

NYT Nov. 17, 1996

POSTINGS

From Lincoln Center to Stuyvesant Town to a Laundry Building in Queens

A Preservationist Lists 35 Modern Landmarks-in-Waiting

Never known as someone shy about taking a stand, Robert A.M. Stern has produced a list of 35 modern monuments he thinks should be New York City landmarks. For the most part, they date from after World War II into the 1960's — and they are not always pretty. "But they may be very important technologically, or historically, or culturally," said Mr. Stern, an architect, author and teacher.

"There has been a prejudice against them," he said, "and it goes like this: The preservation move-

ment grew up out of concern that Victorian and, in New York, Classical buildings were being torn down to make way for modernist buildings. So they equated modern buildings with bad, the evildoers.

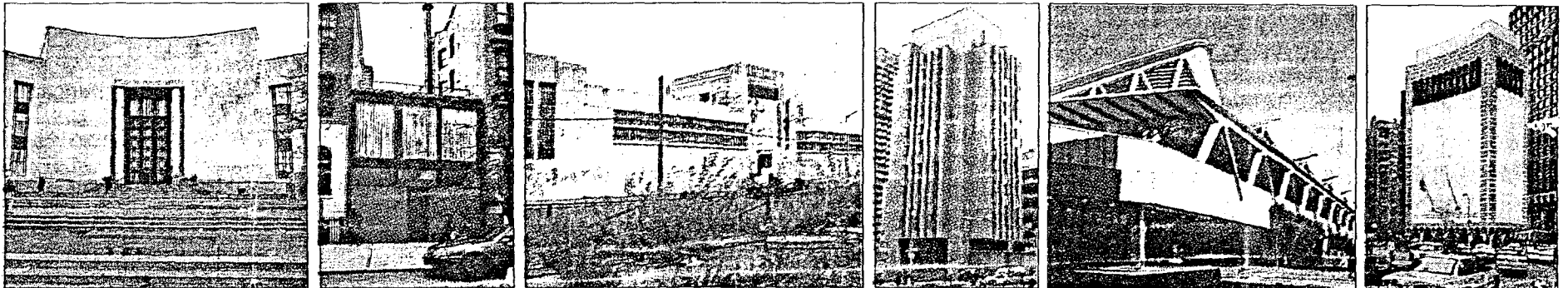
"And there is some truth to that," he added mischievously. "On the other hand, we have to rise above our prejudices." Many of the modern buildings chosen by Mr. Stern — and announced at a lecture sponsored by the New York Landmarks Conservancy — have recently become eligible for landmark designation: They have hit the ripe old age of 30.

Mr. Stern, a professor at Columbia and co-author of "New York 1960," listed as some of his favorites Stuyvesant Town, the huge 1947 red brick housing complex on First Avenue from 14th to 20th Streets; the George Washington Bridge Bus Station; the CBS Building, at 51 West 52d Street; Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the Ford Foundation building and interior garden at 321 East 42d Street. In an interview, he also highlighted two libraries, the main

branch of the Brooklyn Public Library at Grand Army Plaza and the Donnell Library on West 53d Street, as "transitional buildings which represent the reaction of classicist architects to the new modernist ideals."

While many of the buildings are not threatened, he said, the landmarking process should not be brought to bear only "at midnight, when some building is about to be torn down" but should serve as a signal that a building has architectural importance.

A list of the proposed landmarks is on page 6.



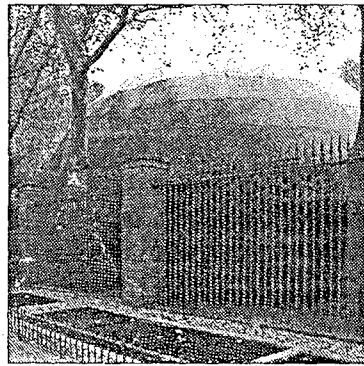
From left: Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times; Jack Manning/The New York Times; Steve Ericman for The New York Times; Andrea Mohr/The New York Times; final two, Jack Manning

Members of "Stern 35," from left: Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza; Rockefeller Guest House, 242 East 52d Street; Knickerbocker Laundry, 43-23 37th Avenue, Queens; Henry L. Moses Research Institute, Montefiore Hospital, Bronx; George Washington Bridge Bus Station; former Gallery of Modern Art, 2 Columbus Circle.

A Preservationist's List of 35 Modern Landmarks-in-Waiting

Following is the complete list of candidates for landmark status and their architects suggested by Robert A. M. Stern, discussed in the Postings column on page 1 today:

Knickerbocker Laundry, 43-23 37th Avenue, Queens (Irving M. Fenichel, 1932).
 240 Central Park South apartments, Manhattan (Mayer & Whittlesey, 1941).
 Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza (Githens & Keally, 1941).
 Stuyvesant Town, East 14th to 20th Streets, Manhattan (Irwin Clavan and Gilmore D. Clarke, 1947).
 Fresh Meadows Housing Development, 186th to 197th Streets, Queens (Voorhees, Walker, Foley & Smith, 1947).
 488 Madison Avenue at 51st Street, former Look Building, Manhattan (Emery Roth & Sons, 1950).
 Manhattan House apartments, 200 East 66th Street (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1950).
 40 Park Avenue, office building at East 36th Street (Emery Roth & Sons, 1950).
 Originally Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3d guest house, 242 East 52d Street, Manhattan (Philip Johnson, 1950).
 Transit Authority Headquarters, 370 Jay Street, Brooklyn, originally Board of



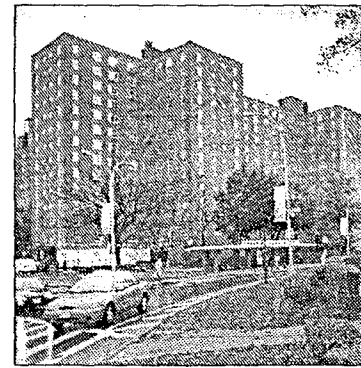
Jack Manning/The New York Times

Rockefeller U. auditorium.

Transportation Building (William E. Haugaard & Andrew J. Thomas, 1951).
 United Nations Headquarters, Manhattan (International Committee of Architects, headed by Wallace K. Harrison, 1947-52).
 510 Fifth Avenue at 43d Street, originally Manufacturers Trust Company branch, Manhattan (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1954).

Hahn Kook Center, 460 Park Avenue at 57th Street, Manhattan (Emery Roth & Sons, 1953).
 Donnell Library Center, West 53d Street, Manhattan (Edgar I. Williams, 1955).
 150 East 42d Street, originally Socony-Mobil Oil Building, Manhattan (Harrison & Abramovitz, 1956).
 Caspary Hall, Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue at East 66th Street, Manhattan (Harrison & Abramovitz, 1958).
 717 Fifth Avenue at East 56th Street, originally Corning Glass Building, Manhattan (Harrison, Abramovitz & Abbe, 1956-59).
 One Chase Manhattan Plaza, Pine and Liberty Streets, Manhattan (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1960).
 George Washington Bridge Bus Station (Port of New York Authority and Pier Luigi Nervi, 1963).
 East Wing Addition and Sculpture Garden, Museum of Modern Art (Philip Johnson, 1964).
 Begrish Lecture Hall, Bronx Community College; originally University Heights campus of New York University (Marcel Breuer & Associates, 1964).
 New York State Pavilion, 1964-65 World's Fair, Queens (Philip Johnson and Richard Foster, 1964).
 CBS Building, 51 West 52d Street, Manhat-

tan (Eero Saarinen & Associates, 1965).
 Chatham Towers apartments, 170 Park Row, Manhattan (Kelly & Gruzen, 1965).
 Church of the Resurrection, 325 East 101st Street, Manhattan (Victor Lundy, 1965).
 2 Columbus Circle, formerly Gallery of Modern Art, Manhattan (Edward Durell Stone, 1965).
 Henry L. Moses Research Institute, Monte-



Steve Berman for The New York Times

Fresh Meadows housing complex.

fiore Hospital, East Gun Hill Road, Bronx (Philip Johnson, 1965).
 Paley Park, 3 East 53d Street, Manhattan (Zion & Breen, 1966).
 University Village apartments, Bleecker Street and LaGuardia Place, Manhattan (I. M. Pei & Partners, 1966).
 Riverbend Houses, East 135th to 139th Streets, Fifth Avenue to Harlem River Drive, Manhattan (Davis, Brody & Associates, 1967).
 860 and 870 United Nations Plaza apartments, East 48th to 49th Streets, Manhattan (Harrison, Abramovitz & Harris, 1966).
 Kips Bay Plaza apartments, East 30th to 33d Streets, Manhattan (I. M. Pei Partners and S. J. Kessler, 1965).
 Ford Foundation Building and interior garden, East 42d Street, Manhattan (Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo & Associates, 1967).
 140 Broadway, Cedar to Liberty Streets, Manhattan (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1967).
 Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (buildings by Wallace K. Harrison; Philip Johnson; Eggers & Higgins; Eero Saarinen; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; Max Abramovitz; Pietro Belluschi, 1962-68).