

A FLOWER GROWS IN MANHATTAN

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What is it? A giant condor? A new kind of space ship? Or sailboat? A moth from Mars? The largest lily of them all? Nothing of the kind: it's a tent, not an ordinary tent, but a prefabricated tent, and now flourishing in Manhattan in the upper garden of The Museum of Modern Art. It took six American construction workers about six hours to erect, although the average building requires anywhere from six months to three years to build, according to Larry Medlin, Professor of Washington University, who is a disciple of German architect, Frei Otto. Otto, says Ludwig Glaeser, Curator of Architecture and Design at the Museum, is "The Man of the Future." Does that mean we'll to the tents again!

Starting June 10 through September 30, the public will be admitted to the tent on exhibition at the Museum. The up-dating of tents, once the sine qua non of armies, circuses and tribes on the move, has become a new concept of builders and architects. The tent in today's world can not only cover large areas, but it can be made with stronger materials: high strength steel, synthetic fibers, translucent membrane that filters sunlight and is water repellent.

The present tent, covering 2,300 square feet, will house the sketches and designs and photos of work by Frei Otto, who is a pioneer in bringing back the tent. He is now designing tents for the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

In the midst of Manhattan's high risers, the tent is not an anachronism, but a new modern architectural feat.

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