

OCULUS

an eye on new york architecture

The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Volume 51, Number 10, June 1989



Elevator at Place Des Antiquaires where the June 20 annual meeting of NYC/AIA will be held.

Photo: Stan Ries.

OCULUS

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Oculus

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The New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

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 Committee or Staff of the NYC/AIA.

For more information on professional and
 public memberships please call the
 Chapter, at 212-838-9670.

COMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Tuesday, June 6. The Corporate
 Architects Committee is sponsoring a
**tour of the New Presbyterian
 Hospital by Skidmore, Owings &
 Merrill**, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Meet at
 the entrance driveway at 177 Fort
 Washington Avenue between 165th and
 168th Streets. Richard Thomas of
 Presbyterian Hospital will be our host.
 There will be a \$5 fee payable on site.
 Directions: #1 train to 168th Street. Exit
 at 168th Street, walk one block west to
 Fort Washington Avenue. RSVP:
 838-9670.

Mark your calendar for the Chapter's
 annual meeting. **Tuesday, 20 June.** This
 year's annual meeting will be held at the
 Place des Antiquaries designed by Kohn
 Pedersen Fox Associates. The festivities
 will begin at 6:00 pm and many of the
 dealers will keep their showrooms open
 for members to browse. This year the
 Chapter will be charging a \$10 fee to
 offset costs of the event.

ANNUAL REVIEW 88-89

From the President

by Martin D. Raab FAIA

In leaving the Chapter presidency one looks back and skeptically regards one's accomplishments. What comes to mind is that a year's term is too short to see one's mark on the position rather than to have the position determine one's action. The ongoing agenda of the Chapter, the unfinished initiatives of past presidents and the year's unique crisis leaves little time for the initiation and maturation of one's own concepts. Accordingly, I would suggest we review the feasibility of an extended presidential term. Such extended tenure would allow for greater leadership to be exercised and allow both the initiation and implementation of new visions.

Activities of the Chapter this year have been:

1. Support of the State Association in bringing the Interior Design Licensing issue closer to resolution in a manner favorable to the position held by the Chapter.
2. Resolution of the convention indebtedness minimizing its impact on succeeding years' budgets.
3. Acquiring new legal counsel who can support our nonprofit status, our political activities in Albany, and conflicts in trusts under which we hold scholarship endowments.
4. Rethinking *Oculus'* direction as both an organ of Chapter activity and a voice of architecture and installing a new editor to move us forward.

Having started with a plea for a longer term of office, I conclude with what may be the singular advantage of the single year term.

We have benefited this year from initiatives started by Gene Kohn in his term which he continues to support. One of my initiatives, facing a deficit, centered around fund raising. Successful fund raising requires the Chapter to define its mission and its purpose. A task force has been established to explore and state that mission. Defining the Chapter's larger mission and raising funds to support it will be a task I will dedicate myself to and I hope to be able to call on all of you to join in its realization.

Notes on the Year

by Cathanne Piesla

Chapter committees were back in full swing in this post-convention year, having arranged a wide variety of events, seminars and tours. Chapter business at National, State, and City levels continues.

- The chapter initiated an Institute audit of the number of New York State members with a view toward gaining a third regional director. With 8% of the total AIA membership, the New York Region will soon be eligible for a third director. We stand at 7.94%.
 - The chapter co-sponsored, with the Los Angeles Chapter, the successful Small Practice Resolution at the St. Louis Convention. The Institute is called on to develop practice aids more aligned with small projects.
 - Long in the forefront of the legislative battle surrounding licensing of Interior Designers, the Chapter continued to help define Institute policy. Doug Korves AIA, Chapter Vice President and NYSAA Vice President of Legislative Affairs worked long and hard on re-working acceptable language for introduction of legislation in New York State that would recognize individuals who have met minimum standards, as well as to prevent infringement on the practice of architecture.
- Doug was also instrumental in writing legislation re-defining the practice of architecture to eliminate certain ambiguities that now contribute to the difficulty in processing charges of illegal practice.
- The Institute's continued investigation by the U.S. Justice Department regarding possible anti-trust action which had included the New York Chapter, has of late been focusing on other chapters and we are on hold.
 - *Oculus*, in its 50th Anniversary Year lost its editor (since 1981) C. Ray Smith FAIA, who passed away after a brief illness.

- Once again, the Chapter participated in the annual NYSAA Lobby Day in Albany. Richard Beaumont AIA, Sidney Delson FAIA, James Garretson AIA, Mitchell Goldberg AIA, James C. Jao AIA, Douglas Korves AIA, Denis Kuhn AIA,



Martin D. Raab FAIA.

Notes on the year

Intense discussion during recent Executive Committee meeting.



Photo: Stan Ries

Lenore Lucey AIA, and Martin Raab FAIA trekked to the State Capitol on March 21 to visit with legislators in an effort to make the profession's position known on a full range of issues — licensing interior designers, statute of limitations on architectural services opposition to the OGS/FDC merger, and liability. Response from legislators has been very positive.

- The Public Architects Committee efforts to make fellow professionals, public officials, and the user public aware of the benefits of good design in public spaces continue. Three events sponsored by the committee — Architects Day in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park; the panel discussion on Quality Design in Public Architecture, and the most recent tour of Tribeca — were among the most popular events organized this year.
- The Chapter's Exhibits Committee, remained at the forefront of "Glasnost" Having gained access to the work of Russian constructivist architects I. Leonidov and A. Rodchenko we continued our cultural exchange with

the Soviet Union with a "first time ever" exhibit of student work from the Moscow Institute of Architecture. Funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York State Council on the Arts helps keep this program running. At the same time we have found additional sponsorship, and our first European connection, from Istituto per gli Studi Filosofici in Milan. This added support has enabled the recent show to travel to Milan and scheduling for Frankfurt is being finalized as this goes to print.

- The newly activated Associates Committee surveyed Associate Members of the Chapter, toward developing programming specific to their interests, and assigned committee members to act as liaison to all other chapter committees. Programs arranged have included the seminar "Aspects of an Unlicensed Existence" and, Robert Pincus Witten discussing Gordon Matta-Clark.
- The very well attended Architects in Training courses "Turning Designs into Buildings," and "Managing by Design",

have been augmented by a third series "Career Opportunities in Architecture."

- The Corporate Architects Committee sponsored three tours: The Central Park Zoo, Rainbow Room, and the New Presbyterian Hospital. It also co-sponsored with the Communications in the Built Environment committee the panel discussion "Corporate Architectural Graphics: A Dialogue on Design."
- Standing Room only and calls for a repeat evening were the response to the Professional Affiliates Committee evening on "Media Opportunities, or How to Get into Print."
- The Housing Committee's energies were focused on Affordable Housing issues in a special *Oculus*, subsequent panel discussions featuring mayoral candidates, and an exhibit scheduled for this fall. The special *Oculus* was distributed beyond our normal subscription lists through a generous contribution by Rose Associates. The committee also addressed continuing

problems with LL58-'87 NYC Handicap Access laws in the hopes that it can become more equitable for all concerned.

- The Art and Architecture Committee continued its PROFILE series on collaborative efforts of artists and architects. See the calendar for this month's special event at the Battery Park City Authority.
- The Architecture for Education Committee held an SRO evening on prototype schools currently being designed by member firms for the Board of Education. A special issue of *Oculus* and an accompanying exhibition at the Urban Center featured these projects.
- The newly created Religious Architecture Committee organized several evenings on "Sacred Spaces" which featured architects known for their work in this area such as Gunnar Birkerts, Norman Jaffe, E. Fay Jones, Randal Lindstrom, and Edgar Tafel.
- In an unprecedented "Committee of One" effort, Peter Heerens has organized a viable Foreign Visitors Committee. Heerens has made arrangements for architects from Canada, Japan, Sweden and The Netherlands to meet with architects and public officials who are involved in similar professional situations in New York.
- The Design Awards Programs committee arranged a day of three juries to select this year's recipients in the Distinguished Architecture, Architectural Projects and Interior Architecture programs. An exhibit of award winning projects is planned for the Fall.
- The Scholarship Fund benefited from a very successful Third Annual Heritage Ball held this year at the Plaza Hotel. Close to \$10,000 in donations were deposited in a growing Heritage • Preservation • Scholarship program.
- The Historic Buildings Committee continued to monitor the activities of the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission and the special Historic City Committee, presented testimony on the designation of the Seagram's

Building, reviewed alterations to the Plaza Hotel as well as developing a direction for the designation of those buildings that will come of age for landmarking by the year 2000.

- The Presidential Decade held three forums defining our work with others in the building industry and how to improve those relationships. The evenings included Developers, Consulting Engineers, and Construction Managers.
- The Public Sector Contracts continues its efforts to gain a more equitable city consultants contract.

Committees by Groupings

Professional Development Group

Architectural Dialogue
Lawrence Marek, Edward Mills Co-Chair

Associates
Francois DeMenil, Chair

Compensation
Wallace Berger, Ira Grandberg, Jack Suben Co-Chair

Computer Applications
Tomas Hernandez, Chair

Intern Architects
William Stein, Chair

Professional Affiliates
Joan Capelin, Rene Saks, Coordinators

Public Awareness Group

Art & Architecture
Robert Landsman, Chair

Arnold W. Brunner Grant
Steven K. Peterson, Chair

Design Awards Programs
Michael Goldberg, Jackie Welsh, Co-Chair

Exhibits
Bradford Perkins, Chair

Douglas Haskell Award for Student Journalism

Daralice D. Boles, Chair

Fellows

Bernard Rothzeit, Chair

Oculus

Marian Page, Acting Editor

Scholarship Programs

John Hagmann, Chair

Foreign Visitors

Peter Heerens, Chair

Architectural Focus Group

Architects in Development

Fereshteh Bekhrad

Architectural Education

Carl Hauser, Chair

Architecture for Education

Ric Bell, Chair

Communications in the Built Environment

Leslie Blum, Chair

Corporate Architects

Judith Solomon, Chair

Historic Buildings

Jonathan Butler, Chair

Housing

John Ellis, Chair

Interiors

Theodore Hammer, Chair

Public Architects

Jerry Maltz, Chair

Religious Architecture

William Gati, Chair

Planning & Finance Group

Finance

Ralph Steinglass, Chair

Nominating

Laurie Maurer, Chair

Notes on the year

Sailboat Pavilion Project by Ean Eldred of Cooper Union, 1989 Allwork Supplemental Grant recipient.

Governmental Group

Legislative Affairs

Douglas Korves, Chair

Public Sector Contracts

Michael Ressner, Chair

Events

Annual Meeting

Regina Kelly, Coordinator

Architectural Heritage Ball

Denis Kuhn, Chair

Planning Day

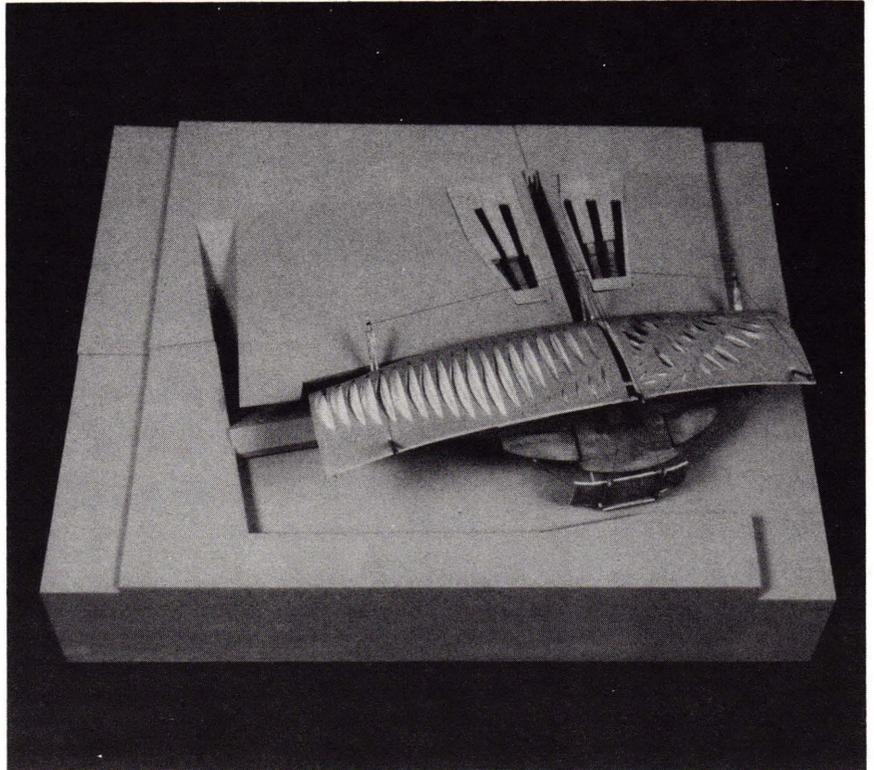
Regina Kelly, Coordinator

Scholarship Task Force

A special task force was called on to review the Chapter's endowment funds toward developing a plan of distribution for those that can be awarded at the Chapter's discretion and to revitalize those that have such restrictive conditions that the pool of eligible individuals has diminished. The task force report is currently being studied by the Chapter's legal counsel and a reorganized program will be announced next season.

Douglas Haskell Award for Student Architectural Journalism

This awards program was established in honor of the late Douglas Haskell FAIA, the noted critic and editor for many years of *Architectural Forum*. The program is made possible through the generous support of Doug's widow, Helen Haskell, and other contributors to the fund. Founded to encourage fine writing on architecture and related design subjects, and to foster regard for intelligent criticism among future professionals, the Chapter invites students and schools from around the country to submit their work or journals for consideration by a jury of renowned architecture journalists.



This year's jury, chaired by Daralice D. Boles, Sr. Editor, *Progressive Architecture* includes Deborah Kirk, Editor, *Elle*; David Morton, Senior Editor, Architecture, Rizzoli International Publications; Herbert Muschamp, Program Director, Architecture and Design Criticism, Parsons Institute; Ellen Posner, Architecture Critic, *The Wall Street Journal*. The jury is meeting as this issue goes to press.

Eleanor Allwork/Women's Architectural Auxiliary Scholarship

In 1977, the Chapter was willed a sum of money from the estate of the late Ronald Allwork which was intended to endow a substantial scholarship program. Mr. Allwork wished, through his bequest, to memorialize his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Allwork, and also to call into remembrance the work that she and the Women's Auxiliary of the New York Chapter did for many years in raising funds for deserving students.

The Chapter administers the fund through its Scholarship Committee and annually accepts applications from students selected by the nine accredited schools in New York State. This year students were eligible to receive over \$18,000 in base grant awards and compete for a supplemental grant of \$1500. Ean Eldred of Cooper Union presented work that the committee felt exhibited the most promise and was selected out of twelve competitors.

Arnold W. Brunner Grant

The Arnold W. Brunner Grant was founded in his memory by his widow Emma, through a bequest to the Chapter. Its purpose is to further the development of architecture in the United States. The Chapter bestows an annual award "for advanced study in some special field of architectural investigation, which will most effectively contribute to the practice, teaching or knowledge of the art and science of architecture."

The 1988 Jury including Thomas Beeby

Letters

The 1988 Jury including Thomas Beeby AIA, Dean, Yale University School of Architecture; J. Max Bond, Dean, City College School of Architecture; John Q. Hejduk FAIA, Dean, The Cooper Union Irwin Chanin School of Architecture; Paul Heyer AIA, Dean, Pratt Institute School of Architecture; Robert M. Maxwell RIBA, Dean, Princeton University School of Architecture; and, Stuart Wrede, Director, Department of Architecture and Design MOMA, reviewed some 50 applications and selected Michael Sorkin to receive the 1988 \$12,000 award. Sorkin will develop zoning regulations for the "ideal" city.

Albert S. Bard Awards

Among the 1989 Albert S. Bard Award winners for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design presented in May included: The North River Water Pollution Control Plant by C. Theodore Long for Associate Engineers; Public School P-234 by Richard Dattner Architects; Mercantile Exchange Building by R.M. Klimment and Frances Halsband; Path Station Improvement Program NYC Stations — Christopher Street, 9th Street, 14th Street, 23rd Street, by The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey — Rail Transportation Department; The Police Building by the Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut; the John Jay College of Criminal Justice By Raphael Vinoly Architects; the Community Church of Astoria by Alfred DeVido Associates. Citations went to South Cove, Battery Park City by the Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut; and Steinhardt Conservatory, Brooklyn Botanical Garden by Davis Brody & Associates.

Computer Applications Committee

by Tomas Hernandez

Seven years the Computer Applications Committee was formed, their goal: to bring an awareness of computers to the architectural profession. Today, the committee has diversified to explore options such as Intergraph, AutoCAD, Arris, Macintosh and the possibilities of desk top publishing.

We sponsor a number of Saturday

morning seminars and workshops, such as an introductory CADD workshop, "CADD Systems Management, and Legal Aspects of Computers in the Architectural Practice."

The Committee also sponsored the 2nd Annual Computer Images of Architecture exhibit hosted at the Parsons School of Design Gallery in October 1987. Over 30 individuals and firms were represented. A highlight was a specially edited video showing a compilation of 27 animations and demonstrations of computer generated architectural and interior models.

The 1988 Seminar Series presented three speakers with very different experiences. Hans-Christian Lischewski of Russo + Sonder spoke on "The Impact of High-Tech Design Tools on Architectural Visualization," Sam Haffey presented the cutting edge innovations of his firm, where the drafting boards have been replaced with work stations; and Barry Milliken of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill demonstrated advanced techniques of CADD graphics linked to extensive databases as applied in the Merrill Lynch Headquarters project.

On the national level, the Committee sponsored the lecture series "Advanced Systems Integration for AEC Firms" at the 1988 AEC EXPO at the Javits Center. As moderator, I invited participants from planning, engineering, interior design, and construction management.

For next year the committee is planning roundtable discussions on computer use in small and mid-size firms, as well as lectures by leaders in the computers in architecture field on their research or company's work. A survey will be conducted to get a profile of current computer use by the Chapter membership. A 3rd Annual Exhibit of the latest and greatest in computer generated work is under consideration. All Chapter members are invited to join the Committee and help share the future.

Tomas Hernandez has served as Chairman of the Computer Applications Committee since 1986. He is the Director of Computer Services at Kohn Pedersen Fox.

Dear Editor:

....*The New York Times* has not stated, as you suggest, that Emilio Ambasz is a registered architect. To make such a statement would indeed contradict the realities of the fact that Mr. Ambasz is not officially licensed to practice architecture in the State of New York. We do not agree, however, that the use of the word "architect" can and should be limited to those people who are licensed by the state. None of the dictionaries we have consulted make such a limitation on use of this word, and we do not choose to do so, either. Mr. Ambasz is not a licensed architect, true, but he is an architect by profession, by virtue of the degrees he holds from Princeton and other universities, and by virtue of the judgment of the curators and officers of the Museum of Modern Art. We will not call Mr. Ambasz a "licensed architect" or a "registered architect" but we will not refuse to him an architect, either.

Paul Goldberger

The New York Times Architecture Critic

Ed. note: The above was received by a chapter member in response to a complaint to The New York Times regarding its credit for the MOMA exhibition of Mott/Ambasz.

Dear Editor:

Two articles appear back to back in the current issue of *Oculus* that have an ironic twist to them (do I detect the editor's hand at work?): "NYC/AIA Public Sector Contracts Committee Hosts Koch Aides" and "Quality Design in Public Architecture." What is ironic is the fact that the former mentions the single most critical factor in quality design that the latter curiously omits, i.e., that there is a relationship between what one pays and what one gets, in this case, architectural services.

Architects, sadly, seem embarrassed by this fact, or rather, seem to prefer to deny that this relationship even exists. It's one of the great myths: good design does not cost money. It simply isn't so. Why do we find it so difficult to deal forthrightly with this issue?

J. Arvid Klein

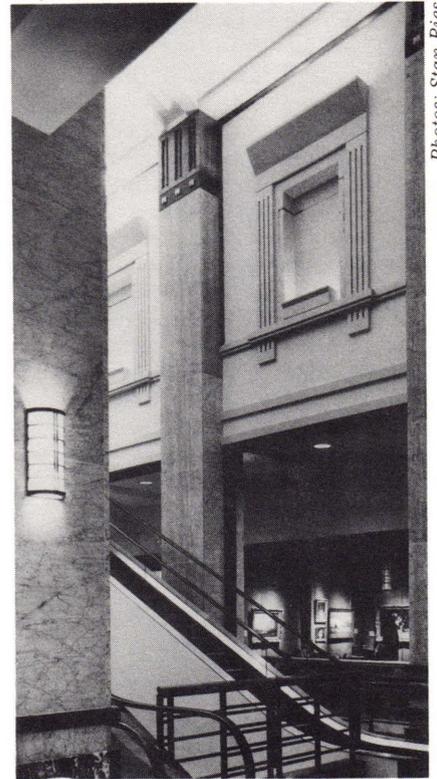
Pasanella + Klein

NAMES AND NEWS

The team of **HNTB-Mitchell/Giurgola Architects** New York has been commissioned to prepare a master plan and design for a convention center complex for Onondaga County in Syracuse, New York. The project will include a convention hall, a 275-room hotel and parking....**The Brooklyn Botanic Garden** is hosting a two-day symposium, "Conservatories for the 21st Century" (Oct. 15-17, 1989) to look at the dreams and the issues, the obstacles and the successes of planning, building, managing and using modern and restored conservatories. Architects, landscape architects, and landscape designers who have built or designed for conservatories, or plan to do so are invited to present papers. For more information: 860-6868....**Richard G. Morris** AIA, has been named senior vice president of business development for The Eggers Group....The fourth annual **Domino's Pizza Frank Lloyd Wright Symposium** to be held in Ann Arbor July 26-30, will be hosted by the National Center for the Study of Frank Lloyd Wright at Domino's Farms in conjunction with the College of Architecture and Urban Planning, the University of Michigan. **E. Fay Jones** FAIA will be among the speakers at the symposium. For more information: University of Michigan, Extension Service, Conferences & Institutes, 200 Hill Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48194-3297; 313-764-5305....**A. Eugene Kohn** FAIA spoke at the Union League in Philadelphia on "Understand Your Losses" in April....**The Grad Partnership** has designed a new 1.2 million square foot twin tower office building, which will also house Seton Hall University's new 200,000 square foot Law School. The two-phased project will be built on the 4-acre site of the existing law school in downtown Newark....**David Estreich** AIA has announced that the firm, David Estreich, Architects, has moved to expanded quarters at 210 E. 52 Street....**"Building the Octagon,"** an exhibition which opens on August 1, 1989 at the Octagon in Washington, DC, will feature one of the last surviving buildings of the early city....A gala ceremony in May marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bard Awards of the City Club of New York. Bard Awards Chairmen **John Ellis** AIA and **Lee Harris Pomeroy** FAIA, along with the

Bard Steering Committee and the City Trustees, reflected on the evidence that the projects selected over the years and the process and ceremony of recognizing them have made substantial contributions to the betterment of New York....**R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband Architects** have been commissioned to design the new Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Dance Center in New York City....**John Burgee** FAIA was honored as "Man of the Year" by the New York Club of the University of Notre Dame for his architecture, which has "influenced and improved the community in which we live," at Notre Dame Night on April 6....**Barbara Nadel** AIA has joined **Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc.** as associate and director of health care facilities design for its New York office....**Howard Zimmerman** AIA was a speaker at a recent seminar sponsored by LePatner, Gainen & Block on controlling the costs of capital improvements, complying with government regulations, and avoiding contract disputes....**Henry C. Clark** AIA has recently established his architectural practice, Henry C. Clark Architect, at 160 Fifth Avenue....**Perkins Geddis Eastman** has been retained as architect and interior designer for new headquarters in Yonkers for Consumer Union, the nonprofit organization that publishes Consumer Reports....**Arthur F. Foran III** AIA joined the new firm of Ricci Associates as Senior Associate....On June 3 the New England Real Estate Journal is publishing its first monthly New York edition — the **New York Real Estate Journal**. The new Journal will provide a forum for comprehensive press coverage of the New York AIA increasing recognition of its members in a competitive market....**Robert Geddes** FAIA, former Dean of the Princeton School of Architecture, has been named to the Henry R. Luce Professorship in Architecture, Urbanism and History at New York University....The Department of General Services has been selected to receive one of the **Public Trust Awards** for 1989 from the Preservation League of New York State for its Landmarks Public Buildings Program. Commissioner Hadley W. Gold and Deputy Commissioner Rudolph Rinaldi, RA accepted the award, as one of ten public

1, 2, 3: *The Place Des Antiquaries* by Kohn Pedersen Fox where the NYC/AIA holds its annual meeting on June 20.

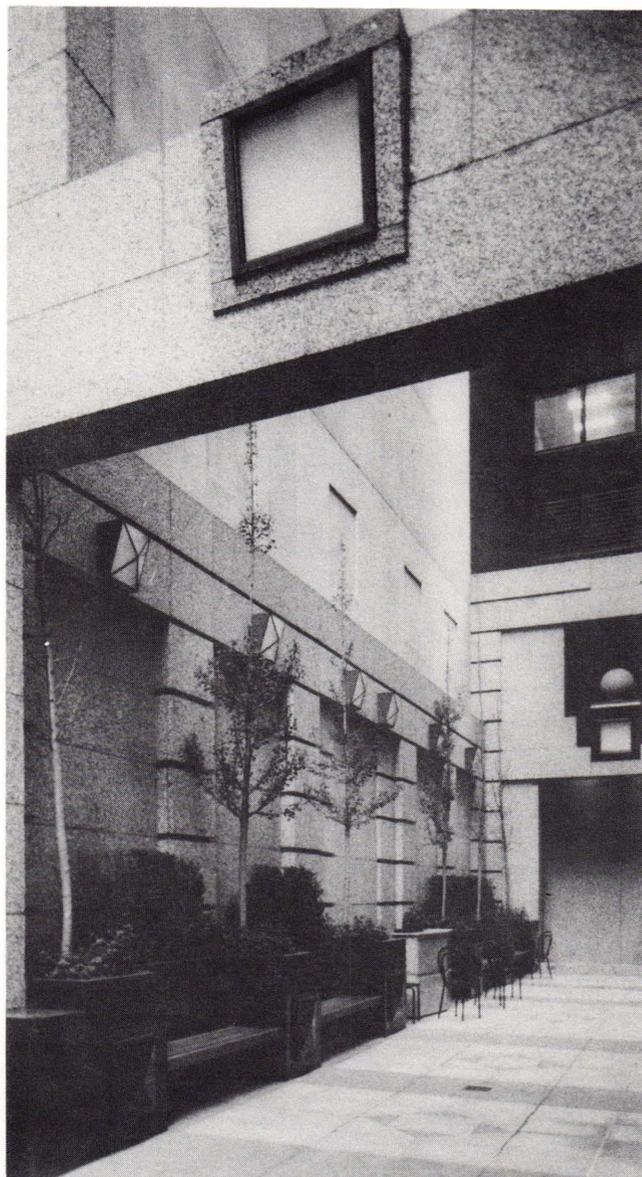


Photos: Stan Ries

agencies in the State of New York being recognized for its important historic preservation work in the city of New York....In addition to the summer's program being offered by the Harvard University Graduate School of design, award-winning architects **Charles Gwathmey** FAIA, **Helmut Jahn** AIA, **Eugene Kohn** FAIA, and **Cesar Pelli** FAIA are participating jointly in a late June course that focuses on their design practice. For a catalog and application contact the Professional Development Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, 48 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. 617-495-9340....**Fredric M. Bell** AIA and **Richard A. Fox** have been elected partners of WBTL Architects....**Eugene Kohn** FAIA, **Peter Eisenman** FAIA, and **Romaldo Giurgola** FAIA are keynote speakers at the New Zealand Institute of Architects Conference, August 10-13 in Wellington, New Zealand....Following an invited international architectural competition **Richard Meier & Partners** have been selected as architects for a new mixed-use project in Montpelier, France.



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Landmarks Preservation Commission

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously voted to designate as an individual landmark the Gustave A. Mayer House located at 2475 Richmond Road on Staten Island. Originally built between 1855 and 1856 by an architect and/or builder unknown today, commissioner Leland Weintraub, a resident of Staten Island, who made the motion to designate the Mayer house said: "Among the first rural residences in the Italianate style built on Staten Island, The Gustave A. Mayer House is a rare survivor among the city's non-urban homes. In its siting and architecture, the virtually intact house exhibits the picturesque theories of Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing. The architecturally distinctive and symmetrically-ordered two-and-a-half story frame building is characterized by its full-width porch, consistently fine detailing, and square beveledere."

Top Twenty Sustaining Firms as of 5/1/89

<i>Firm</i>	<i>Sustaining members</i>
Skidmore Owings & Merrill	232
I.M. Pei & Partners	164
Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates	141
HLW	106
Swanke Hayden Connell Architects	105
Beyer Blinder Belle	77
Hellmuth Obata Kassabaum	75
Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer	70
Davis Brody & Associates	68
William Nicholas Bodouva & Associates	63
Emery Roth & Sons	61
John Burgee Architects	58
Taylor Clark Architects, Inc.	56
Robert A.M. Stern Architects	56
James Stewart Polshek and Partners	54
The Ehrenkrantz Group & Eckstut	52
Gruzen Samton Steinglass	50
Edward Larrabee Barnes/John M.Y. Lee P.C.	47
Castro-Blanco, Tiscioneri and Associates, Architects, P.C.	45
Fox & Fowle Architects, P.C.	39

Corrections

Oculus regrets the omission of the name of Daniel Rose, the Rose Associates principal responsible for the generous donation which permitted printing additional copies of the April issue.

In the May issue of *Oculus*, pg. 12, Rafael Vinoly Architects should be the third of the three final candidates for the renovation of Higgins Hall at Pratt Institute.

Our apologies to Andrew Moore who should have been credited for the photograph of the Octagon on the cover of the May 1989 issue.

A Final Recapitulation Fiftieth Anniversary, 1938-1988

by Marian Page

Here we complete the brief notes taken from *Oculus's* first 50 years beginning in 1938 and ending in 1988. There were ups and downs throughout the years depending on wars, depressions, and the economics of the times. The preservation of historic buildings, the question of Broadway theaters, the construction of Battery Park City are but a few examples of the Chapter's dedication to the city and the profession of architecture reported in *Oculus* throughout the half century. (See also the November 1988, December 1988, and March 1989 issues of *Oculus*).

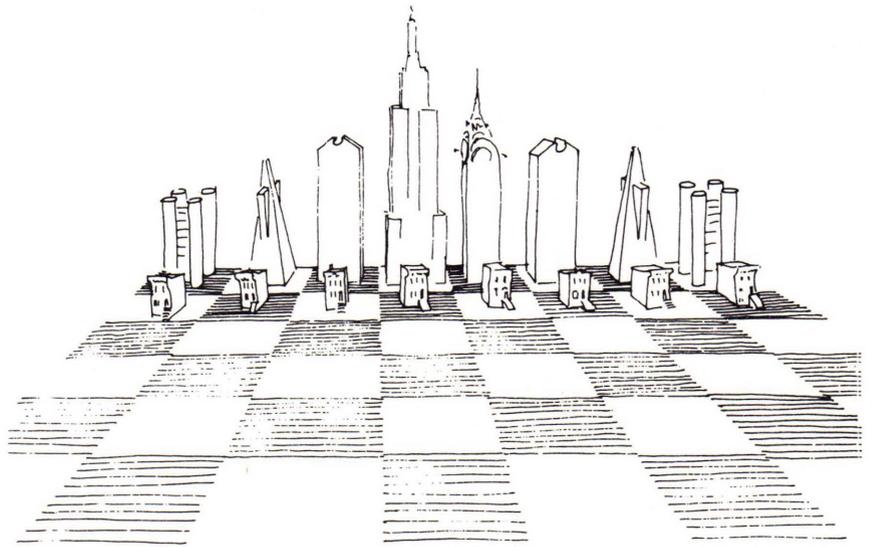
December 1980: "The Executive Committee has been debating whether or not to reaffirm the Chapter's 1976 position supporting Westway. This highly complex and emotional issue divided Chapter members then and is doing so now...." reports George Lewis.

January 1981: "The Executive Committee on December 4 by 8-4 vote reaffirmed the Chapter's 1976 position supporting Westway..."

April 1981: "...an all-important overall fact: All of Midtown must be full of life and vigor. If a midtown development strategy is to work it must on the East Side encourage the maintenance of fine, small-scaled buildings and elegant street character, and on the West Side it must seek out the positive elements of theaters, restaurants, tourism, and its characteristic residential neighborhoods to create a real alternative within a revitalized West Midtown commercial core...." Quoted from a three-page report entitled "Midtown Development: Comments on the City Planning Department's Draft Report/June 1980."

May 1981: Under the heading "Forty-Second Street Development Project," George Lewis reports "UDC and Alexander Cooper of Cooper/Eckstut Associates presented plans at an open meeting April 23rd..."

October 1981: *Oculus* begins a new phase under the editorship of C. Ray Smith with a drawing on the cover showing the Chrysler Building's night lighting, which "...turns out to be an



1.

extension and refinement of William van Alen's original lighting proposal...."

November 1981: "...The announcement by St. Bart's rector and vestry of their developer-architect team and the building design proposed for the site of the landmark Community House, terrace, and gardens, has guardians of the city's heritage and cultural fabric in the trenches...." After the issue had been printed but not yet mailed, a new wraparound STOPPRESS cover was added: "...Details of the announcement from St. Bart's on 29 October 1981 include the selection of British developer Howard P. Ronson and a building design by Edward Durell Stone Associates. The proposal of this team is for a \$110 million office tower—59 stories or 745 feet high—containing 760,000 square feet...."

December 1981: Re St. Bart's: "Alan Melting, chairman of the Chapter's special committee, testified at a Community Board 5 hearing November 19 that 'the proposal to redevelop any portion of the landmark church, community house, terrace or garden is totally inappropriate to their historic designation and to landmark law.'"

January 1982: "Romaldo Giurgola wins AIA Gold Medal for 1982." "Gwathmey Siegel & Assoc. Win AIA Architectural Firm Award."

March 1982: "The proposed zoning changes have had the scrutiny of architects and real estate developers. Architects have generally supported the proposals but felt that the FAR differentials still were not great enough

to slow down development on the East Side and encourage development on the West Side. They also felt that the zone should be extended beyond Eighth Avenue. And there was a minority report that thought the issue of residential construction should have been addressed—that there should have been an incentive for residential construction...." Quoted from Edward Larrabee's statement during a panel discussion of the Proposed Midtown Zoning Regulations presented by the Bar Association and reported in *Oculus*.

May 1982: "Crisis in Preservation" reports a panel discussion at the Bar Association, which had as its subject the Upper East Side Historic District. "Several panelists spoke also on the crisis in the preservation movement...."

June 1982: "...It was decided to form a group that will pursue the matter of nuclear disarmament. The group will be called 'Architects for Social Responsibility' to press the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union toward nuclear disarmament."



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1. "Untitled" by Tim Prentice, Oculus, June 1983

2. Drawing by James Rossant, Oculus, September 1983.

3. Diagram of proposed restoration of the Statue of Liberty, Oculus, October 1983.

4. Music Box theater accompanying George Lewis's "Saving the Broadway Theaters: The Great Debate," Oculus, November 1983.

December 1982: "...Landmark churches and synagogues — like landmark office buildings such as the Woolworth Building, Lever House and others — should not be destroyed simply because bigger and more profitable structures can be put in their places unless it can be proven in an appropriate public forum — the Landmarks Commission — that they are no longer economically viable in their existing form..." Quoted from an article by Ralph C. Menapace, Jr. against the campaign to remove all religious buildings from landmarking consideration. In the same issue, an article by George J. McCormack criticizes "...the New York City landmarks law" because it "has no meaningful criteria for determining what is of landmark quality..."

February 1983: Charles K. Hoyt presents the Chapter's "support" for "the proposed designation of the Lever Building, 390 Park Avenue, Manhattan...a definitive landmark of modern architecture on an international level..." Hoyt's statement is paired with an excerpt from the "White Paper: the Redevelopment of 390 Park Avenue for Fisher Brothers prepared by Swanke Hayden Connell Architects...We conclude that...Lever House lacks sufficient 'interest or value' as a structure to offset the negative effect of creating a landmark in its site..."

March 1983: In his column "Chapter Reports," George Lewis writes: "Prior to the Board of Estimate's hearing on whether it should uphold the Landmarks Commission's designation, the Chapter sent letters to each member...as follows...: 'By almost any standard Lever House is a landmark...Our city is a storehouse of great architecture. We can not afford to lose what is recognized world-wide as a turning point — a landmark — in architectural history.'"

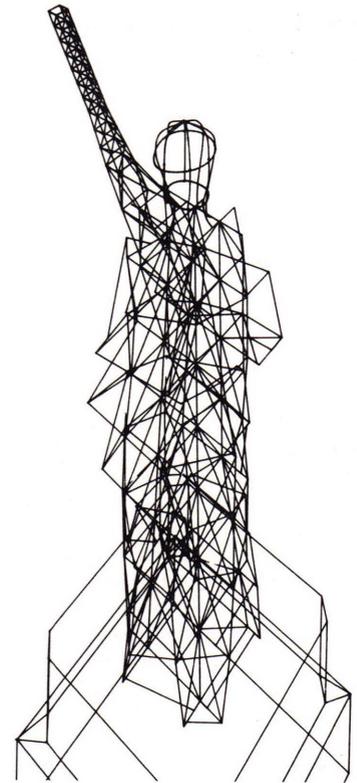
May 1983: "Preservation of the Theatre District...has been a very live issue since the controversy of demolition of the Morosco and Helen Hayes — and since the enactment of the Midtown Special Zoning District which, as presently written, forbids theatre demolition. The theater owners object to the latter because they say it deprives them of

making use of air rights to underwrite financing productions...A special Chapter committee, Stuart Pertz, chairman, has been meeting to express opinions which should be useful to the Theater Advisory Council..." reports George Lewis.

September 1983: "...A big giveaway by the City in development rights the "jail-wall of office buildings to the west" of the South Street Seaport, "they are present witnesses to the sad fact of how little the City gives to a worthy cause in comparison with how much it takes for itself..." Excerpt from an editorial, which accompanied articles and interviews about the just-opened South Street Seaport.

November 1983: Toward the end of a 6-page article "Saving the Broadway Theaters: The Great Debate," George Lewis writes: "...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..."

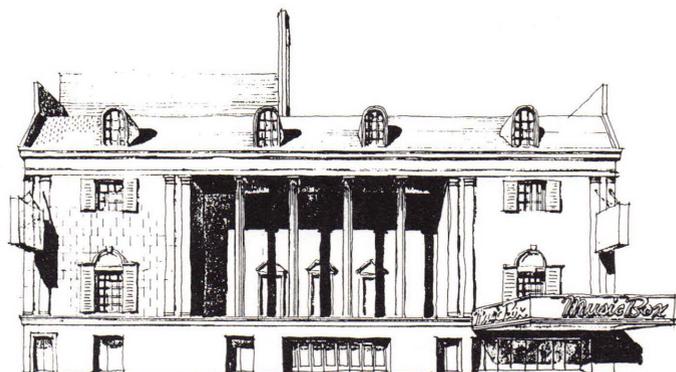
January 1984: Under the heading "A Free Will Offer to St. Bart's," Percival Goodman explains his drawing on *Oculus's* cover as showing St. Bart's "framed and protected by a vast dome (almost twice that of Hagia Sofia), above it rises an office building covering the entire site...Who would create what could be the greatest decoration of our time? If I were asked, and they were still alive, I might propose a team — Giovanni Battista Tiepolo and Louis Comfort



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Tiffany. Failing the possibility I might recommend that bright fellow — the special effects man from 'Star Wars'..."
In the same issue: "The Chapter has not seen the proposal development plan for four sites at the south end of Times Square, but it has become well known that demolition of the Times Tower is contemplated. This would be a decision which the Chapter would oppose..." This is paired with excerpts from a statement by John Burgee Architects with Philip Johnson: "In our Master Planning efforts, we have come to the conclusion that it is essential to create a more open Times Square — which is the result of the new towers surrounding it — than to preserve a building that has been entirely reconstructed..."

May 1984: "When, on December 20, in the sudden glare of a high-powered press conference, New York was presented with the prospect of four huge office buildings clustered around a patch of ground from which the Times Tower had vanished, alarms went off in many planning-oriented organizations around town. It wasn't as though buildings of



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Fiftieth Anniversary, 1938-1988

that density were unexpected...It was more a matter of surprise: the four buildings minus the Times Tower, as designed by John Burgee Architects with Philip Johnson for Park Tower Realty, had quite a different look from what the Guidelines had led everyone to expect, and there had been no public review while the plans were being developed..." begins a two-page article "Lively Times in Times Square" by George Lewis.

June 1984: "...With the intent of mounting a biennial exhibition of contemporary architectural drawings of the highest level...the Chapter's Architectural Drawings Competition has been inaugurated this year...."

November 1984: "A Board of Estimate hearing October 25...will likely be one of the most clamorous in memory. It will be the final hearing on the 42nd Street Development Project, and the Board and the Mayor will have the final say. Opposition will come from many directions..." begins an article "42nd Street Times Square A Project in Trouble" by George Lewis.

December 1984: "Waterfront development is the next frontier for architects and offers opportunities to raise public consciousness about the design of our city spaces and buildings. — John Belle"

January 1985: "....Although our culture places a high value of 'thinking big,' practical development of waterfronts seems to dictate the opposite...." writes Cooper, Eckstut Associates in an article, "A Philosophy for Waterfront Planning."

February 1985: "1985 marks the twentieth anniversary of New York City's Landmarks Law...."

March 1985: "Most remarkable and unbelievable at Battery Park City so far is the progress on the World Financial Center. It seems like no time has passed since Cesar Pelli was announced as architect for the Olympia & York development. Yet already two of the four towers are nearly finished, the steel of the Winter Garden greenhouse-public space is all in place...."

1. Percival Goodman's proposed sardonic alternate scheme for the "protection" of St. Bart's on cover of Oculus, January 1984

2. Height as required by expansion, by Percival Goodman on cover of Oculus, March 1986

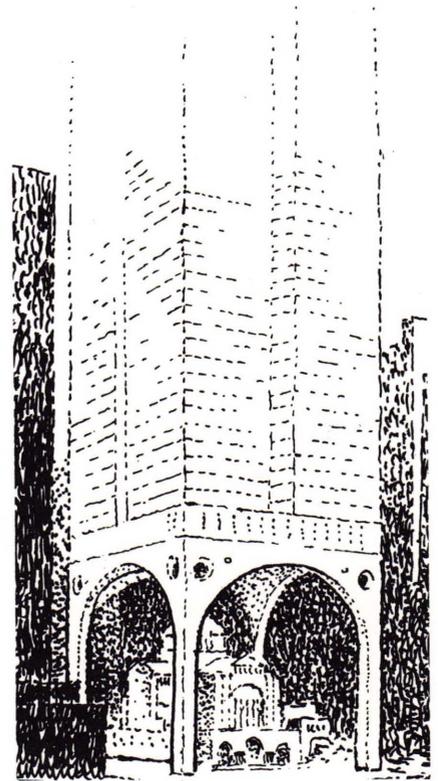
3. FLW 1943 Preliminary Version, by Percival Goodman, Oculus, March 1986

In the same issue, George Lewis reports on St. Bartholomew's: "At the Landmarks Commission hearing January 29 on the revised proposal for a new high-rise building on the site of the Community House, Terrance Williams...testified on behalf of the Chapter in opposition. He stated: 'It is obvious that the revised scheme still presents a significant increase in bulk over what exists, an increase which will greatly modify the spatial quality of the complex.'" Calling attention to how the Church has maintained that it needs income from a new building to administer charitable programs in other areas of the city, he said, 'For midtown to be afflicted with additional mass and bulk to finance charitable activities far afield flies in the face of all generally accepted urban design principles, principles which have as their purpose the maintenance of a civilized urban environment.'"

May 1985: "...Of the twelve winners of 1985 AIA Honor Awards, four are New York offices: Richard Meier & Partners, Mitchell/Giurgola, I.M. Pei & Partners, and Robert A.M. Stern Architects."

September 1985: George Lewis reports on the Chapter-sponsored open meeting in the Donnell Library auditorium "to see the plans and hear them explained" of Michael Graves' proposed addition to the Breuer-designed Whitney Museum. "...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."

October 1985: "...Suddenly, this long-seeming anomaly — the 20th century Gothic Cathedral — was at the center of community action, like its medieval predecessors...." writes C. Ray Smith in reporting a Chapter-organized tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine led by "The Very Rev. James Parks Morton, Dean of the Cathedral, who has master-minded the program of completing the building...."

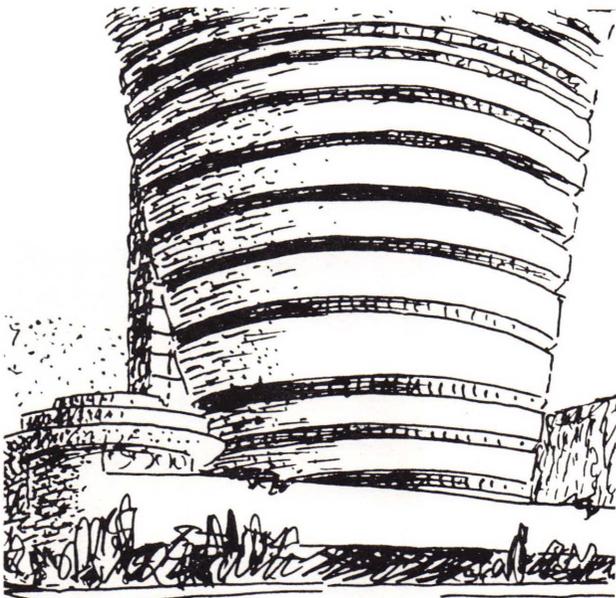


November 1985: "The Liability Insurance Crisis continues to be, and will continue to be the No. 1 Chapter concern...."

January 1986: "...On August 6, 1985, the Executive Committee of the NYC/AIA approved a statement as follows: 'The Board of Directors of the AIA believes that the proposed addition to the Whitney Museum raises an important policy issue for the Landmarks Preservation Commission and all others concerned with the architectural heritage of this city. This issue is, should buildings that meet most or all criteria for designation be excluded from careful Landmarks Preservation Commission review merely because they are not old enough for formal landmark designation? It is the belief of the Board that this building more than meets the criteria for designation and that proposed changes to this — and buildings less than 30 years old of comparable quality — should be evaluated with the same care as buildings that have passed this arbitrary chronological milestone.'...."

March 1986: Once again Percival Goodman adds levity to a building debate — this time, the Guggenheim addition, for which he offered three drawings suggesting possible alternatives.

April 1986: "...The people now who argue in the name of Frank Lloyd Wright for context, accommodation, and preservation have no understanding of what that man was about, and what it felt like to hear him and...be in his presence. I believe that because of the loss of nerve exhibited by the American

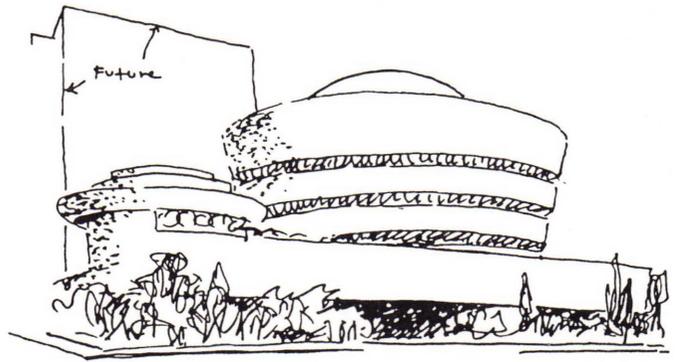


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architectural community today, a disoriented youth, preservationists on the rampage, more damage is being done to architecture in the name of history than ever was done by the brave gestures of Frank Lloyd Wright. I believe in fact that Charles Gwathmey's and Robert Siegel's building is not arrogant enough. It is not in fact taking a stance that Wright would have taken if he had been asked to come back and fulfill this commission. I believe that what they have done is brave, but not arrogant....I want to applaud the right of any artist to engage in a dialogue with any art....there is nothing sacred on this earth but living and life. New living means new stones...." This is excerpted from the statement made by Peter Eisenman, which is included in *Oculus's* report of the Chapter-sponsored presentation by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates of their proposed addition to the Guggenheim Museum building.

May 1986: Two comments by members of the jury for the Chapter's 1986 Distinguished Architecture Awards: "...The media has become so strong that there is a certain *deja vu* to the whole thing," says U.S. architect Charles Moore. "...As a jury we were all critical of the general standard of communication. If architects have to indulge in such obscure language to communicate with their peers, then how will they ever get across to their real audience — the people out there?..." says British architect Norman Foster.

June 1986: In George Lewis's column "Notes on the Year": "...The Chapter initiated, and Gerald Hallissy and Denis Kuhn organized, training courses for



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graduate architects with up to 3 or 4 years experience to help them be more productive and effective in the New York environment...."

September 1986: "George Lewis Retires."

December 1986: "...Public Architecture is...the focus of this special issue of *Oculus*. It is dedicated to the architects who make it happen — private consultants, agency administrators, planners, project managers, and in-house designers..."

January 1987: "The New York Chapter is going to host the American Institute of Architects National Convention in May of 1988....The details of the final Convention theme are still being developed; however, the general theme will encompass Architecture and the Arts...." begins a column by John H. Winkler.

February 1987: "...Above all there are some signs that the historicist/revisionist approach previously assumed with such confidence is beginning to falter. It seems at times to be degenerating into puerile forms of self parody and pastiche-revival. The piling up of pseudoclassical elements into gargantuan skyscrapers no longer seems to possess the courage of its own convictions...." is excerpted from Kenneth Frampton's "General Comments of the Jury" for the 1986 Architectural Projects Awards "What Might Be."

March 1987: "New York City possesses the most diversified natural landscape of

any city in the United States...." begins an article on "Restoring City Parks" by Jean McClintock Gardner.

Also in this issue: "The New York Chapter/AIA endorses the certification of Interior Designers rather than licensing...." writes Lenore M. Lucey in a 3-column statement on "Licensing of Interior Designers."

May 1987: As a member of the 1987 Distinguished Architecture Awards jury, Cesar Pelli comments "...we noticed two interesting things in the total set of presentations: First, a lack of new and fresh ideas. The best works were mature work or reiterations of ideas that had already been resolved or presented or enunciated — some for many years...." The second point "...is that although there appears to be superficially a great deal of freedom and many possibilities to do whatever one pleases — the range of forms — stylistic choice was extraordinarily restrictive, perhaps even more restrictive than fifteen years ago...."

September 1987: "...I look forward to formalizing a current informal gathering of some previous presidents into a council of presidents....to continue assisting the Chapter...." says A. Eugene Kohn in his Installation Address as Chapter president.

October 1987: "An *Oculus* Celebration" heralding the beginning of *Oculus's* 50th year includes the remembrances of some of its early editors.

December 1987: "...I am concerned that our profession is hurting itself by excessive competition....If we give away our best talent, sometimes for very little

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money, sometimes for a loss, then we are giving away that very talent that is the cornerstone of our profession. Design — the creative effort that makes us special — is what justifies our profession, our usefulness to society....” says A. Eugene Kohn when interviewed by *Oculus* on “The Validity of Architecture Competitions.” **In the same issue**, former *Oculus* editor Denis Glen Kuhn notes “....In June of 1978 I received the Chapter’s Harry B. Rutkins Award ‘For the liveliness he has brought to *Oculus*, a news filled yet irreverent commentary on Chapter events.’....”

February 1988: “By Jove — she’s got it!” sings Professor Higgins about Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* when she finally masters The King’s English. That sums up nicely the Parks Council’s reaction to the restaurant and kiosk design proposals submitted by the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation and the architectural firm of Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates....” This begins the Park Council’s “statement to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, September 22, 1987,” one of several statements included in this issue of *Oculus* by organizations concerned about the Bryant Park Restoration.

March 1988: “....New York is not a city of nostalgia; it is a vibrant and moving town, constantly. The lesson perhaps is that nothing can stay the same no matter how much we would hope that it would!...” Quoted from a statement by Peter Eisenman, one of several included in *Oculus* from those presented at the January 14th public hearing about the Board of Standards and Appeals’ previous approval of the plan to expand the Guggenheim Museum.

April 1988: “....when talking about remaking cities or bringing new economic life to certain parts of them, we must never forget that at the heart of the question is the human individual: a person who is more than just a cog in a gigantic utilitarian machine; someone who responds, often subconsciously, to things of the spirit as well as of the material....” Quotes from an address given by HRH the Prince of Wales at the “Remaking Cities” Conference,

Pittsburgh, 5 March 1988, and excerpted in *Oculus*.

May 1988: “....We certainly do not want a city that is frozen in time. We have to find a balance between growth and creativity and the development potential of New York — all the while preserving its history. We believe that is perfectly possible in this big city, and without the friction we have been having on that subject....” Excerpted from an interview with William J. Conklin FAIA on “The Commission to Study The Landmarks Commission.”

June 1988: “....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....” Excerpted from the address by outgoing president A. Eugene Kohn FAIA.

September 1988: “...I intend to pursue our commitment to our society. As architects we stand as the gatekeepers of the social needs of our fellow citizens. We embody and are responsible for both the dreams and the realities of our society. Our fellow citizens have confidence in the decency of the goals of this profession. We must capitalize on this and act as both the social conscience and the advocates of those goals....” Excerpted from “Remarks of the Incoming President” by Martin D. Raab FAIA.

October 1988: “...One never quite knew what C. Ray was going to spring, but one thing was constant: he was ever determined to make *Oculus* unambiguously lively and pertinent,” wrote George Lewis in the issue, which served as a memorial for C. Ray Smith, its editor from 1981-88, and which marked completion of *Oculus*’s 50 years.



C. Ray Smith

OCULUS NYC/AIA

JUN 89

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

"Public Work" by winners of the
Architectural League's 1989 Young
Architects Competition. The Urban Center.
753-1722. Closes June 4.

EXHIBITION

"American Fictions" — an installation
exploring the act of viewing urban and rural
settings within the American landscape by
architects Mark Robbins, NYC, & Benjamin
Gianni, Columbus, Ohio. John Nichols
Gallery, 83 Grand St. 226-1243. Closes June
24.

EXHIBITION

Ogden Codman and the Decoration of
Houses. The Octagon, Washington, D.C.
Closes June 30.

EXHIBITION

George Nakashima: Full Circle. American
Craft Museum, 40 W. 53 St. 956-6057. Closes
July 9.

EXHIBITION

L'Art de Vivre: Decorative Arts and Design
in France 1789-1989. The Cooper-Hewitt
Museum. 860-6868. Closes July 16.

EXHIBITION

The Drawings of Inigo Jones 1573-1652, The
Drawing Center, 35 Wooster St. 219-2166.
Closes July 22.

EXHIBITION

Calvert Vaux, Architect and Planner.
Museum of the City of New York. 534-1672.
Closes Aug. 13.

EXHIBITION

Celebrating 50 years of the MOMA building
designed by Philip Goodwin and Edward
Durrell Stone in 1939 faithful to the
modernist principles set forth in the 1932
exhibition, *Modern Architecture*:
International Exhibition organized by Philip
Johnson & Henry-Russell Hitchcock.
Museum of Modern Art. 708-9400. Closes
Aug. 22.

SATURDAY 3

LECTURE

Robert A.M. Stern, 1st in series on New
Directions in Architecture. 6 pm. The
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, L.I.
516-283-2118. Closes June 3.

SUNDAY 4

LECTURE

Joseph & Adrienne Bresnan will discuss
"Morningside and Fort Greene:
Neighborhood Parks" in series on The
Changing Shapes of New York. 2 pm.
Museum of the City of New York Auditorium.
534-1034.

MONDAY 5

EXHIBITION (JUNE 5-JULY 14)

Historic windows representing 250 years of
American architecture and window
technology sponsored by the New York
Landmarks Conservancy and the National
Park Service. Federal Hall National
Memorial, 26 Wall St. 995-5260.

TUESDAY 6

NYC/AIA TOUR

The Corporate Architects Committee is
sponsoring a tour of the new
Presbyterian Hospital by SOM. 5:30 pm.
177 Fort Washington Ave. (between
165-168 Sts). \$5. 838-9670.

CONFERENCE, JUNE 6-8

Second Annual Metro New York
Construction Expo & Conference. Jacob
Javits Convention Center. 599-3340.

THURSDAY 8

COMMUNITY FORUM

Transitional Zoning for Historic Districts.
8:30 am. Presented by the Planning Center
of the Municipal Art Society. The Urban
Center. For details: John R. Fawcett.
935-3960.

SATURDAY 10

PANEL

Second in series on New Directions in
Architecture with Paul Goldberger, Suzanne
Stephens, and Mario Gandelsonas. 6 pm. The
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, L.I.
516-283-2118.

WEDNESDAY 13

ASPEN CONFERENCE, JUNE 13-18

The Italian Manifesto: The Culture of the
Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine Cities. For
more information: IDCA, PO Box 664, Aspen,
CO 81612. 303-925-2257.

THURSDAY 15

EXHIBITION

Windows Through Time: An Exhibit of
Historic American Windows and Workshop
on Window Rehabilitation and Replacement,
cosponsored by the New York Landmarks
Conservancy and the National Park Service.
8:45 am., the Federal Hall National
Memorial, 26 Wall St. 995-5260.

SATURDAY 17

LECTURE

Stanley Tigerman in series on New
Directions in Architecture. 6 pm. The
Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, L.I.
516-283-2118.

MONDAY 19

NOWNYC Women of Vision Dinner honoring
Karen Altschuler, Adrienne Green Bresnan
AIA, Judith Edelman FAIA, and Laurie M.
Maurer FAIA, to be held at Cafe Iguana. Call
212-807-0721 for more information.

TUESDAY 20

NYC/AIA Annual Meeting

Place Des Antiquaries, 125 East 57th
Street. 6:00 pm, \$10

EXHIBITION

Photographs by Irving Browning
documenting the transitional urban
environment of Manhattan in the 1920s &
30s, including art deco theaters,
construction of the Chrysler & Empire State
buildings. New York Historical Society.
873-3400. Closes Sept. 16.

THURSDAY 29

COMMUNITY FORUM

The Future of New York's Waterfront. 8:30
am. Presented by the Planning Center of the
Municipal Art Society. The Urban Center.
For details: John R. Fawcett, 935-3760.

SATURDAY 1 JULY

EXHIBITION

"Projects: Elizabeth Diller/Ricardo
Scofidio," featuring an architectural
installation. Museum of Modern Art.
708-9400. Closes Aug. 15.

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