ARCHITECTURAL FORUM THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING

JULY 1964



PUBLISHER'S NOTE-THE FUTURE OF FORUM

As many of our readers have already learned, the September issue of FORUM is to be its last. It was a decision most reluctantly taken. Since announcing it, we have received a great many letters and telegrams deploring the news, asking questions, pleading for a reversal, and expressing a sense of loss.

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

The long-awaited plan to rebuild the nation's Main Street

JOHN DEERE'S STICKS OF STEEL

We share the feeling of loss and regret. Our concern-Time Inc.'s concern-with the field of architecture and building is longstanding, and it will not diminish now. When we took over ARCHITECTURAL FORUM in the midst of the depression, Henry R. Luce assigned it a challenging mission: "to bring together around the central art and science of architecture all the major influences which will build America in the decades ahead." That mission was later extended to the city itself-to urban renewal, city planning, the public environment.

How well we have succeeded in our task is apparent in the appreciative letters we are now getting (a selection will be published in the next issue), in the awards we have won, and in the circulation we have reached—an all-time high of 64,000. But, alas, editorial performance and prestige have not brought financial good health.

As Mr. Luce put it in a letter last week to one of the nation's leading architects: "FORUM has served an important purpose for more than three decades, and we have not required that it show a real profit. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of many knowledgeable people, its losses have increased to the point where its continuance in its present form cannot be justified." In many years of seeking a formula for FORUM to sustain itself, a great deal of thought has been given to its purpose and to its audience. (One formula we have not considered is to lower its standards.) FORUM has sought to unite three groups of readers-the professional architects, engineers, and designers; the contractors; and the client-owner-finance groups. This concept of a three-way interplay within the building industry answered to logic and experience, but it required FORUM to seek and maintain a volume of circulation which advertisers would not buy in sufficient amounts to give FORUM a profit. In effect, Time Inc. has subsidized FORUM for more than 30 years. Perhaps one of Forum's insuperable difficulties has been that the cost structure of a small magazine within a large publishing enterprise tends to move up to the standards set by the big, broad-audience magazines, so that the usual advantages of size become disadvantages to a small publication.

New Illinois headquarters are one of Saarinen's last designs

POWERFUL GRID FOR A PRAIRIE TOWER

86

92

76

Kansas City offices in marble and high-strength steel

A "THINKING MAN'S" FAIR

The Swiss build a handsome exposition with something to say

CHURCH OF THE AUTOSTRADA

On an Italian expressway, Michelucci's masterpiece

FACTORY WITH THE GRACE OF A BRIDGE 110

Nervi builds a bold suspension structure for a paper mill

DRAMATIC RENEWAL ON CAMPUS

114

Warm new interiors for Columbia's Lewisohn Hall

"ENVIRONMENTAL SCULPTURE"

5 NEWS

14

43

134

100 BIGGEST

33 PROJECTS

52 LETTERS

Architect-Sculptor Frederick Kiesler describes his work

	Cover:	Detail of Deere & Co. headquarters; photograph by Ezra Stoller (page 76)
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	181	Advertising index.
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