue comes before Congress.

1. The present site is to be surrounded by freeways and is generally isolated from the center of the city.

2. The Pennsylvania Avenue Commission, formed to spark life, order and beauty to the great street, will form the basis of legislative proposals in the fall and will probably recommend the cultural center's relocation.

3. A Pennsylvania Avenue site would be probably the most effective stimulant for renewal of the entire street and immediate vicinity.

4. Midtown Washington will become more accessible to more people as a result of the new subway system.

5. Downtown Washington, for the first time, has just become eligible for urban renewal funds so that money will be available to make effective the plans of the Pennsylvania Avenue Commission and Downtown Progress.

Carefully avoided is the usual public criticism of an important building so that Edward Stone is quietly getting most of his "crits" at cocktail parties and office bull sessions. However, after the last issue of P.V.A. I would personally like to state that Mr. Stone has informed us that though his building is designed to achieve a monumental scale, it is the length of the building and not the height of the Grand Foyer that is 600 feet.

**UPPER MARLBORO AWAKENS** — More than 2,000 homes are planned for development between the Patuxent River and Rte. 3 above Upper Marlboro. The Construction Components Corp. hopes to receive approval by Prince George's County Planning Board for zoning similar to the planned neighborhood category now being applied in Montgomery and Fairfax Counties.

**IS SILVER SPRING A CITY?** — It must be, because the National Capital Transportation Agency gave it two rapid transit stations and Virginia Polytechnical Institute has just completed a year 2000 plan of the Silver Spring "CBD" Central Business District. Now, if the Planning Commission is on the ball, they would have seen V. P. I.'s elaborate display in the Hecht Company window during the months of August and September. The plan, jointly sponsored by the Silver Spring Board of Trade and Potomac Valley Chapter, A. I. A., was designed to stimulate interest of Montgomery County in developing the potential of Maryland's second largest city. If members of the Montgomery County Council, the Maryland Park and Planning Commission would like to see in action private urban renewal, Key Bridge welcomes the weary planner to Rosslyn's new CBD.

**A NEW CAMPUS FOR THE CAPITAL?** — The Ford Foundation is seeking a worthy use of a \$200 million bonanza for education. A new university for Washington may be in the offing. (Continued)



## POINT OF VIEW (Continued)

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE SITE RE-CONSIDERED — as members of the National Capital Planning Commission take a month out for a committee study of other sites. The earlier proposal for 85 acre "ranch style" plant and parking lot at the 313 acre National Training School is opposed by community and civil rights groups demanding the entire area for a residential community. The Planning Commission should recognize community opinion, but the real criteria for such a planning decision lies in the relationship of the \$50 million plant to the community and the Federal Government, where its workers will come from, their mode of transportation, truck and train loading facilities as well as access to the public and other government agencies. It requires little restraint by groups of laymen to visualize a beautiful model community sitting on a hill overlooking the Anacostia River, but then again what is being done about some decent housing in southeast Washington, a little lower on the same river?

If community and civil rights groups need housing issues, perhaps prompt pressure on Congress for R.L.A.'s ten-year-old plan in Northwest 1, near the downtown industrial hub, could be more effective. The deprived workers here, living in some of the city's worst slums, should have long ago been housed within walking distance of the Post Office, G.P.O. and Union Station.

## BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SEMINARS

The Department of Architecture of Howard University, in cooperation with the D. C. Metropolitan Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute, announces the next Seminar in Building Construction Practices: What architects, engineers, contractors, specification writers, etc. should know about WATER-PROOFING — PLASTICS, INTEGRAL, ETC.

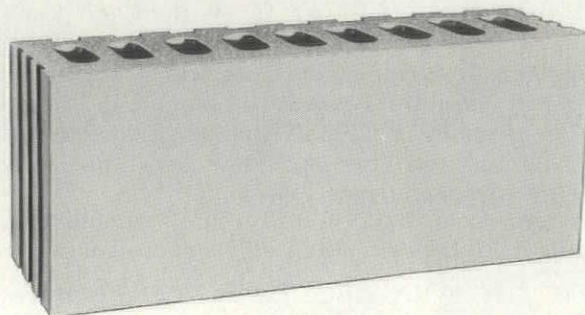
Participating will be: John D. Van Wagner, Vice President, Washington Ply-Rite Co.; Earl W. Garner, Vice President, R. T. Gumpert Co.; J. W. Guthrie, President, Technical Waterproofing Services; Anle Tester, Vice President, John Tester and Sons, General Contractors; Robert O. Kidd, Partner, Justement, Elam, Calmer & Kidd, Architects; V. B. Shoemaker, Vice-President, Ever-Air-Tight Restorations; Hyman Cunin, Moderator, Department of Architecture, Howard University.

The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16, 1965, 9:15 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., in the Auditorium, School of Engineering and Architecture, Howard University — 2300 Sixth St., N.W., Washington, D. C. Parking available on both sides of the building.

Films related to the subject of the seminar will be shown for those who care to remain an extra hour.

Next Seminar: Structural Steel — Nov. 20, 1965.

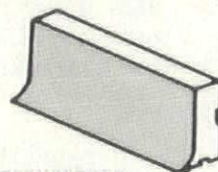
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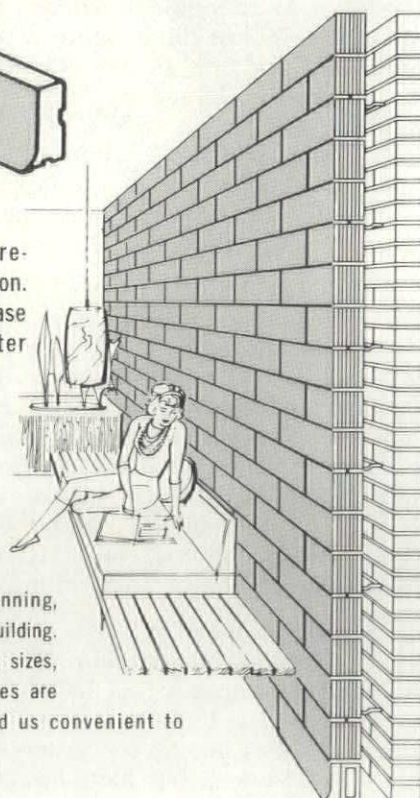


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# IT LOOKS MARVELOUS, BUT CAN IT BE BUILT - YES, FOR A PRICE!

By TERRY F. HOROWITZ, A.I.A.

Along with the present shortage of architectural draftsmen a surplus of unqualified foreign students is on the scene. Taken out of context this is a bigoted and unwarranted statement. Bear me out a moment, though, for I know first-hand of what I speak.

Several years ago, Communist Russia was a prime student exchange area — in the arts and in the sciences. In architecture, it soon became evident that the free enterprise system is more conducive to creativity because of the spiritual freedom allowed the individual. The Russians were interested in housing for housing's sake — mass production of reinforced concrete cubicles was the key. Expose the pipes, for after all function is its own excuse for being. Large groups of Middle Eastern students then shifted their attention to France — Ah, Paris! And now we find the emphasis on America, A-M-E-R-I-C-A, the home of Dulles Airport, domed stadiums, salt boxes, the Robie House, the World's Fair (I'm waiting for it to come to the neighborhood), horizontal Washington and vertical New York.

Throngs of these eager neophytes poured through our portals and into our universities. The campuses came alive in the evenings with the strumming of guitars, the lilting passages of phonetic folk songs, the student dormitories took on the mundane atmosphere of avant-garde internationalism. These four, five and six-year wonders of the undergraduate world would frequently continue their professional student status into the graduate world of Masters and Doctorate degrees. But, alas, as is the fate of all diversions time runs out and the full-time dabbler must grow into manhood to accept the challenges of the world of economic realities.

Not having been encouraged by the local universities to find outside work during the extended academic vacation (unless economically essential), these dilettantes of aesthetic appreciation begin to answer the help wanted ads so they can obtain at least a year of practical office experience before returning to their native lands to belch forth all of their assimilated knowledge to the local and unsuspecting students, who will be saved the ennui of campus parties and group projects (did anything really creative ever come out of a committee?) now so popular on the American campus.

If sarcasm runs rampant throughout this treatise it is because I feel that only by caricaturing and mag-

nifying the problem can I successfully point out the great injustice done to these foreign students by their not being encouraged to work in architectural offices during the school year and summer months.

These students are more often than not motivated by a desire to return to their homeland in order to teach. Can they, in truth, become effective teachers when they are not versed in the economic and practical realities of the profession?

Let us create a hypothetical case in point. Suppose that Harry Himalayan's thesis — er Doctorate thesis — reads something like: "The romantic implications and phallic symbols encountered in redevelopment high rise apartment projects in southwest Washington . . .". He is seen addressing his class assisted by the use of slides taken on one of his summer junkets along the Eastern Seaboard. He attempts to interject pertinent phases of his education, making them applicable to the lecture. "Now, students, in America it is obvious that Freudian psychology is introduced into architecture via the Madison Avenue technique of subtle suggestiveness. The tall verticals seen here are made of some kind of hard textured surface. They penetrate these precast, prefabricated, poured-in-place, prestressed wood balconies" (He is obviously showing off). "The gaping holes yawning in the breeze are representational of man's desire to return to the womb. These apartments cost approximately ten thousand dollars a unit; exclusive of the land development costs — or was it included? I don't think it included the elevators either. Perhaps the Owner didn't tell me the complete truth when I questioned him, since it was an Owner-Builder job." (Showing off again.) "The large lobbys have orgiastic implications since they are heterosexual by definition. This heterosexuality is achieved by a mauve colored floor of some kind of poured, shiny stuff set off by a pebbly surfaced ceiling." (He smiles knowingly at this symbolism of decay, winks and proceeds) — "that is actually the underside of a flexicore floor." (He sucks on his pipe as he lets this knowledgeable mention of a specific product impress his students, but is reluctant to pursue the matter any further because he's not sure of the advantages of this system over, say, bar joists.)

So you see, this very basic problem has far-reaching ramifications; there is a possibility that this simple injustice can be perpetuated ad infinitum. It's your round, professors!





## IS THIS BUILDING WORTH SAVING?

The Journal of The American Institute of Architects unveiled the Rockville renewal plan in its September issue. Studying its design, prepared for the city by the Philadelphia firm of Geddes, Brecher, Qualls and Cunningham, we observed that they had retained the old courthouse building and that this concept differed from a preliminary design prepared by the local office of Donald Coupard. The earlier Coupard plan called for the replacement of the old courthouse with a new building which became the focal interest of a more formal axial layout. Knowing that the County would soon, if it has not already done so, retain an architect to design a new courthouse, we thought it a good idea, at this time, to raise a question as to the merit of the old courthouse.

Pondering the question we set out to view the courthouse with a critical eye, for, sitting slightly above street level and being built of brick and concealed by ancient trees, it is inconspicuous by comparison with its larger and more pretentious Greek Revival wing of 1930 and later limestone addition of 1960. Small wonder its presence has been overlooked. It

cannot boast of being a beautiful structure, but it does manage a certain presence with its romantic tower which once afforded a beautiful view of the Washington monument. Its style is somewhat confusing since it has a base of rusticated stone which we associate with the renaissance and a super structure with some what Romanesque overtones. Certainly it can be said to be characteristic of the historic influences gripping the profession at the time of its conception — 1891.

Some research on the subject disclosed the fact that it is the third courthouse building to occupy the same site. The first one, completed in 1779, was later torn down to make way for a newer one in 1840, which finally gave way to the one we know today. One cannot help but speculate on the architectural character of the previous structures dating from a time when one was more apt to encounter what has come to be known as true Americana, and perhaps worthier in the eyes of the public of preservation. However, history cannot be undone and revivalism is a fact of America's historic development. The late nineteenth century inflicted some handsomely ugly and formidable structures on the landscape. Touring the country, one en-



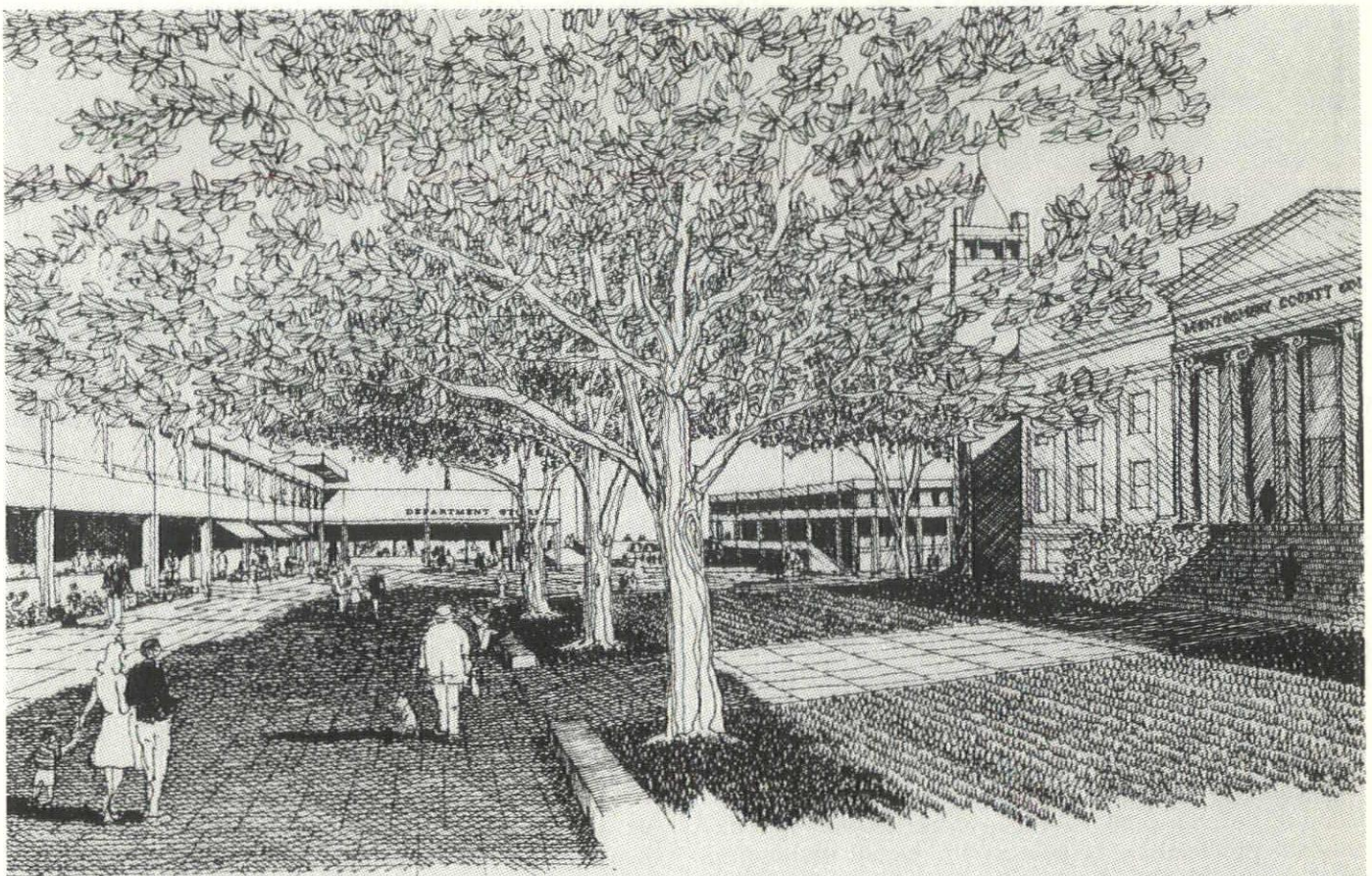
counters them frequently in the homes and universities built by industrial barons. Proximately we have a perfect example in the romantic Smithsonian Institute on the Mall. "For better or worse," to quote our local architectural critic, Wolf Von Eckardt, "they stand for our changing national taste, our elected taste, as it were."

The question at hand is: should this courthouse be preserved and, after a certain amount of reflection and research, we feel it is definitely worth saving. The worth of an old building to a city is directly proportional to the number standing, their location with regard to the continued growth of the city and their relative architectural merit to each other. Certainly historic continuity within a city must be preserved. Each phase is a vital link in the chain of development and should be valued if we are not to become totally rootless. This earth would certainly be a poorer place if all traces of past were removed. There would be nothing to measure our progress by, nothing to learn from and marvel at and very little aside from nature to travel for. Certainly not every building is worthy of preservation, but for the sake of continuity some restraint must be employed and the best examples within a given area should be retained. This at best is problematic in areas where there is so much to preserve as well as in places where there is too little. Rockville, unfortunately, fits into the latter category.

When one reviews the history of Rockville, from what sources are left to us (most records were destroyed during the Civil War), one cannot help but have a better appreciation of the courthouse. Unfortunately a village and a summer resort at the time when Georgetown and Frederick were flowering into towns boasting many imposing buildings, Rockville today has too few vestiges of its past. A walk through the city and careful scrutiny discloses interesting structures, some of which are fortunately receiving good care. However, there is too little and too few of the best caliber of the old Upton Beall House on East Montgomery Avenue. One could wish for more to preserve, but we must work with what we have.

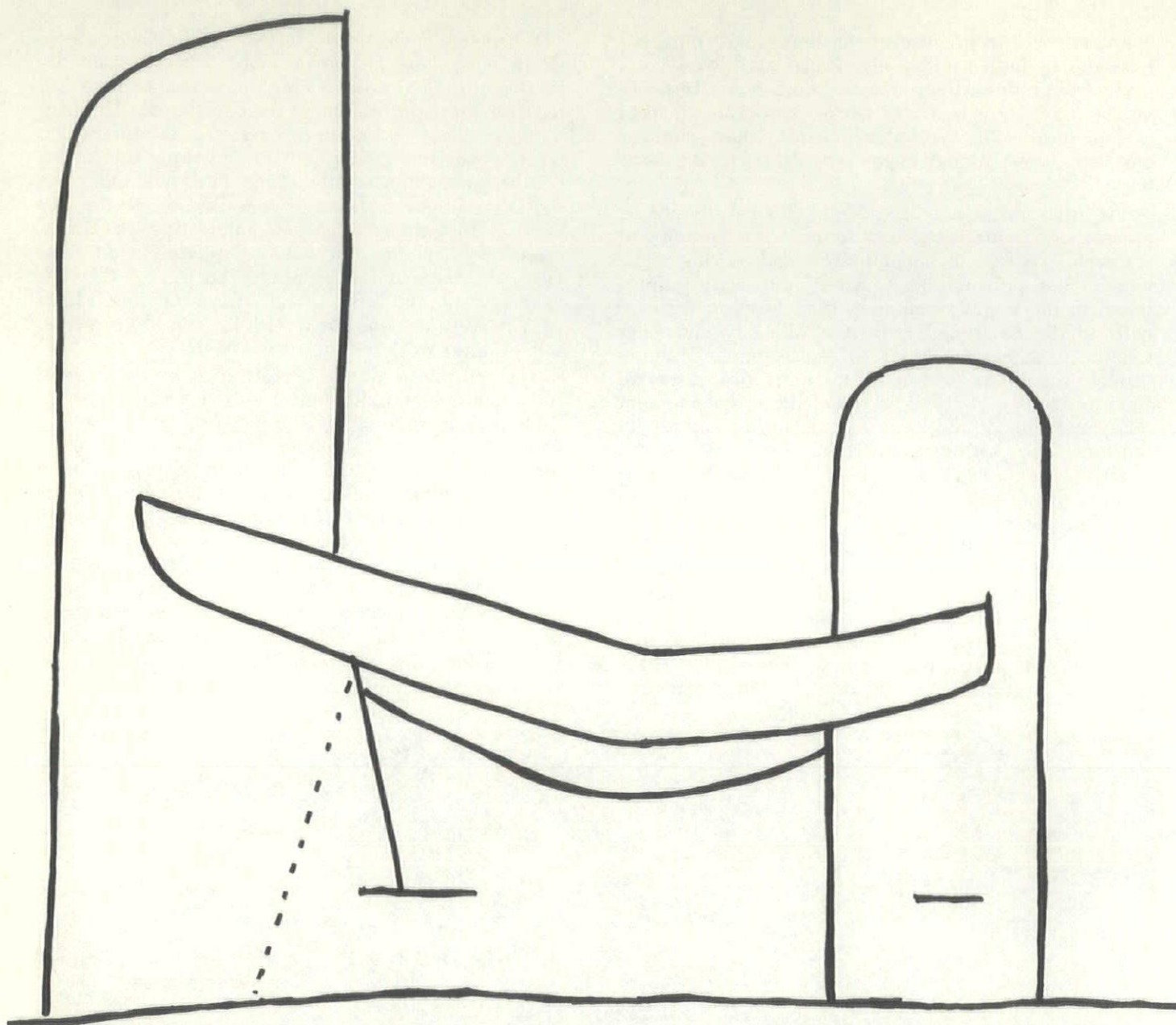
The courthouse should be esteemed by the natives, for it is a link and although it may have outgrown its usefulness, it could be given a new life and a new use. Certainly the space it occupies is not needed for courthouse expansion. There is room for expansion in a city ready to rebuild its entire center. We feel its tower should be a beacon in a new setting proclaiming amidst the splendor of the new town a historic continuity and a reminder among so much that is new that Rockville has a past and is not just another satellite. Satellites are good and are needed and will someday have a history of their own to boast, but Rockville has a history now which should be evinced.

What do you think?



*The courthouse square.*





Sketched from a drawing by Corbusier in "Creation Is A Patient Search"  
Frederick A. Prager, New York, Publisher — 1960

## THE END OF A CREATIVE SEARCH

For Corbusier the search has ended. His recent death at the age of seventy-seven, while swimming, is somehow an appropriately athletic ending for a man who, despite his years, seemed still in the youth of his creativity. Many his age have long since given their best, but Corbusier seemed to continue development to the end, leaving a feeling of incompleteness.

Since mid-century he has dominated global architectural development. One has but to skim international publications to witness the extent of his influence and, though he has inspired much first-rate design, none quite equalled his rugged simplicity, the sculptural detail and the element of surprise charac-

teristic of his work. With a vocabulary developed long ago, he was capable of infinite variations so that each creation emerged with a freshness and an unexpected newness.

Long fascinated by the scope of the man, I recently re-read one of my favorite references, his own "Creation is a Patient Search," which I heartily recommend to all who would care to know something of the extent of his ability or who are looking for guidance in their own personal development. Here is a record in words and pictures of the broadness of his scope of interests and abilities and it captures the quality of inquisitive search.



A synopsis of his life sounds routine — struggle, hardship and final recognition, but the fiber of the man is such that despite having more than his share of these human experiences, his development was certain, continuous and persistent. Writing, painting, sculpting and designing all continued development with equal vigor through his lifetime. That this could be so is indicative of a rare talent, dedication and an infinite capacity for concentration.

For those who would follow in his footsteps, he has much good advice, for writing and lecturing are talents high on his list of achievements and the ones with which I became acquainted before all others.

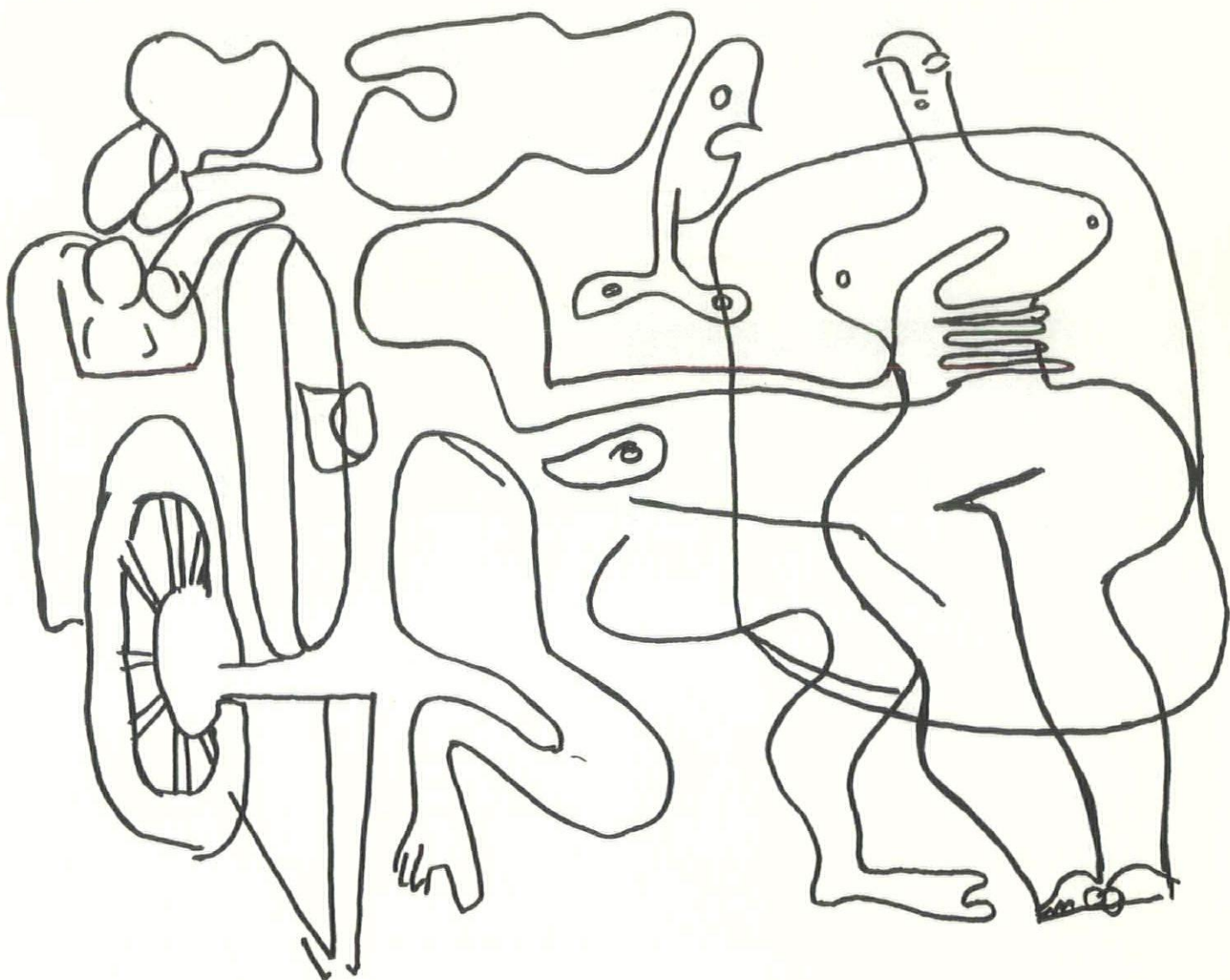
Appreciate what has gone before. History is a valuable teacher.

To understand, draw — for through drawing we observe and discover aids to creating and inventing.

Do not believe until you have seen, measured and touched.

There is no short cut — only through a patient search.

Despite age his search seems prematurely terminated. May someone worthy receive his mantle and may we all profit by the lessons he so ably taught.



Sketched from a drawing by Corbusier in "Creation Is A Patient Search"  
Frederick A. Prager, New York, Publisher — 1960



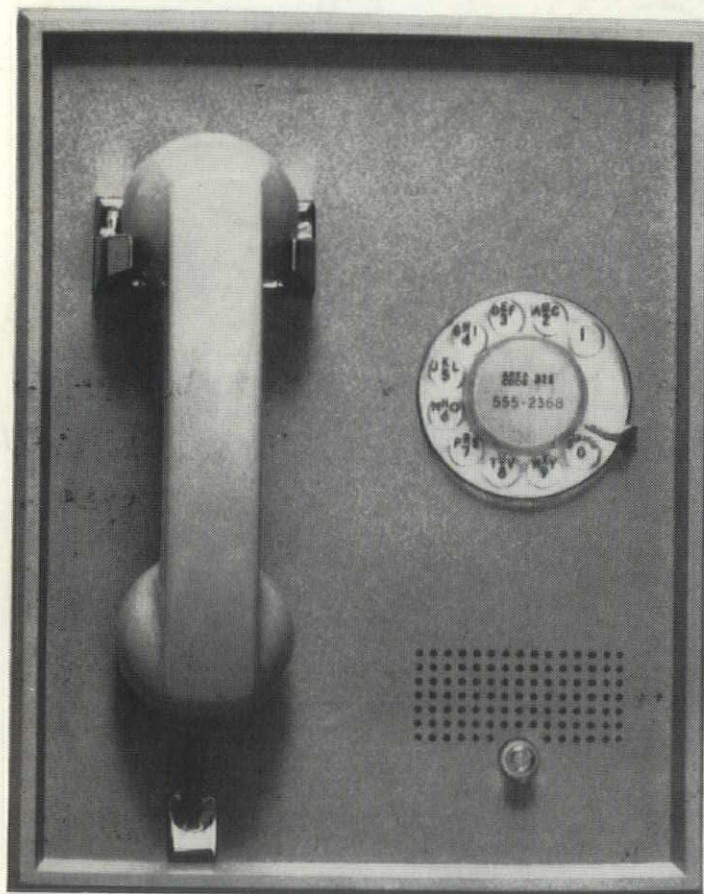


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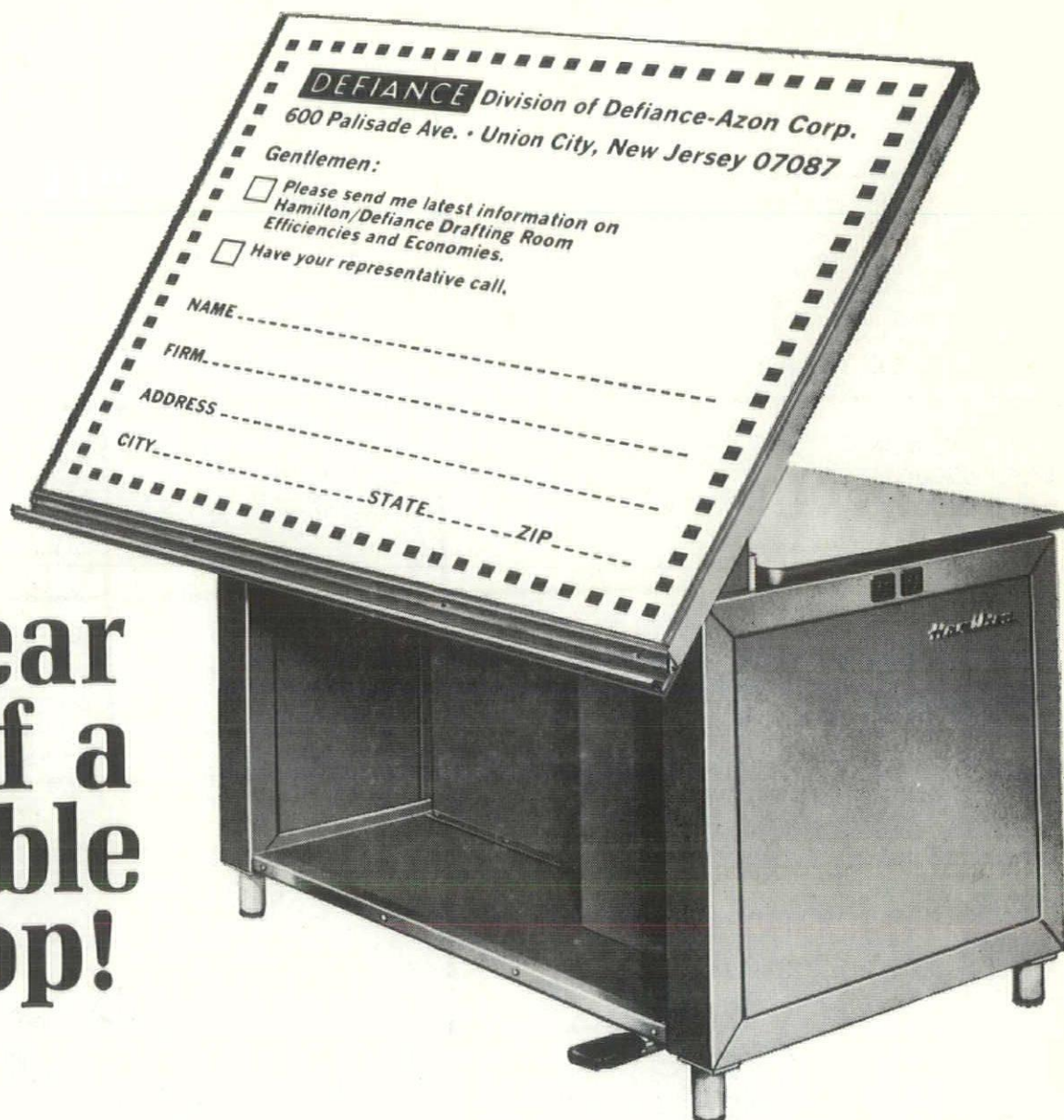
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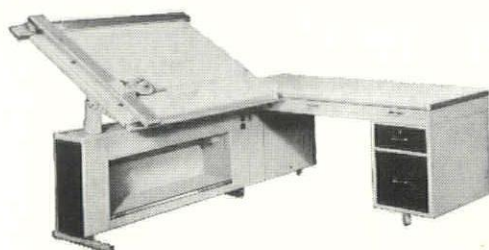
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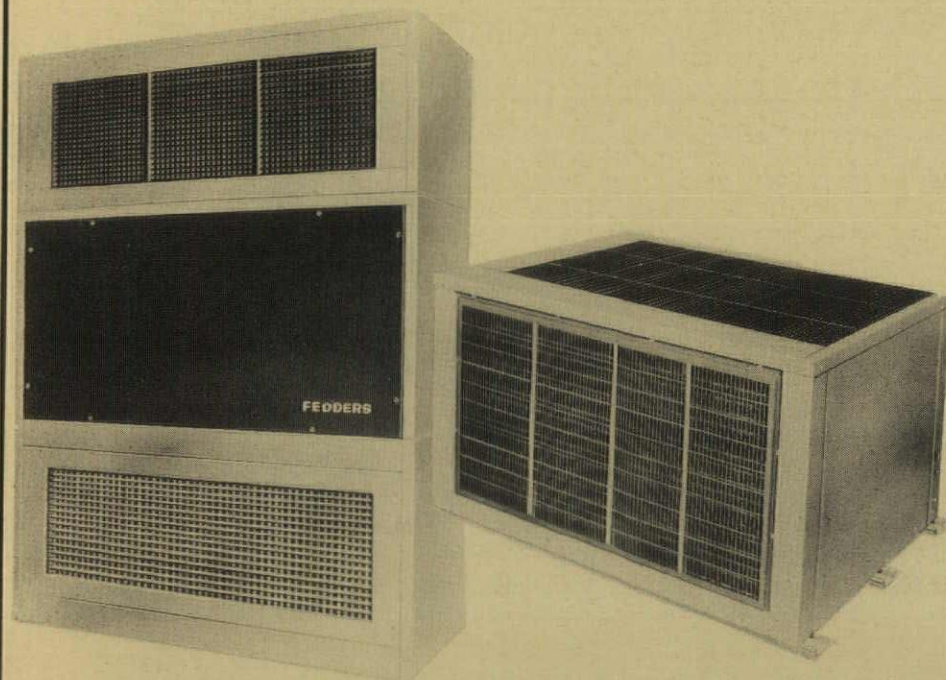


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