

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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FACT SHEET

THE STATE UNIVERSITY CONSTRUCTION FUND

Overall management responsibility for the planning, design and construction of the Purchase campus is in the hands of the State University Construction Fund.

The Fund was chartered in 1962 by the State Legislature and assigned the responsibility for physical development of the more than 30 major campuses and other installations of the State University of New York.

(The Fund does not have responsibility for the University's community colleges, whose construction projects are locally administered.)

The Fund is notable both for the size of its operations and the scope of its responsibilities. A number of states have agencies whose titles (e.g., The Pennsylvania Higher Education Facilities Authority) indicate similar responsibilities to those of the Fund. But the similarity is limited to one function: that of funding construction for public and, in some cases, private colleges and universities.

The Fund, unlike the other agencies, has full responsibility for planning and design, including the selection of architects, and supervision of construction. Similarly, its operations are far more extensive than those of comparable state and even federal agencies. The numbers are staggering. To date, the Construction Fund's operations have included 752 completed projects, valued at \$957 million. Another 284 projects valued at \$508 million are under construction. In design are 333 projects amounting to more than \$1 billion. And, by 1974, the Fund's box score will show a grand total of approximately 2,000 projects and an outlay of some \$4 billion.

The prime objective of all this activity is to provide the necessary facilities to meet the planned growth of State University enrollments, which stood at 66,137 in 1960. The

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1971 enrollment is 154,401 and the total will approach a quarter of a million by 1980. At the same time, the objective has been to meet the University's physical needs on time, within budget, and with architectural and environmental quality.

Through it all, the Fund has taken an imaginative and innovative approach to its responsibilities. Under the late Dr. Anthony G. Adinolfi, who spent six years as manager of planning before taking over as chief executive officer in 1968, the Albany-based organization has followed four major operational guidelines.

First is a deliberate effort to tap the talents of outstanding architects for the design of the University's campuses and buildings.

Second, the Fund consciously strives to function as a "good client," providing the data and climate essential to the creation of good design and good architecture.

A third rule is innovation in the use of architectural talent and expertise. As an example, the Purchase project involved a new organizational approach under which a team of seven independent architectural firms could function effectively to produce individual building designs that blend into an overall campus master plan.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the effort has been to achieve all this within a strict framework of fiscal responsibility. Here, performance can be measured in dollars: of all Fund projects completed to date, actual costs have averaged 2.2 per cent under original budgets.

These continue to be the objectives under the administration of Dr. Oscar E. Lanford, who took over as acting general manager following Dr. Adinolfi's death March 31, 1971.

One key to the Fund's performance has been the development and periodic revision of a comprehensive master plan for each campus, insuring orderly growth, geared to the needs of the individual institution and to a rational schedule. This master planning approach is most evident in the new campuses, such as Purchase, being developed for the University. Others include the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the State University College at Old Westbury and a projected new college for the Utica-Rome area. And, most dramatic,

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the new Amherst campus of the State University of New York at Buffalo is being developed as the nucleus, focal point and planning impetus for a new town, a development that probably could not have occurred without the Fund and its fiscal and professional leverage. Meanwhile, the architectural quality evident in the Purchase campus plan is echoed in examples of outstanding architecture that have sprung up in recent years on State University campuses across the state.

Through this new look in public architecture, the Fund has demonstrated that state-controlled building programs need not result in stereotypes, mediocrity and dullness. Nor, for that matter, should architectural excellence result in inflated costs. "The quality of architecture," argued Dr. Adinolfi, "is not dependent on the amount of money available for construction. Rather, it is dependent on the skill, knowledge and inspiration of the architect and on the attitude, professional capability and managerial competence of the client."

The Fund, with headquarters at 194 Washington Avenue in Albany, operates with a staff of 230, half of them professionals in architecture, engineering, finance and related areas, and the balance in clerical positions.

Further information on the State University Construction Fund may be obtained by contacting Martin P. Kelly at (518) GR 4-5274 or Jack L. Maranville at (518) GR 4-6829.

Additional information on the exhibition available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019.
Phone: (212) 956-7501, -7504.
