

THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

17 10.19.2005

NEW YORK ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN WWW.ARCHPAPER.COM

\$3.95



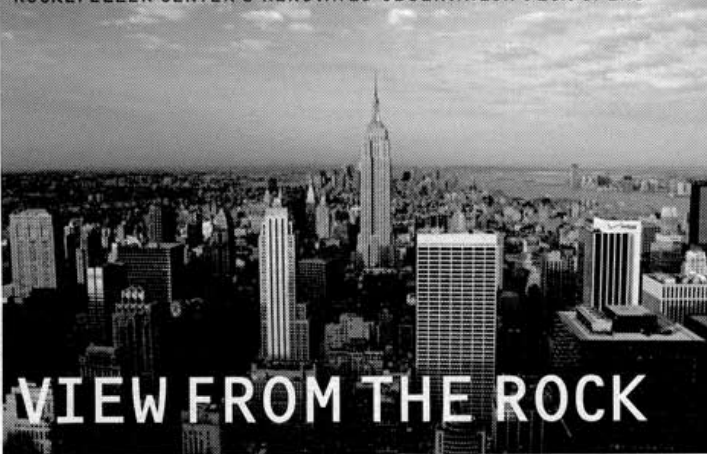
STUDENTS DESIGN NEW HAVEN'S FIRST SOLAR HOUSE

Solar Savivors

First year students at the Yale School of Architecture have recently completed construction on the first solar-powered home in New Haven. The house was designed for the school's First-Year Building Project, a program conceived in 1967 that gives students practical experience in designing and building a home in economically depressed areas of the city.

Since 1997, the school has been working with Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), a local nonprofit developer devoted to low-income housing. Each year, beginning in April, students work in groups for three weeks to draft a design, which is presented to faculty and representatives from NHS. After a winning proposal is selected, the entire class has a ten-day period for fine-tuning and finalizing the design, followed immediately by construction of the **continued on page 3**

ROCKEFELLER CENTER'S RENOVATED OBSERVATION DECK OPENS



VIEW FROM THE ROCK

While Brooklynites and Jersey dwellers may rightly claim that they have a better view of the skyline than anyone in Manhattan, there is an even more spectacular spot to see the city than from across the river, and that's from within. On November 1, New Yorkers will be able to look out from the observation deck on the 70th floor of 30 Rockefeller Center for the first time in 19 years. The place will be known as Top of the Rock, and reverses the decades-old trend of closing or privatizing the city's once-numerous tower-top observatories.

The new entry along 50th Street separates visitors from the building's office tenants and leads up to a mezzanine carved out of the existing concourse level. Before reaching

the elevator, visitors pass through a multimedia space where they can watch videos about the history of Rockefeller Center, see the original wooden model of the complex, and do a little souvenir shopping.

Gabellini Associates oversaw the renovation of the original three levels of the observation deck, and has used a light touch in restoring Raymond Hood's original details: The stone has been scrubbed, the decorative aluminum fleur-de-lis polished, and replicas of the coin-operated Viewmaster telescopes have been installed. A double-height enclosed space known **continued on page 4**

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BOARD OF THE INSTITUTE FOR URBAN DESIGN MUTINIES, FORMING NEW NONPROFIT

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM

If you don't know the difference between the Institute for Urban Design (IUD) and the Forum for Urban Design (FUD), you're not alone. As an invitation-only fellowship of architects, urbanists, and developers, IUD has historically been a bit of a mystery to outsiders. Now, a rift between the organization's board and its founder has

resulted in the formation of a new group, FUD, leaving the fellows themselves in the dark as to what exactly caused the split.

Founded in 1979 by the charismatic and idealistic journalist Ann Ferebee, the Institute for Urban Design's mission, said Ferebee, was something that had never been done before: "To bring

together the key players who shape public space—developers, public sector figures, and designers." Ferebee formed alliances with universities with urban design programs, including University of Pennsylvania and Harvard and recruited a board of directors that included Skidmore, Owings & Merrill's Marilyn Taylor, Robert Yaro of the Regional Plan Association, and developer Daniel Rose of Rose Associates. IUD produced panel discussions with urban thinkers like Senator **continued on page 7**

CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION ARCHITECTS NAMED

Rogers Takes The Javits

Richard Rogers Partnership, teamed with FXFOWLE Architects (the new name of Fox & Fowle Architects) and A. Epstein and Sons International, has been selected to design the expansion of the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. The team beat out Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners, Morphosis with Gruzen Samton, and Rafael Viñoly Architects. A group of reviewers, which included the City Planning Commission and Tishman Construction, recommended the team for the commission, which was approved by the Convention Center Development Corporation (CCDC) board of directors. The client sought a team that had previous convention center experience. A. Epstein and Sons worked previously on the expansion of McCormick Place Convention Center Expansion in Chicago.

Over the next two months, the team will craft a master plan and design concept to present the client. **JAFFER KOLB**

08-10 SAFETY FIRST DESIGNERS INTERVENE ON THE SECURITY SCENE

03 CONEY ISLAND CLEANS UP

06 GENIUSES AMONG US

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- 03 EAVESDROP
- 12 DIARY
- 14 CLASSIFIEDS
- 15 MARKETPLACE



CRIT: JULIE V. IOVINE

FOR ALL THOSE SICKENED BY THE PARALYSIS AT GROUND ZERO, MAY I SUGGEST AN UNLIKELY SCAPEGOAT: MICHAEL EISNER.

WANTED: MEDICI OR MOSES?

On the last day of September, Michael Eisner exited Disneyland with nary a salute. It was an especially thought-provoking denouement for anyone who had trained their eyes on the ears in the late 1980s and '90s, when Eisner was the patron saint of architecture.

The Big Cheese left in his wake far more than a trail of celluloid crumbs and overwrought animated blockbusters. He got pretty far with his grand architectural plan to put the world's best architects in the service of the Magic Kingdom. "You can forget about a bad movie," Eisner once told Wing Chao, his point man at Disney Development, "but once you build a building, people are going **continued on page 6**



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM continued from front page Daniel Patrick Moynihan, writer Simon Schama, and designers Cesar Pelli, Moshe Safdie, and Andres Duany. Topics ranged from livable neighborhoods and sustainable cities to urban design journalism, and discussion took written form through a bi-monthly newsletter.

Despite its impressive roster of affiliates, Ferebee ran the homegrown, shoe-string Institute much like a salon, operating mainly out of her Greenwich Village brownstone, with brief stints at SUNY Purchase during IUD's early years, and more recently, at the City University of New York's Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute. Keeping the organization small, Ferebee and her board handpicked IUD's fellows, which number about 1,000 worldwide, 400 of them active. "We wanted the best people," explained Ferebee, "but we were criticized for being too elite—and it was probably true."

Mutiny in these intimate ranks started to brew last spring when Ferebee, now in her 70s, began making plans to transition into the title of founding director and to appoint a new executive director together with her board. Somewhere along the way, Ferebee said, "it became clear to me that my interests to revitalize the board with young people were not being paid attention to, and I became less confident that [the board] would [make the transition] in the way I thought they should." Because of the stalemate, the board seceded and reconvened under the new name the Forum for Urban Design.

The details of the split remain shrouded in mystery, as the leaders of FUD have been reluctant to speak. Forum president Marilyn Taylor and chairman Daniel Rose both declined to comment, and the new organization's young executive director, writer, and urbanist David Haskell, offered this: "The Forum's board members are hopeful that Ann will decide to join us as we move forward. With enormous respect for Ann and her accomplishments, we wish her well." According to a statement issued by FUD on August 3rd, its board members have moved all operations to offices at the Newman Institute, which has housed IUD's offices for the last two years. According to Ferebee, their offer has not been formally retracted, though she conceded, "it may be politically difficult to house the two separate groups at Newman." (Newman Institute director Henry Wollman was not available for comment.)

Of FUD's board of directors—which includes James Corner of Field Operations, Hugh Hardy of H3 Hardy Collaboration, and Robert Yaro—only one agreed to speak. "We wanted to cast a wider net and seek a broader set of issues," stated Alexander Garvin of Alex Garvin & Associates, suggesting that FUD wanted to take a less theoretical, more proactive stance. "Giving the organization a new name," he continued, "is a way of indicating to people that we're trying something new." These efforts will kick off with an October 26 panel discussion

titled "New Orleans Rebuilds" at New York's Century Association, moderated by critic Paul Goldberger—who spoke at the first IUD program in 1979.

To the fellows themselves, the Forum's new name brings little clarity. While FUD sent letters to IUD fellows stating that they would also be honored as fellows of the Forum, Ferebee asserted that her fellows will be coming to her upcoming November 10 panel. Susan Chin of New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs, a participant in past IUD programs, said, "Right now, everyone [who was affiliated with IUD] is receiving everything from everyone—from the Forum and from Ann. We're all confused." And some longtime supporters of Ferebee's, like Patricia Conway, professor of architecture at University of Pennsylvania, suspect foul play. "The purpose of a not-for-profit board is not to act as a bully pulpit," attested Conway. She added, "As a member of a non-profit board, you give [money], you get [money for the organization], or you get out, and [the IUD board] never figured that out"—implying that Ferebee's board members had been doing less than their fair share of contributing.

For Ferebee's part, business at IUD continues as usual, as she seeks to "reach out to the next generation," in part through an educational outreach program led by City College architecture professor Lance Brown, and through a number of new fellows and advisors, including Michael Sorkin, director of urban design at City College, and Adriaan Geuze of the Netherlands' West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture. The Institute's November 10 discussion at the Barnard Club in New York will include Brown, Grahame Shane of the urban design program at CUNY, journalist Jayne Merkel, developer Stuart Match Suna, Chris Sharples of SHoP Architects, and Kathleen John-Adler of Olin Partnership. What exactly Ferebee's role will be is still unclear, and at press time, she had not yet named the executive director of IUD.

The nature of the relationship between IUD and FUD may also take time to emerge. Ferebee said, "There's been an effort to bring [the two organizations] back together. Sometimes I'm optimistic about it, and at other times I'm not. But I hope the effort will continue." However, she added that there's no reason why there shouldn't be two New York-based organizations devoted to urban design—as well as similar groups across the globe—that could work cooperatively. Susan Chin summed up what seems to be the concern of all of those involved, regardless of whatever personal misunderstanding may be at the root of the current rift: "This kind of discussion between civic leaders is not something the AIA, the League, or the Van Alen is doing—and there's a real need for this in the city." **ANNA HOLTZMAN**

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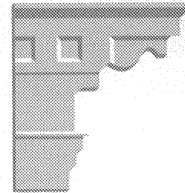
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