

# AN EYE ON NEW YORK ARCHITECTURE OCULUS

## Broadcast News

**F**or a site in Bristol, Connecticut, the architects at **HLW** have designed a new 130,000-square-foot digital broadcast facility. The three-story building, under construction now, will allow ESPN to double its current studio operations. The same architects are providing design services for Bloomberg Office Park, a new trio of low-rise buildings for 5,000 employees at an undisclosed site in New Jersey. Along with open offices, the project includes a conference center, training facilities and a full-service cafeteria for workers. When the complex is finished, six atria with fish tanks, seating, and plants will provide places for workers to gather.

The strategic planning arm of the firm, HLWS, has developed a \$2 billion reorganization of General Motors' facilities in Detroit. Office needs of some 35,000 executives, engineers, scientists, technicians, and administrators were reviewed. Now, following six years of planning, the company's non-manufacturing workforce throughout the region is being consolidated from 40 sites into six major centers.

Operating incognito (while carrying GM badges), HLWS architects assisted the company's in-house planning team in gaining approvals from management. An estimated \$500 million will be spent on the company's new Global Headquarters at Detroit's Renaissance Center alone. The other five campuses are being reorganized functionally, rather than according to corporate divisions. Provisions built into the plan for flexible environments should permit quick responses to changing markets, as in the case of

GM's Oldsmobile brand, which is being phased out.

□ New York State's Alfred E. Smith building in Albany will be restored and modernized according to plans developed by **Wand Adams Slavin** with the Office of General Services and upstate architects **Dembling+Dembling**. The gigantic 32-story Deco-era edifice of granite and limestone designed by Sullivan Jones was finished originally in 1930. The current \$68 million rehabilitation will include demolition of interiors and removal of five-inch concrete fill above the structural slabs. A new under-floor wiring system will allow convenient future expansion of computer and telecommunications systems. Also planned for installation are fan rooms on each floor, fire sprinklers, induction units on the perimeter areas zoned by exposure, and indirect lighting organized along the structural grid. Completion is scheduled for 2004. The same firm is currently directing exterior restorations at The Breakers, in Newport, and renovations at New York University's Kriser Dental Center.

□ **Stephen Yablon Architect** has designed a 36,000-square-foot New York headquarters for AFD Contract Furniture. The offices showcase products sold by the company, which is the largest Steelcase dealership in the country. Keeping the plan very open, simple changes in flooring and ceiling treatments differentiate a central "atrium" from work zones and circulation. Full-height ceilings at the perimeter windows permit daylight to penetrate the interior.

On the twelfth floor of the Woolworth Building, the same architect has completed a \$2.2 million full-floor transformation for the Vera Institute of Justice. To sepa-

## ON THE DRAWING BOARDS

rate open-plan workstations at the 28,500-square-foot facility into neighborhoods, Yablon employed fourteen full-height conference rooms.

## In the Schools

**T**he new dean of the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art is **Anthony Vidler**, a well-known architectural historian and theorist. Vidler has taught art history at the University of California, Los Angeles, since 1993, served as dean of the Cornell University College of Art, Architecture and Planning from 1996-98, and before 1993 taught at Princeton for 25 years. He succeeds the irreplaceable Dean John Q. Hejduk, who had served as dean at the Cooper Union since 1974 and died last year. Vidler, who was educated at Cambridge University, is the author of numerous books on architectural history and theory, including the prize-winning *Claude-Nicholas Ledoux: Architecture and Social Reform at the End of the Ancien Régime*.

□ The Department of Architecture at Parsons School of Design, which has been sponsoring an increasingly ambitious series of lectures and exhibitions, has named the artist and writer **Silvia Kolbowski** director of public programs. Kolbowski, who was born in Buenos Aires and educated at Hunter and Franconia Colleges, has taught at Harvard, Columbia, Yale, and the Berlage Institute in Amsterdam. She has collaborated with Smith-Miller + Hawkinson, Peter Eisenman, and other architects. Her work has been widely shown and published, and her installation "an inadequate history of conceptual art" was exhibited in the 2000 Whitney Biennial.



P.S. 178,  
R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband



Women's Project & Productions theater  
R.M. Kliment & Frances Halsband



Bloomberg Office Park, New Jersey, HLW



AFD reception area, Stephen Yablon



The Lesbian & Gay Community Services  
Center, Françoise Astorg Bollack