

THE ARCHITECTS NEWSPAPER

05 03.21.2007

NEW YORK ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN WWW.ARCHPAPER.COM

\$3.95

NEWS
11



KAUFMAN CENTER

The Kaufman Center at 129 West 67th Street houses three separate arts institutions: the Merkin Concert Hall, Lucy Moses School, and Special Music School (P.S. 859). Little has been done to update Ashkok Bhavnani's 1978 building. This May, Robert A. M. Stern Architects will begin renovation work on the building's facade, lobby, and service spaces, along with an update of the mechanical, electrical, and acoustical systems. One stand-out feature of Stern's design is the consolidation of the entrances for the concert hall and the schools, which are currently separate. By putting them side by side, Stern will alleviate congestion and expand both lobbies. **STEPHEN MARTIN**

Architect: Robert A. M. Stern Architects
Client: Kaufman Center
Consultants: Auerbach Pollock Friedlander (theater); Jaffe Holden Acoustics (acoustics)
Location: 129 West 67th Street
Completion: January 2008

AT DEADLINE

PEDDLE THIS!

Pedicabs, known for sneaking passengers through immobile Midtown traffic, could not elude City Council, which passed a bill on February 28 to regulate the drivers like those of any other transportation industry. The law caps the number of authorized pedicabs at 325 (there are now an estimated 500) and forbids motor-assisted vehicles. The pedicab companies acknowledge they cannot fight the cap, but they argue that the motors reduce physical stress and have promised to sue.

FERRY DEVELOPMENT

On February 27, the city's Economic Development Corporation awarded Triangle Equities development rights to the 3-acre Lighthouse Harbor site adjacent to the St. George Ferry Terminal. Triangle's \$105 million plans call for a retail and residential project occupying three harbor buildings and an underground vault. The National Lighthouse Museum will occupy two additional buildings on the site.

CITY HALL PARK REOPENS

Closed for security and renovation since 9/11, the northern section of City Hall Park will reopen this summer, providing another shortcut through one of the city's oldest green spaces. Though access

to City Hall will still be limited, the gates surrounding the Tweed Courthouse on Broadway and Centre Street and along Chambers Street will open daily as soon as July. The city has dedicated an estimated \$600,000 to new greenery, furniture, and a fence to keep City Hall secure.

SEATTLE'S AFFORDABILITY PLAN

Seattle officials have decided to expand a downtown program initiated in 2005 that allows developers to build up to 100 feet above zoning limits if they pay \$19 per square foot into an affordable housing fund. The program is also meant to stimulate growth in the downtown area. South Lake Union, Interbay, and South Downtown are all being considered as neighborhoods that could benefit from the program, though heights and rates have not been set.

SVA INTERIORS CHAIR

Jane Smith was appointed chair of the BFA program in interior design at New York's School of Visual Arts on March 2. Named one of *Development New York* magazine's top 20 women last year, Smith has been working in interior design for more than 30 years. During that time she established Spacesmith, an architecture, planning, and interior design firm specializing in corporate,

public sector, and educational projects.

LONDON GREEN

London Mayor Ken Livingstone recently announced plans to cut the city's emissions to 60 percent of 1990 levels by 2025, which goes far beyond the stipulations of the Kyoto Protocol. London's plan is geared toward energy efficiency as well as the economic benefits it will entail. For example, the Green Homes Program, one of four initiatives under the plan, frames its call for a 7.7 million-ton reduction in greenhouse gases in terms of annual savings amounting to £300 per household. The other three initiatives apply similar reductions to corporations, while also calling for the diversification of energy production and the implementation of development of green transportation solutions.

MUJI MANIA

New York design junkies will no longer have to travel to get their MUJI fix. On March 5, Forest City Ratner Companies announced that MUJI will open its U.S. flagship store in 5,000 square feet of the ground floor of the New York Times building. MUJI representatives cited an affinity between their design philosophy and Renzo Piano's environmentally conscious tower as motivating their selection of the location. Tenants will begin to move in this spring, while MUJI plans to be open by the holiday season.