

The Museum of Modern Art

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EXHIBITION OF TEN ARCHITECTS' CONCEPTS FOR EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART OPENS MAY 3, 1997

Toward the New Museum of Modern Art: Sketchbooks by Ten Architects

On View: May 3–July 8, 1997
Media Preview: May 2, 10:00 a.m.–noon

The Museum of Modern Art is in the initial planning stages of the most extensive expansion in its 68-year history. As part of the process, the Museum's Architect Selection Committee recently invited ten architects to participate in a month-long charrette—a problem-solving design exercise—with the goal of producing a variety of urbanistic and schematic studies for a new Museum of Modern Art. Based on the exercise, three architectural firms—Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron (Switzerland); Yoshio Taniguchi (Japan); and Bernard Tschumi (U.S.A.)—were named as finalists on April 10, and will participate in the next phase of the process to determine an architect for the Museum's expansion and renovation project.

Toward the New Museum of Modern Art: Sketchbooks by Ten Architects presents all ten architects' submissions, providing a unique opportunity to examine the creative process of the three finalists as well as the other participants: Wiel Arets (The Netherlands); Steven Holl (U.S.A.); Toyo Ito (Japan); Rem Koolhaas (The Netherlands); Dominique Perrault (France); Rafael Viñoly (U.S.A.); and Tod Williams and Billie Tsien (U.S.A.). On view from May 3 to July 8, 1997, the exhibition is organized by Terence Riley, Chief Curator, and Matilda McQuaid, Associate Curator, Department of Architecture and Design.

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“The charrette submissions reflect the extraordinary talent and ability of the architects invited to participate in this exercise and explore a number of options concerning the Museum’s site that open up exciting possibilities for us as we finalize our plans for the expansion,” said Glenn D. Lowry, Director of The Museum of Modern Art.

Toward the New Museum of Modern Art features highlights drawn from the portfolios, sketchbooks, and models of the architects’ charrette submissions. Excerpts from the architects’ statements about their design philosophies are also included. In addition, photo enlargements of built works by the three finalists and their extended biographies are provided.

The exhibition also examines the architectural evolution of the Museum with historic drawings and photographs, including designs for projects that were never realized. In this spirit, the current exhibition takes its title from a 1959 exhibition, *Toward the New Museum of Modern Art*, organized in anticipation of the 1964 additions, as well as from Le Corbusier’s 1923 modernist manifesto *Toward a New Architecture*. According to Ms. McQuaid, “The exhibition will emphasize the fact that some of the issues central to the upcoming expansion—the need for space for temporary exhibitions, educational programs, and the permanent collection—are timeless. What is unique about this expansion is the invitation to so many outstanding architects from around the world to contribute their ideas.”

In order to keep the focus of the Museum’s charrette exercise on concept rather than presentation, participants were asked to confine their submissions to paper, preferably a sketchbook, and to contain the entire project within an 11-by-17-by-3-inch box which the Museum provided. The architects were asked to consider the nature and range of options for

planning the new Museum and to document their thinking in written and graphic form. "Because this was not a design competition, the goal was to generate multiple responses to the site conditions and the Museum's conceptual issues, rather than to select a building design," said Mr. Riley.

The three finalists, who will go on to offer more concrete proposals, will begin their work this summer after the Museum has completed its needs analysis. This extensive analysis, which has been conducted over the past several months, is being managed by the architectural firm Cooper, Robertson Ltd. An architect is expected to be chosen by the end of this year.

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No. 29

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