

AN EYE ON NEW YORK ARCHITECTURE

OCULUS

ON THE DRAWING BOARDS

Architects Abroad

by *Nina Rappaport*

In an historic cluster of buildings on Prague's old town square, **Lee Harris Pomeroy Associates**, in association with the Czech firm SATRA and Peter Inston Interior Design of London, has begun construction of the luxurious 72-room Kempinski Hotel U Sixtu. The complex scheme restores six small sixteenth- to nineteenth-century buildings and turns them into one hotel with modern amenities and design elements inserted into the antique building fabric. Guests will enter from the pedestrian city core through a three-story glazed lobby and reception area. Beneath exposed Gothic and Romanesque basement vaults will be shops, a restaurant, and a health club surrounding a courtyard. Local artisans are executing the new steel-and-glass canopies, woodwork details, storefronts, and interior plaster walls finishes. Completion is expected next fall.

□ Having designed the photovoltaic panel system for Fox and Fowle's Four Times Square, **Kiss + Cathcart Architects** has begun an energy-efficient office renovation for the Hamburg, Germany, electrical utility (HEW) company. A new glass skin of more than 1,200 glass-and-photovoltaic modules covers the existing building in an extremely complex, curved curtain wall. The separate second skin will create additional space in the center of the building for a winter garden on the first floor and a shopping area on the street level. The project, which is expected to be completed next year, won design awards from the U.S. Department of Energy and the AIA, as well as the Ger-

man architects' association.

Cincinnati CAC Finalists

Three New York City firms are among the twelve finalists being considered to design a new \$25 million, 65,000-square-foot building on a corner site for the Contemporary Arts Center in downtown Cincinnati. **Diller + Scofidio**, **Steven Holl Architects**, and **Bernard Tschumi Architects** were selected along with **Coop Himmelbau**, **Zaha Hadid**, **Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron**, **Toyo Ito**, **Rem Koolhaas**, **Daniel Libeskind**, **Eric Owen Moss**, **Jean Nouvel**, and **Antoine Predock**. The curator of architecture at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, **Aaron Betsky**, Illinois Institute of Architecture professor **Ben Nicholson**, and **Jayne Merkel** acted as non-voting advisors to the selection committee.

School Building Boomlet

The Trinity School on West 91st Street has started \$13 million worth of construction on buildings that **Buttrick White & Burtis** identified as priorities in a 1992 master plan. A new 42,000-square-foot middle school building with a masonry facade, two gymnasiums, weight and training rooms, computer and learning centers, 14 classrooms, and offices will be completed next year. Students will enter the school through a glass passageway that will link the new building and the existing annex (which is being renovated for the science, dance, and music departments). **Buttrick White & Burtis** is also completing master plans for the Town, Convent of the Sacred Heart, Loyola, and Marymount schools in New York.

□ At the City and Country School in Greenwich Village, **Stephen Yablou Architect** conducted surveys and a zoning

analysis to evaluate how the school could consolidate a 26,000-square-foot program in three adjoining houses on 13th Street. The recently completed master plan proposed a new multipurpose building to be constructed in the rear, as-of-right.

□ **Butler Rogers Baskett** has found new uses for old gymnasiums in several private suburban schools. At the New Canaan Country School in Connecticut, the architects turned the old gymnasium into a 1,200-square-foot auditorium, and the existing auditorium into a gym. At the Canterbury School in New Milford, Connecticut, they converted the original gymnasium into a new student services center with dining, mailboxes, and a community center. And at the Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, New Jersey, BRB designed a new gymnasium so that the old multipurpose "gymatorium" could be used solely for performances, adding a conference room under the sloped seating.

□ The Leake & Watts Services, a residential school for special-needs children, has a new master plan by **Richard Dattner Architect**. It calls for \$29 million worth of construction on the 30-acre campus (originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted). A new 200-student school building with curved facades echoes the landscape and provides classroom views to the river. A central spine divides classrooms, laboratories, library, offices, and dining from the gathering spaces in the gymnasium, pool, student center, and auditorium. Nine residential cottages are arranged into clusters of three with a shared staff "care cottage" for each area.



Kempinski Hotel U Sixtu concept cross section, Lee Harris Pomeroy Associates



Eighteenth-century model, Prague town square, Lee Harris Pomeroy Associates



Kempinski Hotel U Sixtu entry study, Lee Harris Pomeroy Associates



Trinity Middle School addition, Buttrick White & Burtis



Canterbury School gym renovation, Butler Rogers Baskett