

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

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NOTE TO EDITORS: There will be a press preview of the exhibition, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. on Friday, July 31, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A remarkable new proposal for the renovation of Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. will be shown at The Museum of Modern Art from Saturday, August 1 through September 13. The model and drawings in the exhibition, installed by Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, explain the plans for the street which links the White House and the nearby Treasury Building to Capitol Hill some 20 blocks away.

This is the nation's most important ceremonial thoroughfare, but the decline of the commercial district which borders its northern side, the interruptions of cross-traffic, and the chaos of unrelated buildings have all combined to obliterate its dignity.

In 1962 President John F. Kennedy appointed a Council for Pennsylvania Avenue. The Council's comprehensive report aims at more than cleaning up a street: it proposes new blocks of buildings, new open spaces, and the separation of much vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Deliberately avoiding precise architectural detail, the Council's plan establishes broad esthetic and technical principals. The most important features, designed to enhance the ceremonial character of the Avenue, are the rows of trees treated architecturally as "walls"; and a great National Square, measuring 800' x 900' with a monumental new gate opening to a forecourt that leads to the White House.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the plan is its use of recessed streets to carry traffic under Pennsylvania Avenue, the proposed National Square, and parts of the business district. The "multi-level city" has been advocated by architects and planners ever since Leonardo da Vinci. "In pointing the way toward solving 20th

more...

century problems of automobile versus pedestrian traffic, while at the same time preserving and enhancing an architectural heritage, the Council's proposal is truly of national importance," according to Mr. Drexler.

Additional information available from Lynn Traiger, Assistant Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York 19, N. Y. CI 5-8900.