

## The Department of Architecture at the University of New Mexico Has A New Chairman

After years of faithful service to the University, seventeen of them as head of the Department of Architecture, John J. Heimrich hands the chairmanship over to Thomas Reed Vreeland, Jr. Mr. Vreeland, age 40, married, father of two children, graduate of Yale University, comes to Albuquerque from the position of Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania and from active practice as head of his own office in Philadelphia. Prior to entering Yale, Mr. Vreeland served three years in the Paratroops from which he emerged as a First Lieutenant. In addition to his Yale studies, he spent one year painting at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and one year at the Sorbonne, Paris, studying French Literature.

In his final year at Yale, Mr. Vreeland came under the influence of the nationally-known architect, Louis Kahn, who was then teaching at Yale. Upon graduation, he went to work in Louis Kahn's office in Philadelphia. "These were exciting years," says "Tim" Vreeland. While associated with the Kahn office, he worked on the Trenton Jewish Community Center, the Richards Medical Laboratory and Biology Building (both for the University of Pennsylvania), the Rochester Unitarian Church, and the Salk Research Center in San Diego, California. "Kahn has been the dominant influence on my thinking to date," Mr. Vreeland said.

In partnership with Frank Schlesinger, Mr. Vreeland's first individual commission was for the Rittenhouse Swim Club in 1960, (Figure 1). Later they did the Beachcomber Swim Club for a sub-



*Thomas Reed Vreeland, Jr.*

urban Philadelphia site. Their last joint commission was the Therapeutic Research Laboratory for Pennsylvania University, which is now under construction. Mr. Vreeland also did a number of private residences and oversaw the restoration of an 1824 house on Society Hill, Philadelphia. He is currently engaged in completing a major downtown planning concept for Camden, New Jersey under the Urban Renewal Program.

In addition to these commissions, "Tim" Vreeland has taken part in a number of architectural competitions. Working with Romaldo Giurgola and Ehrman Mitchell, he won second place in the important Boston City Hall Competition in 1962, for which the competitors received considerable national publicity (Figure 2). The following year they entered the Tel Aviv-Yafo Town Planning Competi-



1. Rittenhouse Swim Club. Built out of concrete block and pre-cast concrete in one continuous piece, buildings, pool and decks are all integral.



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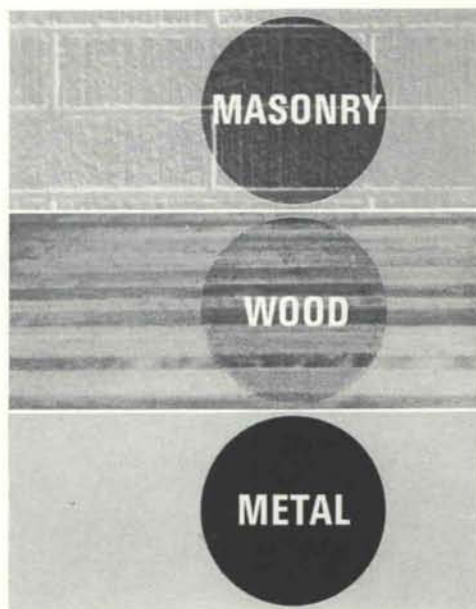
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tion. A third project, the Coopers Point-Pyne Neighborhood Competition for Camden, New Jersey, was won in cooperation with Oscar Newman. As Vreeland explains, "I have participated in a large number of competitions in the last ten years. I have enjoyed every one of them in spite of the toll in money and time which one inevitably pays. I believe competitions are in invaluable part of an architect's experience and development in which he pits himself against the best talents, nationally or even internationally, on a completely equal basis. Nothing has pulled the work of the Philadelphia architects into the world picture as much as the high number of winners and near-winners that they have produced over the past ten years in local, national and international competitions. It is my earnest hope that, increasingly, Albuquerque architects and their buildings will become engaged in national competitions."

Mr. Vreeland explains that his experience in architecture and planning "has been a concentrated urban one, shaped largely by the traditional and the contemporary forces at work in Philadelphia. I have been involved first hand in the redevelopment process of a major city. I have witnessed the failures and the successes of this process and I have come away convinced that the process is necessary. In fact, it is the only one that can do the job needed to insure the survival of our major built-up areas. When well-administered, as it was in several outstanding instances in Philadelphia, it results in a superior and highly consistent architectural and social ambience; this is almost impossible to achieve in any other way."

"The reconstruction of our cities," Mr. Vree-

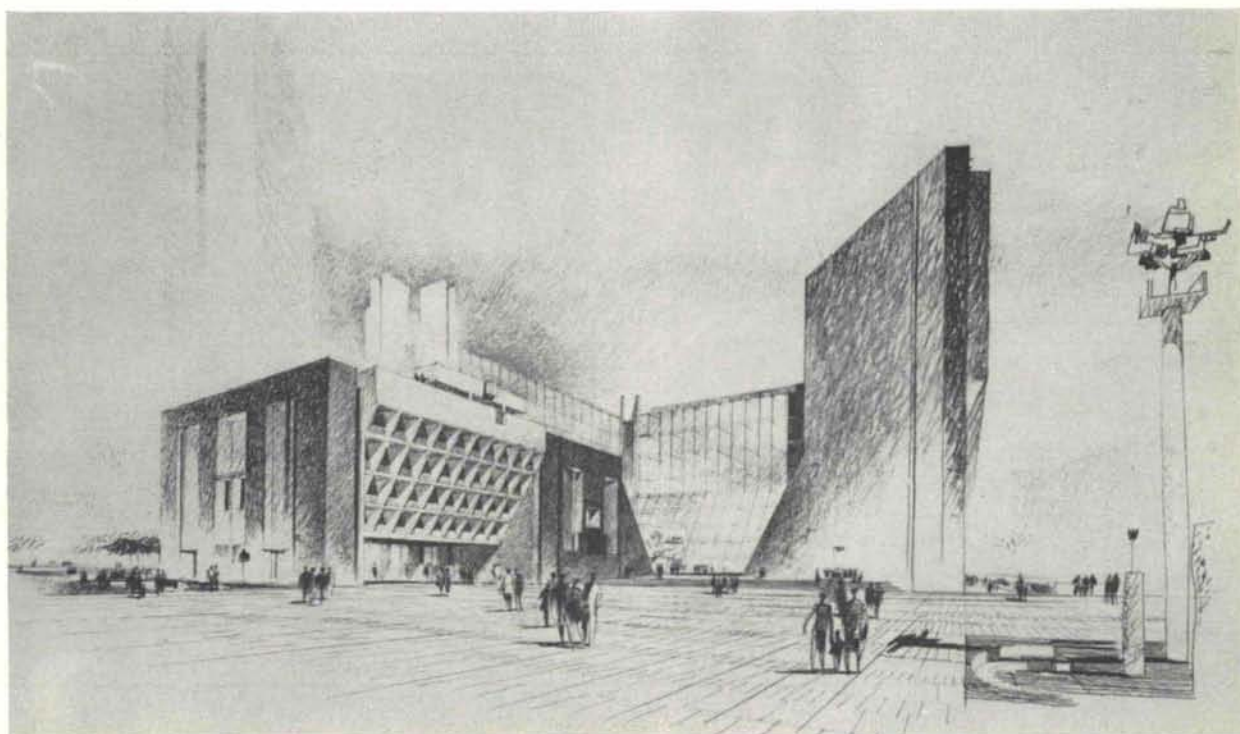
land goes on to say, "is clearly only half of the problem. Vast areas of the world await development and colonization by future populations. Our new settlements need to be designed along lines very different from those molded by earlier traditions in order to accommodate the new, emerging patterns of present and future living. A new rational occupation of raw land must be found which will best serve the needs of future societies, if we are to avoid the wholesale exploitation and despoiling of the natural landscape. New Mexico is a superb test case, and it is my intention to orient the Department of Architecture towards the study of this world-wide problem."

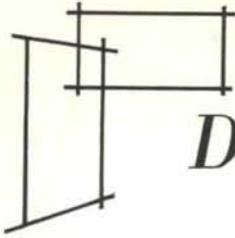
"This study will be the concern particularly of the later years in Architecture and will eventually lead to the establishment of a graduate program in land planning and development. Meanwhile, I want to intensify the architectural training in the earlier years in order to establish a commonly-held, principled and rational approach, to design problems, from the design of the individual house up through the increasingly complex problems of large buildings, groups of buildings, sectors of cities and cities themselves."

The editors of NMA wish Thomas Reed Vreeland, Jr., and the Department of Architecture all the success that it is possible to attain. We expect that Mr. Vreeland and his students will become an exciting and compelling force in the development of architecture and city planning in the Southwest. We look forward to being pushed and pulled into new areas of thinking, and to being challenged into producing a better environment for ourselves and our successors.

— The Editors

2. Boston City Hall.





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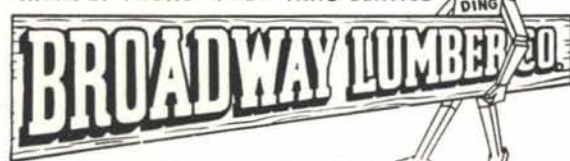
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