

# OCCULUS

an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 50 Number 10, June 1988



The Chapter's Gotham Gala in the Winter Garden of the World Financial Center at Battery Park City

Photo: Stan Ries

## OCULUS

## ANNUAL REVIEW 87-88

Volume 50, Number 10, June 1988

**Oculus**

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

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

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by A. Eugene Kohn FAIA

Last June the year ahead as President of NYC/AIA looked like a very long one to me, and here, 12 months later, it seems to have been much too short a time. What changed my perception regarding this past year was that I became involved in the business of the Chapter. I discovered many possibilities for contributions to the profession with not enough time for all I wanted to achieve.

I must admit that prior to being asked to be President of this Chapter I did not fully appreciate what a strong AIA could mean to our profession and, like so many other architects, would say "What can the AIA do?"

What I have come to recognize is that we cannot say that the AIA is someone else's responsibility. It is the concern of all of us. The NY Chapter will be only as strong as its members want it to be by their participating, giving of their time, their money, so that we can reach the goals for the profession, the Chapter, and the City. By focusing our attention we can make the Chapter a valuable asset to us all.

We cannot just take from the AIA, receive its awards for projects, its Gold Medal, Firm Medal, or Fellowship Medal, and not give back something of ourselves. We have the opportunity to accomplish great things, but this will take not only a few architects always there working on our behalf but will require the involvement of both large and small firms including leading design firms and individual architects.

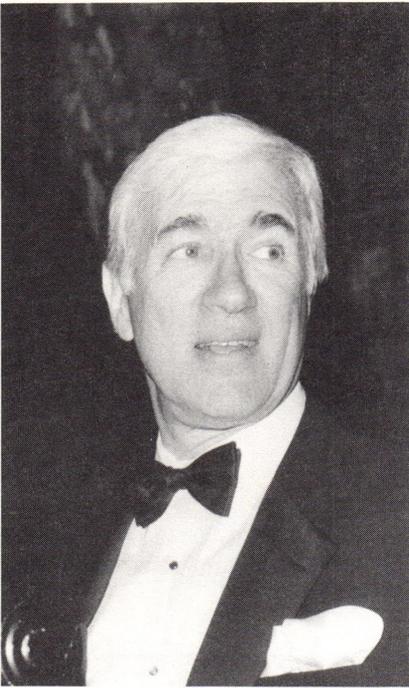
This has been a unique year highlighted by the 1988 National AIA Convention here in New York. It has been a year complicated by the sizable efforts for the Convention while remaining committed to the ongoing programs and causes that could not be deferred during preparations for the Convention. I have been impressed and have marveled at the way that Executive Director Lenore Lucey AIA, the Chapter's staff, our Executive Committee and other committees, and members have put tremendous energy and time into

making this year a year of success.

The work of the Convention Committee and, in particular, its Chairman John Winkler AIA has been outstanding. In arranging the many events for this most successful, exciting, and largest Convention ever, the NY Chapter took on a tremendous responsibility for the Convention. This Committee arranged imaginative programs, retailer displays, the most exciting tours of New York ever put together, and memorable social events for the evenings of the Convention. Spectacular exhibits, an expanded awards program, lectures, the Architectural Heritage and Thomas Jefferson Balls, made for a very full year.

What made it a very special year for me was the realization that being active in the Chapter, working alongside many fine architects (instead of under normal circumstances where we are competing for a project), was not only an enjoyable experience but a very worthwhile and productive one. I am sure many of our members do not have the slightest notion of the efforts that a small group of our peers give to such urgent matters as Lobby Day, where they are fighting in Albany the battle to get legislation to limit liability for third party suits, and attempting to defeat legislative action concerning licensing of interior designers. In addition, they are mounting resistance against bidding of fees as the basis for selection of architects by City and State agencies. Some of our members devote their time to training young architects, from all our offices, to be more professional and to increase their productivity.

These past twelve months have been a year of many accomplishments, not only with the success of the Convention but the formation of new programs and an even stronger outreach to the public. We have started a panel of former Presidents, called the Presidential Decade, enabling these experienced members to continue programs and activities of interest from their terms in office to the betterment of the Chapter. We have



A. Eugene Kohn FAIA

established forums where we meet both formally and informally with the groups we most interface with during the process of creating architecture. This group includes developers, construction managers, city officials, political figures, and the press. As a result of these forums, we will be communicating ideas, resolving differences, and in general attempting to remove the adversarial relationship that develops during projects. We aim to establish support and cooperation so that in the end we can achieve an excellent quality of architecture. In addition, these forums enable us to communicate with the public and improve their perception of architects. In a way we are extending the benefits of this Convention Year into the years ahead.

We have established a Presidents' Citation to award to a member of the Chapter, who has given time and effort unselfishly over many years to the causes of architecture, to the City, to the profession, and to the Chapter. We have instituted a program of retreats enabling the Executive Board and the Presidential Decade to deal with issues of great importance that cannot be resolved during the monthly Chapter meetings.

It is hoped that these programs and many others to be initiated will turn the year 1988-89 into a year of opportunity and growth, of greater membership participation, and thereby avoid what could seem an anticlimactic year following the Convention.

We could not be more fortunate this coming year than to have the leadership of Marty Raab FAIA.

There is no one I could think of who will provide stronger guidance, who is more experienced and more committed to this Chapter than Marty. Before I turn the gavel—symbol of the President and Chapter leadership—over to Marty and end my term, I want to take this opportunity to thank a number of people for their support—those whose efforts and assistance I greatly valued. I apologize in advance for any of those I might slight by inadvertently not mentioning. Those I thank in particular are:

- Lenore Lucey AIA, who made me look good
- Regina Kelly, who administered the Convention, as well as Cathanne Piesla and the staff of the Chapter, who put in a year-and-a-half in twelve months
- Marty Raab FAIA, who gave me strong support and friendship
- The Executive Board: Martin Raab FAIA, Richard Dattner FAIA, Bartholomew Voorsanger FAIA, Valery Baker AIA, Graeme Whitelaw AIA, Margaret Helfand AIA, Douglas Korves AIA, Denis G. Kuhn AIA, Charles Platt FAIA, Sheldon Wander FAIA, John Winkler AIA, who made the monthly meetings so very productive and kept the Chapter in full gear
- John Winkler AIA and his Convention Steering Committee for an incredible job related to the Convention
- Paul Segal FAIA for his advice, enthusiasm, and encouragement throughout the year
- Peter Samton FAIA for his many contributions during my term
- The Presidential Decade for making the time after their own terms and contributing ideas this past year
- To all the Chairmen and Committee Members who worked so hard within their Committees even though the focus was on the Convention this year
- And finally, to my partners at Kohn Pedersen Fox, who put up with less of my presence in the office, and to the many other people who contributed to my term as President.

I thank you all.

## Notes on the Year

by Cathanne Piesla

We will probably always remember this as the year of the Convention. The extraordinary amount of coordination and preparation that went into organizing the biggest Convention in AIA history did not disrupt the Chapter's ongoing programs, as you have undoubtedly noticed. This couldn't have happened without the cooperation of all of the committee chairs and members.

- The second annual Architectural Heritage Ball in celebration of Heritage Preservation Scholarship was held at The Waldorf-Astoria. Over 400 guests danced into the wee hours of a very beautiful Saturday night in November. The annual auction of architectural art and memorabilia, skillfully called by Robert A.M. Stern, raised over \$20,000 for the New York Foundation for Architecture.

- The Chapter's exhibits program, chaired by Brad Perkins and Wendy Evans, and curated by Alessandra Latour, has gained an international reputation. We were permitted to exhibit original drawings of the Russian constructivist architect, Alexander Rodchenko, the first time they were exhibited outside the Soviet Union. We also had an exhibit featuring the World Trade Center. Entitled "Vertical Architecture" the exhibit focused on the development of the twin towers. Through the end of this month a visitor to the gallery will see the work of students in the five-year program of the Moscow Institute of Architecture, the largest and oldest architecture school in the Soviet Union. Convention attendees visiting the Urban Center Galleries saw "10 on 10: The Critics' Choice," an exciting exhibition of projects that ten critics consider "best exemplify New York architecture of the 1980s."

- Other exhibitions organized by committees include the Computer Applications Committee's "Computer Images in Architecture" at the Parsons Exhibition Center and the Design Awards Program Committee's award-winning entries in all three programs—Built, Unbuilt, Interiors—at the Max Protetch Warehouse gallery.

## Notes on the Year

• The Design Awards Programs Committee organized its first Interiors competition this year. The Committee prepared "New York Architecture: Volume I" as a record of all three programs.

• The Art and Architecture Committee's "PROFILE" series continues. This season's review of the collaborative effort of architects and artists included an evening with M. Paul Friedberg on architect/landscape architect projects, a review of the Percent for Art program and a look at the recently completed Rainbow Room renovation.

• The Brunner Grant committee, long known for its hard work in selecting the annual recipient, began a series called Brunner Dialogues. The 1986 recipient, Thomas Schumacher, spoke on "Guiseppe Terragni and the Culture of Modern Italian Architecture;" and Suzanne Stephens, the 1987 recipient, on 130 years of architecture criticism in the United States. The committee will reorganize for the 1988-89 season and hopes to attract a larger audience.

• The Computer Applications Committee organized seminars in addition to the aforementioned exhibit. "New Video Presentations of Architectural Applications," "The Importance of High Technology Design Tools on Architectural Vision," "Data Bases/Computer Graphics," and "Recent Work" were very well received.

• The Professional Practice Committee sponsored the panel discussion, "Architects Communicating with Clients," as well as an open forum on licensing interior designers.

• Lobby Day, organized by NYSAA/AIA, as well as the many letters members wrote to legislators were an important factor in the reexamination of the current bill to license interior designers. The other major component of Lobby Day was the "Statute of Limitations" legislation. Be sure to get your letters in, call Elisa Dantuono

at Chapter Headquarters for the Political Action Kit if you've misplaced yours. The Chapter will keep you apprised of new developments.

• For the first time ever, the Chapter participated in the Greater New York Home Show at the Javits Convention Center, presenting a seminar series for the lay person contemplating hiring an architect.

• Gene Kohn, President, formed the "Presidential Decade." Past Chapter presidents of the last decade meet regularly to discuss ways and means for the Chapter to have a definite impact on the profession and the City. A discussion series, "Presidential Forum," will begin in the fall, the first to be on the subject of architects working with developers.

• The Interiors Committee organized "Art in Architecture/Architecture as Art" focusing on the integration of art in interior design.

• The Housing Committee sponsored a resolution for the National Convention. Convention resolution G-2 "AIA Commitment to Affordable Housing" called for the AIA to give higher priority to affordable housing through increased public, professional, and Institute involvement.

• The Intern Training Program ran another year of courses. The fall course "How to Turn Designs into Buildings" had an enrollment of 50 students. The spring course, "Managing by Design," although having a smaller enrollment, turned out to be a more active student body.

• The Public Architects Committee exhibition of work done by Public Agencies continued to tour the state. It was a major focus of the NYSAA/AIA convention in Rochester, as well as at many schools throughout this year, and at AIANYC88!

• The Public Agency Contracts Committee was organized, combining the former, City Agencies, Transportation, and City Contracts

Committees for a more effective relationship in our efforts with the City.

• The Allwork Scholarship Committee bestowed over \$20,000 in grants to 29 students in the accredited schools of New York State.

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## Committee Chairs

**Architecture for Education**  
Richard Saravay AIA

**Art & Architecture**  
Robert Landsman AIA

**Associates**  
**Brunner Grant**  
Steven Peterson AIA

**Compensation**  
Wallace Berger AIA  
Ira Grandberg AIA

**Computer Application**  
Tom Hernandez  
Associate Member  
The American Institute of Architects

**Corporate Architects**  
Judy Solomon AIA

**Design Awards Programs**  
Edward Mills AIA

**Exhibits**  
Wendy Evans AIA  
Brad Perkins AIA

**Health Facilities**  
Carl Kaiserman AIA

**Historic Buildings**  
Jonathan Butler AIA

**Housing**  
John Ellis AIA

**Interiors**  
Ted Hammer AIA

**Intern Architects**  
Gerald Hallissy AIA

**Landmarks Guidelines**  
William Shopsin FAIA

## Thanks

### Oculus

C. Ray Smith FAIA

### Professional Practices

Jack Suben AIA

### Public Architects

Jerry Maltz AIA

### Public Agency Contracts

William Stein AIA

### Scholarship

John Hagmann AIA

### Young Architects

Randolph R. Croxton AIA

### Zoning

Michael Parley

Associate Member

The American Institute of Architects

### A Note of Thanks...

To I.M. Pei, the gracious host of this first convention in New York in 21 years.

For his warm words of welcome to the AIA Board of Directors, his open invitation to the architectural community to visit the Louvre extended during ceremonies at the Jefferson Ball, and his effervescent interchange in his discussion "Art in Architecture" with the press.

The sincere appreciation and thanks of the chapter are extended to I.M. Pei for his participation and his continuing contributions to the profession.

Thank you.

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

Not by any means the last word you will hear about the Convention, but by far the most important one. Many of you worked long (two years) and hard (breakfast at 8:00 am twice a month) on the Chapter's events. With any luck we haven't missed anyone, and so, THANKS! to:

John H. Winkler AIA, Host Chapter Convention Committee Chair, for an outstanding job with an unwieldy title. An incomparable combination of drill sergeant and cheerleader, John brought it all together, kept it moving, and put on the finishing touches.

The NYC/AIA Executive Committee for its support.

SOM New York for the bi-weekly Steering Committee breakfasts they hosted for the past eighteen months and the generous use of a drafting room and telephones for the two-night Phonathon. T.J. Gottesdiener AIA, who ably and humorously handled the myriad little details that made the Phonathon, Host Chapter Store, and the Steering Committee meetings work. Also Jeanne Marie Patrick, Pamela Randis, and Louise Sanseverino for unflinching good humor.

NYCAIA88! Convention Steering Committee for their vision and diligence:

Valery Baker AIA, for tips and gentle assistance with the City of New York.

John Belle FAIA, and consultant Robin Lynn, who put together the largest tour package ever to delight an AIA Convention. Thanks to all those who worked on the planning and guiding of the tours. A full listing of Tour Committee members and Guides will appear in the September issue.

John Burgee FAIA, who coordinated the Chapter letter-writing campaign along with Charles Baskett AIA. To the 100 Chapter Members who reached over 6,000 AIA members nationwide with a personal invitation to come to New York.

Richard S. Hayden FAIA, whose

Special Events team was responsible for a galaxy of "enlightening events." Susan Appel, Tod DeGarmo, Donald L. Keil, Timothy K. Pike, John A. Riley, and Eileen Ryan, who worked tirelessly on Architects/Inside. Carl Hauser AIA, for Architecture on Film at the Cooper-Hewitt. Mary Pat Akers, Susan Appel, and Howard Brandston for the Skyline Illumination.

Paul Heyer AIA, who chaired the committee of the Deans of New York's five schools of architecture, which produced the Student Exhibit on the Convention floor.

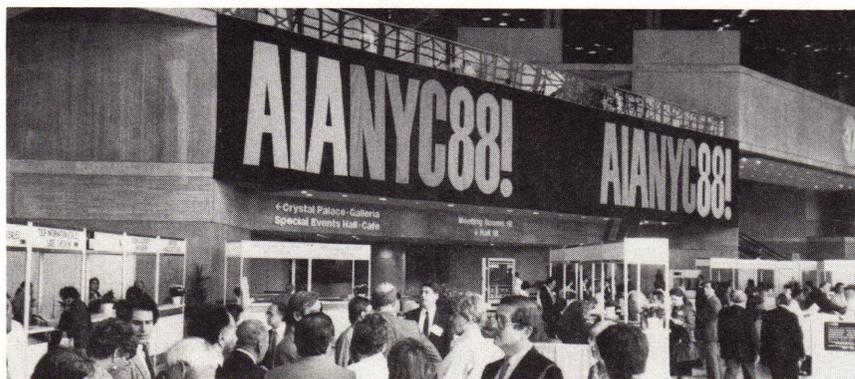
A. Eugene Kohn FAIA, for his grand vision and leadership of the Chapter during this special time. The Presidential Decade and the Thomas Jefferson Ball will mark the remembrances of Gene's year.

Eason H. Leonard FAIA, for the elegant welcome that the Chapter provided for the AIA Board in the Pegasus Suite of the Rainbow Room. I.M. Pei and Partners' Ann Kay for her invaluable assistance. Our sincere appreciation also, to Turner Construction for their generous underwriting of the event.

Michael Maas FAIA, now the Chapter's official bon vivant, for the Gotham Gala, singly the best Host Chapter Party ever. And for the extra special touch of the Fifth Avenue banners.

Peter Samton FAIA, and the Media Committee, Chris Calori, P. Eric DeVaris AIA, Gina Gearhart AIA, Laura Horstman AIA, Steve King AIA, George S. Lewis FAIA, Eileen Ryan, and Martin Santini AIA, who worked with Capelin Communications' Joan Capelin and Cathlyn Messer to produce the facts that the press needed to cover the events. And to Media Committee member Steve Rosenfeld AIA, for his history of the Chapter.

Paul Segal FAIA, and Program Committee members: Carmi Bee AIA, C. Jaye Berger Esq., Giorgio



Cavaglieri FAIA, Judith Chapman, Theo David AIA, Jan Degenshein AIA, Alvin Dunaisky AIA, Warren Gran AIA, Laura Horstman AIA, Carl P. Josephson AIA, G.E. Kidder-Smith FAIA, Edward Mills AIA, Herbert B. Oppenheimer FAIA, Tom Baker AIA, Nathan Hoyt AIA, Sidney Shelov FAIA, Jane Siris AIA, Sheldon Wander FAIA, and Terance R. Williams FAIA, for the over 60 professional programs featuring New Yorkers that provided the meat of the Convention. Special note to Paul as well for his student sponsorship suggestion, which enabled over 100 students to attend the Convention, compliments of NYC/AIA Member Firms. To those Member Firms who participated for their generosity to the next generation.

Massimo Vignelli, and Michael Beirut of Vignelli Associates, for the Convention graphics, the new look of the Institute's MEMO, and our Chapter buttons, Convention press release stationery, and Convention-embellished letterhead.

Bartholomew Voorsanger FAIA, who along with Michael Doyle AIA, Wendy Evans AIA, and L. Bradford Perkins AIA, assisted in the placement of many architecturally significant exhibits and produced the NYC/AIA exhibits descriptions in the May *Oculus*. To the same group, curator Alessandra Latour, and Ty Kaul AIA, for "10 on 10: The Critics' Choice."

Kenneth Walker FAIA, for his ebullient efforts on behalf of the Thomas Jefferson Ball; he made our relationship with the Museum of Modern Art a pleasure. Also under Ken's direction was "Windows on Architecture," which marked the participation of New York's major retailers with special architecture theme windows during convention week. Walker Group/CNI's Debra Ziola for her special attention to these two events.

Graeme Whitelaw AIA, and Robert L. Cioppa AIA for trying to keep all of the above on an even keel in the financial department, and for their

consistent prodding to "make it pay for itself" in order to keep the Chapter's financial head above water. To the Finance Committee, Richard Bienenfeld AIA, Peter Buderer AIA, Carl Davidson AIA, H. Scott Latimer AIA, Christopher Nolan AIA, Gerald Roningen-Fenrich AIA, and Joseph Roher, for their work in extracting the budgets from other committees and putting it all together.

Regina Kelly, whom there is no possible way to thank adequately. We, and especially I, could not have done it without her.

A very special thank you to the staff: Cathanne Piesla, Eileen McGrath, Elisa Dantuono, Kimberly Potter, and the always calm and equitable Judith Rowe, who have done far more than their fair share for the past two years.

*Oculus* staff, C. Ray Smith FAIA, Marian Page, Abigail Sturges, Susan Schechter, and Stan Ries, who dealt with all the extra material handled this past year, and brought you the great May issue. Our thanks to Betty Gersh of the Nugent Organization, our printer, who processed all the extra Convention paperwork with dispatch.

Mary Jean Winkler, who devoted much time and energy to Convention activities, including Orlando in 1987 and the Phonathon. We very much value her support and cheerful presence. And to all the family members who put up with the long hours and early morning meetings it took to put this show together.

The Chapter Members, whose enthusiasm was amply demonstrated during two years of planning and on the Convention floor. Particular note to: those who attended Grassroots 88 in January, and brought the Chapter's invitation to over 600 AIA component representatives; those who participated in the letter-writing campaign; members who gave their evenings to the Phonathon, gathering another 125 registrants; and to those who worked with their national committee counterparts to produce special-interest events at the

## Special Mention

by Lenore M. Lucey AIA

The Chapter is most grateful to those who gave so generously to support the programs, exhibits, and events of AIANYC88! The following listing of the sponsors records who did what, and again provides some of the recognition they so much deserve:

### Underwriter

Park Tower Realty Corp. (Ten on Ten: The Critics' Choice).

Turner Construction Company (Reception for the AIA Board of Directors).

### Patron

A-J Contracting Company Inc. (Architects Inside and Gotham Gala); Olympia & York (U.S.A.) (Gotham Gala).

### Sponsor

Thomas C. Baer, Inc.; Carnegie Fabrics; Domestic Marble & Stone (Gotham Gala); Facilities Resource Inc., Furniture Consultants Inc.; GE Lighting (Skyline Illumination); Herbert Construction (Gotham Gala); Morse Diesel Inc. (Gotham Gala); Sergio Pallazetti (Gotham Gala); Waldner's; Westinghouse Furniture Systems; and Wilsonart (Architects Inside).

### Friend

Tobron Office Furniture Inc. (Architects Inside) and Wolf-Gordon Inc.

If you know any of our sponsors personally, please add your thanks to those of the Chapter; a phone call or brief note is much appreciated.

Convention, such as Public Architects Day and the Housing Seminar. To all who kept the regular Chapter Committees on an even keel during the Convention preparations.

Ted P. Pappas FAIA, National President, who not only took an unprecedented hands-on role in this Convention, but also had the foresight to appoint Melvin Brecher FAIA, as Convention Chair. They, along with the National Convention Committee, made the past two years slip by (almost) effortlessly.

To all those who came, participated, saw, heard, spoke, helped, and enjoyed AIANYC88! Thanks.

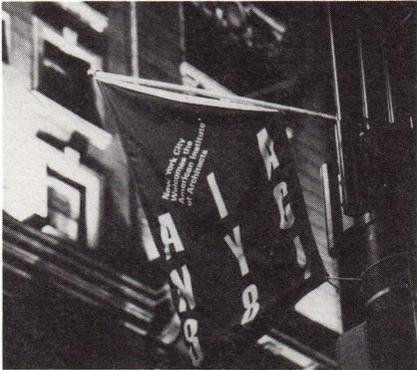
# A Photo Album From the Convention

Photos by Stan Ries

For descriptions of the events, and for participants, organizers, and design credits, see *Oculus* May 88 along with the Executive Director's "Thanks" in this issue.



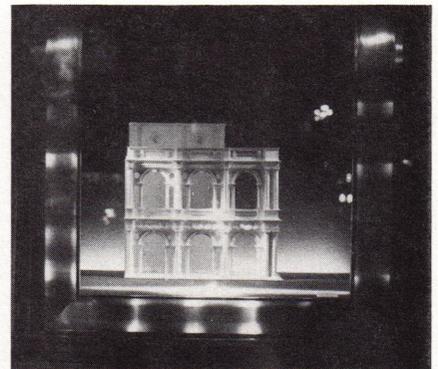
Phases of the Skyline Illumination



Convention banners on Fifth Avenue



Fifth Avenue storewindows: Bergdorf Goodman



Tiffany's



The Mayor's proclamation at Gracie Mansion



Design Awards Program opening



Steven Holl won two awards

# OCCULUS NYC/AIA JUN 88

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

*Oculus welcomes information for the  
calendar pertaining to public events about  
architecture and the other design  
professions. It is due in writing by the 1st  
of the month for the following issue.*

*Because of the time lag between  
information received and printed, final  
details of events are likely to change. It is  
recommended that events be checked  
with sponsoring institutions before  
attending.*

## CONTINUING EVENTS

### EXHIBITION

Hypothesis: Young Architects Forum 1988. The Architectural League, Urban Center. 753-1722. Closes June 18.

### EXHIBITION

The Art that is Life: The Arts and Crafts Movement in America, 1875-1929. Cooper-Hewitt Museum. 860-6868. Closes June 26.

### NYC/AIA EXHIBITION

Student work from the Moscow Institute of Architecture. NYC/AIA Headquarters. 838-9670. Closes June 30.

### EXHIBITION

The work of Mitchell/Giurgola Architects. The AIA Gallery, 117 S. 17th St., Philadelphia. Closes June 29.

### 10 ON 10

Directions in NYC architecture in the 1980s as seen through the ideas of 11 architecture critics organized by the NYC/AIA, The Urban Center. Closes June 30.

### ARCHITECTS/INSIDE

Exhibition of furniture and lighting designed by NYC/AIA. IDCNY. 838-9670. Closes July 1.

### EXHIBITION & TOURS

Dean Hoffman's Grand Design. The General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave. 243-5150. Closes July 1.

### EXHIBITION

A New Brooklyn Museum: the Master Plan Competition. Brooklyn Museum. 718-638-5000. Closes July 4.

### CREATIVE COPIES

Interpretative Drawings from Michelangelo to Picasso. The Drawing Center, 219-2166. Closes July 23.

### EXHIBITION

The Experimental Tradition: Twenty-five Years of American Architecture Competitions. Organized by the Architectural League, National Academy of Design. 753-1722. Closes July 31.

### EXHIBITION

The Rise and Fall of New York: Building and Unbuilding Manhattan. The New-York Historical Society. 873-3400. Closes Aug. 21.

## MONDAY 6

### THE MODERN POSTER

Exhibition. The Museum of Modern Art. 708-9400. Closes Sept. 6.

### LECTURE

The New Iconoclasts: Memphis and Studio Alchimia by Jeffrey Osborne in series on Italian Architecture in the 20th Century. 6:15 pm. Cooper-Hewitt Museum. 860-6868.

## WEDNESDAY 1

### WALKING TOUR

"The Art of Rockefeller Center." Led by Carol Krinsky, professor of urban & architectural art, NYU. Sponsored by American Craft Museum with the Municipal Art Society. 12-2 pm.

### LECTURE

"Charles Coolidge Haight and the American Gothic Revival Tradition" by Bannon McHenry, in conjunction with the exhibition, Dean Hoffman's Grand Design. 6 pm. General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave. 243-5150, ext. 208.

## WEDNESDAY 8

### LECTURE

"The Complete Collector: Patterns of Collections in 19th-Century Libraries." David E. Green on Antiquities, in conjunction with the exhibition, Dean Hoffman's Grand Design. 6 pm. General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave. 243-5150, ext. 208.

1867: Birth of Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

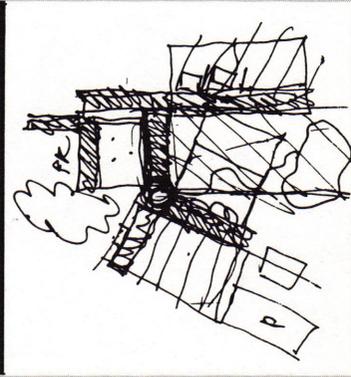
1904: Birth of Bruce Goff (1904-1982)

## THURSDAY 2

### TESTIMONIAL DINNER

The 1988 52 Association for the Handicapped Medal of Honor will be presented to Geraldine McGann, Regional Director of Housing, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. New York Hilton. 868-8490.

## THURSDAY 9



From the Mitchell/Giurgola exhibit in Philadelphia.

## FRIDAY 3

### WALKING TOUR, JUNE 5

The Architectural Art of Battery Park City. Sponsored by American Craft Museum with the Municipal Art Society. 1-4 pm. 956-3535.

## FRIDAY 10

### 1988 ASPEN DESIGN CONFERENCE, JUNE 12-17

Theme: The Cutting Edge, an examination of the state of things. 303-925-2257.

### LECTURE, SAT. JUNE 11

Mark Hampton on interior design since the 1900s, as it relates to the Long Island Country House, in series called Landscape Pleasures. 10:30 am. The Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY 516-283-2118.

## MONDAY 13



Photo: Topher Delaney

*The Outdoor Chair at the Cooper-Hewitt*

## MONDAY 20

1665: Bernini presented plans for the Louvre to Louis XIV

## TUESDAY 14

### LECTURE

"South Cove: A Collaboration" by Mary Miss, sculptor, and Stanton Ekstut in series accompanying the Architectural Art exhibition. 6:30 pm. American Craft Museum. 956-3535.

## WEDNESDAY 15

### MAS FELLOWS PROGRAM

Shaping Yesterday's Transportation System for Tomorrow's Needs. The Municipal Art Society at the Urban Center. 935-3960.

### LECTURE

"Reflections on my Grandfather: Charles Coolidge Haight" by John McVicker Haight Jr. in conjunction with the exhibition, Dean Hoffman's Grand Design. 6 pm. General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave. 243-5150, ext 208.

## THURSDAY 16

1890: Stanford White's Madison Square Garden opened in New York

## FRIDAY 17

1907: Charles Eames born (1907-1978)

## TUESDAY 21

### NYC/AIA PANEL

Art in Architecture/Architecture in Art." A discussion of the integration of art in interior design will be moderated by Ted Hammer, Chairman of the Chapter's Interiors Committee. 6 pm. The Urban Center.

### LECTURE

"Christian Theological Seminary Chapel, Indianapolis" by James Carpenter, who did artwork for the Seminary, in series accompanying the Architectural Art exhibition. 6:30 pm. American Craft Museum 956-3535.

## TUESDAY 28

### LECTURE

"Intimations of the Past" by artist Muriel Castanis in series accompanying the Architectural Art exhibition. 6:30 pm. American Craft Museum 956-3535.

## MONDAY 27

1912: Death of Frank Furness (1839-1912)

## TUESDAY 22

### BENEFIT THEATER PARTY

New York Chapter of DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation for AIDS) is hosting its annual theater party — "The Phantom of the Opera." For more information: Leonard Braunschweiger 242-1188.

### LECTURE

"Traces of Hoffman: Telltale signs of the Patron in the Seminary's Art & Architecture" by Bernice L. Thomas, in conjunction with the exhibition, Dean Hoffman's Grand Design. 6 pm. General Theological Seminary, 175 Ninth Ave. 243-5150, ext. 208.

## THURSDAY 23

### EXHIBITION

Deconstructivist Architecture, guest curated by Philip Johnson. Museum of Modern Art. 708-9400. Closes Aug. 30.

## FRIDAY 24

### WAREHOUSE SALE, JUNE 24-27

Interior furnishings will be sold at rock-bottom prices at the 2nd Ultimate Warehouse Sale to benefit the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS (DIFFA). 10 am-5 pm, IDCNY Center Four. 567-1288.

## WEDNESDAY 29

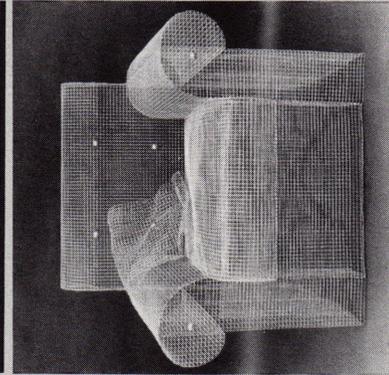


Photo: Topher Delaney

*The Outdoor Chair at the Cooper-Hewitt*

## THURSDAY 30

### SYMPOSIUM

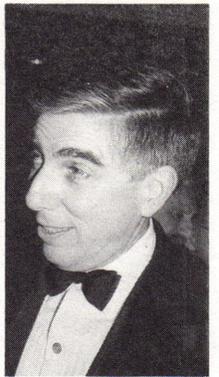
Held in conjunction with the Deconstructivist Architecture exhibition. Moderated by Mark Wigley. 8:30 pm. Museum of Modern Art. 708-9400.

## FRIDAY 1 JULY

**The Chapter's  
Jefferson Ball at  
the Modern Museum**

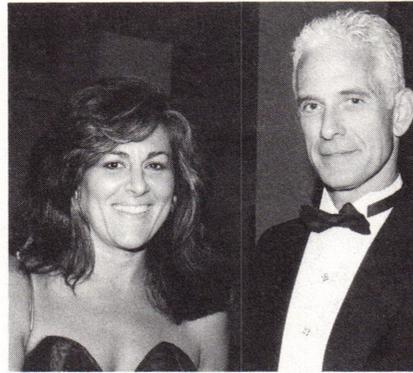
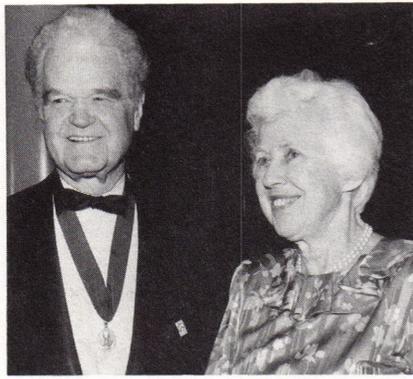
*Photos by  
Dorothy Alexander*

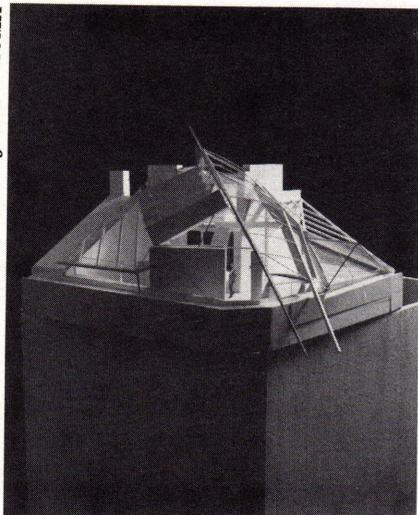
*"He's a friend of mine,"  
Philip Johnson  
proclaimed after  
the citing of I.M. Pei.*



**The Chapter's  
reception for the  
AIA National Board  
at the Pegasus Suite  
of the  
Rainbow Room**







## Deconstructivist Architecture

Organized by Philip Johnson FAIA, the exhibition opens at the Museum of Modern Art on June 23. It will focus on the work of seven international architects whose recent work marks the emergence of what the museum considers "— a new sensibility in architecture. The architects recognize the imperfectibility of the modern world and seek to address what Johnson calls the 'pleasures of unease.'" Included will be drawings, models, and site plans for recent projects by Peter Eisenman FAIA, Frank Gehry FAIA, Zaha M. Hadid, Coop Himmelblau, Rem Koolhaas, Daniel Libeskind, and Bernard Tschumi.

## Correction

The credit for the New York Botanical Garden project (*Oculus*, April 88, p. 6) should have stated that Beckhard Richlan & Associates in collaboration with Philip Johnson and John Burgee, developed the conceptual plan for the Botanical Garden's new addition. Philip Johnson and John Burgee were responsible for the exterior design. Beckhard Richlan will design the interiors of the addition and will also be responsible for the renovation of the interior of the existing museum building. (*Ed Note: Pursuing this subject of Design Credits, again the incomplete information came from the client of the project.*)

## Call to Action

Firms doing work for public agencies are urged to call the Chapter to receive important communications about consultant selection procedures, fees, and so on, from the Public Contracts Committee.

## Coming Chapter Events

- Tuesday, June 21, 6 pm. The Urban Center. The Interiors Committee is sponsoring a panel discussion on "Art in Architecture/Architecture as Art" — the integration of art in interior design. Committee chairman Ted Hammer AIA will moderate the panel.

## List of Prospective Design Consultants

The New York City Public Development Corporation is preparing a new list of prequalified consultants. All prospective consultants wishing to be considered for PDC projects *must* be on the new Prequalified Consultant List in order to be considered for work and sent a request for proposal.

The New York City Public Development Corporation (PDC) wishes to retain reputable and qualified consultants for various economic development projects within the five boroughs of New York City. Consultant categories include but are not limited to: Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Planners, Urban Designers, Environmental Consultants, Estimators, Surveyors, Historic Preservationists, Archaeologists.

In order to be considered for inclusion on PDC's list of prequalified consultants, all interested consultants must first complete PDC's prequalification questionnaire. To request a copy of the questionnaire, write to: Jonathan Denham, NYC Public Development Corporation, Division of Planning, Design, and Construction, 161 William Street, New York, NY 10038.

## Competition

September 16 is the deadline for entries in the International Association of Lighting Designers' sixth annual design awards program. For projects to be eligible, they must be permanent lighting installations, and construction must have been completed after January 1, 1986. Lighting products, equipment, the designs for theatrical performances are not eligible. For entry forms and guidelines: 206-1281.

## Events in July-August

- July 11-August 5: Pratt's School of Architecture will hold its summer studio program to study "the functional realities, the physical organization, and the challenges and opportunities of a particular site in Manhattan; to develop new and provocative design solutions using urban design and architectural theory and practice." Architecture students and design professionals are eligible to participate in the program, which will be conducted by Paul Heyer AIA, John Burgee FAIA, Takeo Kondo, Livio Dimitriu, John Johansen FAIA, Peter Eisenman FAIA, Chin-Yu Chang, Charles Gwathmey FAIA, and Skidmore Owings and Merrill. For more information: 718-636-3453.

- On July 12 Giuseppe Zambonini will discuss "The Space of Art," and on July 19 Margaret Helfand AIA will talk about "Materials, Craft and a Divergent Sense of Order." Both lectures are in the series, "The Architectural Concept" given in connection with the American Craft Museum's Architectural Art exhibition. 6:30 pm. The Craft Museum. 956-3535.

- July 13-15: Robert A.M. Stern FAIA will be guest speaker for a course offered by Harvard University Graduate School of Design on "Custom Houses: Building and Rebuilding." For more information and catalog of summer courses in the area of architecture design and development: 617-495-9340.

- July 14: Opening of the first major east coast museum exhibition of the work of Frank Gehry FAIA at the Whitney Museum.

- July 19-23: "What Could Have Been: Unbuilt Architecture of the 80s" at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum. 860-6868.

- August 3-6: The National Conference of the American Society of Interior Designers will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, Washington, DC.

- August 19-20: PSMJ's two-day program, "Getting Project Managers to Think and Act Like Principals" will be held in New York City. For reservations: Elise van Dam 617-537-PSMJ (in Massachusetts 617-965-0055).

- August 24-27: WorldDesign 88, the International conference and exhibition of the Industrial Designer's Society of America, will be held at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel.

## General Theological Seminary Begins a Restoration Plan

*Hidden and mysterious, unknown and unnoticed by a guaranteed majority of New Yorkers, the General Theological Seminary is embarking on a noteworthy program to restore its century-old collegiate Gothic quadrangle—one of the earliest in this country. Occupying the block in Chelsea between Ninth and Tenth Avenues bounded by 20th and 21st Streets—long referred to as Chelsea Square—the Seminary's dark red brick, brownstone-trimmed buildings are a landmark of true historical significance.*

*We might have lost them, but for the Seminary's determination not to move and to mount a \$68 million 10- to 15-year campaign to fund their restoration. The campaign got its kickoff on May 25 with the opening of an exhibit on the Seminary's history. Called "Dean Hoffman's 'Grand Design', The General Theological Seminary 1879-1902," the exhibition is mounted in the majestic refectory—Hoffman Hall—a Gothic great hall, with a tall timber-framed roof structure, musicians gallery, and portraits of robed faculty. It is one of the great interiors of New York City—and virtually unknown.*

*The exhibition there will be accompanied by tours of the quadrangle and a program of lectures (see Calendar). The tour will also permit a view of the celebrated row of splendid Greek revival houses on the south side of 20th Street.*

*Following a master plan drawn up by New York architect David Paul Helpern, the Seminary has been engaged in a gradual restoration and recycling program.*

*"We are involved with the totality of the program," Helpern explains, "not only the master planning but all the restoration and adaptive reuse also."*

Oculus asked Helpern what is the most important thing architects should know about the project, aiming to elicit some comment on the historical significance of the Gothic revival architecture.

**David Paul Helpern:** I think just the sheer enjoyment of being in that setting. I remember when I first came upon the Seminary as an inveterate walker trying to discover New York. To me it was a serendipity, and just wonderful to come across it. So I hope all architects will be aware of the quadrangle and share in just how beautiful a spot it is.

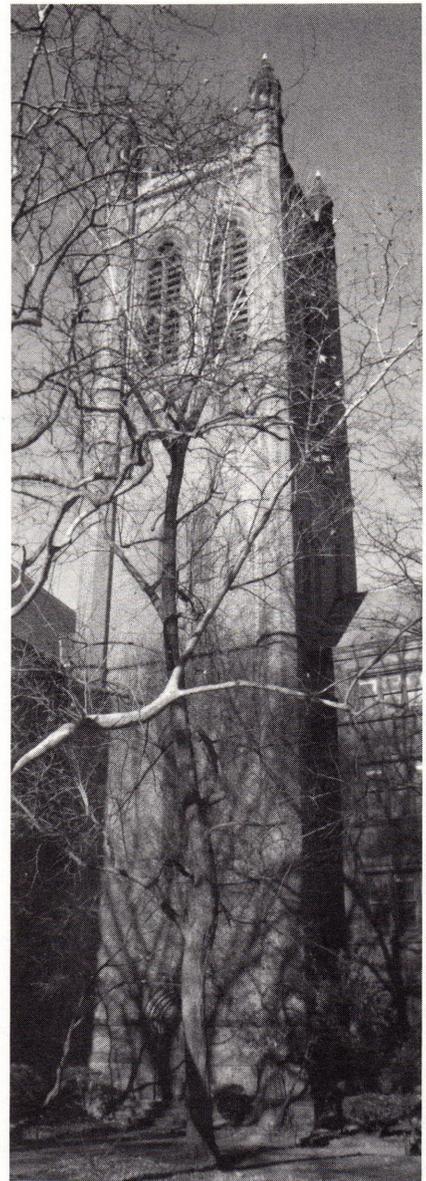
I think architects will be happy to know that this is an institution that understands its heritage, that understands the importance of those buildings, and understands just how eternal those buildings were in terms of their design—both how usable they still are today and how inspirational they still are for the mission of the institution. They are an example to all of us in modern practice—that architecture can create imagery, can create environments that are absolutely appropriate.

Oculus asked the Seminary's vice president for external affairs, the Reverend Dr. Willoughby Newton, to outline the Seminary's restoration plan:

**C. Ray Smith:** Dr. Newton, would you first tell us some highpoints of the Seminary's architectural history? What makes it so significant architecturally?

**Dr. Willoughby Newton:** The Seminary moved to Chelsea Square in 1826, some nine years after it was founded. The land was given by a Seminary professor of Biblical language and interpretation, one we have all heard of—Clement Clarke Moore, who wrote his *A Visit from St. Nicholas* when he was teaching here in 1822. The first building was finished in 1826, after which no building was done for a while.

Then in 1879 Eugene Augustus



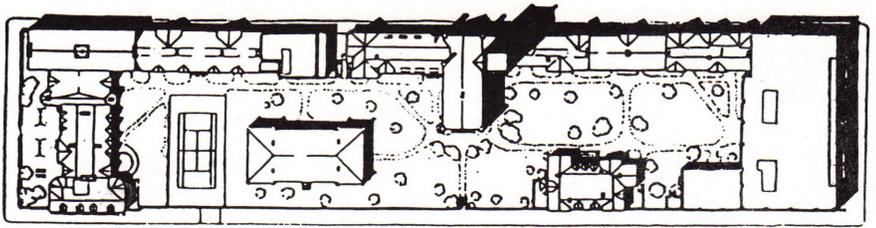
*The Chapel tower*

Hoffman became Dean. He was a man of great wealth, very strong willed and something of a visionary. He had been a builder in his previous parish work, and later was in charge of the building committee for the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He was also responsible for the building of the New-York Historical Society, of which he was president—an interesting and powerful man.

He decided to build an entirely new Seminary. He began with Sherrerd Hall, the classroom building that is the center of the east quadrangle, then two dormitories on each side. Next he built Hobart Hall, named for the Bishop who was one of the Seminary founders; then he built the Deanery and the Chapel, which was begun in 1886 and which, next year, will celebrate the centennial of its consecration.

The Chapel is the centerpiece of the plan with what are called the east and west quadrangles on each side of it.

## General Theological Seminary



Dean Hoffman continued to build until the east quadrangle was completed in 1892. Then he began at the west end of the Close and built, among other buildings, Hoffman Hall, which houses the gymnasium and, above it, the Tudor Gothic refectory. In his last official act as Dean, just before his death in 1902, he laid the cornerstone for the three dormitories that are part of the west quadrangle. He built 17 buildings in those years as Dean; the Seminary also owns three buildings, used for married students, across 20th Street.

### Seminary Architecture

**CRS:** What is the significance of the buildings in the Gothic revival movement?

**WN:** Dean Hoffman worked with only one architect, Charles Coolidge Haight, and with only one sculptor, J. Matthew Rhind. Haight was the son of a professor at the Seminary, who left to become assistant at Trinity Church. Charles was given the job of adapting the east and west buildings, and similar changes. He also designed buildings for Columbia University before it moved up to Morningside Heights. (He was not considered for that move because he was not monumental enough.) He has some surviving buildings at Yale, and was the architect of the landmark Towers Nursing Home on Central Park West at 106th Street.

The sculptor Rhind, incidentally, sculpted the doors of Trinity Church and did the ornamental entrance to Macy's main entrance on 34th Street.

The Seminary is one of the earliest examples in America of the Gothic academic quadrangle, and for that reason is considered a significant architectural landmark.

**CRS:** What then is your plan for restoration?

**WN:** The plan is to accomplish the work in phases, of which the first is to raise \$21 million—\$18 for restoration, renovation, and adaptation; the other \$3 million for endowment. At this



1. point we have raised about \$8 million, with a challenge grant from Trinity Church for \$6 million.

We have begun to do some of the unglamorous work, like taking out the asbestos and putting in a new boiler and adapting the present boiler system. Then we will begin work in the dormitories, which are the most pressing need. We will alter the four oldest dormitories, which are in the east quadrangle. They were built at a time when the demands of the

students were far less than they are now. For example, the bathrooms are all in the basement, so that students on the top floors have a walk. Then too the rooms were created for single males; now, our student body is made up of 60 percent married students, many with children.

**CRS:** Do they all live on the Close?

**WN:** Yes, since Dean Hoffman's time living on the Close has been considered part of the experience of

Photos: Bruce Parker



3. being in the Seminary, being part of the community, worshipping, living, eating, and studying together.

The first four buildings to be redone will turn each floor into flexible units, each with a bathroom. And there will be small kitchens, so that the floors can be turned into rooms for single students or married students as required. This is really a matter of adaptation rather than restoration.

Another project in the first phase will

be the adaptation of the West Building — the gray stone 1836 structure in the middle of the Close's west quadrangle. It will be turned into the academic center, including faculty offices, conference rooms, and the like. And the oratory chapel will be moved into the West Building. It is projected that this adaptation will cost \$4.5 million.

CRS: What will phase two consist of?

WN: Then we will begin at the other end of the Close and redo the

1. Interior of the Seminary Chapel

2. The brownstone-trimmed brick buildings of the Seminary quadrangle

3. Interior of the Seminary refectory, Hoffman Hall

dormitories there. In phase two also we will restore Hoffman Hall, the refectory, which we have already begun to clean, but which will need more structural work — repointing, a new roof, improved lighting, and so on.

CRS: And after that?

WN: The third phase will be the rehabilitation of the newer buildings. And in the fourth phase, we will finish the job with the faculty houses, which are in pretty good shape, and build a garage under the west quadrangle so that we can turn what is now the parking area on Tenth Avenue into a playground for the children.

CRS: How long will all this take?

WN: It will certainly take 15 years, I think. We have begun with things that do not require great sums. And we have begun to build community support — to get people interested in the Seminary from the point of view of its buildings and its Close. So we have established the Chelsea Square Conservancy.

There are volunteer committees working with the Conservancy on the grounds — for pruning and bulb planting and improving the landscaping of the Close. And there is a committee working for the art collections, one for the library, and so on. We have cleaned the Chapel, and are redoing the Chapel's sculpted doors. Next year is the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Chapel — that is, the next school year, in October — and we are planning a big celebration over a 10-day period.

CRS: Thank you, Dr. Newton. We wish you quick success in your plan. I am sure you will be seeing a number of interested architects at your exhibition and tours in June.

Credits:

Master Plan and Restoration: David Paul Helpern Associates Architects; David Paul Helpern, Principal; planning team: Patrick A. Martin, Susanne Mackiw.

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