

# OCULUS

on current new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 47, Number 1, September 1985



*Gathering for the Chapter's Annual Meeting*

*Photo: Stan Ries*

# OCULUS

# ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 1985

Volume 47, Number 1, September 1985

**Oculus**

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Photo: Stan Ries

*The Location*

Arrival at the construction site of the long-planned Bridgemarket, at First Avenue and 59th Street, made it seem an unlikely location for the Chapter's Annual Meeting on June 20. But once inside, members and guests were treated to an unexpected, goustavino-vaulted space—like a Perpendicular Gothic chapel.

Outgoing Chapter President Terrance Williams thanked Harley Baldwin, developer of Bridgemarket, for

hosting the Chapter's meeting in such an undiscovered space. (The Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine later commended the Chapter for so appropriately choosing "a cathedral-like space" for its meeting.) And Craig Swanson of Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates explained his firm's scheme for Mr. Baldwin's Bridgemarket complex (see section).

Following the presentation of awards, Terrance Williams turned the gavel

over to incoming President Paul Segal, who outlined his priorities for the coming year (see pages 4 and 5).

And a reception followed (see page 11).

Amid it all was the stirring of the controversy, which was brewing all summer, over the addition to the Whitney Museum, designed by Michael Graves (see page 12).



Abraham W. Geller received the Medal of Honor, "For his rigorous attitude toward design, his zest for new challenges, his concern for professional matters, and for having trained in his office a generation of distinguished practitioners."



Robert Esnard, Deputy Mayor of the City of New York, received the Chapter's Public Architect Award, citing him as "An architect, at the highest level of City Government, he has enhanced our profession's ability to serve New York well."



Sandy Frucher, Battery Park City



The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine received the Award of Merit, "For leading the resumption of its construction, and for its Stoneyard Apprentice and Building Program, which strikes to the core of what people and buildings are."



Peter Samton, Partner, The Gruzen Partnership, received the Chapter's Andrew J. Thomas/Pioneer in Housing Award, "For large scale housing for people— all kinds of people— living downtown in large cities, designed to recognize and enrich the quality of their neighborhoods."



Betsy Barlow, Central Park Conservancy, and Henry Stern, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation



Marvin Mass became an Honorary Member because, "With his remarkable sense of how buildings live and breathe, he patiently and generously makes us better architects."



C. Ray Smith received the Harry B. Rutkins Memorial Award for service to the Chapter, "For making our publication *Oculus* a magazine at once bright, pithy, and indispensable."

Other Special Citations went to Barry B. LePatner "For sparking us to look at ourselves— at how well we are organized to practice— and for his contributions to the Chapter's efforts toward that end"; to the Bard Awards Program of the City Club of New York, "For twenty years a great and busy civic organization has turned its attention to the work of our profession, singling out for New York to see what we have done best for our city"; to Battery Park City Authority, and Olympia & York "For the urban design of Battery Park City— integral with the streets of oldest Manhattan— and for the very high quality of its architecture"; to New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and The Central Park Conservancy, "Two agencies, public and private, together working to restore with imagination and infinite care the glory of that great design, Central Park"; and to The National Park Service, and The Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island Foundation, citing them as "Working together in the complex but joyous task of restoring two of the greatest symbols of our Nation's quality and history, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island."

## Installation Address

by Paul Segal



First, I would like to thank Harley Baldwin for permitting us to meet in this hall. His work over the last eight years in converting this cathedralesque space into Bridgemarket, a great food fair, is truly an example to all of us of the positive use of existing resources. It is what both the best developers and the best architects do. He is taking this great space, which had fallen into disuse, and through incredible perseverance and persistence, through every conceivable public control process, and through sheer force of phenomenal willpower, is going to make it a wonderful place for all of us to use again.

Standing here on this occasion is both an honor and a thrill for me. Special thanks go to my wife, Ryna, to my partner, Michael Pribyl, and to my entire office—for encouraging me to take on this responsibility and for the support I know they will give me in it.

What I hope to do this coming year is to continue the work of the Chapter Presidents who have preceded me and the work that the Chapter—under George Lewis, with Cathanne and the rest of the staff—has been doing for the past several years.

The first President with whom I

worked closely was Peter Samton. His example of concerned and responsible activism was really what got me interested in the Chapter's activities. In order to continue the efforts that Joe Wasserman, John Belle, and Ted Liebman so ably started several years ago, Terry Williams has this past year worked effectively with the MTA and the City, has led a highly enlightening series by the Professional Practice Committee with Barry LePatner, and has initiated the young architects-in-training educational courses that will begin this fall. He invited me to work closely with him, as I intend to do with Randy Croxton, to make sure our efforts are not "one year stands." We all want to ensure that the Chapter does not change course every year with a new agenda, but rather, will address the challenges that we all have, together, in a concerted and continuous way over at least the next seven to ten years so that these problems can be solved.

I think a good part of all these problems, which have to do with how society views our profession and therefore what we do for society and how society respects our work, can be traced to the basic conflicts and contradictions we face every day, and how we resolve and express them.

Almost every aspect of an architect's life, of his or her practice, and of the profession involve what seem to be destructive conflicts. What I would suggest, rather, is that these oppositions offer the possibility of richer and more meaningful solutions.

The most obvious conflict we have been dealing with over the last several years is the one between art and business. It has been commonly viewed, both inside and outside our profession, that one can be either an artist-architect or a businessman-architect.

I would suggest that this is a false conflict, that indeed being artists and being good businessmen must go hand-in-hand, that for us to practice our art well we must be economically sound.

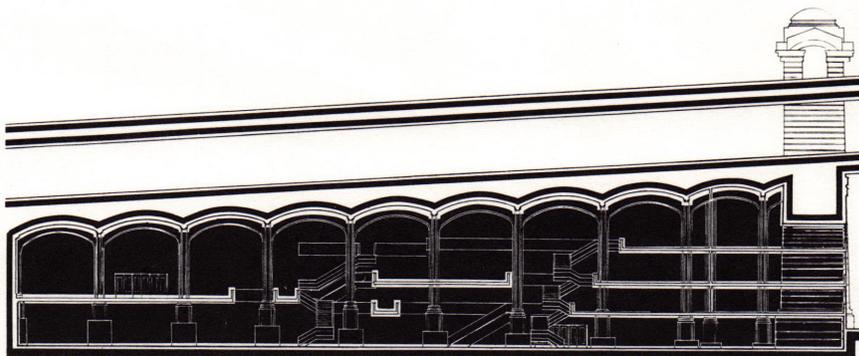
We must be able to afford the time to do research, the time to come up with proper solutions, the time to implement them correctly, and the tools that should become an increasing part of our practices.

Fair and appropriate compensation assists us in doing our art well. You cannot be a great designer when you are worrying about meeting your next payroll. Similarly, producing fine architecture—quality design that utilizes the client's and society's resources most effectively, that enhances people's lives, and that positively contributes to the world around us—is good business.

We won't be respected and sought after unless the basis of our profession, which is design in this full sense, is done well. There is no point in even having a business if we don't do that. Good business decisions and good design decisions go hand-in-hand. They help each other; they don't fight each other. The attitude that will let them work together will make us succeed, and will make us deserve that success.

Finally, if we allow this to become a profession in which those at every level cannot earn a respectable living, we will not continue to attract the quality of people who have wanted to be architects in the past—bright, talented, dedicated, and responsible people. The long-range effect of that loss would not be ours alone, but the entire society's. The built environment would then be left to those considerably less able. This problem must be solved, and successfully integrating quality design with business acumen is an important step.

Preservation and progress are another pair that often seem to be at odds. This apparent conflict must be abolished. We cannot afford to stand still and not adapt to a changing and expanding world. Yet we cannot afford to destroy our past and be without a record of our culture. We must accomplish both preservation and progress together.



Architects have a dual role in society. We are both our client's advocates and well-informed citizens. When given an assignment, we must maximize our client's resources. This means not wasting his land, his materials, or the labor he employs. On the other hand, we work in a world of public constraints of zoning, building, and other codes. And because we work with them everyday, we are more knowledgeable than others about the tremendous effect they have on the built environment. As citizens, we



All photos: Stan Rites

The Guastavino-vaulted site of the Chapter's Annual Meeting

must work to shape, change, and improve these public constraints and processes so that when we work as our client's advocates within these frameworks, we can do so for the best results possible.

These roles, as advocates and as citizens, must inform each other and must make us work to allow the public constraints to benefit the public, and the private reactions within those restraints to serve the client, in a way that is responsible to both the owner and the public.

Looking out across this room I see people who are my friends as well as my competitors. I have worked many hours together with many of you toward common goals to improve our profession and our role in society. I have also competed with many of you. This dual role, this collegial aspect as opposed to this competitive aspect, is another contradiction where our knowledge of each other in both these realms must work together. We all know that certain unfair but increasingly common competitive practices hurt our firms and reduce the quality of our services and work product. These practices are eventually paid for by owners and society, and are therefore counterproductive to them. We must shape our daily action by our broad knowledge of what professional standards are good for society for the long term. This is difficult, but must be achieved.

Finally, as perhaps with every profession, we must balance listening and telling. We must not operate in a vacuum with our heads in the clouds not knowing what society needs from us. We must listen carefully, to the world and to our clients. But we also have something to give. We are not merely tools. When asked to do something that is shortsighted, we must advise and convince that there is a better way. We must understand and communicate that architecture is permanent, its values endure, and that the processes and framework within which it is created must be suitable and appropriate for both today and for

the long term. We must tell the public what we can and should be doing for it.

I intend over the next year both to listen and to tell, to listen to you, to allied professions who face many of the same problems we do and who are striving creatively to solve them, and to the public. What does the public need from our profession? And to tell, to speak out with you and for you about the programs developed by the Chapter in the past and in this year and in the years to come, to make what seem to be contradictions and conflicts become vitalizing enrichments that can work for everyone rather than against them.

Thank you for being here today. As Terry Williams has just said, "This year the Chapter is on a roll." Let's keep it going for a long time. I thank you for your support in doing so.

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## The Coming Year 1985-86

### Committees Open to Membership

**Compensation Committee**  
Carmi Bee, *co-Chair*  
Wallace Berger, *co-Chair*  
Martin Raab, *Liaison*

**Computer Applications**  
Sy Fish, *Chair*  
Martin Raab, *Liaison*

**Corporate Architects**  
Peter El-Gindi, *Chair*  
Lenore Lucey, *Liaison*

**Distinguished Architecture Awards Program**  
Peter Pran, *co-Chair*  
Eric Goshaw, *co-Chair*  
James McCullar, *Liaison*

**Educational/Recreational/Cultural Facilities**  
Richard Saravay, *Chair*  
Randy Croxton, *Liaison*

**Energy & Environment**  
Clifford Custer, *Chair*  
Thomas Fridstein, *Liaison*

**Health Facilities**  
Carl Kaiserman, *Chair*  
Bradford Perkins, *Liaison*

**Historic Buildings**  
Stephen Gottlieb, *Chair*  
Denis G. Kuhn, *Liaison*

**Housing**  
C. Richard Hatch, *co-Chair*  
Michael Kwartler, *co-Chair*  
James McCullar, *Liaison*

**Interiors**  
Michael McAneny, *Chair*  
Lenore Lucey, *Liaison*

**Public Architects**  
Sheldon Wander, *Chair*  
Michael Adlerstein, *Liaison*

**Women's Caucus**  
Lenore Lucey, *Liaison*

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## Appointed Committees

**Brunner Grant**  
William Ellis, *Chair*  
Barbara Neski, *Liaison*

**Exhibitions**  
Bart Voorsanger, *Chair*  
Steven Goldberg, *Liaison*

**Professional Practice**  
Douglas Korves, *co-Chair*  
Jack Suben, *co-Chair*  
Martin Raab, *Liaison*

**Scholarship**  
Richard Dattner, *Chair*  
Rolf Ohlhausen, *Liaison*

**Zoning**  
Michael Parley, *Chair*  
Rolf Ohlhausen, *Liaison*

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## Elected Committees 1985-86

**Finance**  
Treasurer, *Liaison*

**Medal of Honor/Award of Merit**  
President, *Liaison*

**Fellows**  
Richard G. Stein, *Chair*

## Letters

*Award-winner 19th Precinct Stationhouse-Firehouse by The Stein Partnership.*



[Ed: *Oculus* is pleased to have provided a forum for the following exchange and development.]

Dear Editor:

I have had the opportunity to read Admiral Price's article entitled "Bring Back the Ferries" in the April issue of *Oculus*. I enjoyed the article, but was puzzled by his description of environmental policies in New Jersey.

He indicated that the chief obstacle to a Monmouth based ferry operation is the fact that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection would not allow dredging, filling or the construction of a bridge or trestle. Actually, our policy is to discourage and, for the most part, prohibit filling, but we are not opposed to dredging. In the Port Monmouth area, we have opposed some dredging proposals because they would involve removing wetlands, but we would otherwise encourage dredging if it would help waterborne commerce.

In reference to his comments about building a bridge or trestle, I am not aware of any proposals that have been presented to us for such construction. I would be happy to consider such proposals for approval under the Waterfront Development Act and other relevant coastal statutes again if they were to facilitate a ferry service.

I hope these comments help to clarify the DEP position and again, I enjoyed the article.

John R. Weingart  
Director  
State of New Jersey  
Department of Environmental  
Protection

Dear Editor:

I thank Mr. Weingart for his letter of May 9 with complimentary remarks about my article "Bring Back the Ferries."

He commented on my criticism of difficulties presented by the State of New Jersey to the resolution of the

needs of watercraft for deepened channels. My remarks might seem overdrawn, (a specific Bridge/trestle was not offered in the Port of Monmouth proposal) but they derive from frustration a year ago in Trenton.

First meetings with the immediate staff of Governor Kean were encouraging. However, at an assemblage arranged by that staff with the various state agency representatives, there was little disposition to flexibility. Unless the tradeoff criteria were met or exceeded, the "unloved" parcel of land which the Port of Monmouth group wanted to turn into an attractive rate-payer could lie fallow forever so far as the environmental element was concerned.

Nonetheless, I am sufficiently heartened by Mr. Weingart's personal expression of interest in the ferry project to have again consulted the Port of Monmouth group. Using the very positive tone of his letter, I have been able to convince them that with some modification of their master plan to be responsive to your specific comments, their changes for approval of the project would be substantially improved. I am informed that a revision is being prepared for submission in the near future. I have also been assured that I, and Mr. Weingart in turn, will be informed of the plan before it is submitted.

Robert I. Price  
VAdm. USCG (ret.)  
S.S. Henry Co. Inc.

Dear Editor:

We were delighted to see the names of the 1985 New York City Art Commission Awards in the June *Oculus*; but we were disappointed to note that our Award was not mentioned. This is especially true since we are particularly proud of the Award the Art Commission gave us this year — a joint Award to The Stein Partnership and sculptor Costantino Nivola for the bronze sculptures at the combined 19th Precinct Stationhouse/

Firehouse for Engine Co. 39 and Ladder Co. 16 on East 67th Street — because it is the second Art Commission Award we have received for this project. Last year we were given an Award for the design of the building itself; combined with this year's Award for our work with Mr. Nivola, this puts us in the position of being the only architectural firm to have won two New York City Art Commission Awards for Excellence in Design.

Shira Rosan  
The Stein Partnership

## Coming Chapter Events

- Saturday, September 7, 1-4 p.m. The Interiors Committee is sponsoring a tour of three major design offices to include CRS/Sirrine and Owen Springer Mandolfo. The tour will convene at 1 p.m. at the offices of Owen Springer Mandolfo/206 Fifth Avenue. Call Chapter for reservations.

- Tuesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m. The Urban Center. Chapter Meeting: (1) To consider the Executive Committee's recommendation that dues be increased and (2) to provide an opportunity for the membership to hear and comment on plans for the 1985-86 year. The Executive Committee and the chairs of Chapter committees will be present.

- Tuesday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. Members Gallery. There will be a reception and talk by students exhibiting work from the five architecture schools of New York.

The Interiors Committee is host of a reception welcoming the National AIA Interiors Architecture Committee at its 1985-86 kick-off meeting.

- Wednesday, September 18, 5:30 p.m. will be the first meeting of the Practice Committee; all chapter members are invited. The focus will be to develop plans for the coming year.

# OCCULUS NYC/AIA SEPT 85

Oculus welcomes information for the calendar pertaining to public events about architecture and the other design professions. It is due by the 5th 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.

## MONDAY 2

1888: H.H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse dedicated.

## CONTINUING EVENTS

### EXHIBITION

"Revivals and Explorations: Decorative Arts of England and France, 1850-1900." Metropolitan Museum of Art. 879-5500. Closes Sept. 5.

### EXHIBITION

"Betimann celebrates Times Square." The Municipal Art Society, Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. 939-3960. Closes Sept. 11.

### EXHIBITION

"Seaside: New Architecture for a New Town" — architectural projects for Seaside, Florida. The Architectural League at the Urban Center. 753-1722. Closes Sept. 12.

### EXHIBITION

William Lescaze. Octagon Museum, Washington, D.C. 202-638-3105. Closes Sept. 29.

### EXHIBITION

"Rare Books from the Cooper-Hewitt Library" including such subjects as ornament, architecture, interior and landscape design, decorative arts. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Oct. 6.

### EXPO 86

World Exposition in Vancouver, British Columbia. Theme: transportation & communication. Closes Oct. 13.

### EXHIBITION

"Chicago and New York: Architectural Interactions." The New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West. 873-3400.

## TUESDAY 3

1856: Louis H. Sullivan born.

## WEDNESDAY 4

1846: City planner Daniel Burnham born.

## THURSDAY 5

### SYMPOSIUM

"Seaside: Ideals and Precedents, Architecture and Development." Seaside planners, developers, and architects will discuss their projects and intentions. 6:30 pm. The Architectural League at the Urban Center. For reservations: 753-1722.

## FRIDAY 6

### TOUR ON SATURDAY SEPT. 7

A tour of three major design offices sponsored by the Interiors Committee. Meet at Owen Springer Mandolfo, 206 Fifth Avenue 1 p.m. Call Chapter office for reservation. 833-9670.

### ICE CREAM FEST ON SUN, SEPT. 8

Recreation of an early 19th-century ice cream fete to commemorate the 1814 arrival of the most famous occupants of the Octagon in Washington, President James & Mrs. Dolley Madison. For reservations: 202-638-3105.

## TUESDAY 10

### CHAPTER MEETING

To consider Executive Committee's recommendation on dues increase and to review and comment on committee plans for this year. 6:00 p.m. The Urban Center.

## WEDNESDAY 11

### LIGHTING LIBERTY

A building-wide gala to raise funds for the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island restoration. 5:30-9 pm. The Decorative Arts Center, 305 E. 63 St. Tickets: \$25 per person through DAC showrooms or by mail: Statue of Liberty, Decorative Arts Center, New York 10021.

## THURSDAY 12

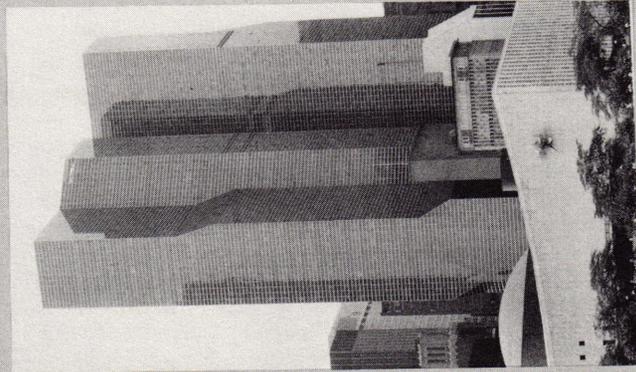
1933: American architect Charles Adams Platt died.

## FRIDAY 13

### TWO EXHIBITIONS

#### OPEN SAT. SEPT. 14

"Robert Capa: A retrospective, 1931-1954;" and "Henri Cartier-Bresson: Portraits, 1930-1984," including Frank Lloyd Wright, Alexander Calder, Henri Matisse. International Center for Photography, 1130 Fifth Ave. (94th St.) 860-1777. Both close Nov. 10.



## MONDAY 16

1966: Harrison & Abramovitz's Metropolitan Opera House opened at Lincoln Center.

## TUESDAY 17

**EXHIBITION OPENING/TALK**  
Work from the five New York architecture schools will be on view through Nov. 10. Representatives from each school will discuss the role that drawing plays in their education. 6 pm. Members Gallery at the Chapter. 838-9670.

**RECEPTION**  
The Interiors Committee will host a reception for the National AIA's Committee at the Knoll Design Center, 105 Wooster Street, 6-8 p.m. Space is limited, call Chapter for reservations. 838-9670.

## WEDNESDAY 18

**PRACTICE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
The first meeting of the committee will develop plans for the year's focus. All interested members are welcome. 5:30 pm. Chapter conference room. 838-9670.

**EXHIBITION**  
"Wurts Brothers Photograph New York, Architectural Photographs 1895-1960" Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103 St. 534-1672. Closes Jan. 5.

## THURSDAY 19

**EXHIBITION**  
"High Styles: Twentieth-Century American Design." Whitney Museum of American Art, Madison Ave. at 75th St. 570-3633. Closes Jan. 5.

## FRIDAY 20

**INAUGURAL EXHIBITION**  
"Building a National Image: Architectural Drawings for the American Democracy," inaugural exhibition of the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. 202-272-3606. Closes Dec. 29.

**AWARD LUNCHEON**  
Richard Kelly Memorial Award luncheon with Marshall Meyers as the keynote speaker. 11:30-2:30. University Club, 1 W. 54 St. Information: Peter Golden 924-4050.

**INSIDE ITALIAN DESIGN**  
Designer tour (Sept. 20-29) to Milan Furniture Fair. 415-864-6604.

## MONDAY 23

**EXHIBITION**  
Tianjin University, China, Student Work. Columbia Graduate School of Architecture and Planning, 100 Level, Avery Hall. 280-3473. Closes Oct. 18.

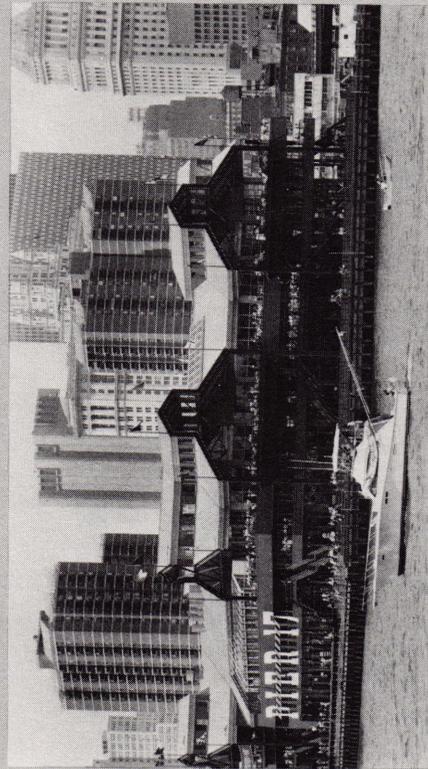
## THURSDAY 26

**CONFERENCE, SEPT. 26-28**  
"Energy Planning for Communities," sponsored by the AIA and U.S. Dept. of Energy. St. Paul, Minnesota. For information: Energy Programs, AIA, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington. 202-626-7448.

## FRIDAY 27

**SYMPOSIUM ON SATURDAY**  
SEPT. 28  
First of a series of annual symposia sponsored by the Art Deco Society of New York. 758-9447.

**DEDICATION CEREMONY**  
For the installation of "Spirit House," an environmental sculpture by HERA on Cadman Plaza between Tillary and Johnson Streets, Brooklyn Heights. Hera: 212-924-4518.



## MONDAY 30

**DEADLINE**  
To register in the first stage of "Inner City Infill, A Housing Design Competition for Harlem." Information and registration: Theodore Liebman, Inner City Infill Competition, The Liebman Melting Partnership, 330 W. 42 St., NYC 10036.

## TUESDAY 1 OCT

**EXHIBITION**  
"On the Avenue, The Evolution of the Upper East Side." Museum of the City of New York, Fifth Ave. at 103 St. 534-1672. Closes Nov. 17.

**EXHIBITION**  
"The Modern Spirit: Glass from Finland" including work by such post World War II designers as Tapio Wirkkala, Alvar Aalto, Aino Marsio-Aalto. Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2 E. 91 St. 860-6868. Closes Jan. 5.

## WEDNESDAY 2 OCT

**LECTURE**  
Werner Seligman, Dean, School of Architecture, Syracuse University, in Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture and Planning series. 6 pm. Wood Auditorium, 100 Level, Avery Hall. 280-3473.

## THURSDAY 3 OCT

**STUDY TOUR**  
"London/Berlin: Forty Years After Urban Reconstruction," sponsored by School of Architecture and Environmental Design, CCNY, with the Polytechnic of South London (Oct. 3-13) for architects, urban designers, landscape architects. For more information: Lance Jay Brown 690-4118/4261 or Norman Shapiro 690-6611.

## FRIDAY 4 OCT

**TRAVEL TOUR, OCT. 5-20**  
"Inside British Design" presented by Minneapolis College of Art & Design. For information: Travel by Design, 2260 Market St., San Francisco 94114. 415-864-6604.

**WALKING TOUR ON SAT. & SUN. OCT. 5 & 6**  
Municipal Art Society's Discover New York tour of Fifth Avenue from 78th to 94th Street. 935-3960.

## Names and News

*Rendering of Beyer Blinder Belle residential tower to rise behind 3-story 1914 building.*



The National Building Museum in Washington is opening its exhibition galleries this month (Sept. 20) with "Building a National Image: Architectural Drawings for the American Democracy," which will include drawings of the U.S. Capitol by Benjamin Latrobe, William Thornton, Thomas U. Walters, and others from the 1792 competition . . . Frances Halsband has been elected President of The Architectural League of New York to succeed Emilio Ambasz . . . The New York State Council on the Arts has announced a two-stage national design competition for infill housing on four adjacent sites in NYC's Harlem neighborhood. September 30th is the extended deadline for registering in the first stage; the second stage will begin in December. For more information: Theodore Liebman, Professional Advisor, Inner City Infill Competition, c/o The Liebman Melting Partnership, 330 W. 42 Street, NYC 10036 . . . The Stein Partnership has announced the appointment of Christopher Tavener as an Associate . . . Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility, dedicated to reversing nuclear weapons proliferation, will hold National Membership Day, "Design For the Future" on November 11. Ward Bennett, Ivan Chermayeff, Paul Friedburg, Michael Graves, Beverly Russell, and Walter Thabbit, will speak at the event which will be held at NYU's Loeb Student Center. For more information: 334-8104 . . . Davis Brody & Associates in conjunction with landscape architect Laurie Olin have been retained to restore and re-landscape the Fifth Avenue "Plaza" of the New York Public Library . . . Davis Brody are also the architects of Battery Park City's first condominium high-rise to get under construction—350 Albany Street . . . Don Tapert has been named Associate of Fox & Fowle Interiors . . . The City College of New York School of Architecture and Environmental Studies is sponsoring a study tour (Oct. 3-13), "London/Berlin Urban Reconstruction: Forty Years After" (See Calendar) . . . David Childs is chairman and Robert A.M. Stern a member of the jury for the 1985 Wood Design Award Program,

which will honor excellence in recently constructed buildings. The non-residential program has been expanded this year to include multi-family housing and individual architect-designed custom houses. Deadline: October 15. Information: The American Wood Council, 1719 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 20036 . . . Welton Becket Associates of New York are the architects of the Xerox Centre office now under construction in Hartford, CT. It will be a part of a 33-acre mixed-use development including apartments for the elderly, townhouses, and apartments in 25-story towers designed by Beyer Blinder Belle . . . The Welton Becket firm also announced the promotion of James J. Larkin to senior vice president in his position as director of business development . . . Marshall D. Meyers will be the keynote speaker at the Richard Kelly Memorial Award luncheon to be held at the University Club on September 20th . . . The Minneapolis College of Art and Design is sponsoring "Inside British Design, A Travel Tour to England and Scotland," Oct. 5-20. For further information: George DeWoody, Travel By Design 340-1101/615-5525 (a complimentary Sprint long-distance connection with the Twin Cities), or Ellen Meyer, Minneapolis College of Art and Design 612-870-3279 . . . The National Institute for Architectural Education awarded the \$10 thousand John Dinkeloo Travelling Fellowship in Architectural Technology to Ellen Dorothy Palmer of Washington, D.C. She plans to study modern and current eclectic European architecture . . . Voorsanger & Mills have been commissioned by New York University to design a 16-story dormitory for graduate students at 33 Third Avenue in the East Village . . . The Landmarks Preservation Commission has unanimously approved a resolution endorsing Carnegie Hall's plans for extensive exterior renovation and restoration to the designs of James Stewart Polshek . . . Byron Bell, Megan E. Lawrence, Nancy A. Miao, William Pedersen, Stanley Salzman, Jon Michael Schwarting, and John J. Stonehill

comprised the jury for the 1985 Traveling Fellowship in Architecture, co-sponsored by the National Institute for Architectural Education and the American Academy in Rome, which was awarded to John Philip Trautman of Laguna Beach, California . . . Skidmore Owings & Merrill in New York are the architects for an executive office building that Citicorp is considering constructing in Long Island City . . . Shira Rosan, an Associate with The Stein Partnership, was the winner of the Strycker's Bay Neighborhood Council Bicycle Shelter Design Competition . . . Hawaii Loa College on the island of Oahu has announced an international competition for the design of a building to house a Pacific Center for the Media Arts, which the college is establishing. John Morris Dixon, editor of *Progressive Architecture*, is a member of the jury, and September 17th is the deadline for registration (see Calendar) . . . Larsen/Juster Architects & Planners have announced the appointment of Anton Martinez as Associate and Technical Director . . . The Whitney Museum of American Art and The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S. have entered into a "cultural collaboration" that will be marked in October with the opening of the Whitney Museum at Equitable's new headquarters building, Seventh Ave. between 51st and 52nd Streets, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes . . . The Whitney will also open its Downtown Branch early in 1986 in the office building designed by Philip Johnson and John Burgee at 33 Maiden Lane . . . Beyer Blinder Belle are the architects of a 21-story residential tower to be constructed behind a 1914 building originally designed by Thomas W. Lamb at Broadway and 81st Street . . . Edward P. Gordon, a new member of NYC/AIA, is principal of the newly established firm, Salisbury, Salisbury, Gordon & Morris, Inc. at 15 W. 44th Street, which offers public relations and marketing support services to the design and building professions . . . the Chapter notes with regret the death of Walter Wagner, Jr., Editor of *Architectural Record*, on July 6th .

# Annual Meeting



*Sam Brody, Jerry Maltz, Anna Halpin, and Terry Twitchell*



*Harley Baldwin*



*Abigail Sturges and Daniel Perry*



*Richard Stein, Ezra Stoller and friends*



*George Lewis and Joe Wasserman*



*Alan Schwartzman*

*All photos: Stan Ries*

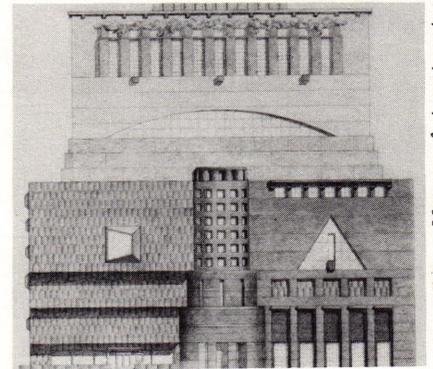
## The Whitney: Keen Interest in Michael Graves' Design

by George Lewis

When, on May 22, a not very clear photograph appeared on *The New York Times*' front page showing the familiar Breuer-designed Whitney Museum apparently tucked under a block-long addition designed by Michael Graves, telephone lines hummed. Calls to the Chapter demanded to know what was going to be done about this.

What was done was that the Executive Committee at its June meeting quickly decided that the membership deserved an opportunity to see the plans and hear them explained, or otherwise the developing controversy would remain more heated than enlightened. Whether the Chapter should take a position was not discussed. It was decided to sound out the Whitney to see if it and its architect would like to present the plans.

Meanwhile, at the Chapter's Annual Meeting on June 20, Abraham Geller, on being awarded the Medal of Honor, delivered a severe criticism of the



Graves' Whitney



Richard Stein



Whitney's proposal; the *Times* reported on this in some detail the next morning. It was soon apparent that an impression, however unfounded, had been created in some quarters that the Chapter itself had been involved.

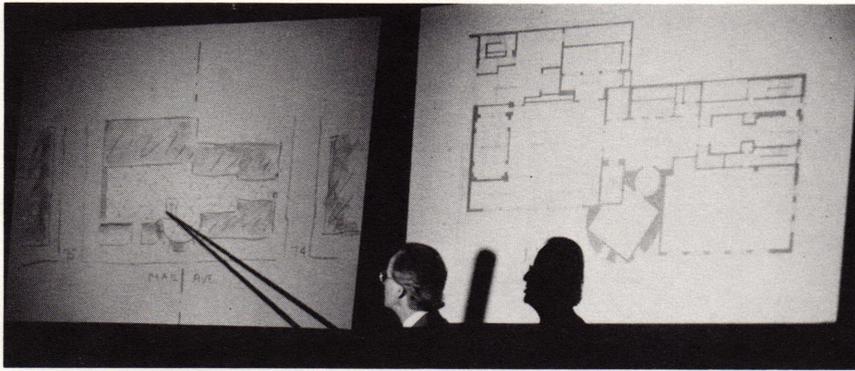
A week later Thomas N. Armstrong, III, Director of the Museum, wrote to accept the Chapter's invitation to present the plans at an open meeting to be held on July 25; he and Michael Graves would make the presentation.



John Dixon



Audience in Donnell auditorium



*Michael Graves showing plans*



*Tom Armstrong, Michael Graves, and Paul Segal*



*Philip Johnson*



*Vincent Scully*

It was scheduled to be held at the 245-seat CUNY auditorium; an announcement was mailed to the membership the day before the July 4 week-end specifying that admission would be by reservation only; the reservation limit was reached by the following Monday afternoon. The Chapter office was inundated with telephone calls, and a change in locale to the 300-capacity Donnell Library auditorium somewhat alleviated the situation, although many Chapter members as well as other people around town, some of them rather important, were to be disappointed. However, the architectural plans and models were to be on view at the Chapter for a week before and a week after the event.

#### **The Whitney Presentation**

The meeting itself, nearly everyone who was present agreed, was a great success. Vincent Scully called it "an historic occasion." Messrs. Armstrong and Graves, and Karen Wheeler of the Graves office, explained the Museum's requirements and plans in detail. Philip Johnson read a statement by Brendan Gill, chairman of the Museum's building committee, and added comments of his own; the ensuing discussion, if it ran more to extended remarks than to simple questions, as the Chapter had planned, did seem to air the essential issues. This was the Chapter's sole purpose in sponsoring the event.

#### **The Next Step**

There will be a Landmarks Preservation Commission hearing, probably sometime in September at the earliest, on the proposal's appropriateness to the present building—it being in the Upper East Side Historic District—and to the District itself. At the August 6 Executive Committee meeting it was determined that the Chapter would take no position, although all present agreed that the Commission should view the Breuer building, which is less than 30 years old and therefore ineligible for designation, as though it were in fact a landmark.

Implicit throughout the Chapter's involvement in this affair as described here was the Chapter's firm policy that design review is not its business. In the case of the Whitney, the sole justification for a Chapter position would have been the proposal's effect on the present building, and on this point there is clearly a wide ranging difference of opinion.

# Executive Committee 1985-86



*Paul Segal*



*Steve Goldberg*



*Barbara Neski and Tom Fridstein*



*Michael Adlerstein and James McCullar*



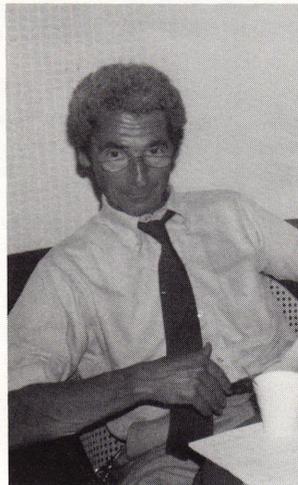
*Martin Raab*



*Denis Kuhn*



*Randolph Croxton*



*Rolf Ohlhausen*



*L. Bradford Perkins, Jr.*



*Lenore Lucey*



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