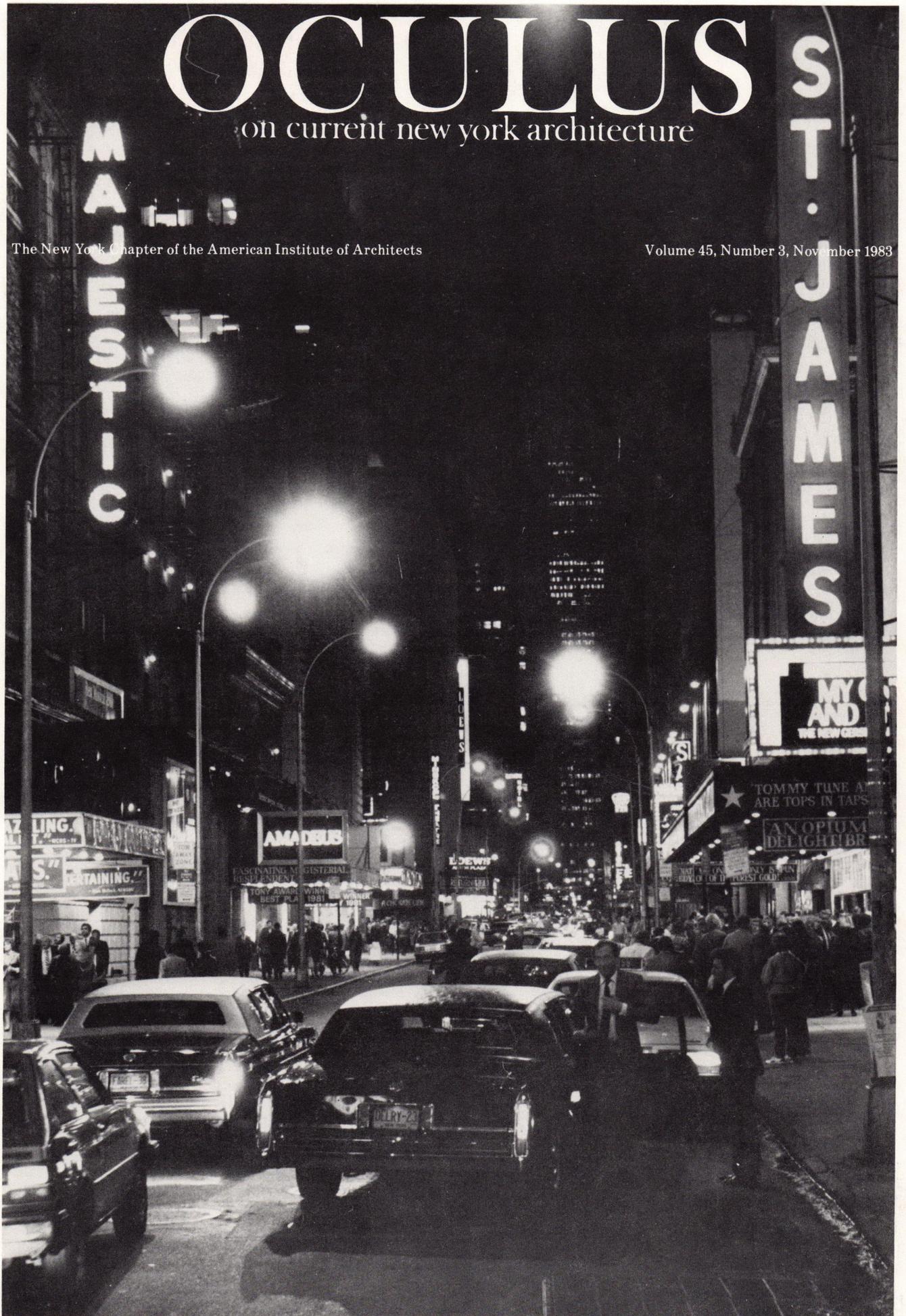


OCULUS

on current new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 45, Number 3, November 1983



Broadway Theaters

Photo: Stan Ries/ESTO

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Editor: C. Ray Smith
 Managing Editor: Marian Page
 Art Director: Abigail Sturges
 Typesetting: Susan Schechter

The New York Chapter of
 the American Institute of Architects
 457 Madison Avenue,
 New York, New York 10022
 212-838-9670

George S. Lewis, *Executive Director*
 Cathanne Piesla, *Executive Secretary*

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by George Lewis



Coming Chapter Events

- Through November 23, **The Primacy of New York: Architectural Master Drawings from the Avery Library.** In the new Members Gallery at Chapter Headquarters. Selected by Lindsay Stamm Shapiro, Curator of the Exhibit, and Janet Parks, Curator of Drawings at Avery, the drawings include work by Alexander Jackson Davis, James Renwick, Jr., Richard Upjohn, Richard Mitchell Upjohn, and McKim Meade & White. Made possible by the J.M. Kaplan Fund, this is the first of what is expected to be a continuing series of distinguished drawing exhibits open to the public, from 12 to 5 pm, Tues. through Sat.
- Thursday, November 10, 6:00 pm, **Fireplaces and Architectural Design.** Halstead S. Welles of the Welles Fireplace Co. will speak on the design and construction of fireplaces in New York City, and Fred Zonsius of Kohn Pedersen Fox will discuss fireplaces in Scandinavian architecture and in Frank Lloyd Wright's work. Sponsored by the Energy & Environment Committee.
- Thursday, November 17, **The 1983 Milan Furniture Fair, an illustrated talk by Edie Cohen, Senior Editor, Interior Design.** She has just returned from the Fair and will show slides of new work produced in Italy—trends and directions. Sponsored by the Interiors Committee.

• The Chapter this year intends to devote a lot more attention to providing opportunities for sharing information on conducting architectural practice. On October 13 a well attended opening meeting heard Eason Leonard report on the Compensation Committee, of which he is chairman, and Randolph Croxton described how he and the other young practitioners have devised ways to deal with difficult situations, including negotiating appropriate fees. "The service you render has value, real value," he said.

• Housing Trust Fund

At a hearing of the Development Commitments Study Commission (Mitchell Sviridoff chairman), which was appointed by Mayor Koch to study special permits and zoning bonuses granted to developers, the Chapter opposed a proposal that would permit developers to build extra FAR in central Manhattan in return for payments into a fund intended for housing north of 96th Street and in other boroughs.

Our testimony stated, "One of the most important functions of zoning in an area subject to development is to control the bulk of a building and its density, and to take into account that bulk and density in relation to pedestrian congestion and light and air in the immediate neighborhood of that building . . . To grant a developer
cont'd. p. 10, col. 2

Saving the Broadway Theaters: The Great Debate

by George Lewis



Lunt-Fontanne

When the Morosco and Helen Hayes Theaters were reduced to rubble in March of 1982, great forces drew up in array to guarantee that it would never happen again to any of the remaining 44 Broadway theaters. The prototypical Broadway theater has been described by architectural analysts such as Hugh Hardy and by everyone in the theater industry, particularly actors on stage, as irreplaceable. The maximum 90-foot distance from proscenium to the last row, the acoustics, and the wrap-around

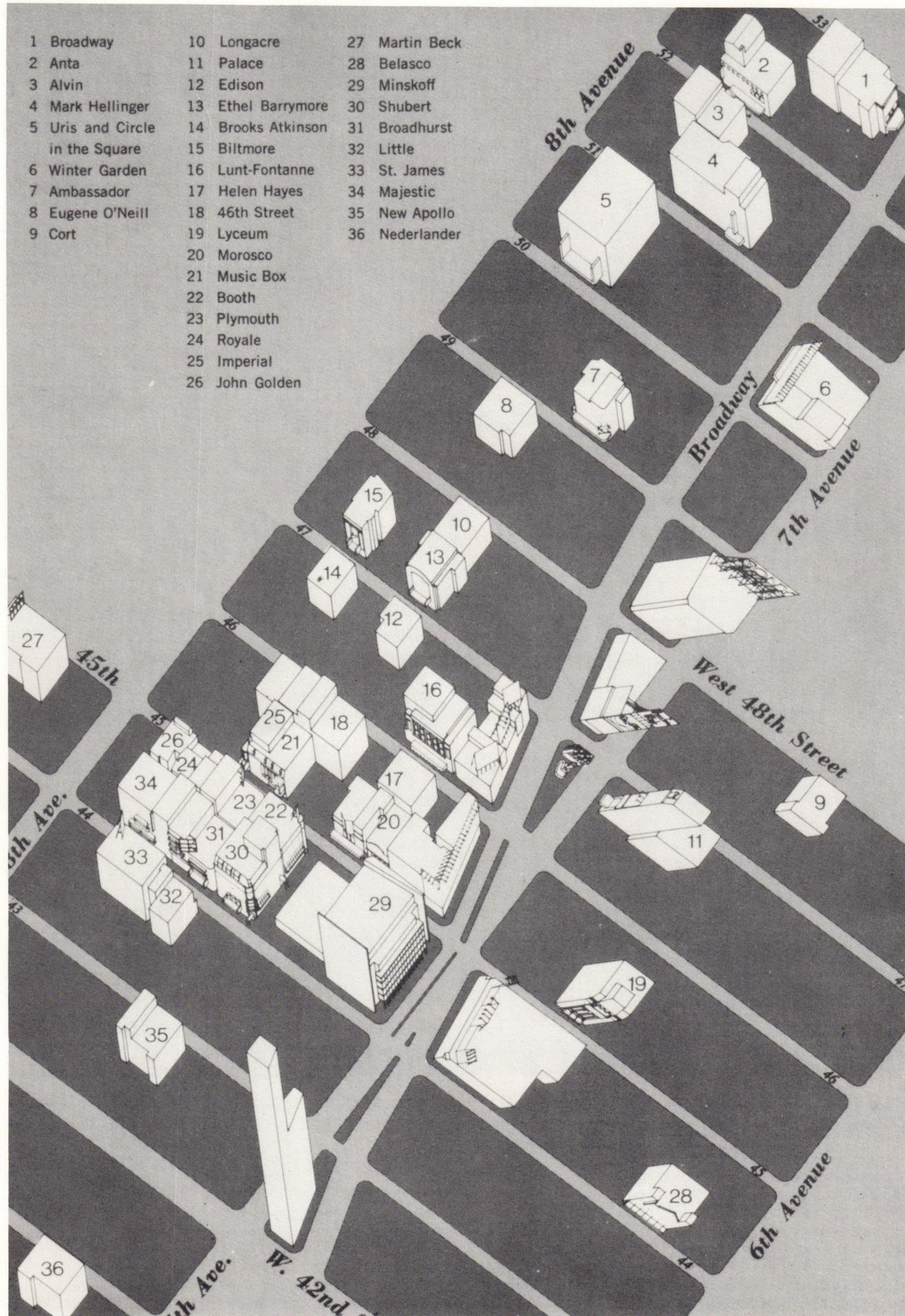
audience which is so much a part of the production, can no longer be economically reproduced.

At roughly the same time as the demolitions, the new Midtown Special Zoning District came before the Board of Estimate, which approved it except for the provisions regarding the Theater District: these specifically prohibited demolition of any of the 44 theaters short of proof of extreme hardship. Cries of anguish went up from the theater owners, who

protested the loss of their right to put the full potential value of their properties up as collateral for financing productions. Many others in the theater industry feared that demolition still could occur under political pressure. The Board of Estimate put the whole situation on hold and directed that a Theater Advisory Council be appointed to make recommendations to the Planning Commission.

Meanwhile, the Landmarks

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 Broadway | 10 Longacre | 27 Martin Beck |
| 2 Anta | 11 Palace | 28 Belasco |
| 3 Alvin | 12 Edison | 29 Minskoff |
| 4 Mark Hellinger | 13 Ethel Barrymore | 30 Shubert |
| 5 Uris and Circle
in the Square | 14 Brooks Atkinson | 31 Broadhurst |
| 6 Winter Garden | 15 Biltmore | 32 Little |
| 7 Ambassador | 16 Lunt-Fontanne | 33 St. James |
| 8 Eugene O'Neill | 17 Helen Hayes | 34 Majestic |
| 9 Cort | 18 46th Street | 35 New Apollo |
| | 19 Lyceum | 36 Nederlander |
| | 20 Morosco | |
| | 21 Music Box | |
| | 22 Booth | |
| | 23 Plymouth | |
| | 24 Royale | |
| | 25 Imperial | |
| | 26 John Golden | |



Playbill theater map and drawings by Stanley Stark, courtesy of Playbill®.

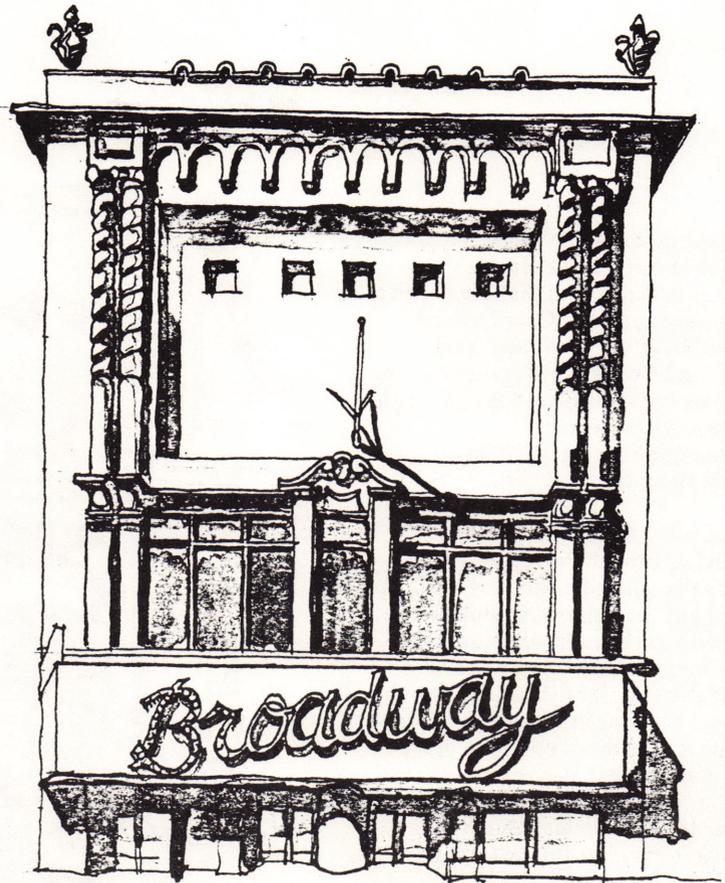
Saving the Broadway Theaters: The Great Debate

Preservation Commission began hearings on proposals to designate some or all of the theaters, interior and exterior, and to consider the possibility of designating the area as a Historic District.

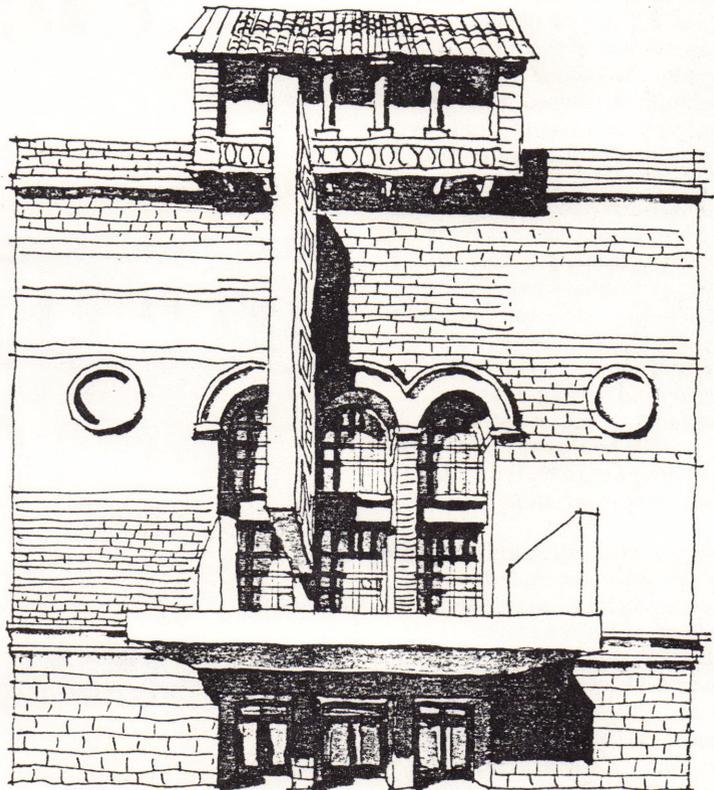
The Theatre Advisory Council (yes-Theatre) is an extraordinary newcomer to the process of New York City planning. Made up of fifteen people, many of whom came to the table with no familiarity whatsoever with the planning process let alone zoning, The Theatre Advisory Council consists of the distinguished lawyer Orville Schell as chairman, representatives of the theater industry including the building owners and Joseph Papp, Ellen Burstyn, (president of Actors Equity), designers, and others; lawyers, developers, and architects Lewis Davis and Paul Segal are members of the Council. Since 1982 they have met for what seems like countless times; they are far from reaching agreement, and the cross-currents for interests and recommendations are remarkable. These range pretty much as follows.

There is general agreement that the theaters' development rights, estimated to be worth between \$40 and \$160 million, sit squarely in the forefront of the Theatre Advisory Council's view. Where and how these development rights might be transferred raises, for anyone interested in planning, a most critical issue: what are the proper uses of zoning? The Council has discussed proposals that a fund or funds be established from the proceeds of the sale of development rights, a device that would require amendments to the Zoning Resolution to permit the rights to be transferred out of the central theater district to sites at a distance, and to permit establishing funds. There are two large questions here.

First, should rights be transferred at a distance, and, if so, how far? The theater owners would like to define a district running from 34th Street to Columbus Circle so that developers anywhere in that very extensive area could contribute to a fund. The



Broadway



Golden

Saving the Broadway Theaters: The Great Debate

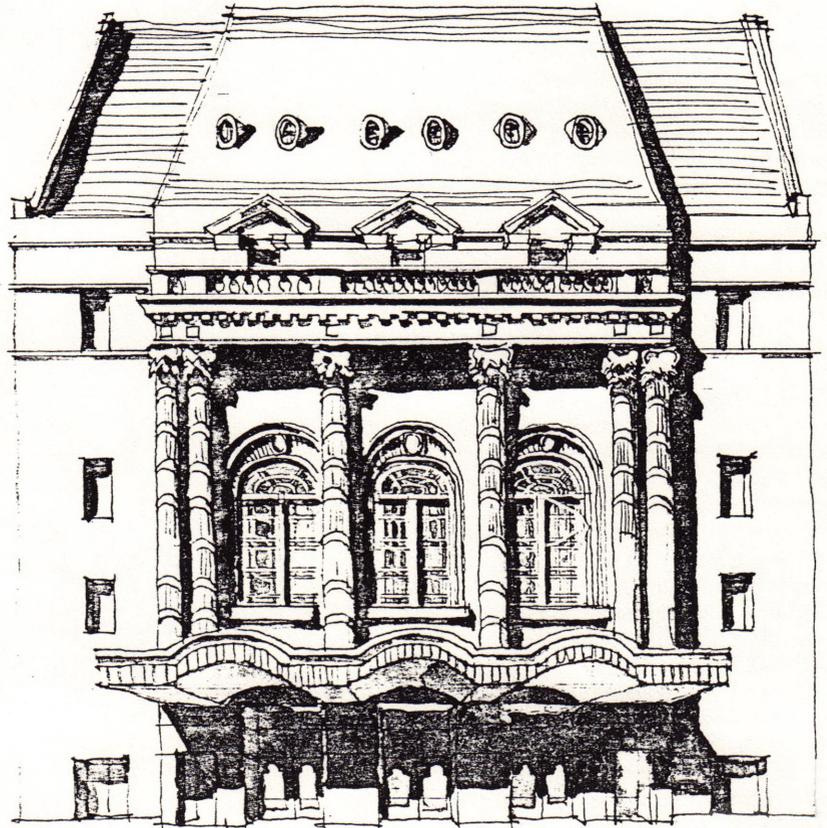
organization Save the Theatres, Inc., to which architect Lee Harris Pomeroy is consultant, has proposed a considerably smaller Core District bounded by 41st Street and 53rd Street, and from Eighth Avenue to the mid-block between Seventh and Sixth Avenues, with specific recommendations for permitting density along the avenues.

Second, what should be the purpose of the fund or funds? Two types of funds have been proposed: one that would go toward physical improvements of the theaters and the area, and another that would provide income to assist the theater industry itself, such as the National Theater envisaged by Joseph Papp as a subsidized entity to bring new American dramas to Broadway, locating them in some of the older and smaller theaters, which these days often have remained dark for long periods.

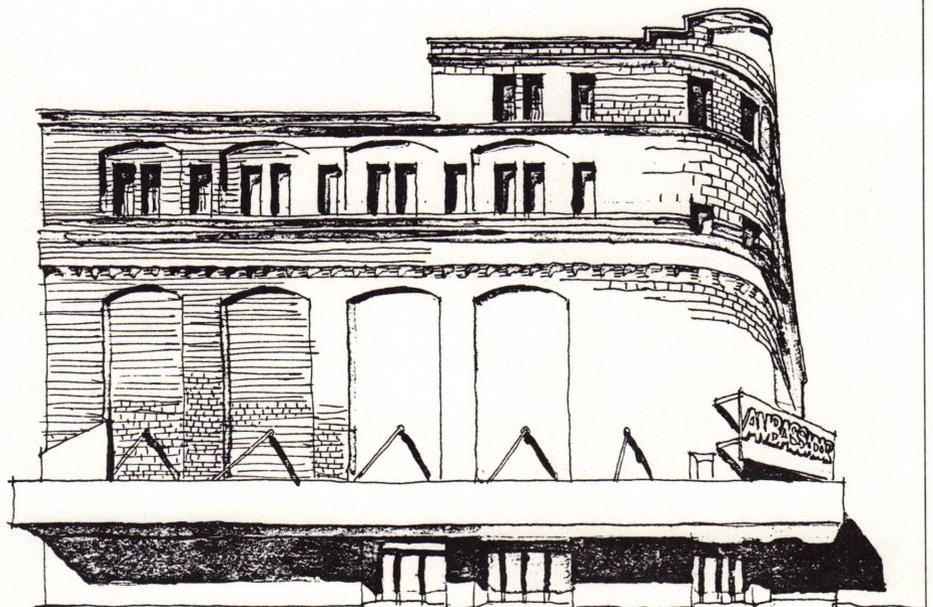
The Chapter, in a statement submitted to the Theatre Advisory Council last June, took sharp exception to some of the ideas being aired around the table, stating, "The methods being discussed, whether they be simply transfer of rights over several city blocks or transfer into some kind of holding bank, could result in uncontrolled and haphazard planning among the receiving lots." Regarding the use of proceeds of development rights to benefit the theater industry itself, the Chapter's statement said, "This is a concept that can only be described as utilizing zoning as a fund-raising device. A planning tool becomes a financial bonanza . . . We oppose it regardless of whatever happens to be the state of health of a particular industry."

Another approach, strongly advanced by Save the Theatres and others, is that the Landmarks Commission designate all of the theaters. Advocates for this course argue that the Landmarks Law provides the only sure protection for the buildings. Questions have been raised about whether many of the exteriors are sufficiently fine to be so recognized,

cont'd. p. 12, col. 1



Lyceum



Ambassador

Names and News

The renovation of Schermerhorn Hall, the 86-year-old McKim, Mead & White building on the Columbia campus has been designed by Susana Torre in association with Wank Adams Slavin. It will house the new Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Fine Arts Center and gallery for the University's prominent art history department . . . Charles Gwathmey will be interviewed by Charles Gandee of *Architectural Record* about the recently completed DeMenil house in East Hampton on December 6th in the series of press conferences at the Decorative Arts Center . . . Lindsay Stamm Shapiro has been appointed assistant chair of the Environmental and Interior Design Department at Parsons School of Design . . . Joan K. Davidson, chairman of the Gracie Mansion Conservancy writes that Charles Platt, coordinating architect, and Bob Meadows, preservation architect, for the preservation of Gracie Mansion "are both doing a wonderful job and their colleagues ought to know about it." . . . James Stewart Polshek will discuss "Architecture as an Intellectual Discipline" on November 14th as part of a series of three noon seminars on Soviet affairs, current architecture, and the problems of West Germany. The series is offered by three Columbia scholars at the Center for Inter-American Relations . . . Nominating forms for the AIA-administered 1984 R.S. Reynolds Memorial Award for Distinguished Architecture Using Aluminum should be sent to the American Institute of Architects in Washington no later than November 21 . . . Massimo Vignelli received the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America's Edwin F. Guth Memorial Award of Distinction and Excellence for "his exceptional work in illuminating the E.F. Hauserman Company Showroom at the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles" . . . Robert A.M. Stern was the moderator of a panel discussion last month, which included Robert Maxwell, James Wines, Massimo Vignelli, and Richard Haas, to investigate the renewed interest in ornamentation for architecture in conjunction with the opening of the "Surface & Ornament exhibition

sponsored by Formica . . . The Rambusch Studios has extended an invitation to NYC/AIA Chapter members to a preview of the exhibition, "The Oeuvre of an American Arts and Crafts Workshop: The Rambusch Studios, 1898 to the Present" on December 7th, 5-7 pm. at the Parsons School of Design Exhibition Center, 2 W. 13th Street . . . The Metropolitan Transportation Authority has published *Culture Stations*, a 32-page book devoted to the prototype conceptual designs prepared by architects and designers for four subway stations in the Culture Stations project, a collaboration between MTA and the Municipal Art Society (see *Oculus*, October 1982, p. 6) . . . The Minneapolis College of Art and Design and the National Endowment for the Arts are sponsoring a national architectural design competition — *A New American House*. For registration information address Harvey Sherman, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, 133 E. 25th Street, Minneapolis 55404 (612-870-3238) . . . *Pasanella-Klein: Public and Private Interventions in the Residential Field*, published by Edizioni Kappa of Rome, is now available in the U.S. as part of a series of architectural publications . . . The American Academy in Rome has announced its 1984-85 Rome Prize Fellowships (with a November 15th deadline) including the Graham Foundation Advanced Fellowship in Architecture, and the National Endowment for the Arts Advanced Fellowships in the Design Arts. Information from the American Academy in Rome, 41 E. 65th Street, New York 10021 . . . The Yonkers School System, which has conducted a successful program on architecture for fifth and sixth graders during the last five years, is looking for architects to continue the program this year. Contact Joan Sanger 914-997-2028 . . . John R. Adams has been named director of the Facility Management Institute and executive vice president of the Herman Miller Research Corporation . . . November 12th is the deadline for entering a toy design competition sponsored by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

and Toolworks, Inc. Contact: Carboard Cutups, Toolworks, Inc. 963 Harrison Street, San Francisco 94107 . . . Attorney and planning consultant Bob Alpern is leading a six-session course — Dialogues on Planning — on Wednesday evenings beginning November 16th at the New School's Center for New York Affairs (741-7690) . . . The New York City Historic Properties Fund, Inc. is accepting applications for loans for the preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of historic properties located in New York's five boroughs. *cont'd. p. 10, col. 1*

Gene Norman New Landmarks Head

Gene Alfred Norman, the 48-year-old architect who succeeds Kent Barwick as chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, is considered by his colleagues "a polished negotiator whose gentle style as executive vice president of the Harlem Urban Development Corporation has brought the most truculent opponents together." He joined the UDC in 1972 and was the senior coordinating architect for some 5,000 housing units upstate. In 1975 he was assigned to the agency's Harlem subsidiary, where he was responsible for residential and commercial development. Barwick, who is now president of the Municipal Art Society, said of Norman: "The man who is an investor, who's impatient to get on with his work will find a sympathetic ear. I like to feel that I'm sympathetic, but I don't have the personal experience in development that he brings to the job." Commenting on the legislation to exempt churches from landmark designation when he was appointed to his new position by Mayor Koch, Norman noted that "The city would be tremendously disadvantaged in losing these fine church structures as landmarks." He also is interested in finding new uses for landmark buildings: "We should be getting viable, current-day use from them at the same time as we are maintaining our architectural heritage."

OCCULUS NYC/AIA NOV 83

Oculus welcomes information for the calendar pertaining to public events about architecture and the other design professions. It is due by the 7th of the month for the following month's issue. Because of the time lag between information received and printed, final details of events are likely to change. It is recommended, therefore, that events be checked with the sponsoring institutions before attending.

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

CONTINUING EVENTS

THE PRIMACY OF NEW YORK
Exhibition of Architectural Master Drawings from the Avery Library. Members Gallery, NYC/AIA, The Urban Center. 12-5 pm, Tues. through Sat. 898-9670.

FOLLIES: ARCHITECTURE FOR THE LATE 20TH CENTURY LANDSCAPE
Exhibition. Leo Castelli Gallery, 420 West Broadway, 431-5160. Closes Nov. 15.

TUESDAY 1

EXHIBITION
"The Amsterdam School: Dutch Expressionist Architecture 1915-30." Cooper-Hewitt. Closes Feb. 5.

LECTURE
"Aldo Rossi & Carlo Scarpa: Obstinacy and Hope" by Francesco Dal Co in Architectural League series. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center.

GAETANO PESCE
Yale School of Architecture lecture series. 6:30 pm. A & A Building, 180 York, New Haven. 203-436-0853.

TUESDAY 8

SAVE SAGAMORE
Vote "yes" for the Sagamore Land Exchange Ballot proposal 6. Information: Preservation League of NY State 518-462-5658 or Sagamore Institute 315-354-5311.

THE AUTHENTICITY OF FORM
Lecture by Mario Gandelsonas in Yale School of Architecture series. 6:30 pm. Hastings Hall, A & A Building, 180 York St., New Haven. 203-436-0853.

RICHARD MORRIS HUNT AT THE ECOLE DES BEAUX-ARTS
Exhibition. The Octagon, 1799 New York Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. Susan Stein: 202-638-3105. Closes Nov. 20.

EXHIBITION
Explorations by Honor Students. College of Architecture, University of Houston, Texas. Columbia Graduate School of Architecture and Planning. 100 Level, Avery Hall. 280-3473. Closes Nov. 25.

WEDNESDAY 2

THE ARCHITECTURE OF CULTURE
Stephen Garrett on "J. Paul Getty and the building of the Getty Museum" in lecture series presented by the Met in association with NYC/AIA. 8 pm. Metropolitan Museum. 744-9120.

FORUMS ON FORM
Lecture by Dennis Dollens on his book *SITES II: An Introduction and Guide to the Architecture of Jose Maria Sujol*. 12:30 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison. 935-3595.

WEDNESDAY 9

EDGAR TAFEL LECTURE
"The Frank Lloyd Wright I Knew" presented in association with NYC/AIA by the Metropolitan Museum. 8 pm. 744-9120.

JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO
Lecture by William Howard Adams. Introduced by Jaquelin Robertson. 12:30 pm. Urban Center Books. 935-3595.

LECTURE
Percival Goodman on "Post Modern Architecture: What It Is and What It Should Be". 6 pm. Avery Hall, Wood Auditorium, Columbia University. 280-3473.

ARCHITECTURE IN SILVER
Exhibition of Tea/Coffee Service designed by architects. The Max Protetch Gallery, 37 W. 57 St. 838-7436.

EDOUARD MANET
Retrospective exhibition. Metropolitan Museum of Art. 879-5500. Closes Nov. 27.

20TH CENTURY MASTERS: THE THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA COLLECTION
Exhibition. Metropolitan Museum of Art. 879-5500. Closes Nov. 27.

THURSDAY 3

STATE OF THE ART REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE
Panel discussion of the architectural, engineering, and contracting points of view by Reginald Hough, I.M. Pei & Partners; Anthony Rizzi, Office of Irwin Cantor; and Raymond Heun of Concrete Industry Board, with J. Karl Justin as moderator. Co-sponsored by the Chapter and CIB. 6 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison. 838-9670.

THURSDAY 10

FIREPLACES AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
Seminar sponsored by NYC/AIA's Energy and Environmental Committee (see *Oculus*, Oct. 1983, p. 11) 6 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison. 838-9670.

STAINED GLASS ENVIRONMENTS
Exhibition of work by contemporary stained glass designers (Nov. 10-12). New York Stalter. Interglassmetal: 682-7681.

FURNISHING THE STREETS:
1902-1922
Exhibition. The Rotunda, City Hall, 566-4074. Closes Nov. 30.

GLASS MONTH IN NYC
Sponsored by Glassmasters Guild. 924-2868. Closes Nov. 30.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AND THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL
Exhibition. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Dec. 31.

FRIDAY 4

BUS TOUR ON SUNDAY, NOV. 6
"Celebration of Stanford White's 130th Birthday." The 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. 427-6000, ext. 179.

FRIDAY 11

SEMINAR ON STURDAY, NOV. 12
"Hotel Design: Blueprint for Success" sponsored by *Restaurant and Hotel Design* magazine. 10 am-6:15 pm. Grand Hyatt Hotel. Contact Paul Weintraub 986-4800.

WALKING TOUR ON SUNDAY, NOV. 13
"Art Deco Architecture: Lower Manhattan and Midtown." 11 am. The 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. 427-6000, ext. 179.

MONDAY 14

ARCHITECTURE AS AN

INTELLECTUAL DISCIPLINE

Lecture by James Stewart Polshek in a 3-Monday series by leading Columbia scholars. 12-2 pm. Center for Inter-American Relations, 680 Park Ave. Frank Wolf: 280-4171.

THE PETERSON PRIZE

Exhibition of awards for the best measured drawings by architectural students for HABS. AIA Building, Washington, D.C. Jim Ellison: 202-626-7347. Closes Dec. 30.

MONDAY 21

1931: Lewis Mumford's first

"Skyline" article appeared in *The New Yorker*.

TUESDAY 15

HELEN SEARING

"Gothic in the Netherlands: Birth and Survival" in Mathews Lecture series. 6 pm. Metropolitan Museum. 280-3473.

DAC PRESS CONFERENCE

"The Design Science of Buckminster Fuller." 6-8 pm. Thonet Showroom, 305 E. 63 St. 427-9949.

NYC HOUSING

Lecture by William Breger and Jacqueline Leavitt on "The Impact of Changing Life Styles on Housing Design". 6-8 pm. Pratt Manhattan Center, 160 Lexington. 685-3754.

TUESDAY 22

HELEN SEARING

"The Nineteenth Century: Gothic Reborn" in Mathews Lecture Series. 6 pm. The Metropolitan Museum. Uris Center Auditorium. 280-3473.

THE SHAPE OF THE CITY:

SKYSCRAPERS AND PUBLIC

SPACES

Lecture by Edward Barnes in series moderated by Paul Goldberger. 8:15 pm. 92nd Street Y. 1395 Lexington Ave. 831-8603.

TUESDAY 29

HELEN SEARING

"P.J.H. Cuyper: The Dutch William Morris and the Dutch Viollet-le-Dez" in Mathews Lecture Series. 6 pm. The Metropolitan Museum, Uris Center Auditorium. 280-3473.

THE SHAPE OF THE CITY

Lecture by I.M. Pei in series moderated by Paul Goldberger. 8:15 pm. 92nd Street Y. 831-8603.

ROBERT GEDDES

"Aspects of Modernity: Princeton Architecture Since 1965" in the Architectural League's lecture series. 6:30 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison. 753-1722.

WEDNESDAY 16

THE ARCHITECTURE OF CULTURE

Kevin Roche on "Work completed/works in progress" in series presented by the Met in association with NYU/AIA. 8 pm. Metropolitan Museum. 744-9120.

LECTURE

Neil Harris, U. of Chicago, on "American Worlds Fairs in Their Glory Days" 6 pm. Wood Auditorium, Avery Hall, Columbia U. 280-3473.

FORUMS ON FORM

David Billington on his book, *The Tower and the Bridge: The New Art of Structural Engineering*. 12:30 pm. Urban Center Books. 935-3595.

WEDNESDAY 23

FORUMS ON FORM

Alfredo de Vido on his book, *Designing Your Client's House: An Architect's Guide to Meeting Design Goals and Budgets*. Introduction by Stephen Kliment. 12:30 pm. Urban Center Books. 457 Madison. 935-3595.

WEDNESDAY 30

FORUMS ON FORM

Leland Roth on his book, *McKim, Mead & White, Architects*. Introduction by Moseette Broderick. 12:30 pm. Urban Center Books, 457 Madison Ave. 935-3595.

THURSDAY 17

1983 MILAN FURNITURE FAIR

Illustrated talk by Edie Cohen of *Interior Design* sponsored by NYC/AIA Interiors Committee. 6-8 pm. The Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 838-9670.

NYC PARKS IN THE 80s

First in a 6-session course given by Henry Stern, Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. 7:45-9:30 pm. Center for New York City Affairs, The New School. 741-5690.

THURSDAY 24

1859: American architect Cass

Gilbert born.

THURSDAY 1 DEC

1887: H.H. Richardson's Glessner

House occupied in Chicago.

FRIDAY 18

SEMINAR ON SATURDAY NOV. 19

Seminar on zoning variances and the procedures of the Board of Standards and Appeals conducted by Bill Vallett, Counsel to the Board of Standards and Appeals. 9:30 am-4 pm. The New School, 66 W. 12 St. 566-5105.

FRIDAY 25

GOTHAM IN GRIDLOCK

A historical survey of traffic congestion in New York City. Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103 St. 534-1672. Closes April 1.

FRIDAY 2 DEC

WALKING TOUR ON SUNDAY DEC. 4

"Great Lobbies: Foyers of Fame." 11 am. The 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave. 427-6000, ext. 179.

Gathered on the lawn in front of the Main Building on Ellis Island.

Names and News

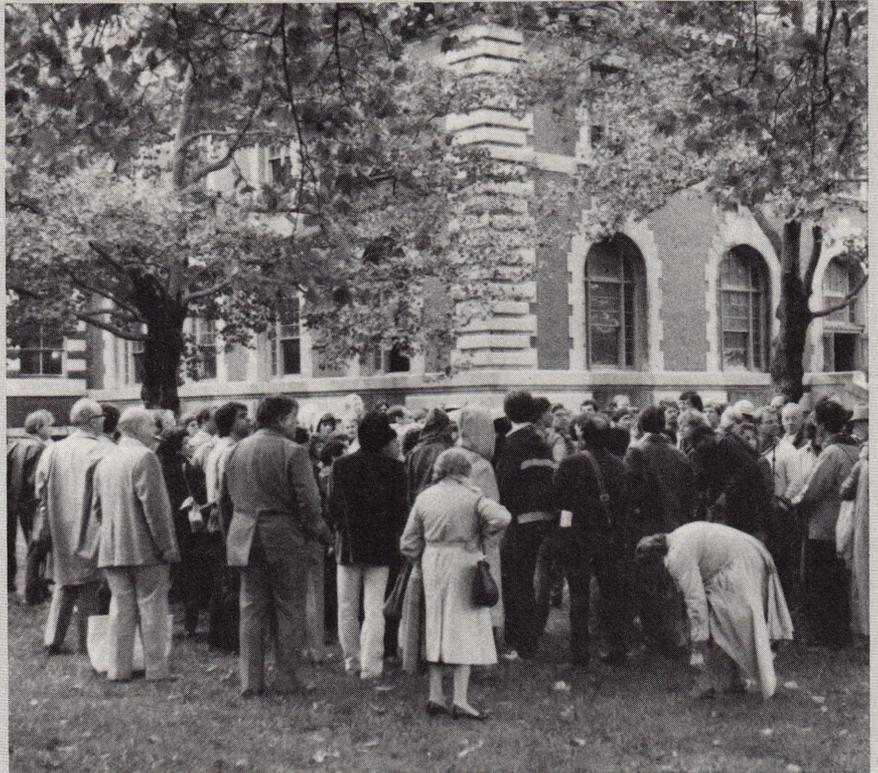
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For information: Lori Segal Zabar or Laurie Beckelman, New York Landmarks Conservancy 736-7575

Irving A. Mennen has been appointed health care consultant for Rogers, Burgun, Shahine & Deschler

George A. Dudley, FAIA, is a member of the U.S. delegation to the Planning and Construction Technology Seminar being held in Shanghai, Xian, and Beijing, November 6-16. This study tour and workshop is conducted jointly by HUD and the Ministry of Construction as part of the U.S.-China Science and Technology Exchange. En route Dudley will take part in the International Symposium to assess the submissions in the design competition for the proposed State Mosque in Baghdad, for which he was professional advisor; and on his return he will chair the jury for the second stage of the international design competition for the Headquarters Complex of the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah The Preservation League of New York State has produced a new 40-page illustrated booklet, *How to Care for Religious Properties; it provides solutions to maintenance and architectural problems* **John Barie** of Swanke Hayden Connell was guest speaker at an IES Designer Lighting Forum on "Lighting & Design at the Trump Tower Atrium" last month *Alvar Aalto, A Critical Study* by Malcolm Quantrill has been published by Schocken Books **Rothzeit Kaiserman Thomson & Bee** have recently received the following recognition for their work: Albert S. Bard Award for Merit in Architecture and Urban Design for the City Center Restoration; Builder's Choice Award from the National Association of Home Builders for West Coast Apartments; and Lumen Award Citation from the New York Illuminating Engineering Society for the West Coast Apartments

Construction is beginning this month on Bridgemarket, a 4-level, 50-store complex designed by **Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer** at the Manhattan end of the Queensborough Bridge.



Chapter Reports

cont'd. from p. 2

extra bulk and density in return for moneys to be spent on civic improvements miles away flies in the face of rational zoning."

- **Public Membership in the Chapter** The Executive Committee, at its October meeting, established a new category of Chapter membership, Public Member, open to people outside the field of architecture who are interested in it. The dues will be \$25 a year, for which Public Members will receive *Oculus* and may attend Chapter events.

- **Selection of Art for Public Buildings** The recently enacted "Percent for Art" legislation, which mandates art in New York City public buildings, is being implemented by Rules and Regulations establishing for each building a panel to select the artist. The Chapter had complained that the

building's architect was not on the list. A recent letter from Bess Myerson, Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, affirms the architect's influence, stating, "It is intended that the Panel will serve in an advisory capacity to the architect."

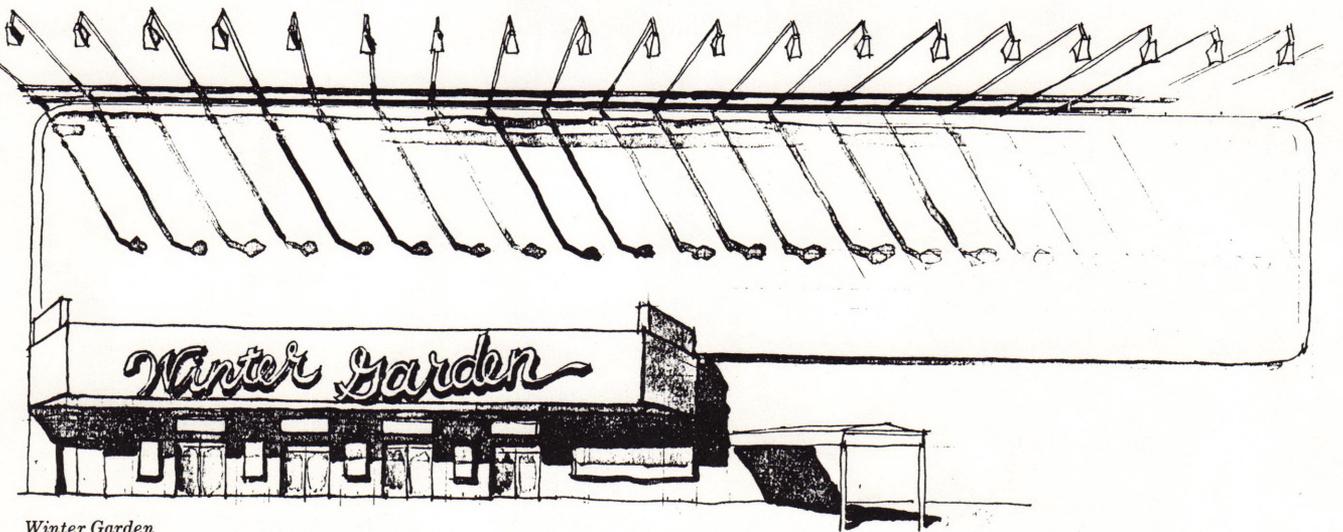
- **Ellis Island Excursion**

An amazing crowd, 190 people, embarked Saturday, October 1, for a tour of Ellis Island conducted by John Belle and James Rhodes of Beyer Blinder Belle, which has the commission for renovation work, and by Chapter member Michael Adlerstein, Senior Planner, National Park Service, the client. The tour was sponsored by the Public Architects Committee, Adrienne Bresnan and Sarelle Weisberg co-chairs, who had delivered announcements of the tour to architects in many government and quasi-government offices. This accounted for the big turnout; it was the first contact with the Chapter for many of them.

• Hundreds of people came to the reception held September 29 for the official opening of the new Chapter Headquarters. Paul Goldberger, writing that day in *The New York Times*, described the Headquarters as having been redesigned "to an exceptionally happy result . . . Bartholomew Voorsanger's design could not be more appropriate to the distinguished surroundings of which it is a part."

Photos: Stan Ries/ESTO





Winter Garden

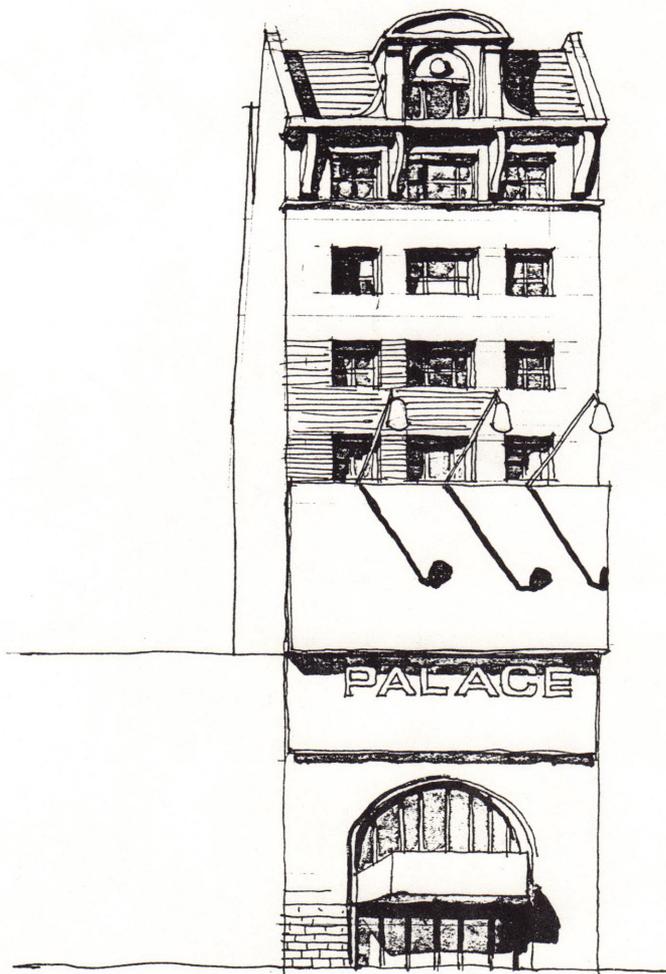
Saving the Broadway Theaters: The Great Debate

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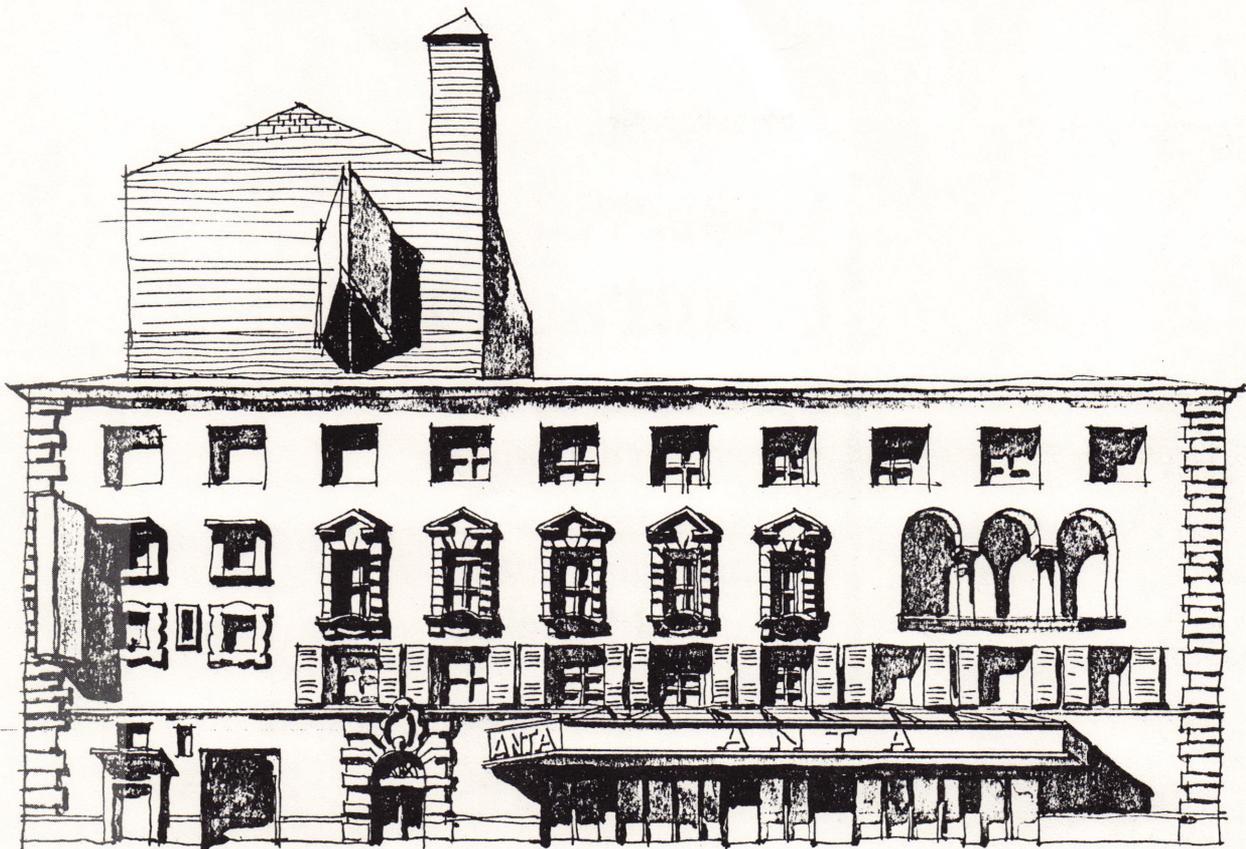
although it is generally agreed that their histories certainly enhance their presence on the scene. Interior designation has also been resisted by those who say productions, such as "Cats", would be inhibited, but 30 well known scenic and lighting designers have informed the Landmarks Commission that they would support overall designation. A Theater Historic District has also been proposed. Although apparently all but four of the theaters could transfer rights to adjacent sites under existing legislation, most of the current thinking anticipates new legislation to permit transfer out of the core area.

Underlying all this is the generally shared recognition that saving the buildings and enhancing the district is not enough: the theaters must have legitimate plays in them; the theater business must prosper, or else the district will become a largely empty shell. This is what has led some members of the Theatre Advisory Council to eye zoning as a source of badly needed funds.

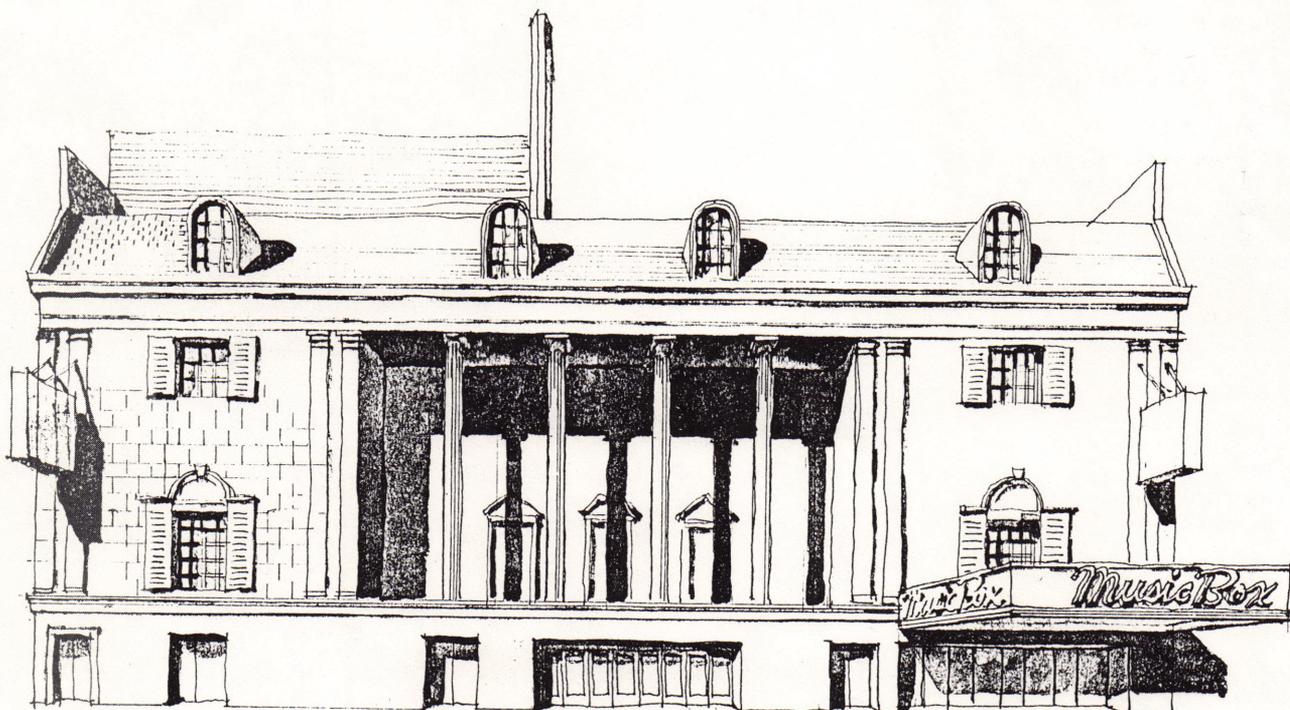
The Council's recommendations, which, at this point it appears will not be agreed upon unanimously, will shortly be submitted to the City Planning Commission, which will formulate its own draft legislation. There will be hearings at the community board, a Planning Commission hearing, after which the legislation will be submitted to the Board of Estimate. The Chapter will be active in the debate at all levels.



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