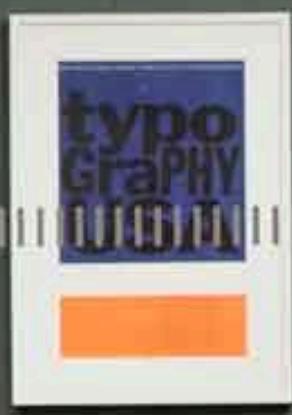


1





**RAY KOMAI**



# **RAY KOMAI**

Architectural Forum covers, 1953–1963

THE GRAPHICS OFFICE, NEW YORK

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# Architectural Forum Covers

Architectural Forum, a prominent American magazine about architecture and the building arts, was based in New York City and traced its history back to the founding of The Brickbuilder magazine in 1892. It became Architectural Forum in 1917 and stopped publishing in 1974. During Komai's tenure at the magazine, it was owned by Time, Inc., with founder Henry Luce serving as Editor in Chief. Forum's subject matter was unusually specific, its circulation small, and its returns meager compared to the famous general-interest magazines in Luce's stable, including Fortune, Life, House & Home, and Sports Illustrated.

Writers and editors at Architectural Forum analyzed and critiqued American architecture and urban planning. Some issues featured new buildings on its covers, while others were devoted to larger themes of urban planning, particular building types (schools were a favorite), individual cities, and the general architectural profession. These ambitious themed issues required more symbolic and original cover designs, which are some of Komai's strongest.

Ray Komai's name enters the staff list of Architectural Forum as Associate Art Director in May, 1952. Komai went to Forum as a "kind of retirement:" a comfortable, calm place to work after the pressure of working at CBS. Accounts of Komai's time at the magazine come to us from some of the accomplished people who went through its offices, such as graphic designer Peter Bradford and editor/writer/architect Peter Blake. Following are all 46 of Ray Komai's striking covers, designed between 1953 and 1963.

## Catalogue of Covers



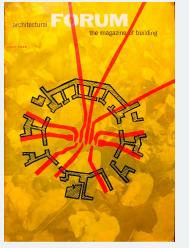
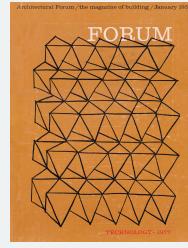
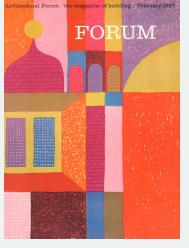
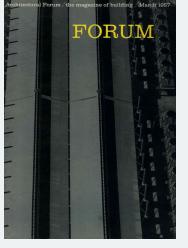
October 1953

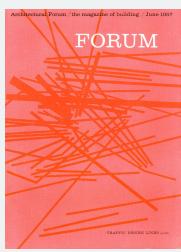


January 1955



May 1955

	<b>June 1955</b>	..... 23
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	<b>January 1956</b>	..... 29
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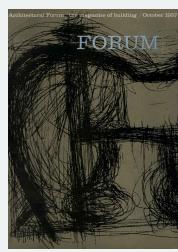
**June 1957**

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**July 1957**

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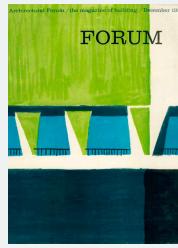
**October 1957**

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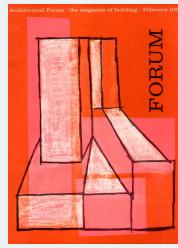
**November 1957**

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**December 1957**

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**February 1958**

..... 65



**June 1958**

..... 68



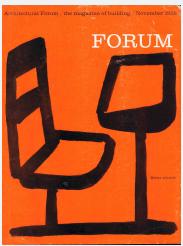
**August 1958**

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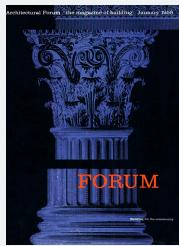
**October 1958**

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**November 1958**

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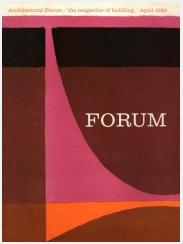
**January 1959**

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**March 1959**

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**April 1959**

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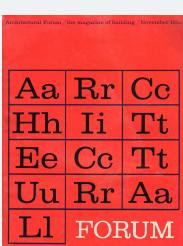
**August 1959**

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**September 1959**

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**November 1959**

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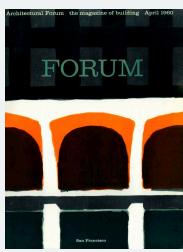
**December 1959**

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**February 1960**

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**April 1960**

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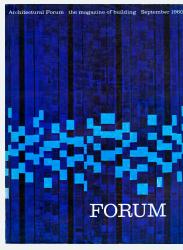
**May 1960**

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**July 1960**

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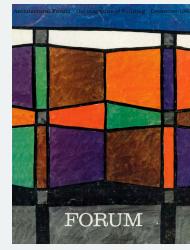
**September 1960**

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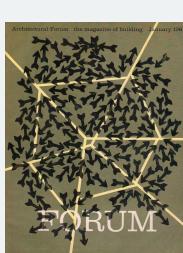
November 1960

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December 1960

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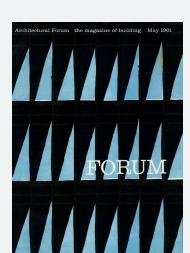
January 1961

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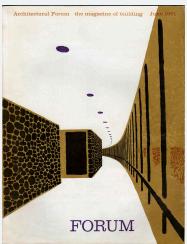
February 1961

125



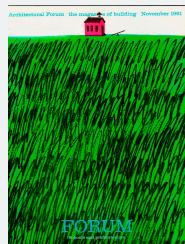
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**May 1962**

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**July 1962**

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**January 1963**

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**March 1963**

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**October 1963**

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# architectural **forum**

October 1953 SCHOOL ISSUE

**Forum on school building**

Architects, engineers, officials and consultants agree on 10 recommendations for building better schools at less cost (p. 117)

**Case study schools**

35 pages of the latest trends in cluster planning, loft planning, core planning and zone planning demonstrated by 19 schools of various sizes (p. 127)

**Forum design standards**

A new department to keep architects current on design details. This month, classroom design (p. 162)

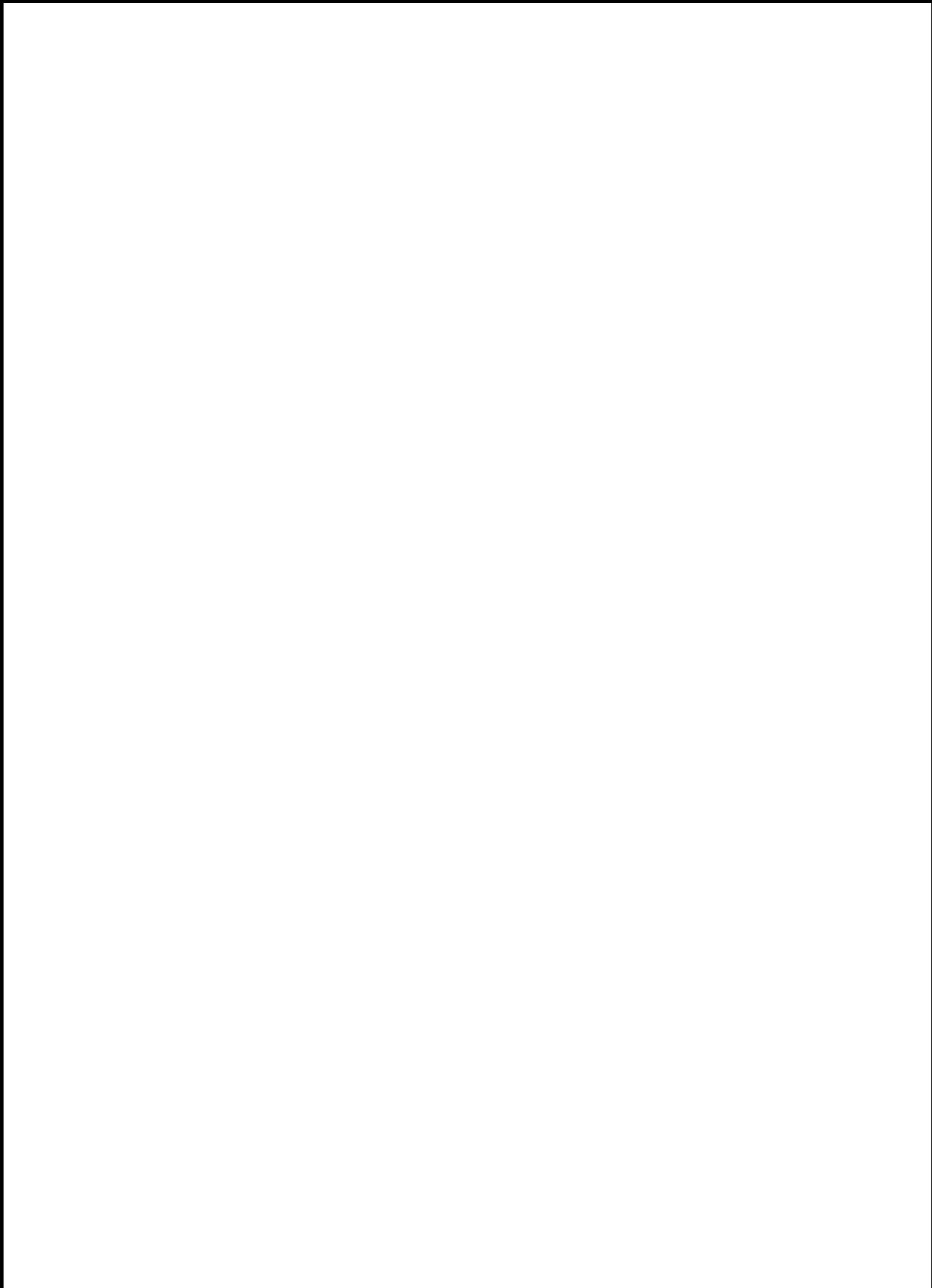
**School design**

What should today's school look like: sleek international, shaggy American or what? (p. 166)

**School building techniques**

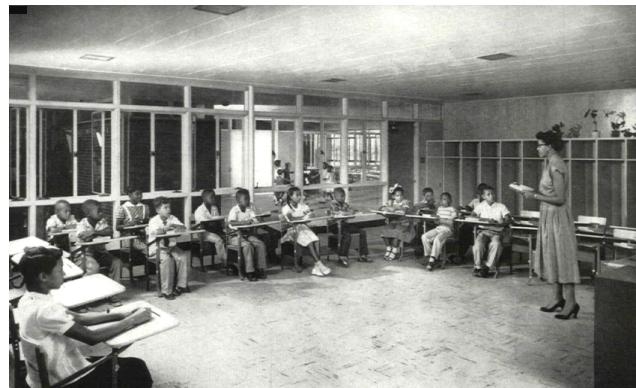
Roundup of new ideas in site planning, structure, heating, lighting and acoustics (p. 172)





October 1953

A cover for a special issue on education. Architectural Forum often featured articles about education, and Komai designed many covers about schools. Full issue



Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School, Port Arthur, Texas. Photograph by Ulric Meisel

January 1955

# architectural **FORUM**

the magazine of building

## **Manhattan's blockbuster**

A preview of the 42-story Socony-Vacuum building and the story of the people who are shaping it (p. 86)

## **The arcade makes a comeback**

Chicago uses it to widen congested streets; in New York City Woolworth uses it to connect Macy's and Gimbel's (p. 93)

## **Office of merit**

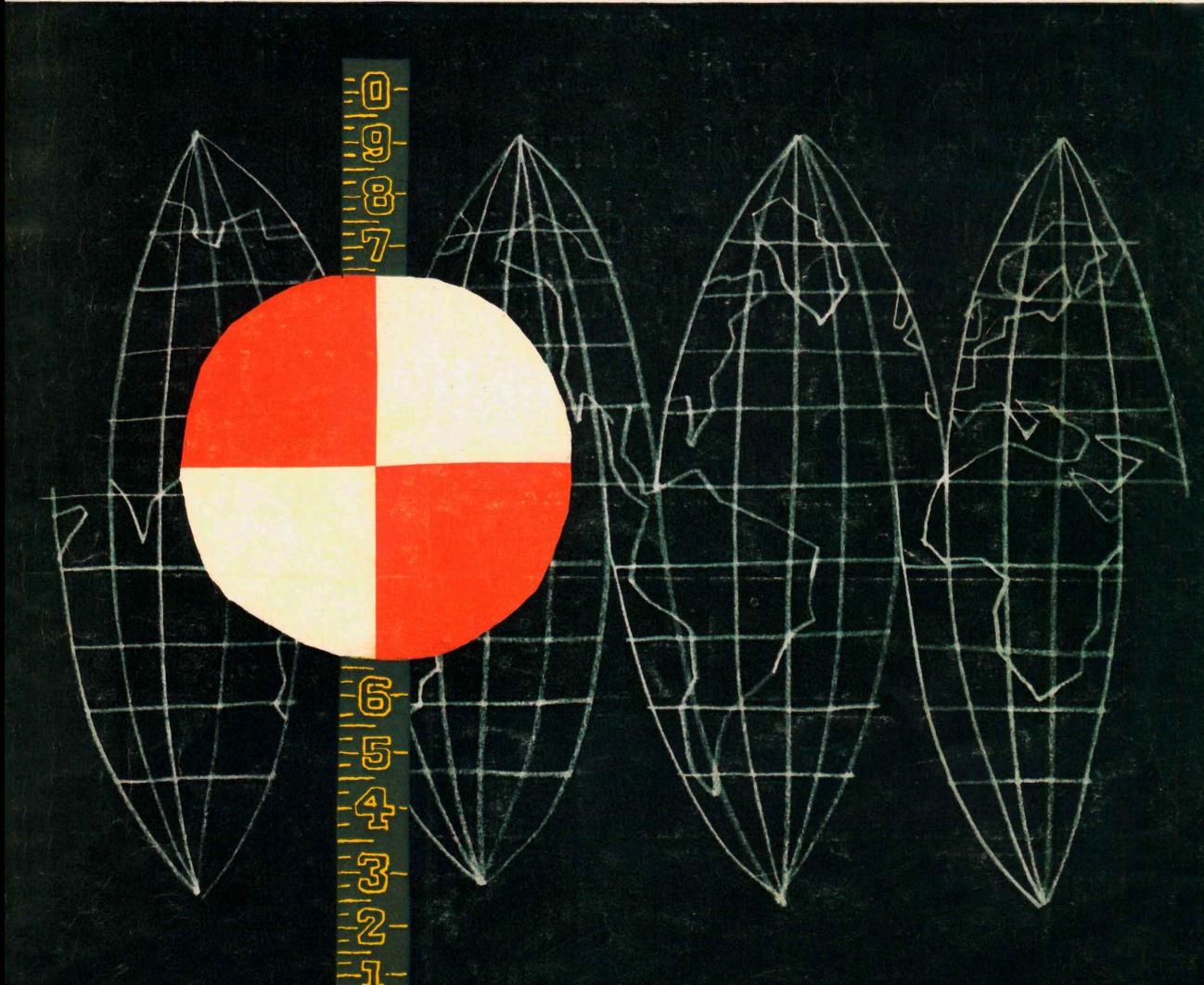
An elegant headquarters for the eye of CBS (p. 135)

## **Plastics**

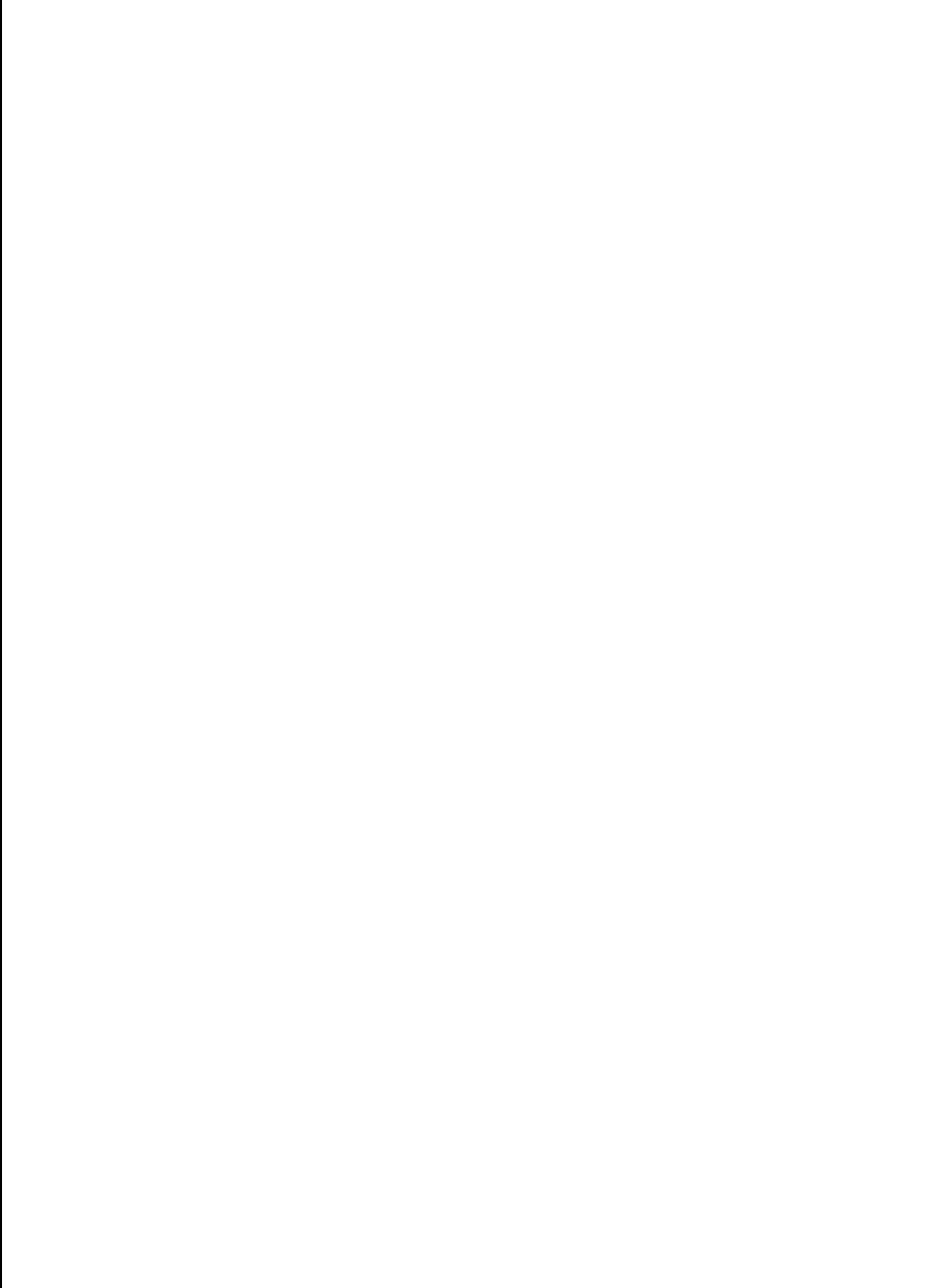
A review of their uses in today's building and a forward look at promising new materials, new applications (p. 120)

## **US building abroad**

As ambassador to the world, the industry is building everything from radio towers to new towns—including good will (below and p. 98)



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## January 1955

This cover uses a mercator projection map to illustrate the article “US building abroad: As ambassador to the world, the industry is building everything from radio towers to new towns — including good will.” Eight years after designing this cover,

Komai would leave Architectural Forum to work for the United States Information Service, which helped spread American ideas and values around the world.

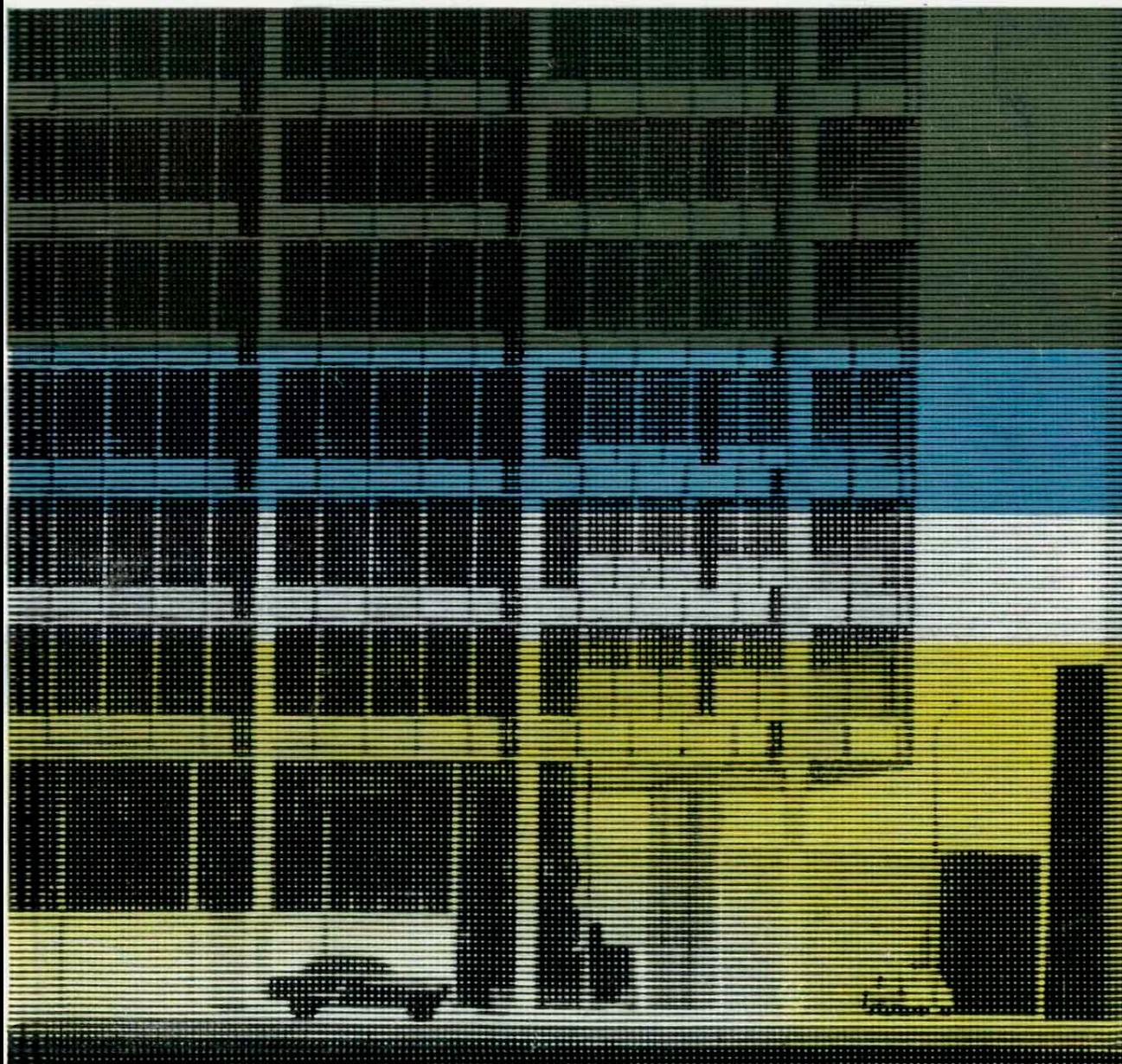
architectural

# FORUM

the magazine of building

MAY 1955

For community leaders, three community buildings (p. 130).... For modern architects, a challenge by Pietro Belluschi (p. 162).... For Inland Steel, 19 office floors without columns (below & p. 114)



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May 1955

The Inland Steel building in Chicago, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Komai applied a mezzotint screen to the original photograph, which is by Ezra Stoller. Full issue



Inland Steel model, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Photograph by Ezra Stoller

architectural

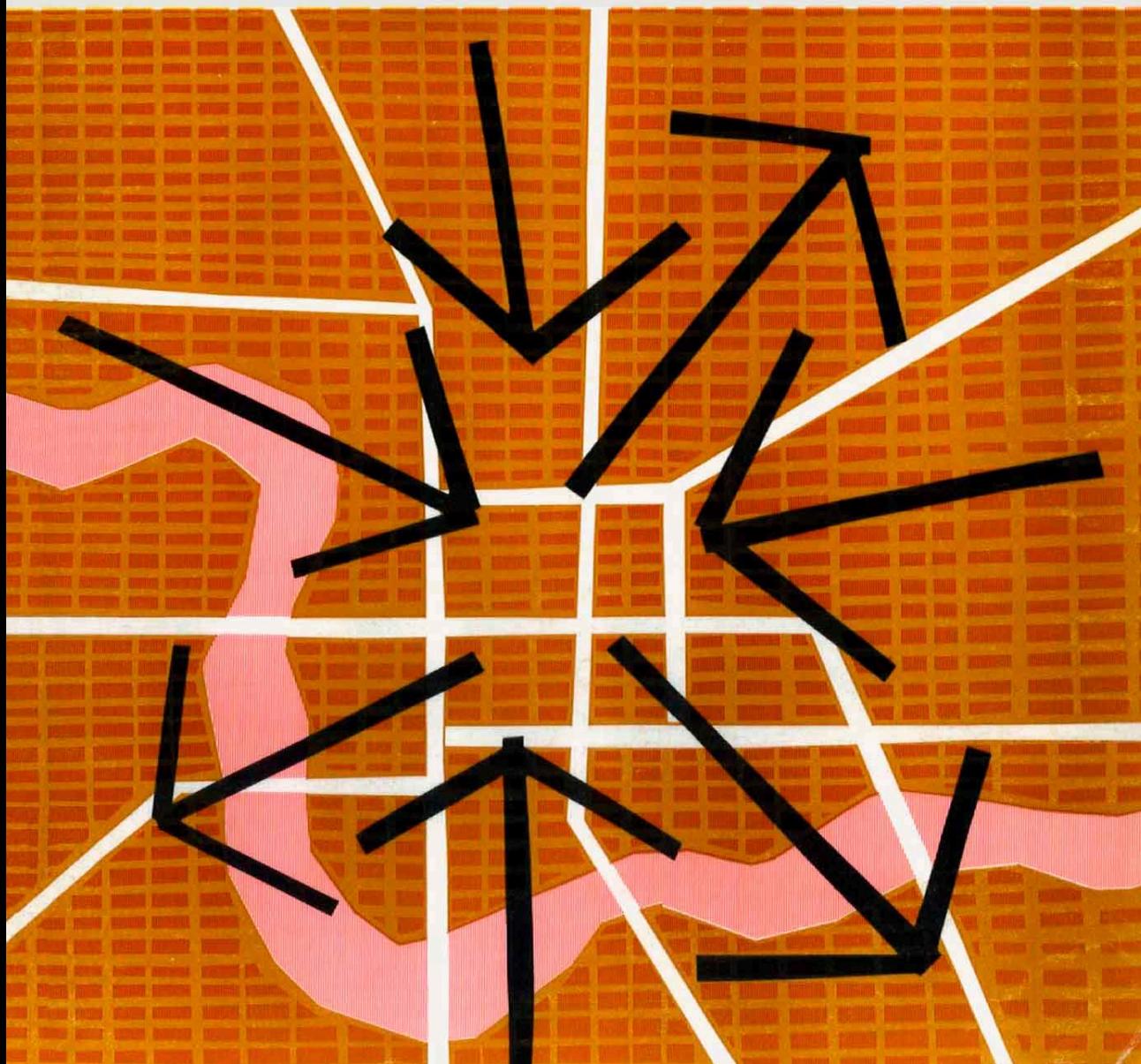
# FORUM

the magazine of building

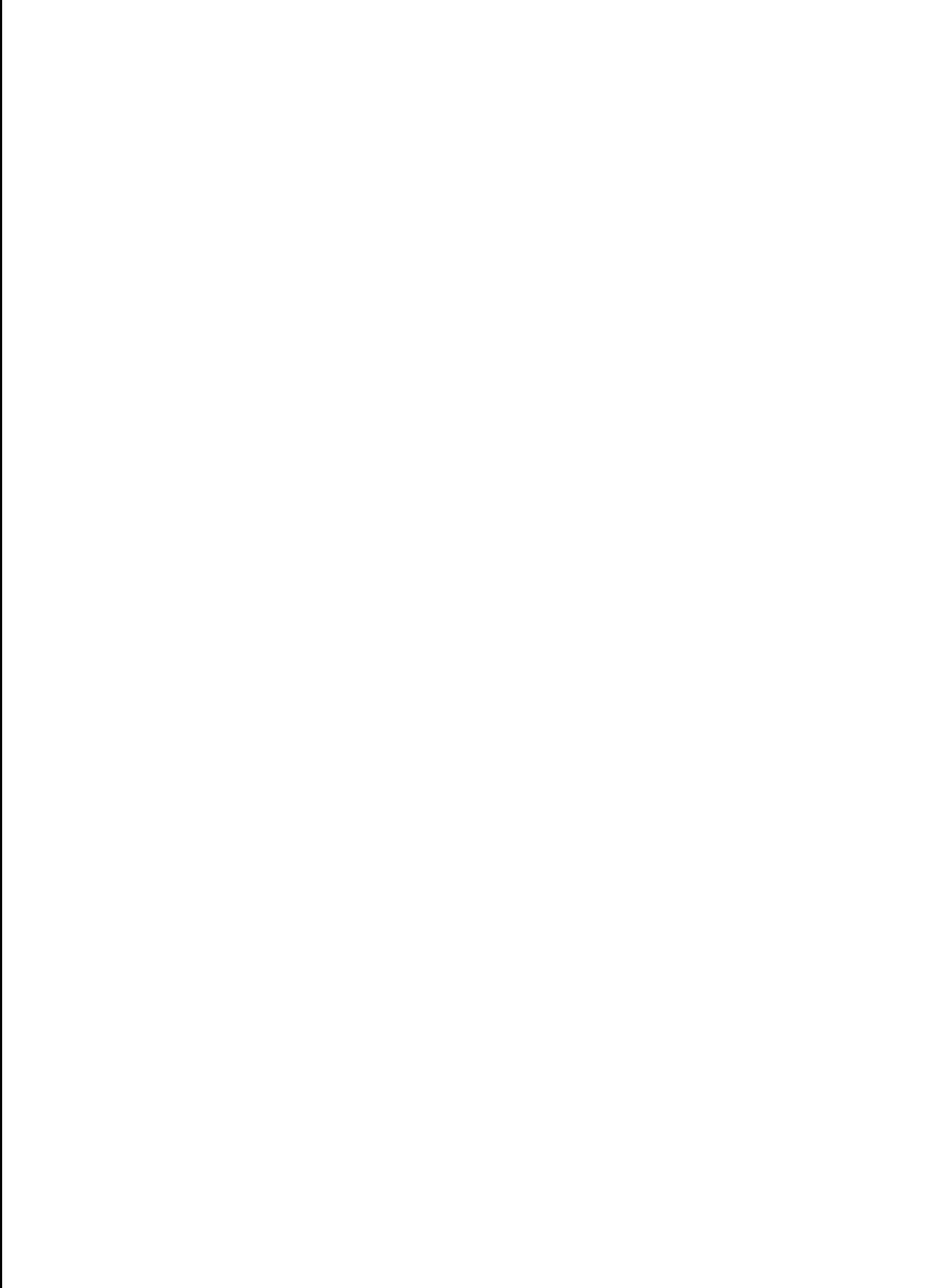
JUNE 1955

Preview of Air Force Academy in Colorado (p. 100)....Prudential's five new Rocks of Gibraltar (p. 140)

How to rebuild our cities downtown—a Round Table report (p. 122)



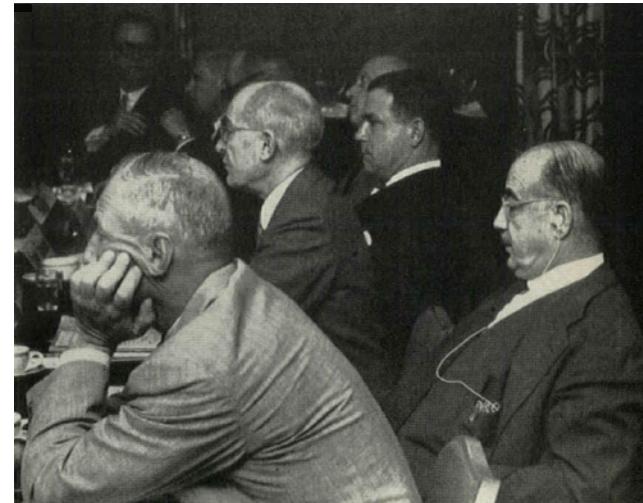
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## June 1955

A schematic evocation of urban movement illustrates this report from a panel discussion about how to rebuild city centers. "The shabby, dull, dingy condition that is overtaking our central cities can no longer be tolerated now that the people are being given a new vision of shopping in the country, living in the country, working in the country. Now that new outlying housing developments and indeed new towns spring up overnight, now that there is a migration not only of factories but of large office buildings out into the grass, now that the life-blood of the older center appears to be drained out along every superhighway, the time has come for a major decision whether or not to carry on with the central downtown district of the metropolitan city, and how." (p. 123 of the issue)

[Full issue](#)



Attendees at a St. Louis round table on rebuilding urban downtowns. Left to right: Al Fleischman, Philip Talbott, George Hellmuth, and Sidney R. Baer

architectural

# FORUM

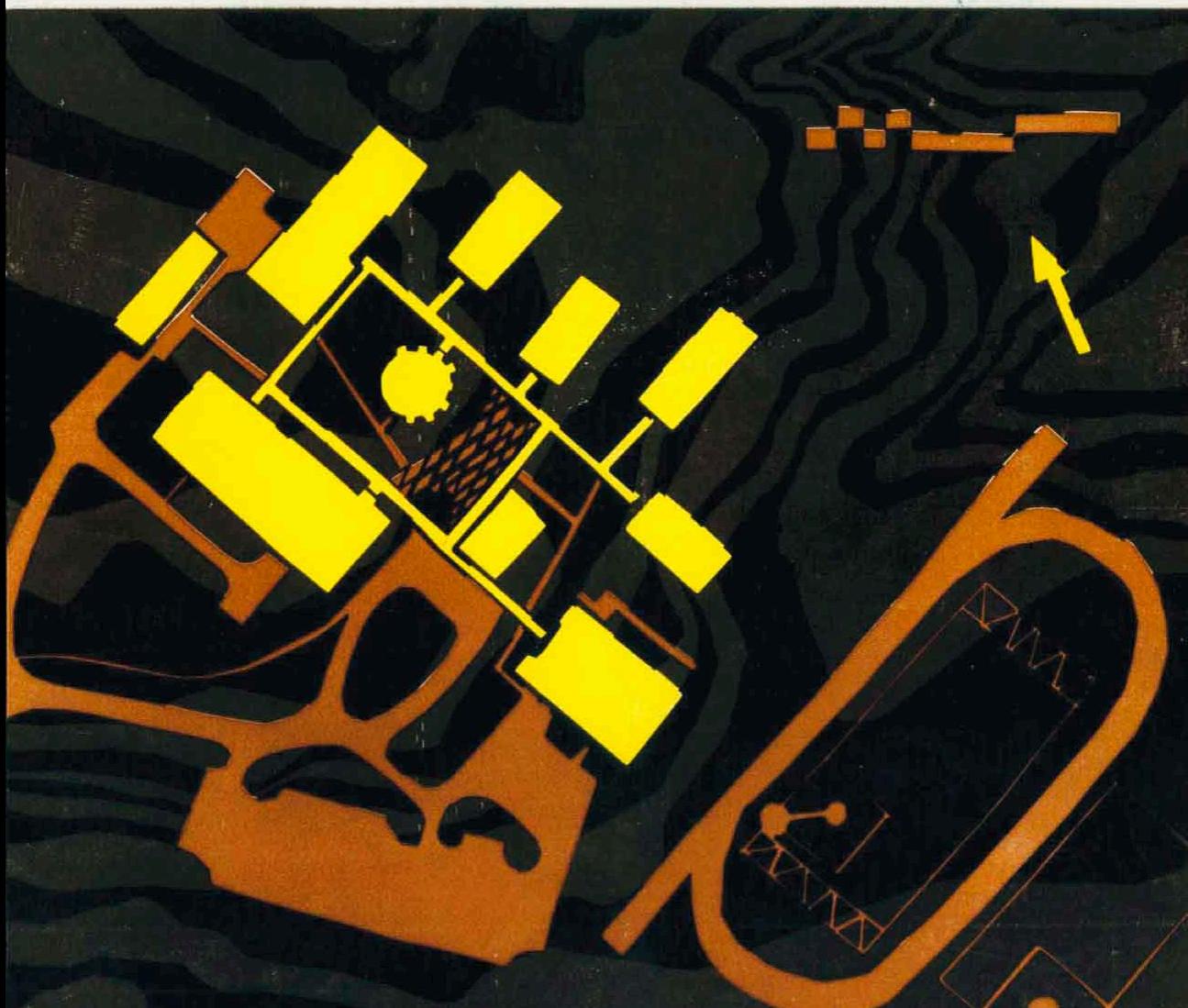
the magazine of building

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OCTOBER 1955

Architecture in America: Part II—the architect's role and his problem (p. 116)

Schools—a look backward and forward (p. 129 and below) . . . A small-town bank by Eero Saarinen (p. 158)





October 1955

The artwork here is based on the plan for a high school in  
Northport, NY, designed by architects Ketchum, Gina & Sharp.  
Full issue



Senior High School, Northport, Long Island, designed by Ketchum, Gina & Sharp. Photograph by Thomas Airviews

architectural

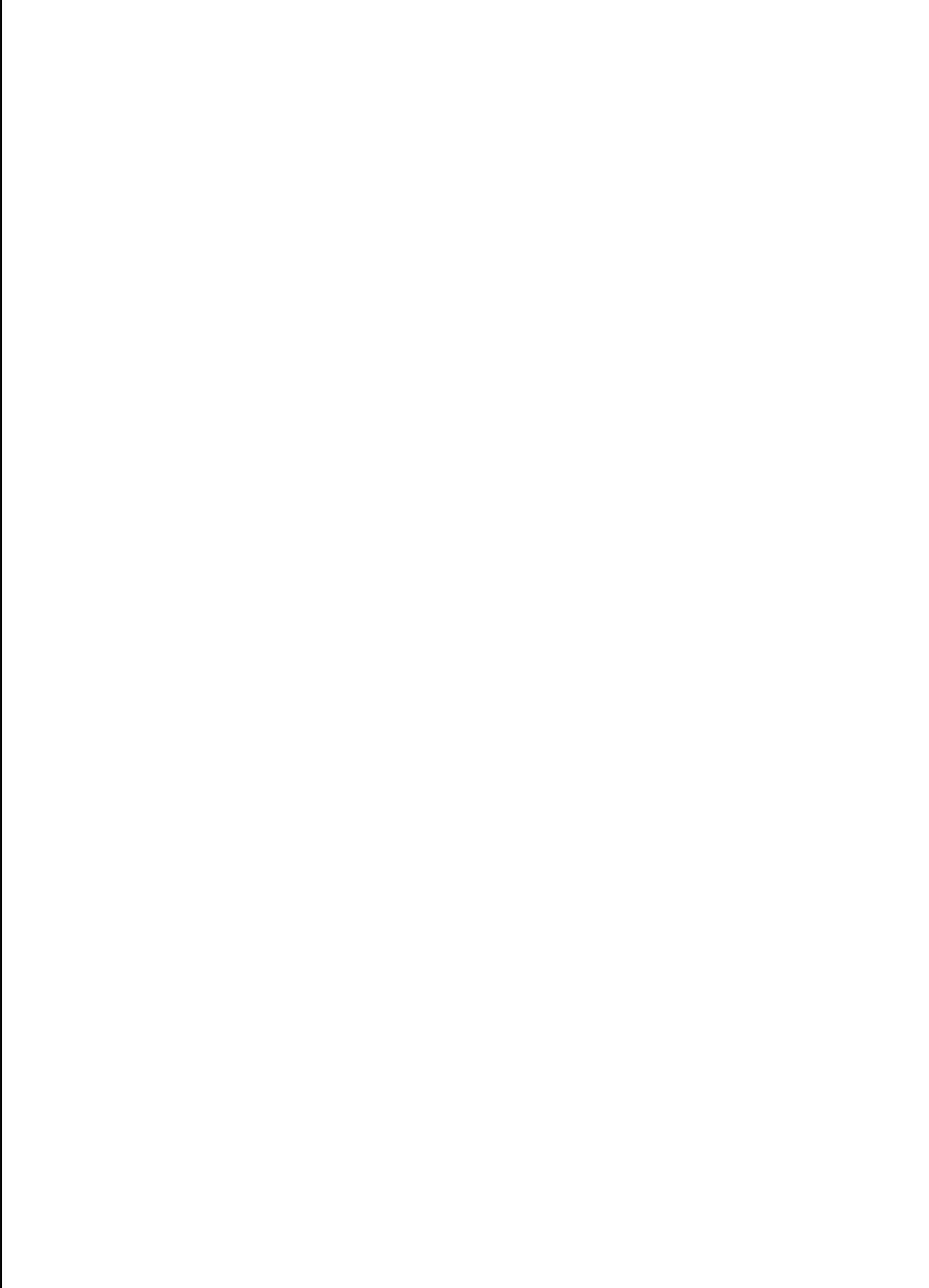
# FORUM

the magazine of building

JANUARY 1958

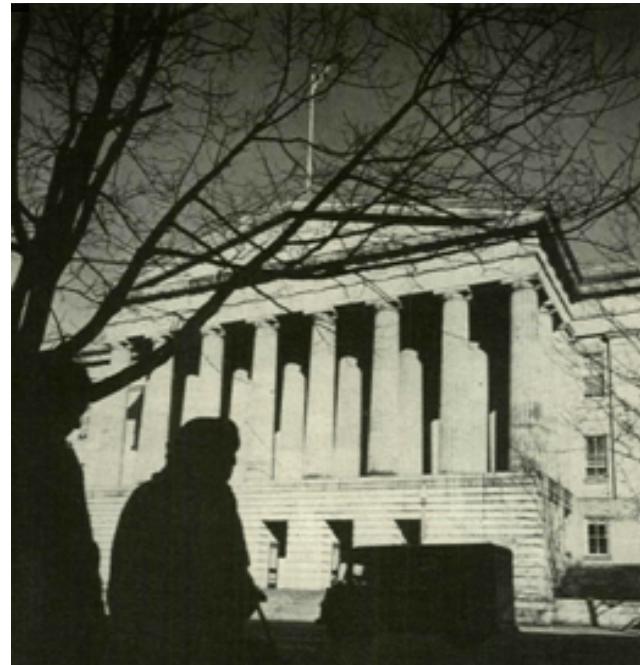
Washington: 20th century capital?

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## January 1956

"Washington: 20th century capital?" A highly abstracted Washington Monument serves to illustrate a series of articles about urban planning in that city. The articles were written by Jane Jacobs, then a staff writer at Architectural Forum. The background photo of Washington, D.C. is by the US Coast & Geodetic Survey. Full issue



The Old Patent Office, Washington, D.C. Photograph by Robert Mills

architectural

# FORUM

the magazine of building

JULY 1958

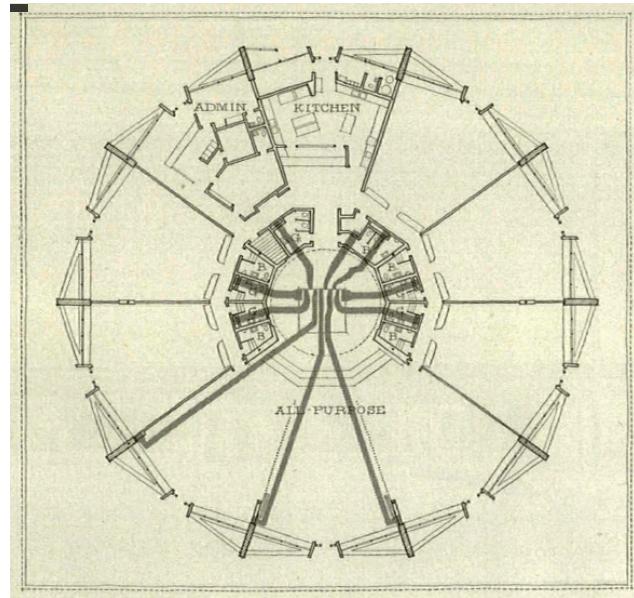


June  
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July 1956

The cover image incorporates a plan for an elementary school in San Angelo, Texas, designed by architects Caudill, Rowlett, Scott & Associates. This was one of the first schools designed for air conditioning. Full issue



Plan of Belaire Elementary School in San Angelo, Texas, designed by Caudill, Rowlett, Scott & Associates and Donald Goss Associates

architectural

# FORUM

the magazine of building

SEPTEMBER 1956

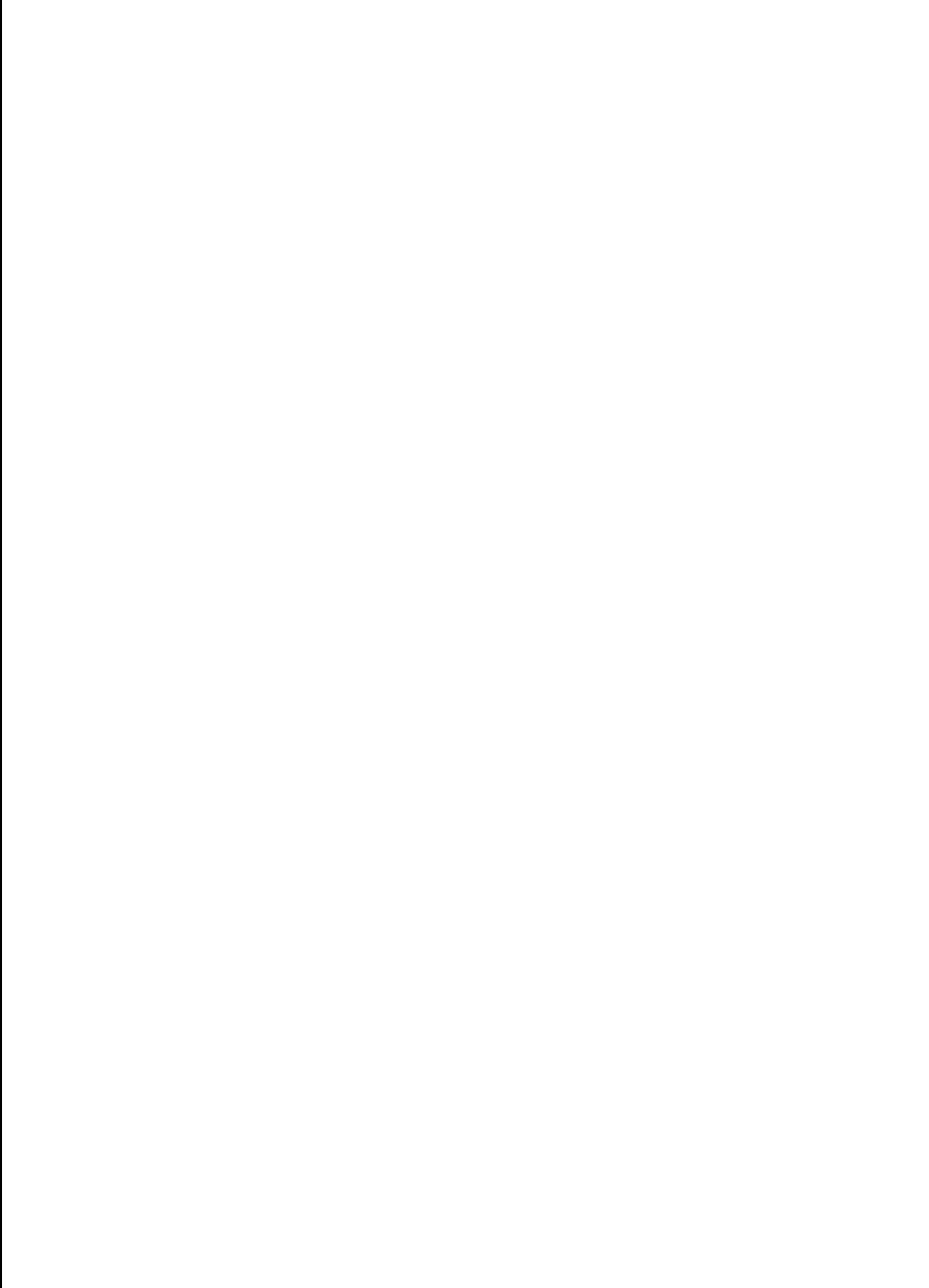
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*Crisis before 1976...*

*What city pattern*

*for fifty-six million more Americans*

*and fifty million more automobiles?*



## September 1956

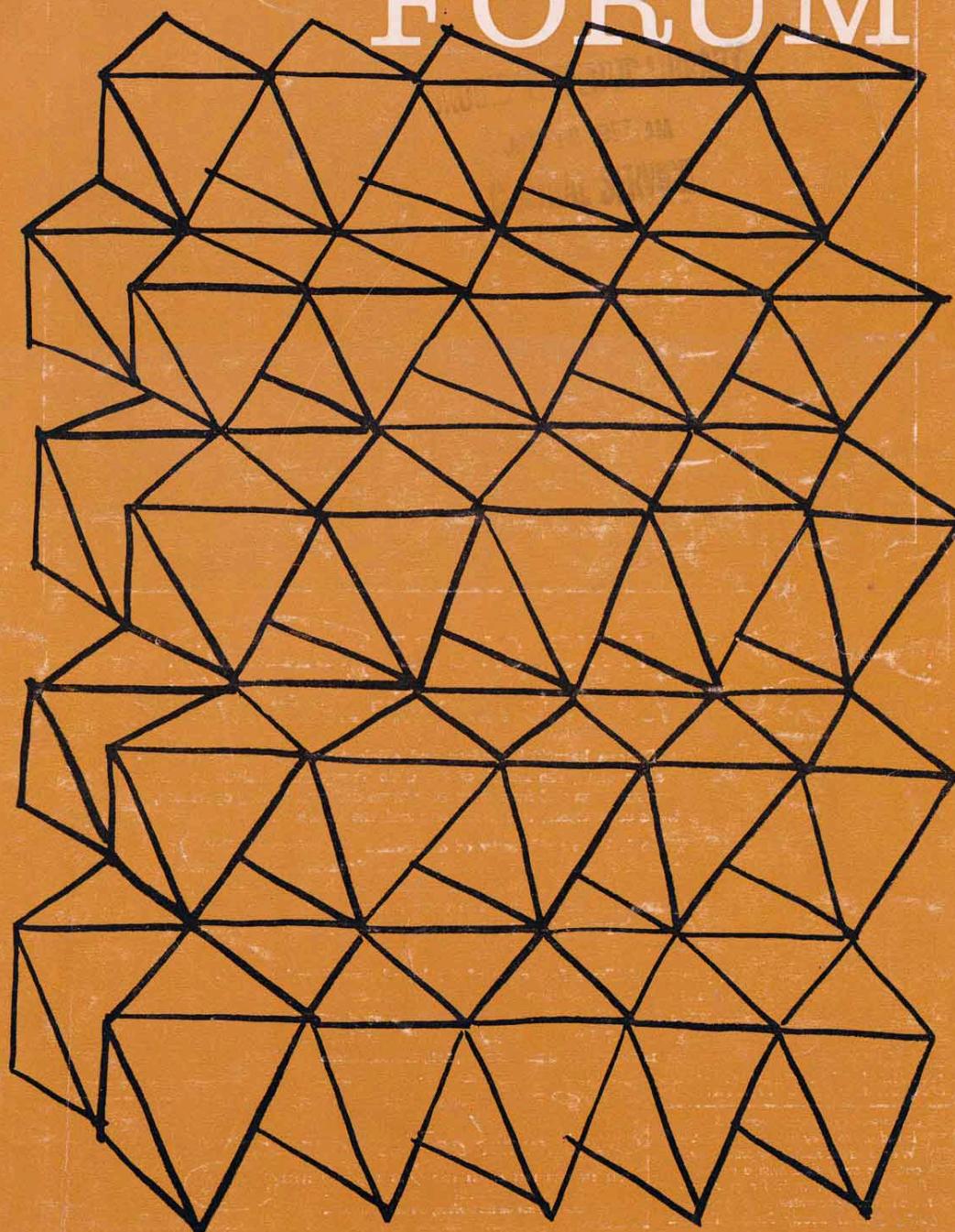
This simple illustration for an issue devoted to city planning for 1976, twenty years into the future, hints at the urban footprint as well as traffic congestion: "The last ten years have given us an unholy mess of land use, land coverage, congestion and ugliness. This is nothing to what the next twenty promise. Barring annihilation, deep depression, or a more tractable invention supplanting the automobile, we have no way to avert this crisis of growth, no choice but to face it and try to civilize it. Somehow. And not much time to do it." (p. 103) Full issue



Suburban development in America. Photograph by Thomas Airviews

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / January 1957

# FORUM



TECHNOLOGY - 1977

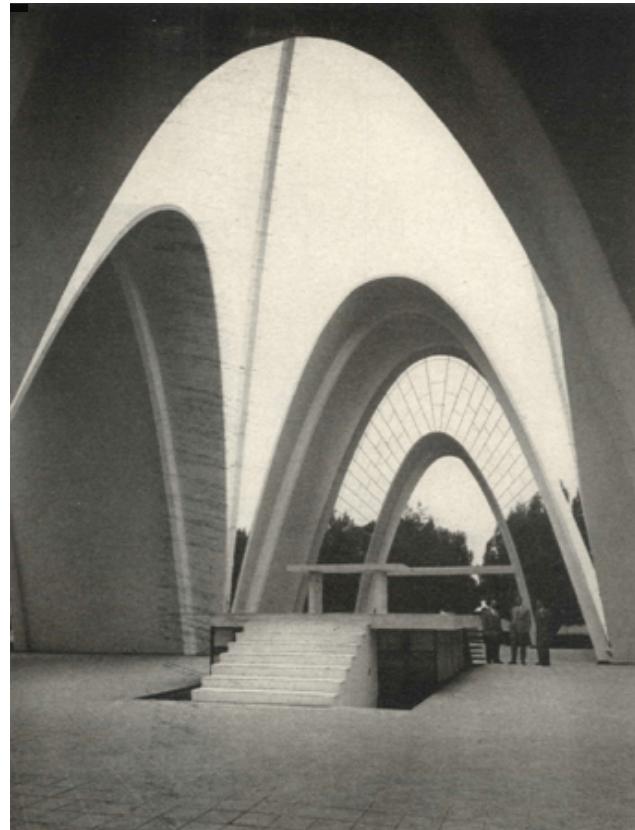
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January 1957

The cover drawing by Komai was inspired by the crystalline molecular structure of an aluminum compound. Note a change in the magazine masthead, now cast in the typeface Craw Clarendon. A promotional booklet for the company that made the typeface, American Type Founders, featured a photograph of Komai and stated that "Craw Clarendon's suitability as a part of a modern architectural or display structure is evident in Komai's choice of this face for the cover of Architectural Forum as well as for editorial display lines in the magazine. The further use of the type for the magazine's letterhead and for its promotional printing has established for Architectural Forum an appropriate and consistent recognition as well as an overall identity."

Full issue

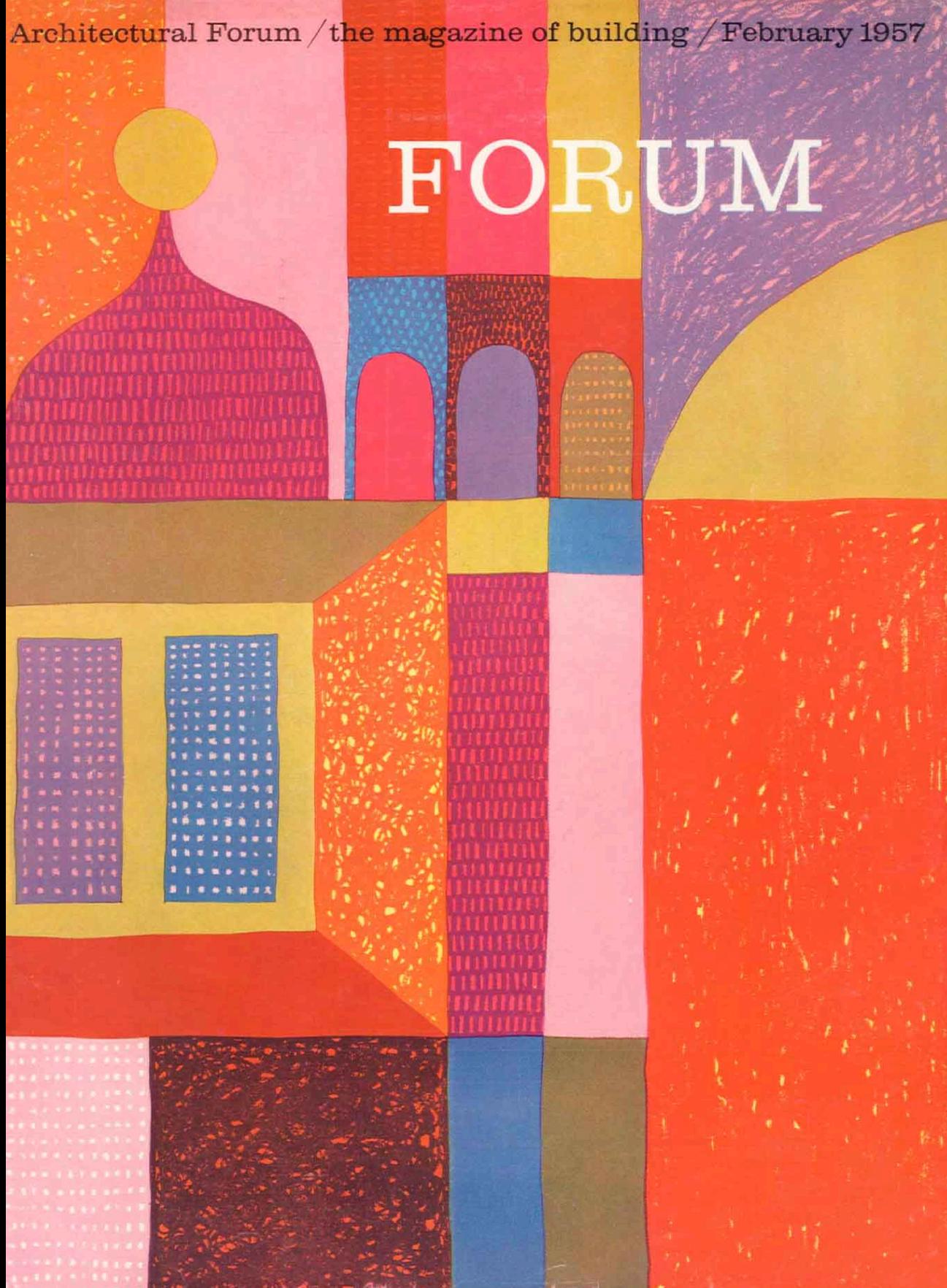


School church at Chapinero, Colombia, designed by architect Juvenal Moya

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / February 1957

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## February 1957

Komai's illustration was inspired by wall decoration in the Santa Fe home of Alexander and Susan Girard. The accompanying article, illustrated with photographs by Charles Eames, wryly comments on the contrast between conventional modernism and the Girard's home: "What has become of the that holy household word uncluttered? The answer is that Alexander Girard has swallowed it, and smiled. In a modern period that is fast becoming perfunctory, he has gone his own way, collecting objects around the world which interest or amuse him. ... The house has no central heating but it does not lack a central culture, catholicity." (p. 132) Full issue

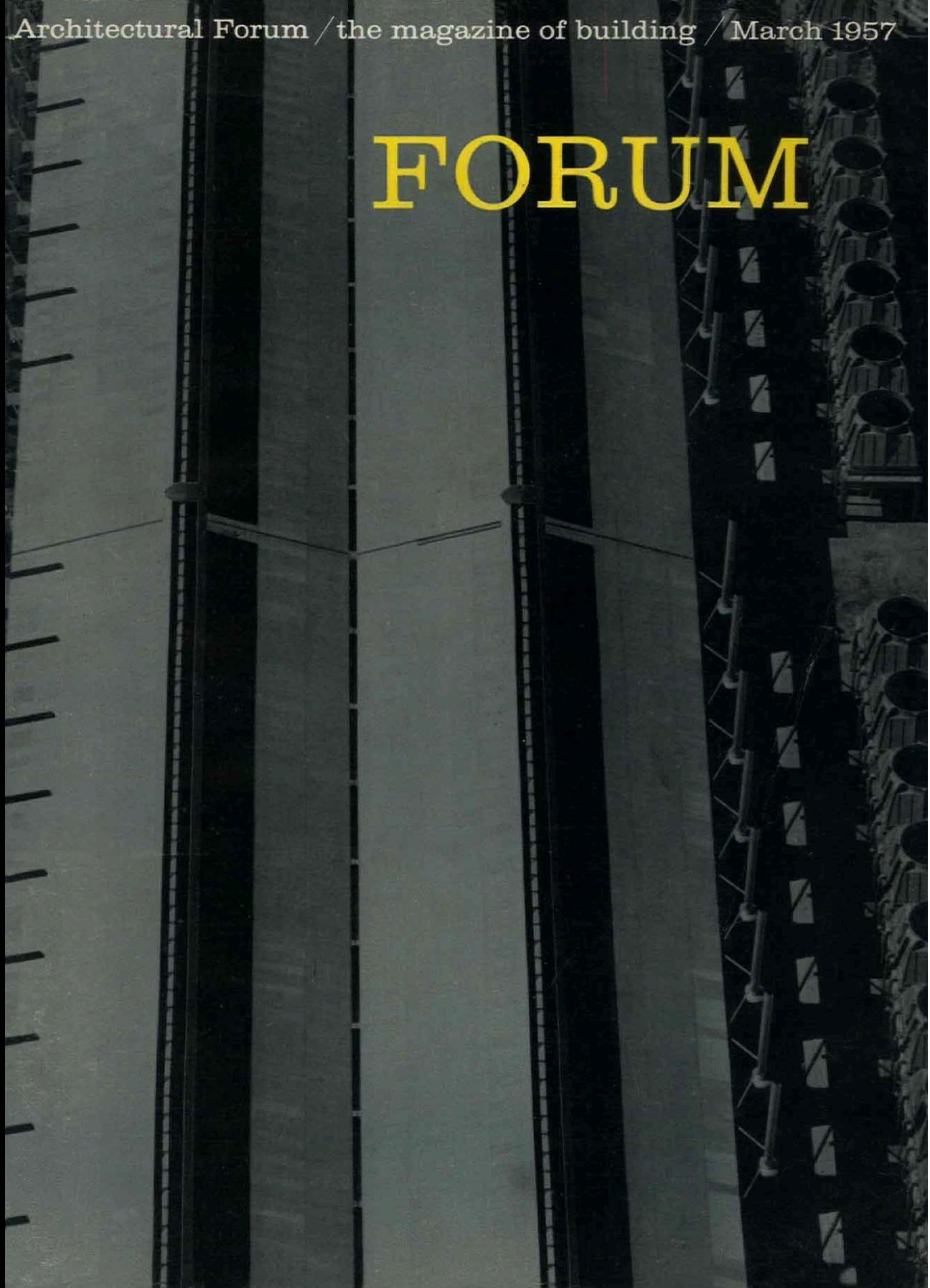


Alexander Girard's house in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Photograph by Charles Eames

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / March 1957

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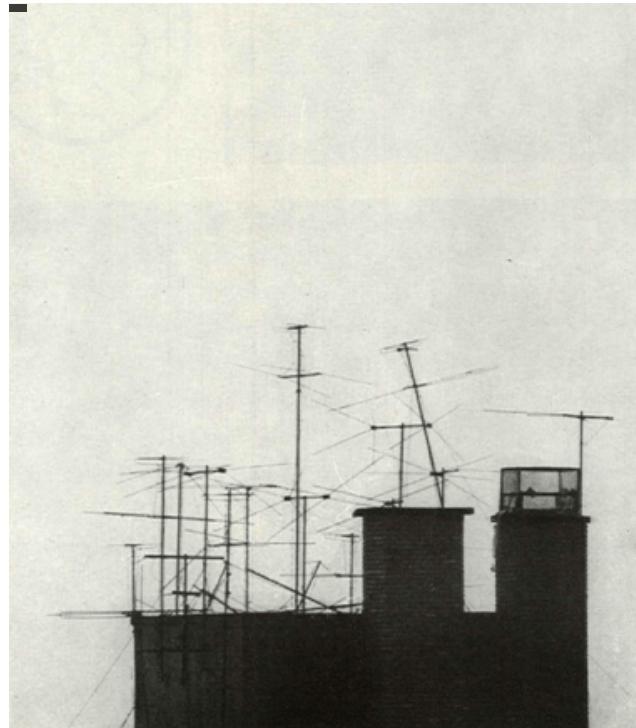
# FORUM





March 1957

Simple abstraction is the focus of this cover accompanying an article about roofscapes. Photograph by Rotkin for the Reynolds Company. Full issue



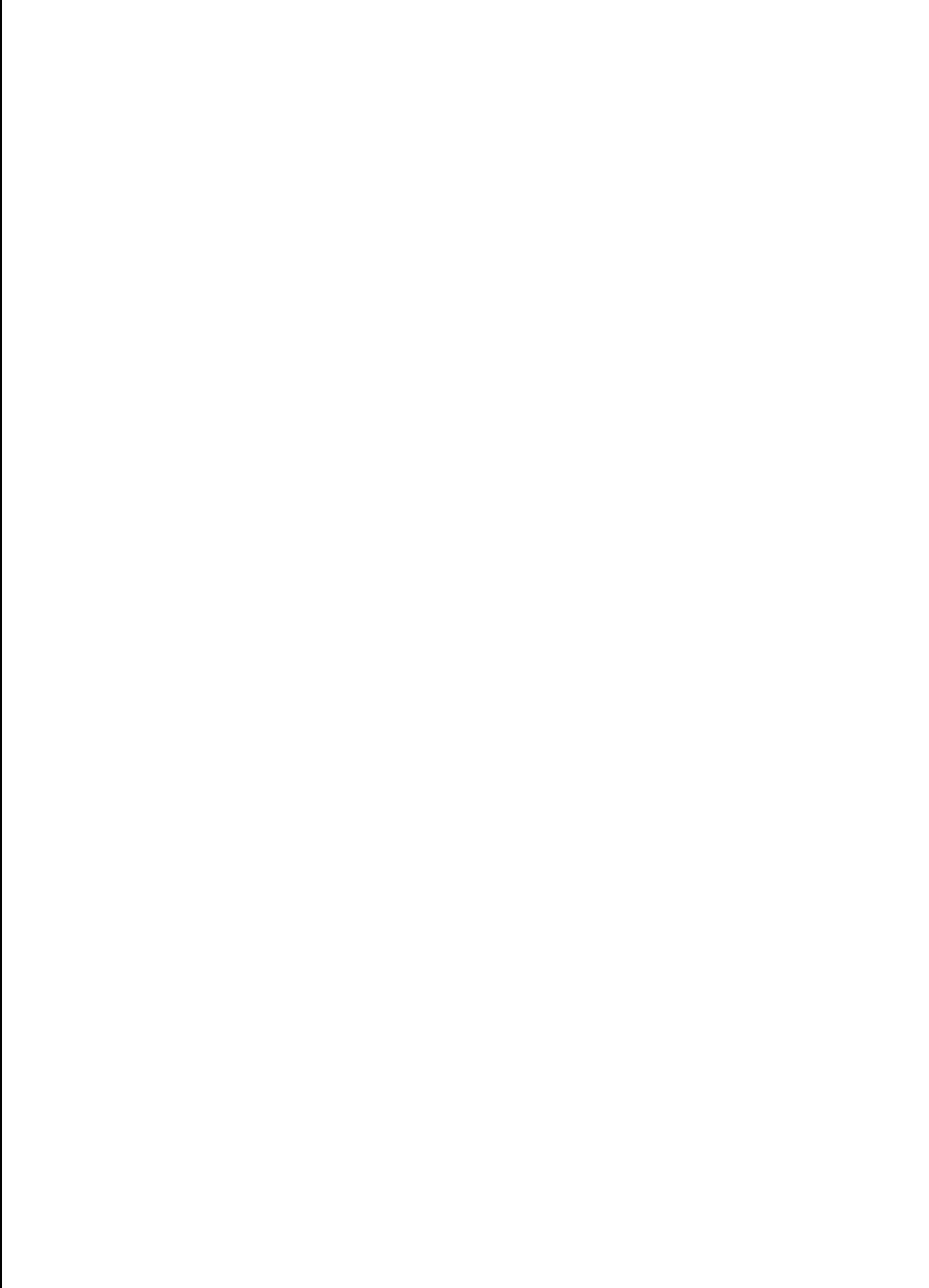
Photograph by Martin Harris from a portfolio of images of roofscapes

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / April 1957

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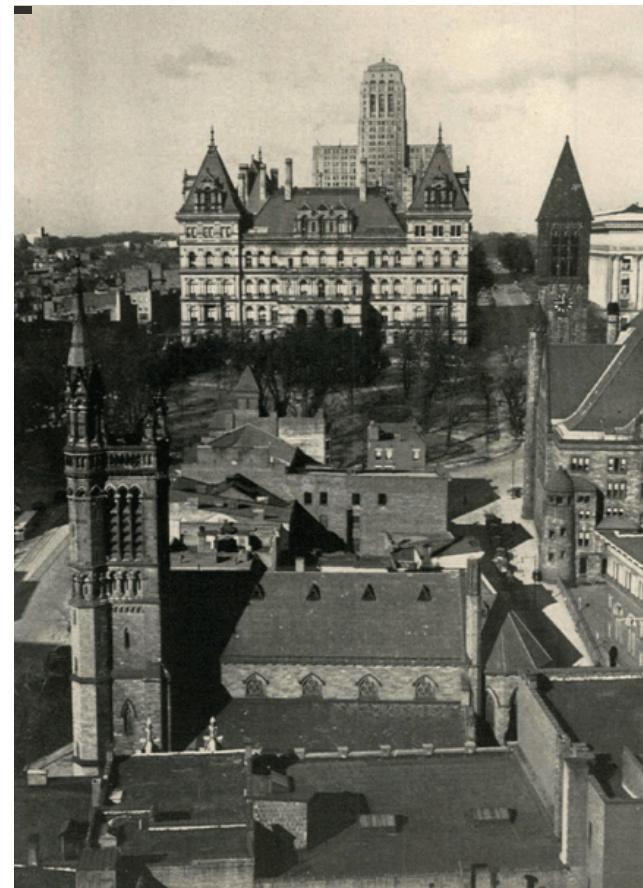
# FORUM





April 1957

A plan and photograph of New York's old and new state  
capitols combined for a cover about urban planning. Full issue

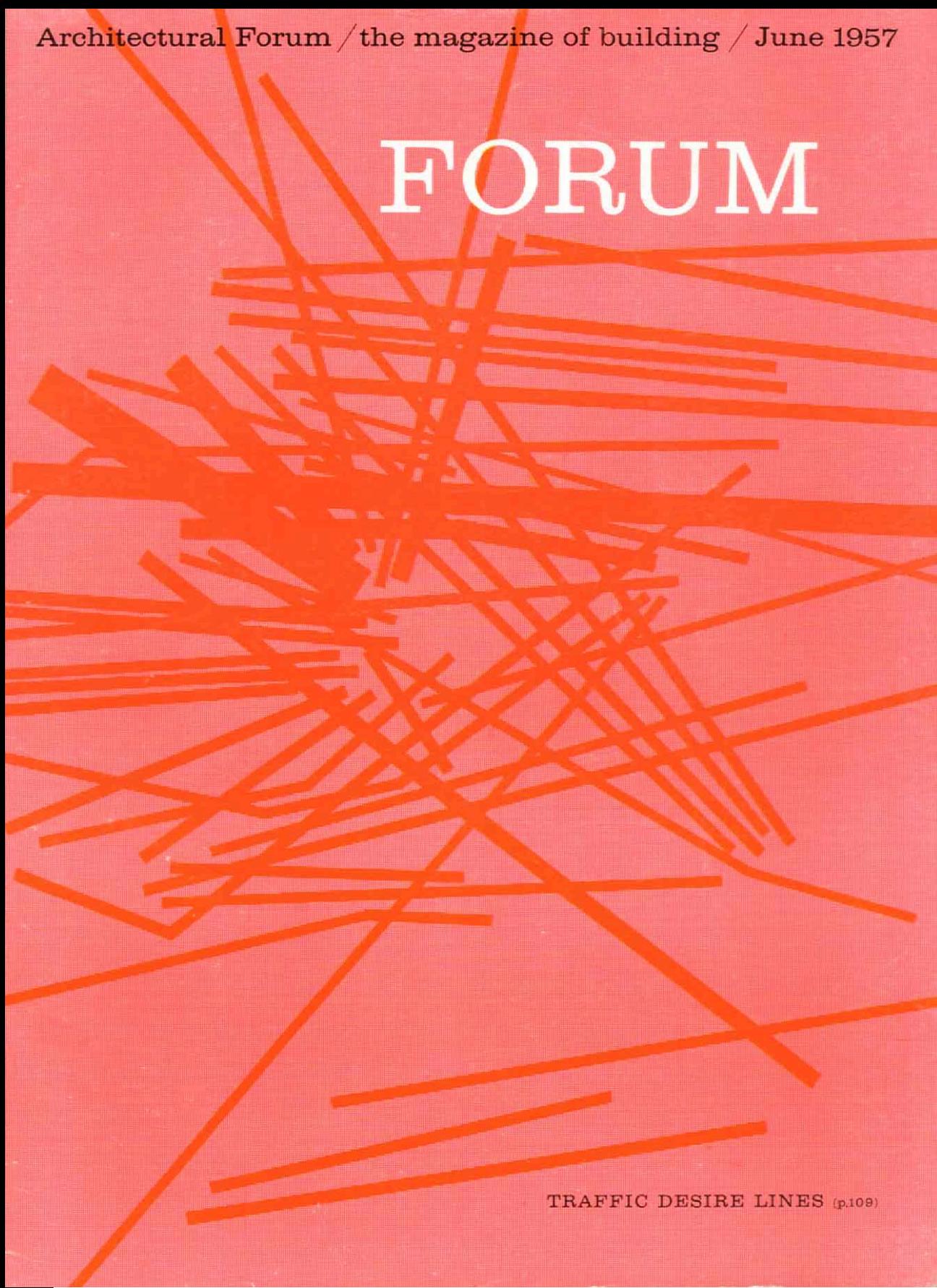


Downtown Albany, New York. Photograph by Walter Sanders—LIFE

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / June 1957

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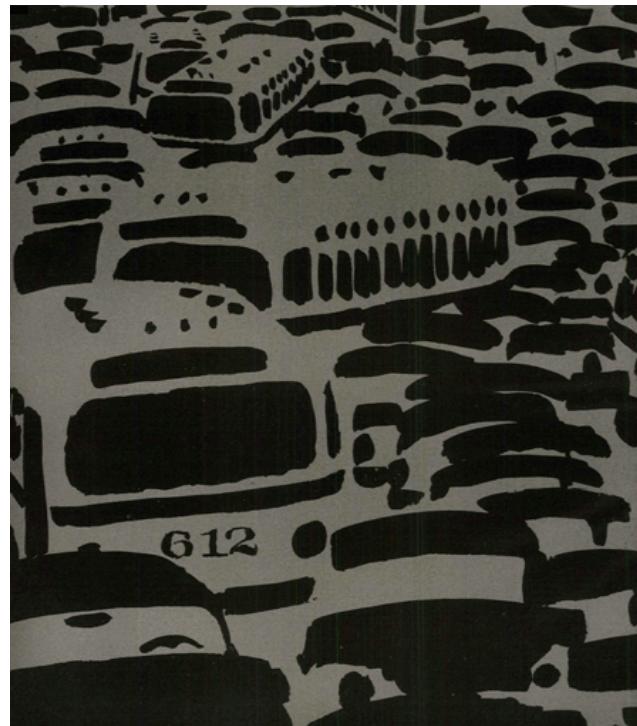


TRAFFIC DESIRE LINES (p.109)



June 1957

A vigorous abstraction of "traffic desire lines," traces actual traffic routes taken by citizens in Philadelphia, and illustrates the article "Crisis in City Transit." Full issue



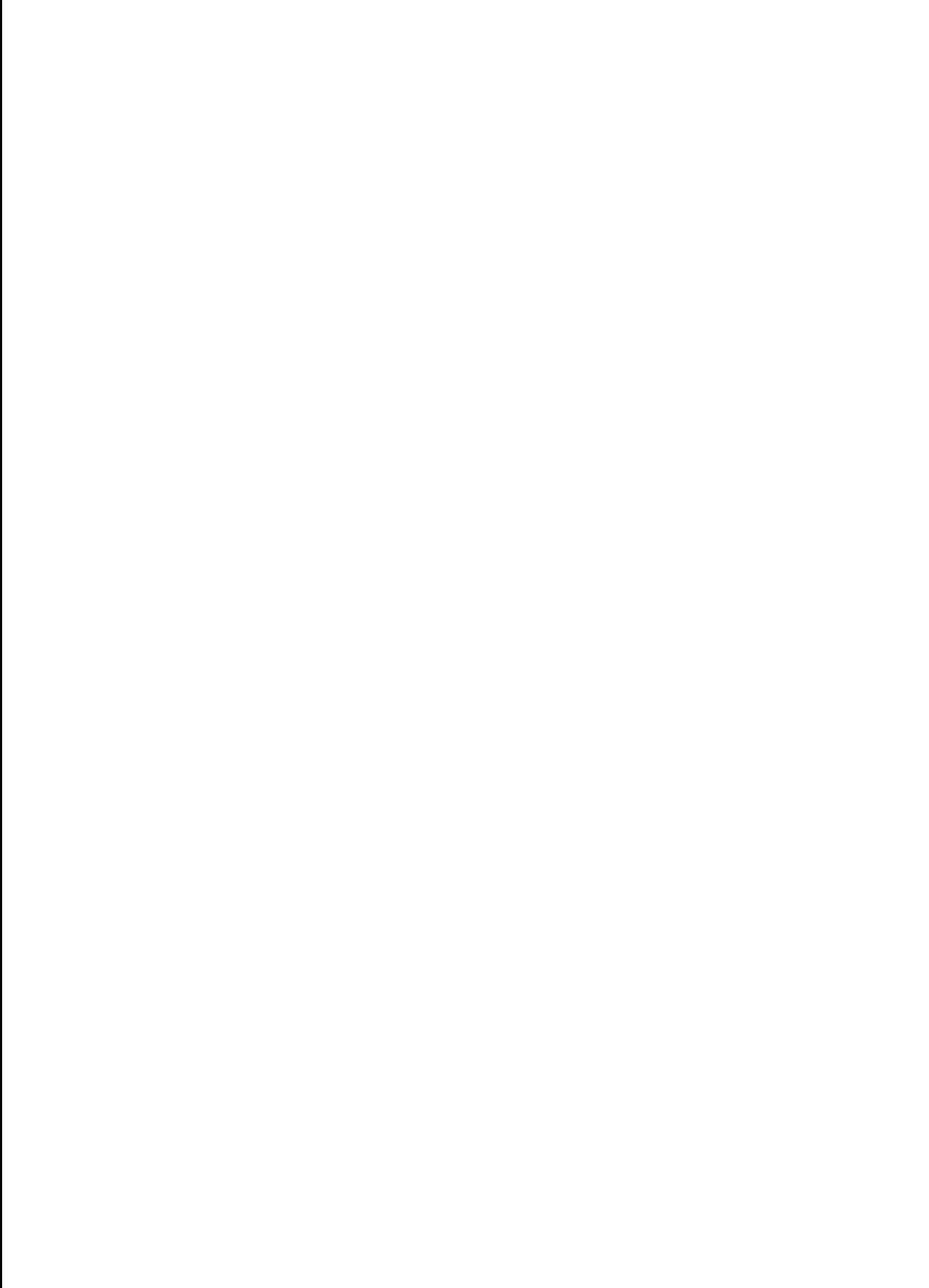
Uncredited illustration from an article on the crisis in city transit

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / July 1957

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# FORUM





July 1957

Komai's textured and reductive illustration divides the cover. The zig zag form is based on the profile of an executive health center in Aspen, Colorado, designed by Herbert Bayer and Fritz Benedict. Full issue

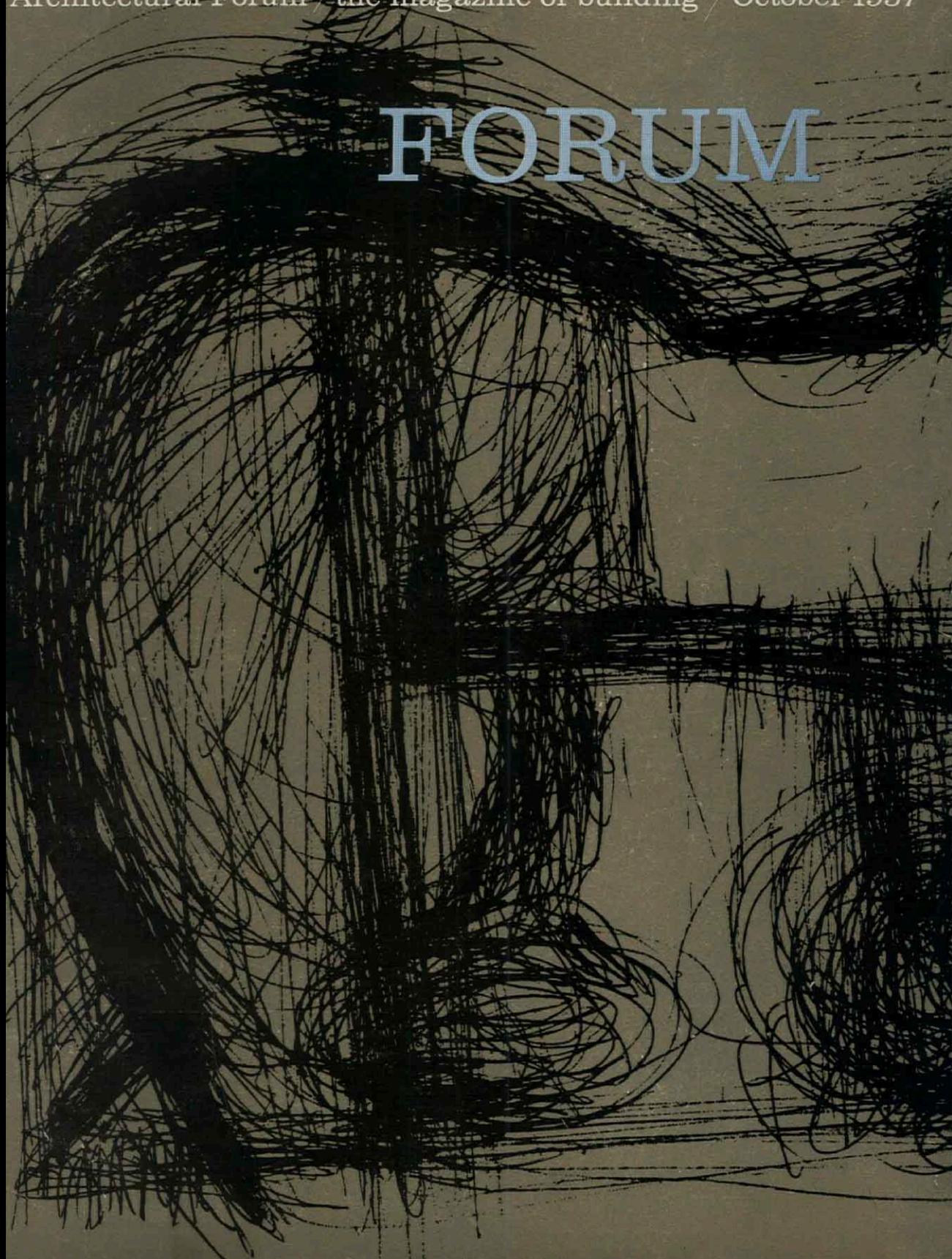


Spa and gym at the Aspen Institute of Humanistic Studies, designed by Herbert Bayer and Fritz Benedict. Photograph by Berko

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / October 1957

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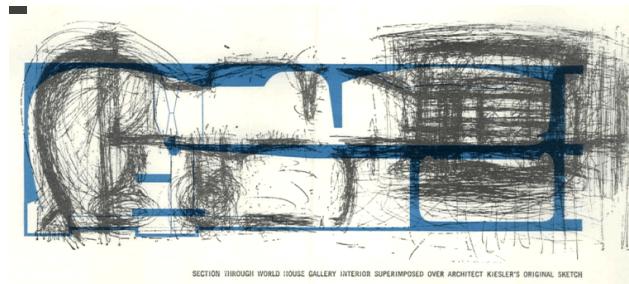
# FORUM





October 1957

The cover features an enlarged detail of one of architect Frederick Kiesler's original sketches for The World House Gallery in New York City. Full issue



A section of the World House Gallery interior superimposed over architect Kiesler's original sketch

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / November 1957

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# FORUM





## November 1957

Cover for an issue about schools for teenagers. The photograph, by Ed Clark for Life magazine, is overlaid with schematic TV screen shapes, echoing a then-new experiment of "teaching by TV," as discussed in the issue. Full issue



A cafeteria in J. W. Moore Junior High School in Tyler, Texas, designed by Caudill, Rowlett, Scott & Associates. Photograph by Jay Oistad

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / December 1957

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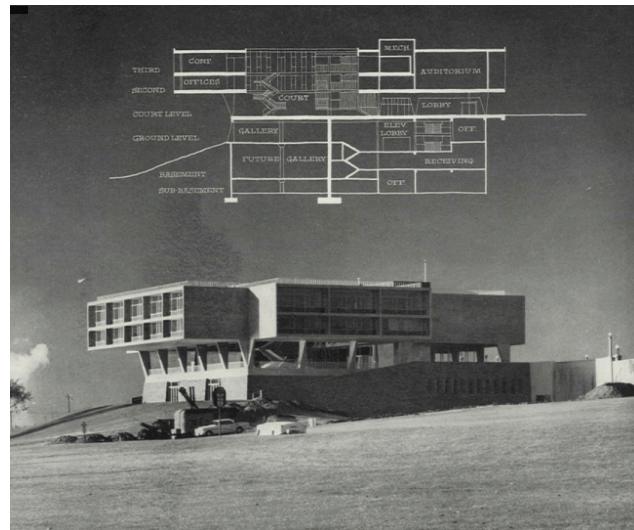
# FORUM





December 1957

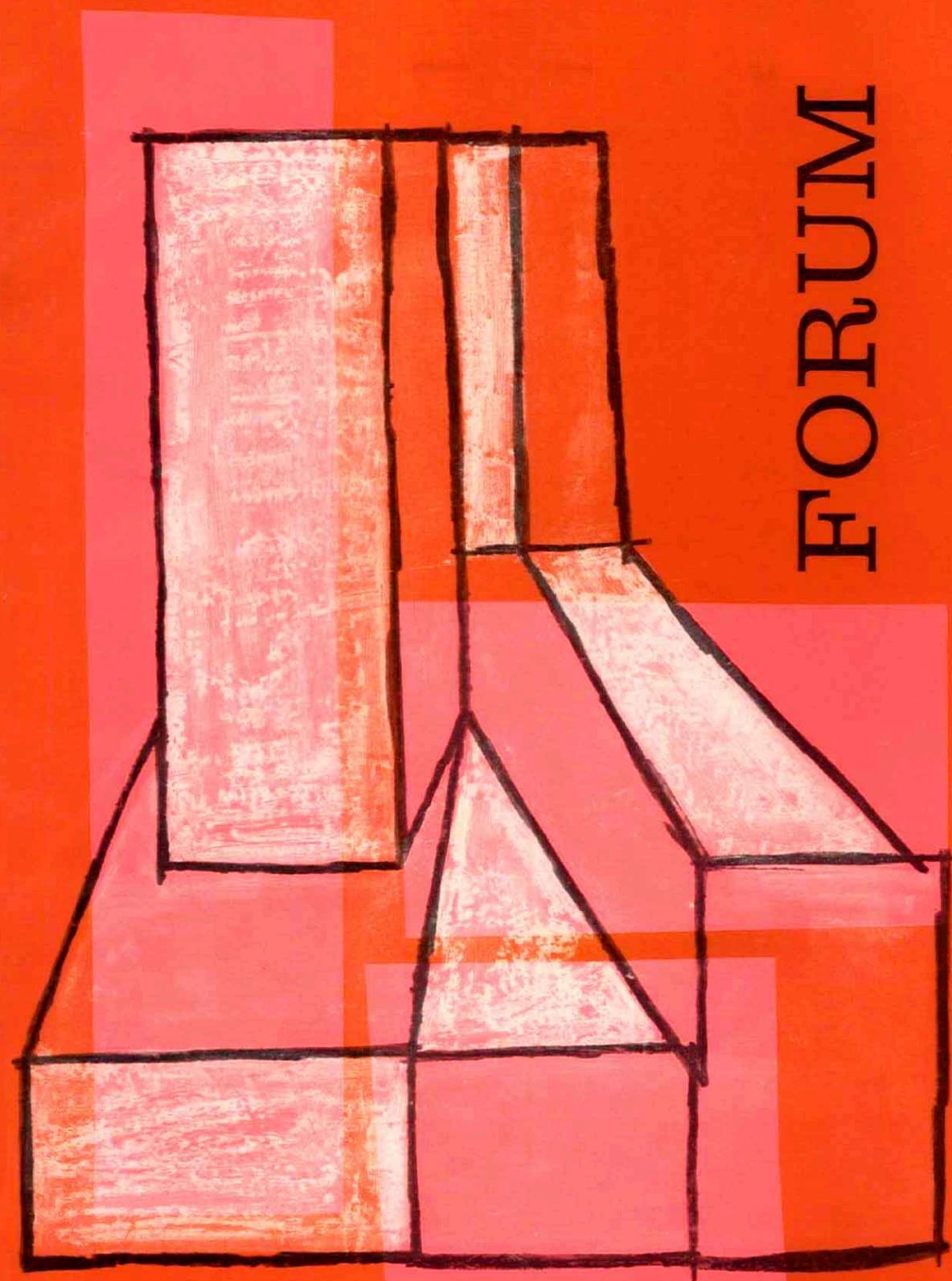
Komai's illustration based on the Milwaukee County War Memorial, designed by Eero Saarinen & Associates. Full issue



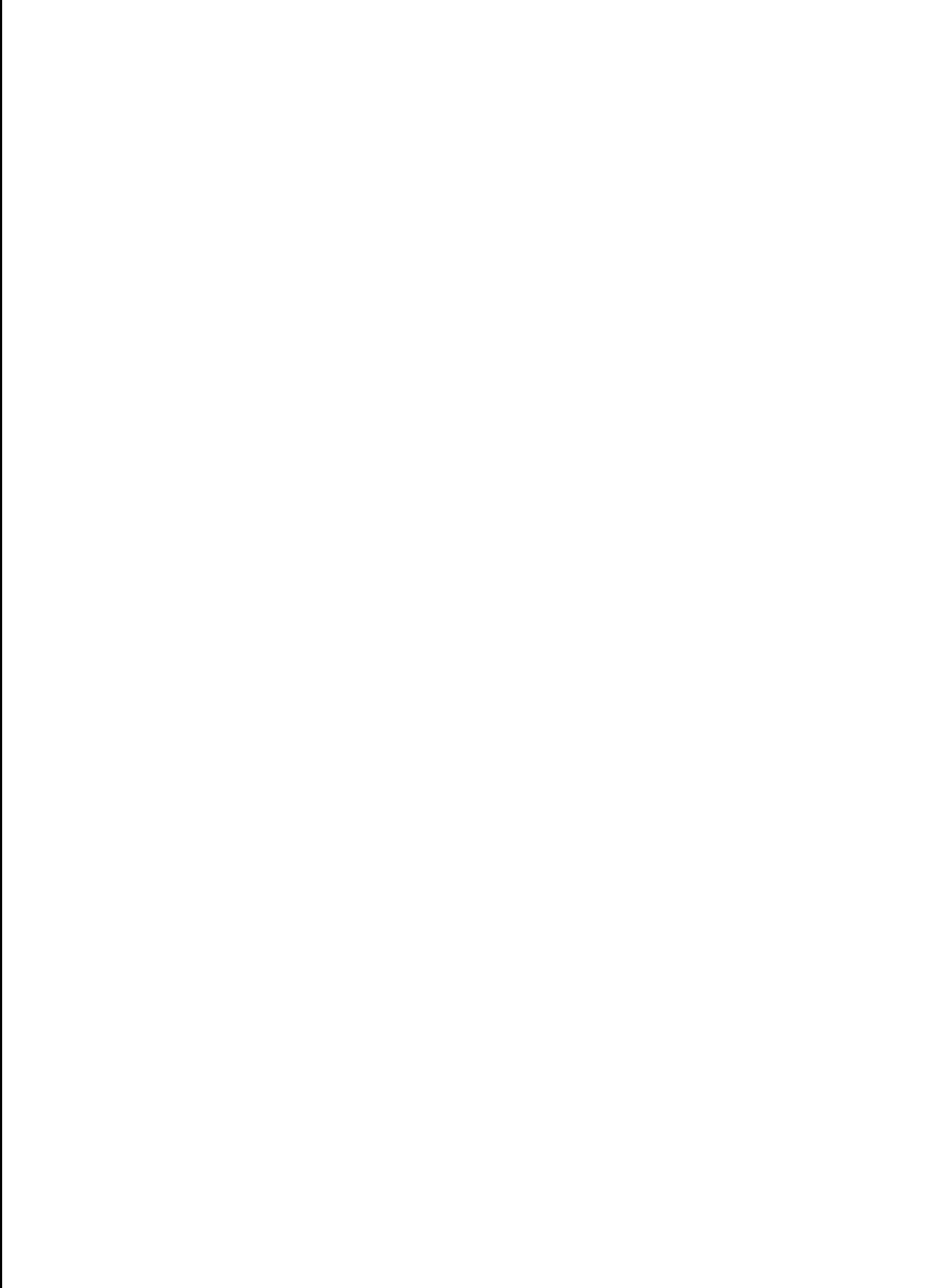
Milwaukee County War Memorial, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, designed by Eero Saarinen & Associates

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / February 1958

# FORUM

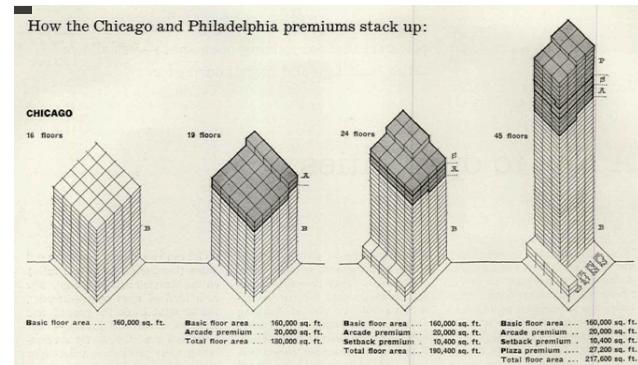


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February 1958

Illustration by Komai based on the theory of bulk zoning, which limits the size and placement of structures on their lots. Full issue



Graph of new zoning proposals in Chicago.

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / June 1958

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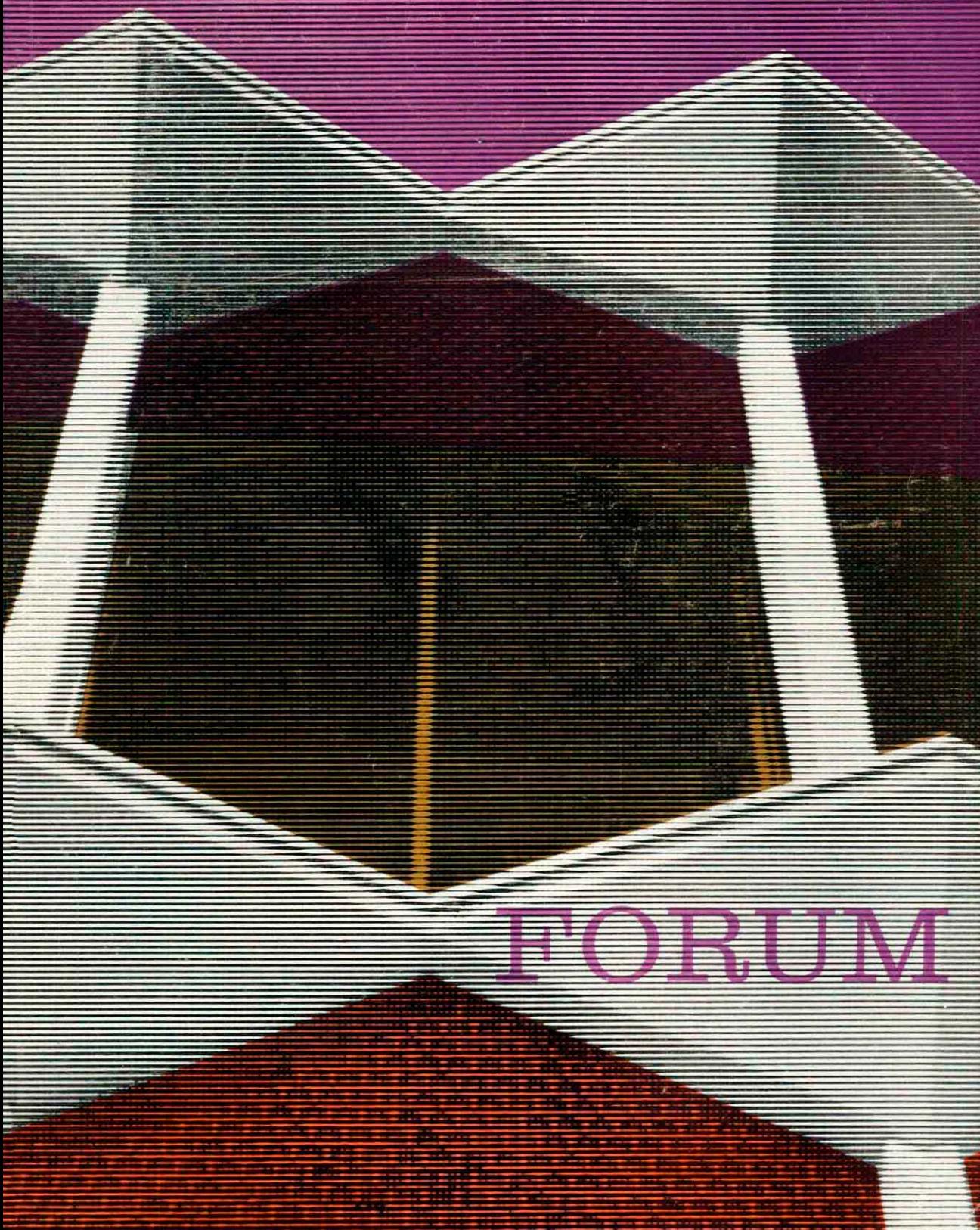
June 1958

A dynamic rendering by Komai of the roof structure of the Spanish pavilion at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair. Full issue



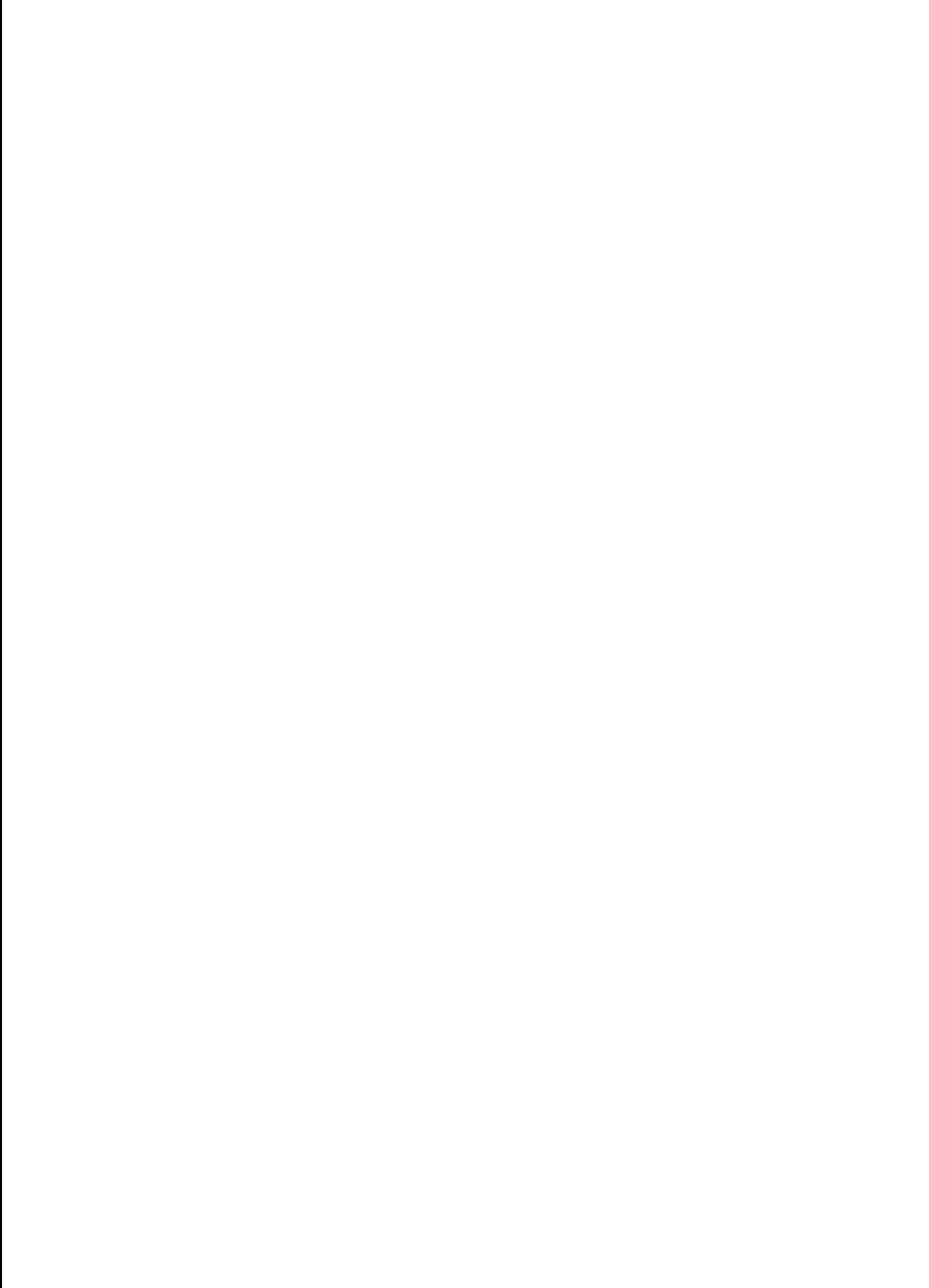
The Spanish pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair, designed by Ramon Molezun and José Antonio Corrales

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / August 1958



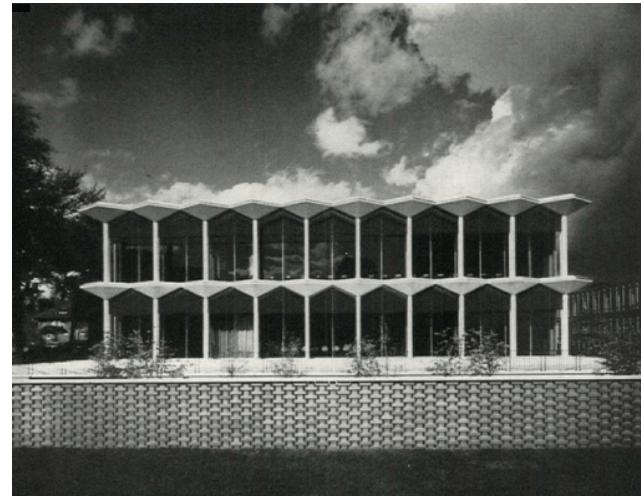
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FORUM



August 1958

Cover showing the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne University, designed by the Japanese-American architect Minoru Yamasaki (1912–1986). Full issue



McGregor Memorial Conference Center on Wayne University's mid-Detroit campus, designed by Minoru Yamasaki

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / October 1958



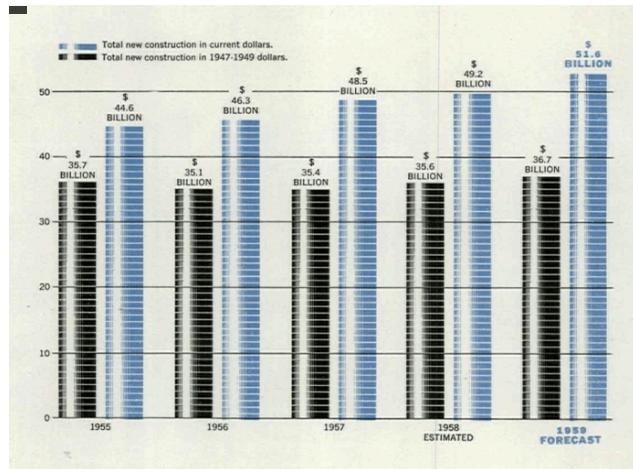
**FORUM**

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October 1958

An illustration suggesting the growth of construction activity in the upcoming year. Full issue



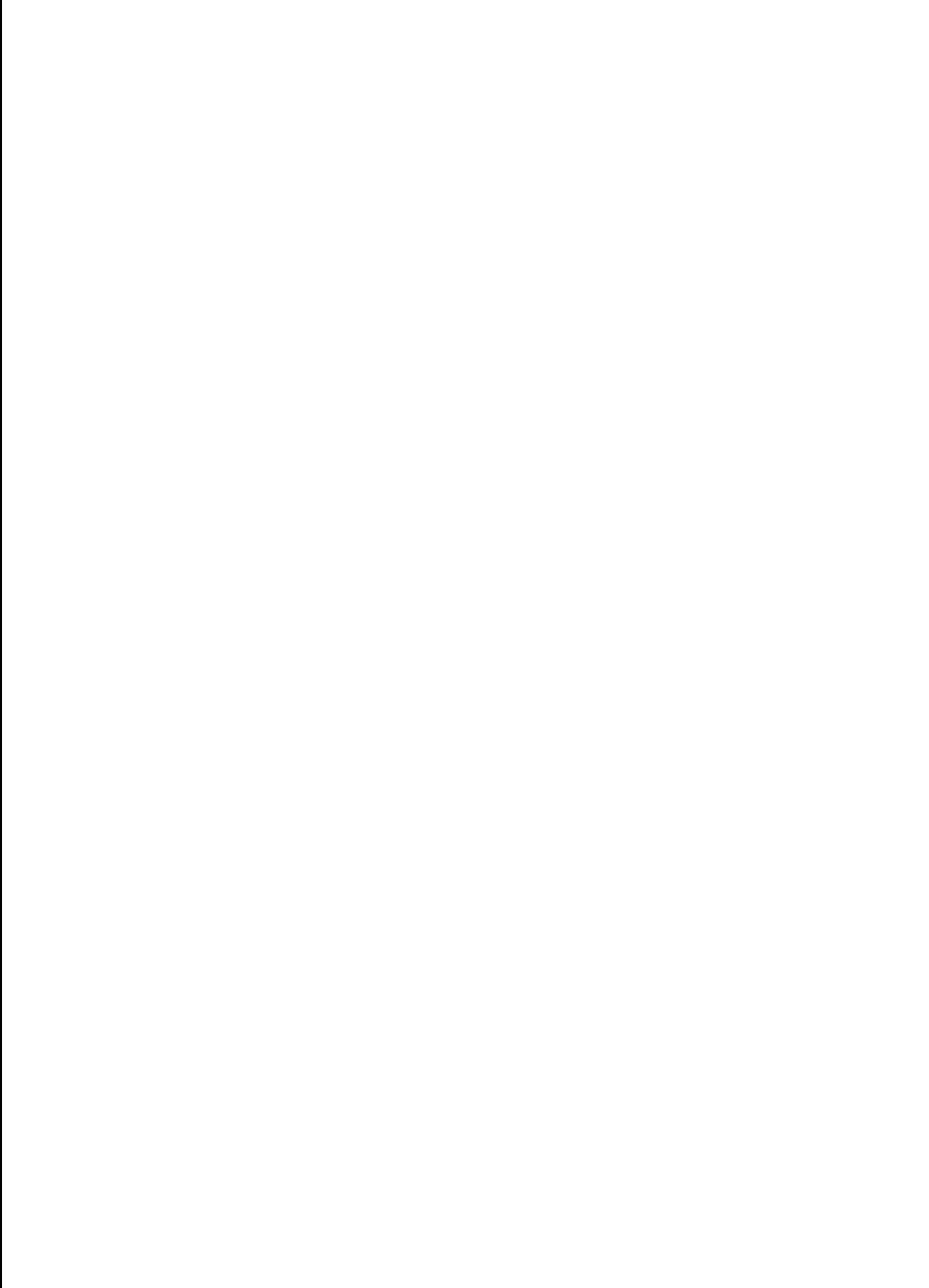
Forecast of building construction spending in 1959

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / November 1958

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# FORUM





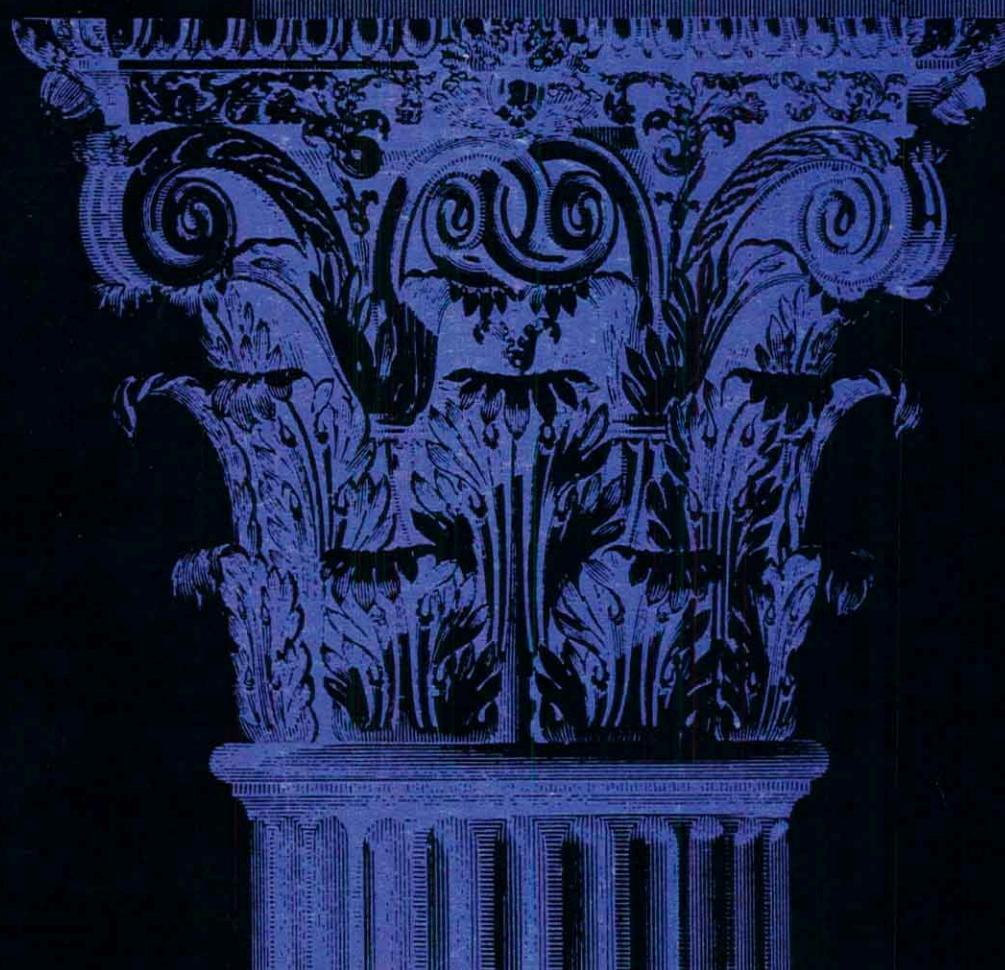
November 1958

Komai's pared-down brush illustration for several articles  
about school design. Full issue



A classroom in Sonoma Elementary School, Sonoma, California, designed by Mario J. Ciampi. Photograph by Rondal Partridge

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building January 1959



# FORUM

Building for the community

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January 1959

A Corinthian column engraving from Nicholson's Architectural Dictionary, adapted by Komai for the story "Building for the Community." Full issue



An engraving of the United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., designed by Benjamin Latrobe

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / March 1959



Ma  
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March 1959

Illustration by Komai based on the plan for a new kind of housing project, proposed by students at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Full issue



A model plan for Cambridge, Massachusetts

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / April 1959

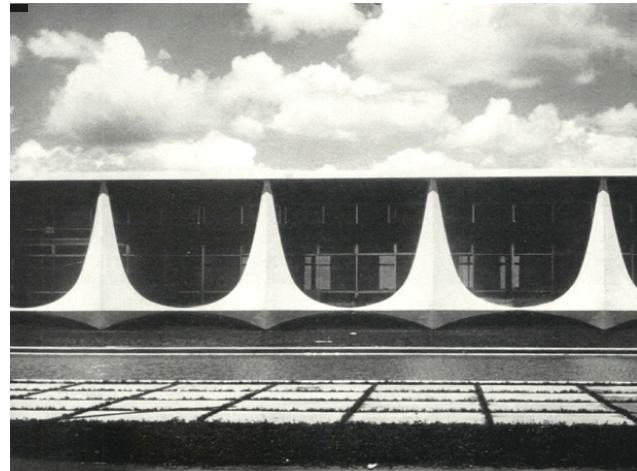
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# FORUM



April 1959

Illustration by Komai based on the iconic president's palace in  
Brasilia, Brazil, designed by architect Oscar Niemeyer. Full  
issue

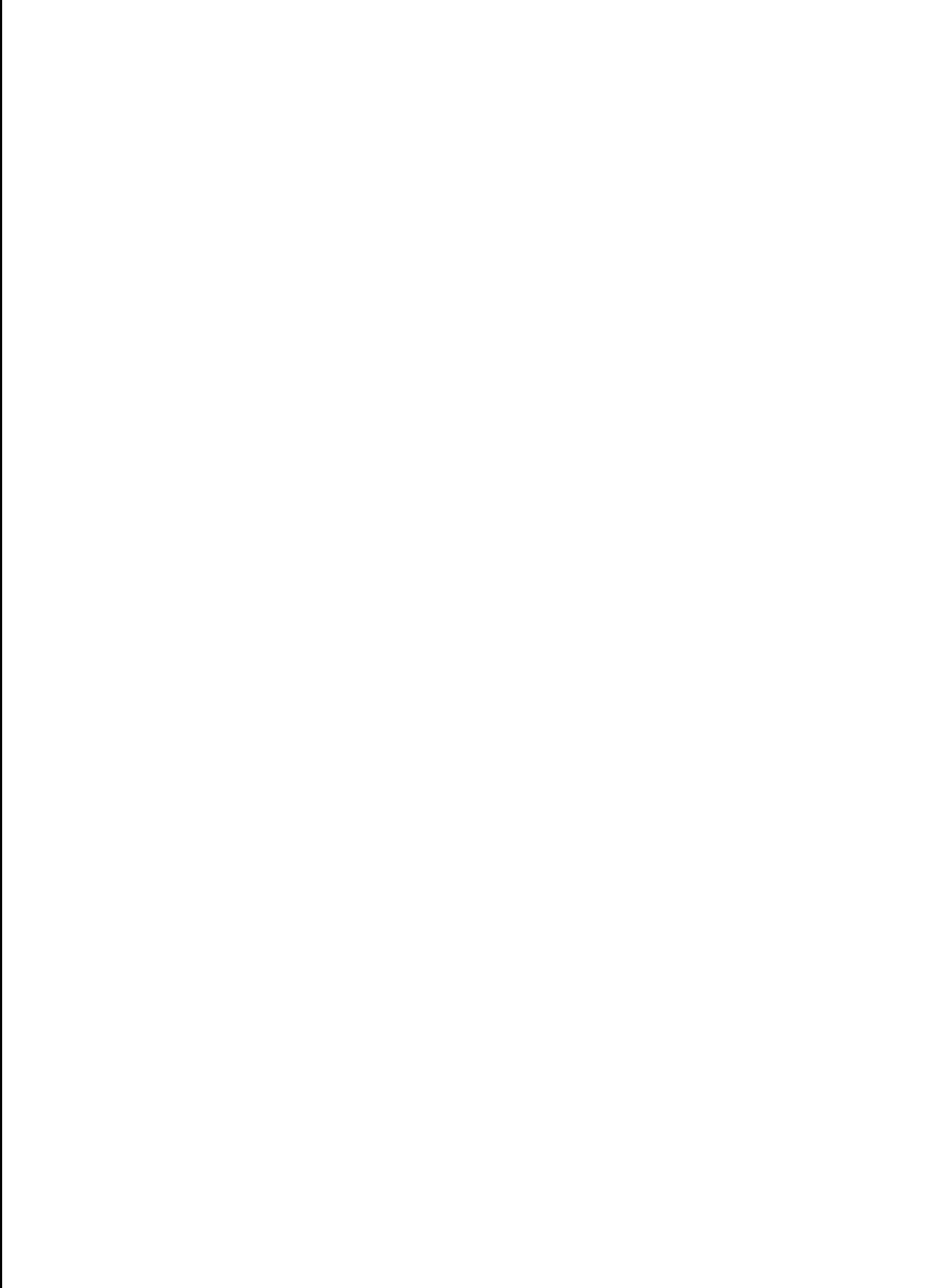


The Presidential Palace in Brasília, Brazil, designed by Oscar Niemeyer.  
Photograph by Alfred Shaw

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / August 1959

# FORUM

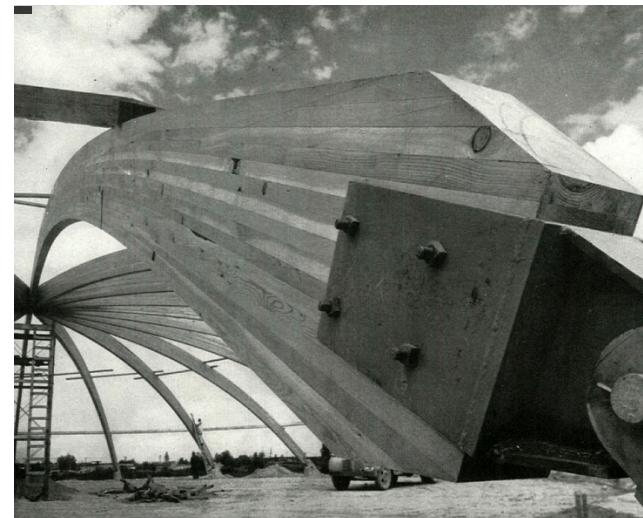
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August 1959

This illustration interprets a detail of architect Kenzo Tange's design for the Kagawa prefectural office, a combination county seat and community center in an agricultural district of Japan.

Full issue

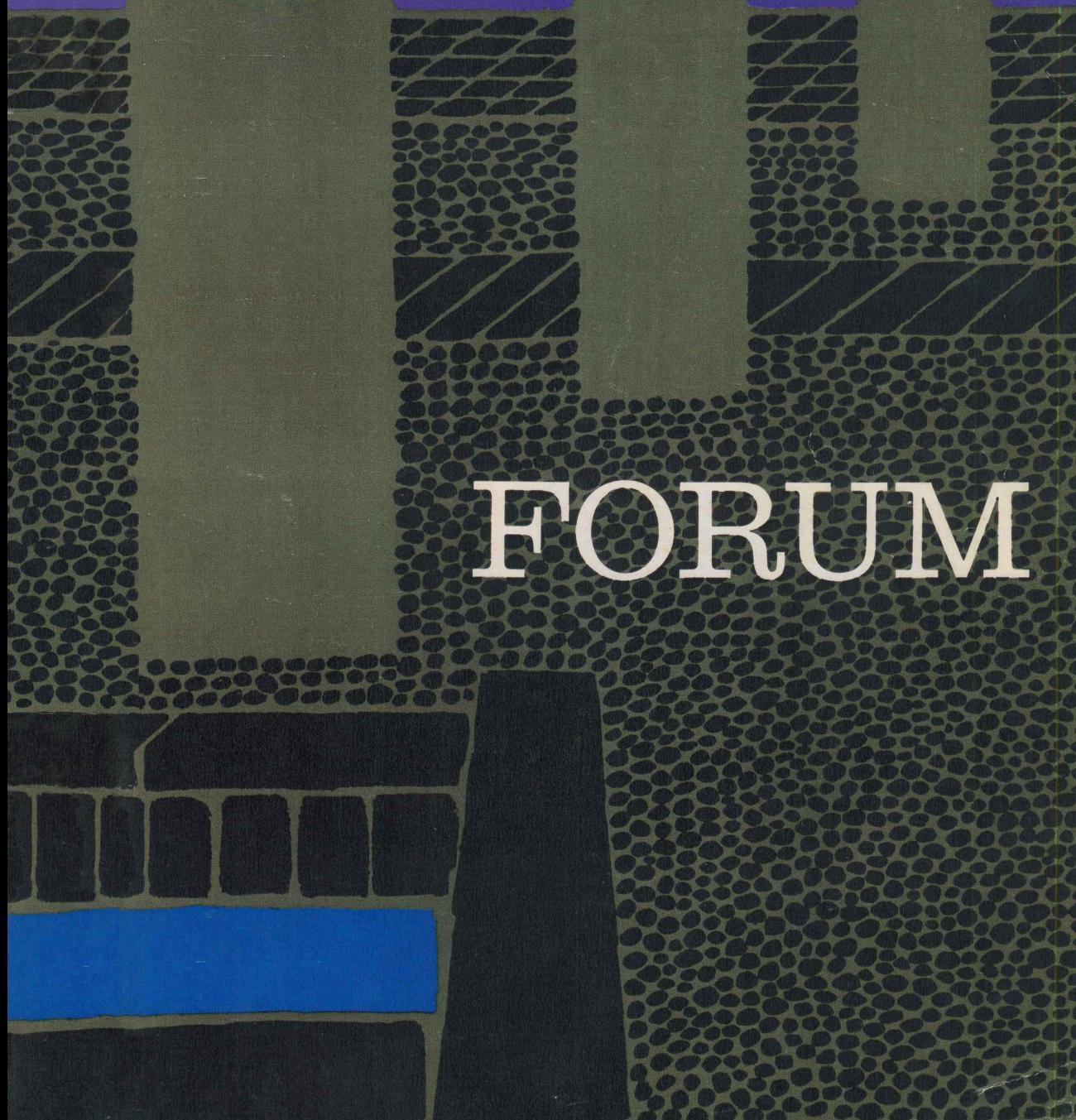


Arches for the Hunt School cafeteria-auditorium in Tacoma, Washington,  
designed by Robert B. Price

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / September 1959

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1959  
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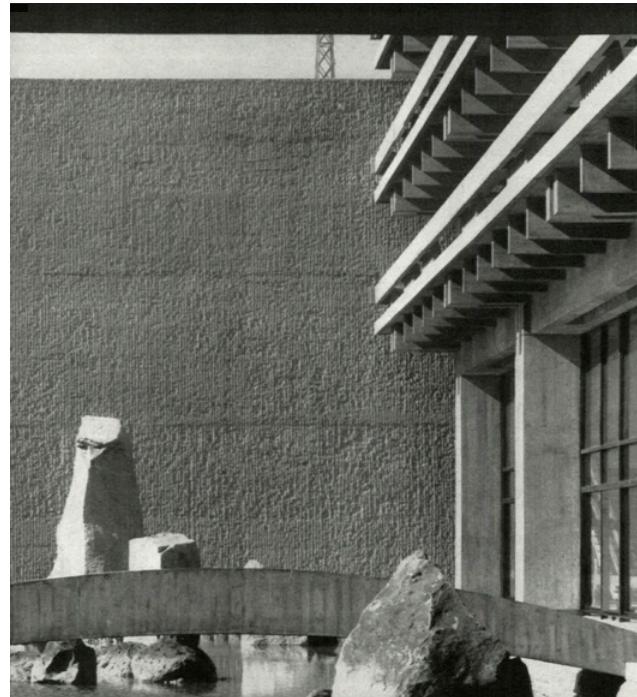
# FORUM





## September 1959

This illustration interprets a detail of architect Kenzo Tange's design for the Kagawa prefectural office, a combination county seat and community center in an agricultural district of Japan.  
Full issue (<https://usmodernist.org/AF/AF-1959-09.pdf>)



A detail fo the Kagawa Prefectural Office, designed by Kenzo Tange

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / November 1959

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1959  
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## November 1959

A clever riff on the periodic table stands in for an article on the design of schools. Full issue (<https://usmodernist.org/AF/AF-1959-11.pdf>)

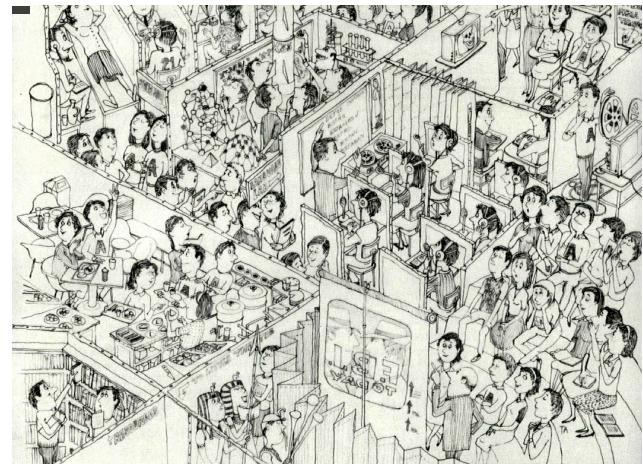
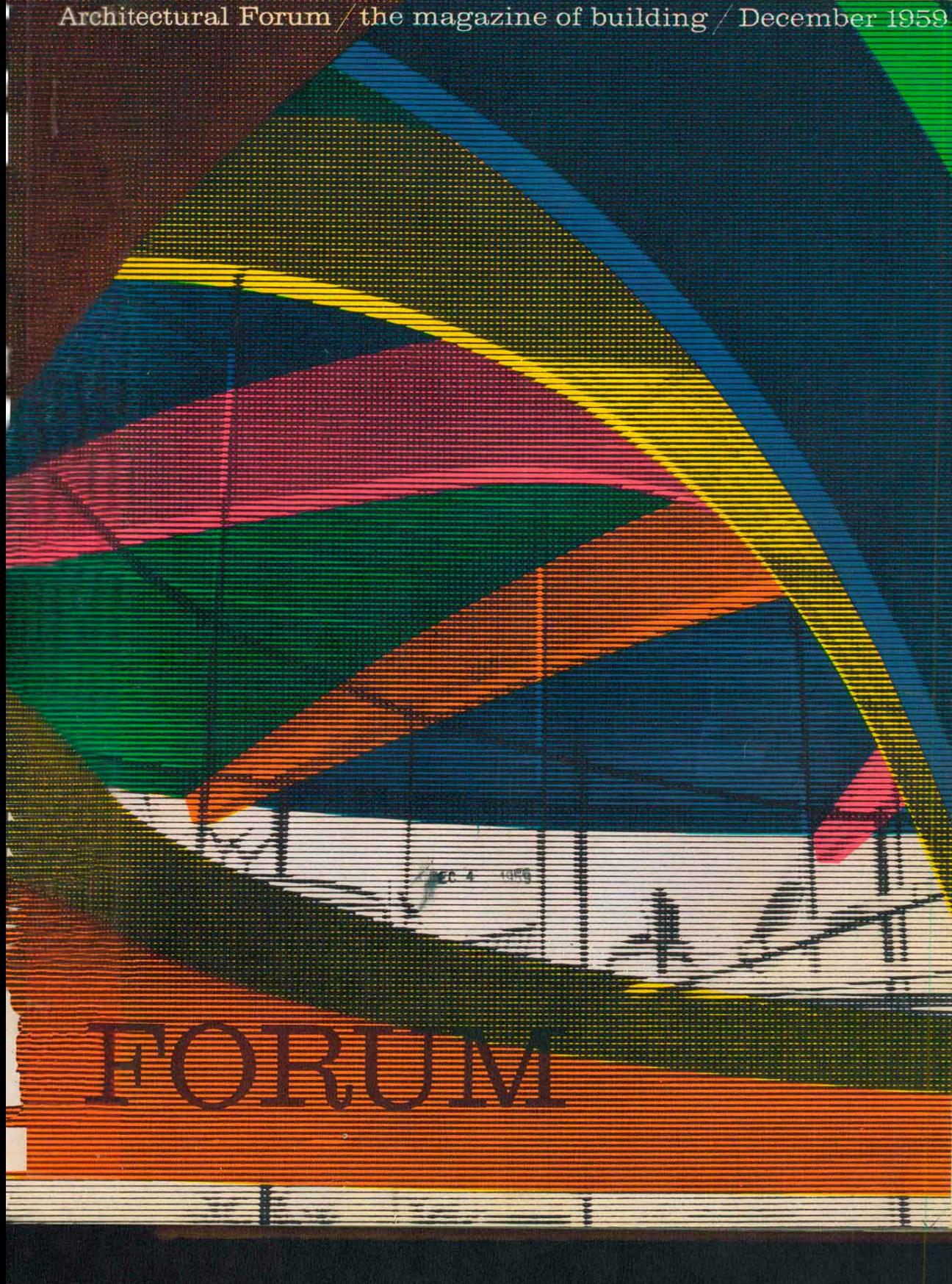


Illustration by Ted Andresakes for an article about productivity in schools

Architectural Forum / the magazine of building / December 1959

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December 1959

The illustration features the dynamic laminated timber support beams in Galloway's furniture showroom in Sarasota, Florida, designed by architect Victor Lundy. Full issue



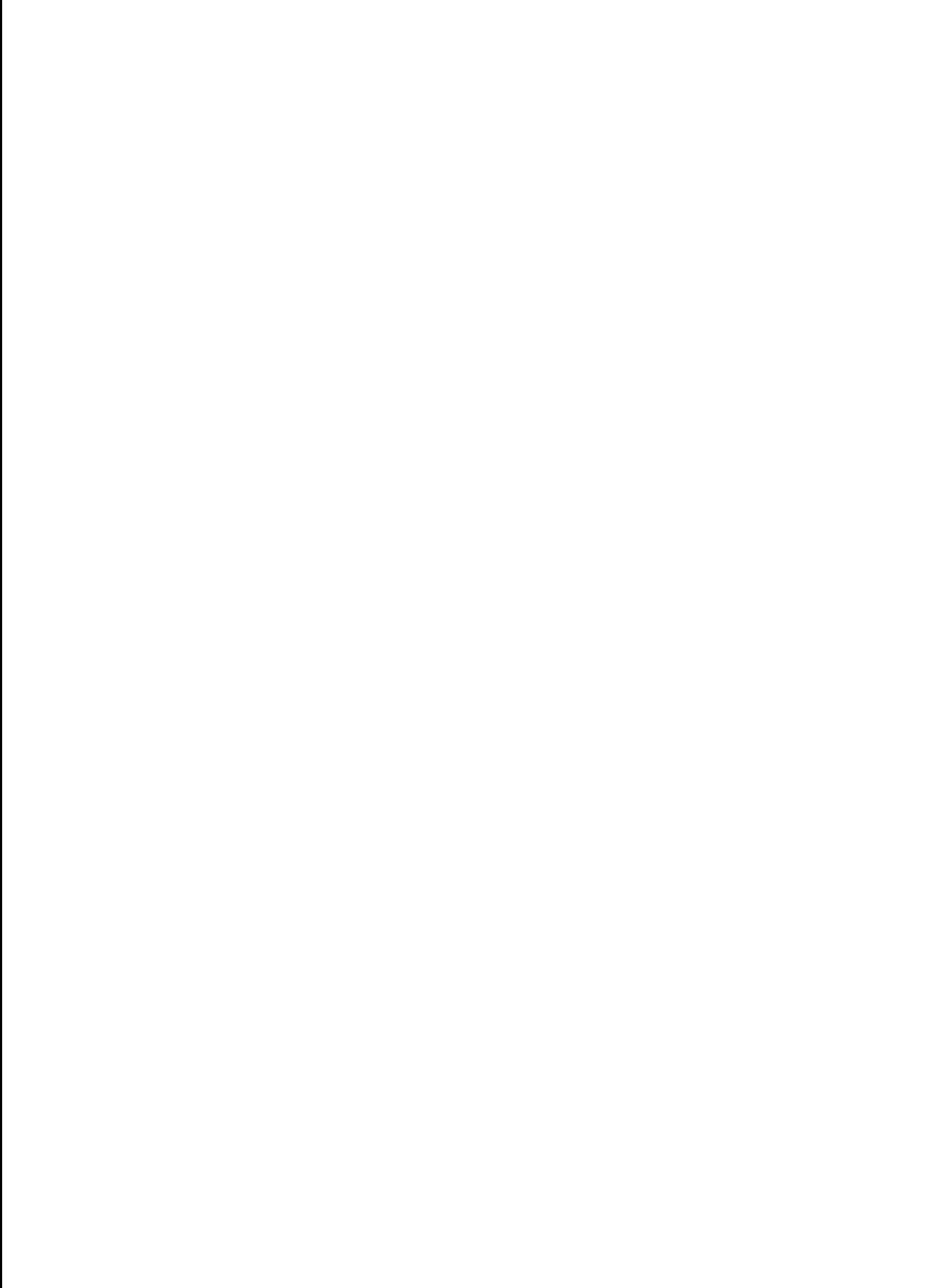
Galloway's Furniture Showroom, Sarasota, Florida, designed by Victor A. Lundy

Architectural Forum the magazine of building February 1960

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# FORUM

Forecast for the sixties



February 1960

A subtle drawing by Komai conveys forecasts of growth in building construction. Full issue

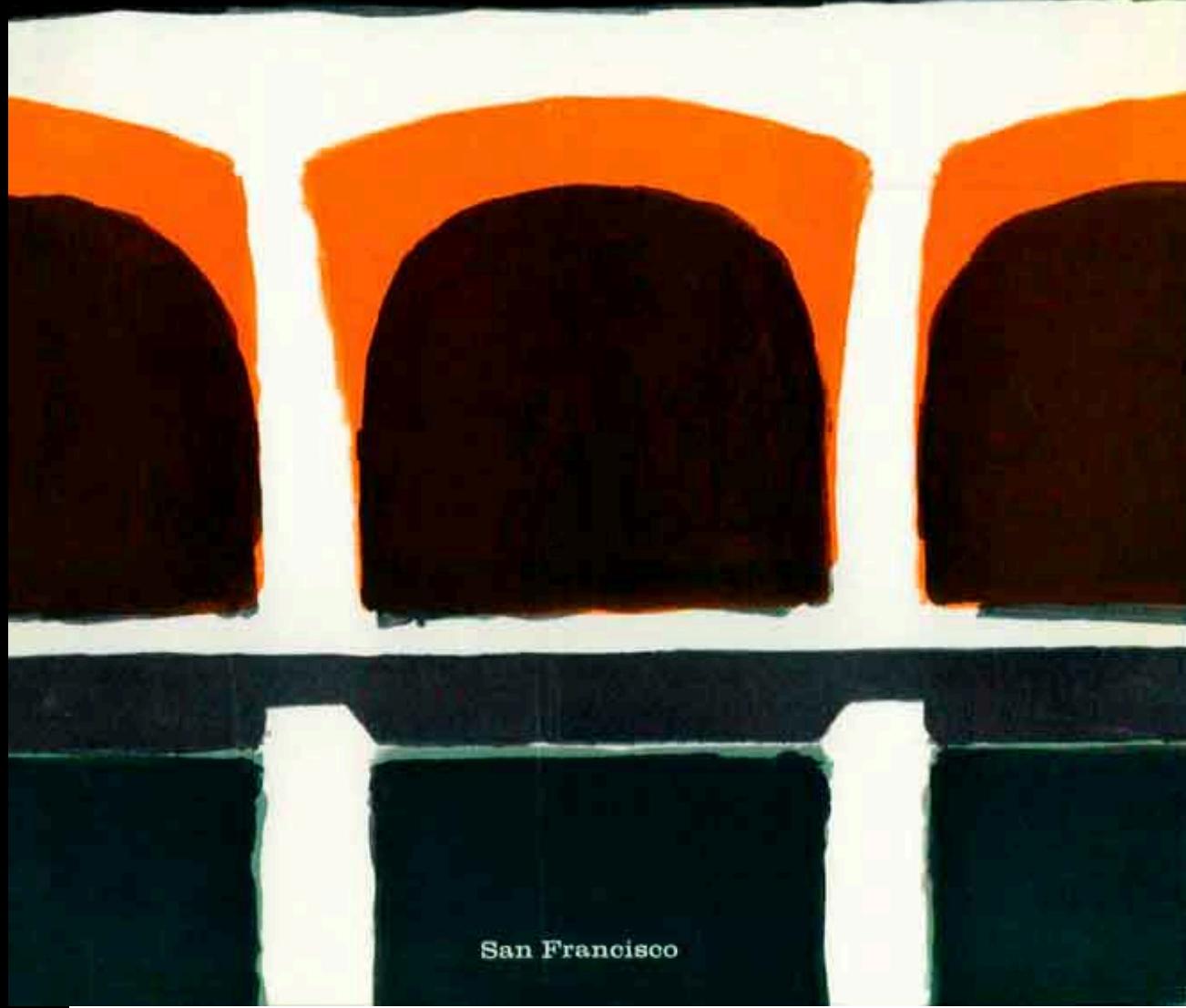


Alvar Aalto's Pension Institute in Helsinki, Finland

Architectural Forum the magazine of building April 1960

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# FORUM





April 1960

Illustration by Komai based on San Francisco's John Hancock Building (now the Industrial Indemnity Building), designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Full issue



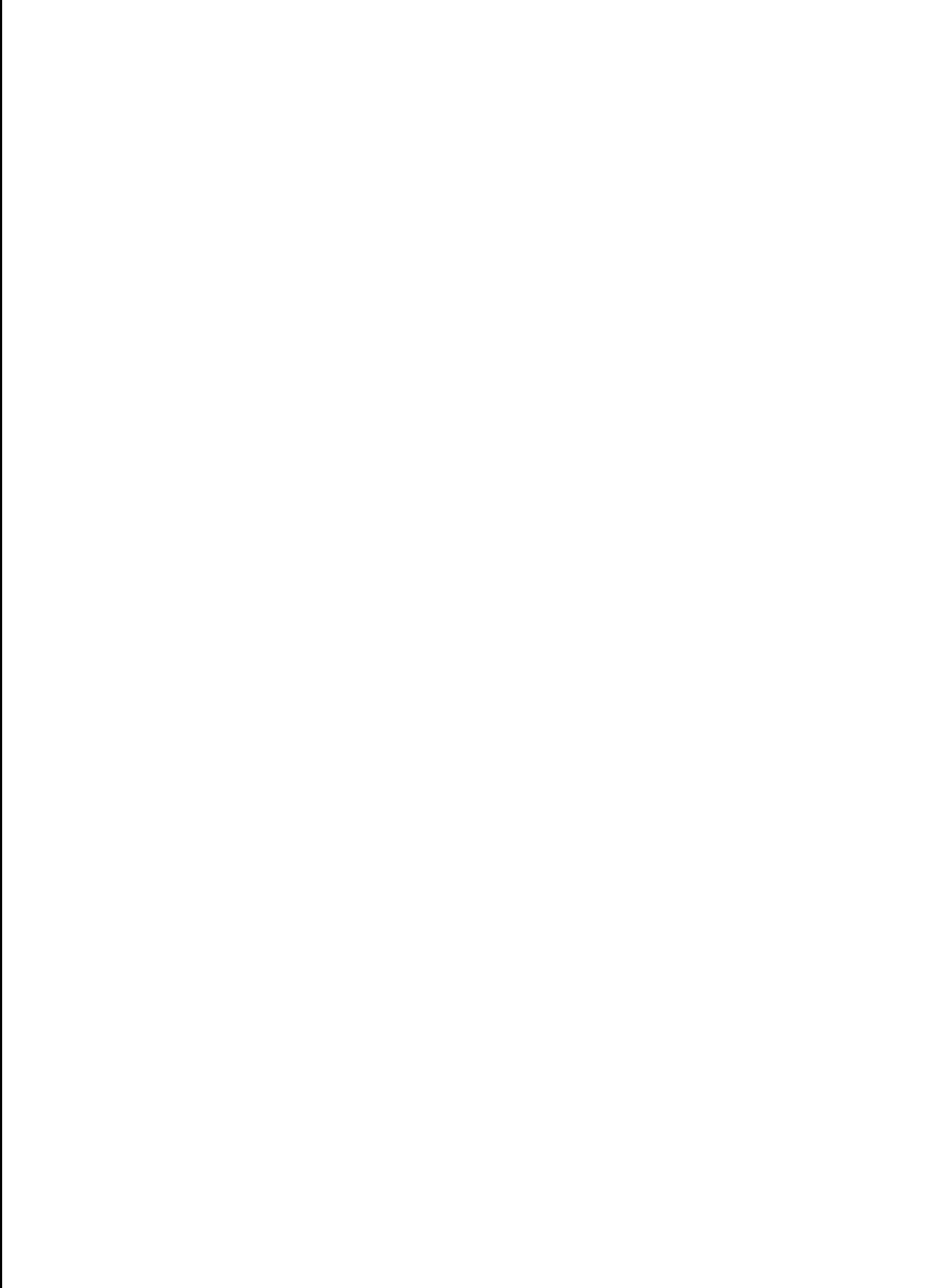
The John Hancock Building in San Francisco, designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Photograph by Morley Baer

Architectural Forum the magazine of building May 1960

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Apartments



May 1960

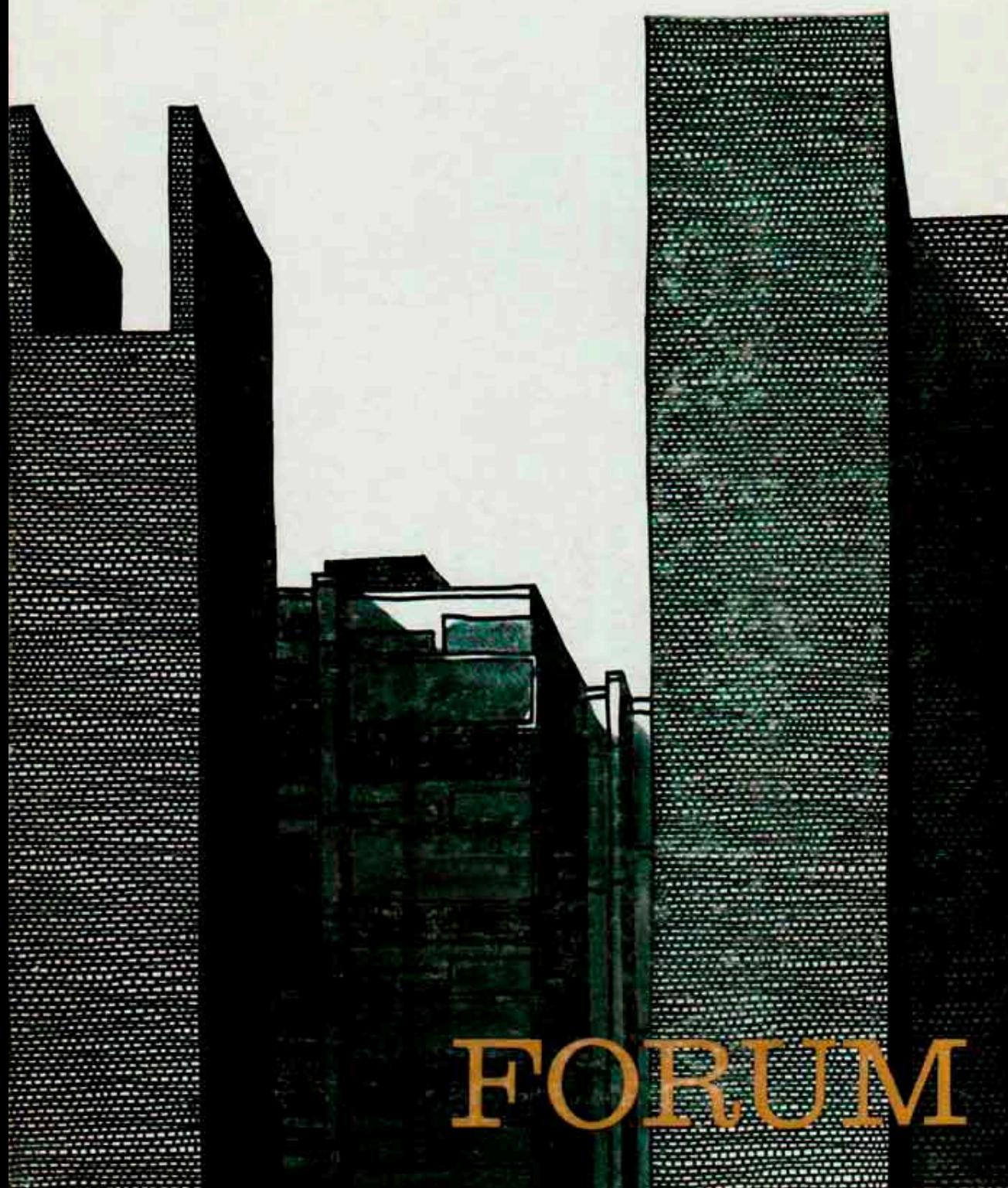
Drawing by Komai of Detroit's Lafayette Park. Mies van der Rohe designed several of the residential buildings in Lafayette Park. This cover reveals another link between American design in the middle of the twentieth century and the Japanese-American incarceration camps. One of the primary architects in Mies's office was Joseph Fujikawa (1922–2003), who spent time in a camp in Colorado. Full issue



Lafayette Park Title I Project, Detroit, Michigan, designed by Mies van der Rohe

Architectural Forum the magazine of building July 1960

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July 1960

Drawing by Komai of architect Louis Kahn's medical research building on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Full issue

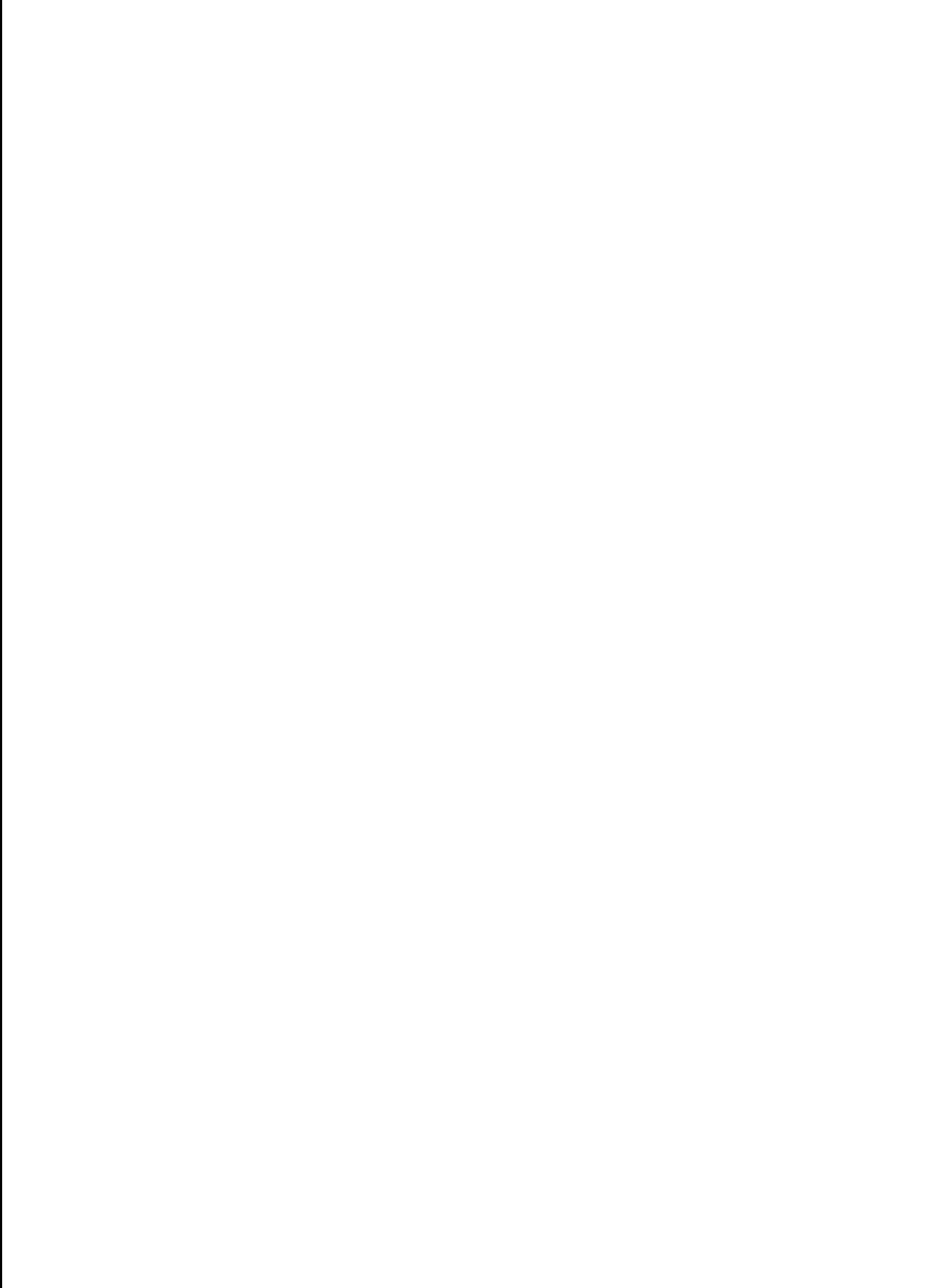


The Richard Medical Research Building at the University of Pennsylvania,  
designed by Louis Kahn

Architectural Forum the magazine of building September 1960

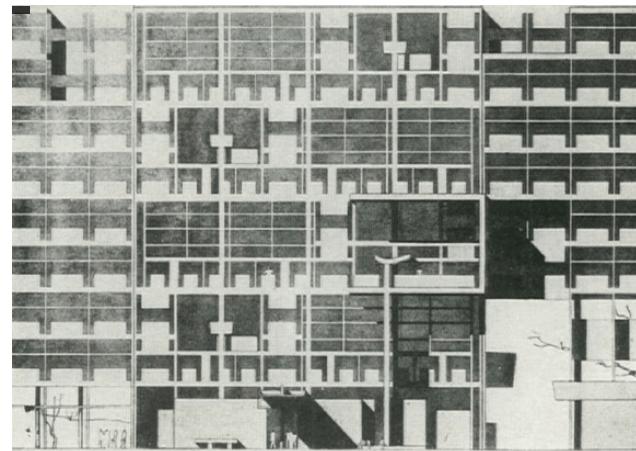
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1960  
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# FORUM



## September 1960

A cover illustration for an article about jazz and architecture hints at the sympathetic rhythms between the two. Full issue



Le Corbusier's Secretariat Building in Chandigarh, India, 1953

Architectural Forum the magazine of building November 1960



# FORUM

High school developments



November 1960

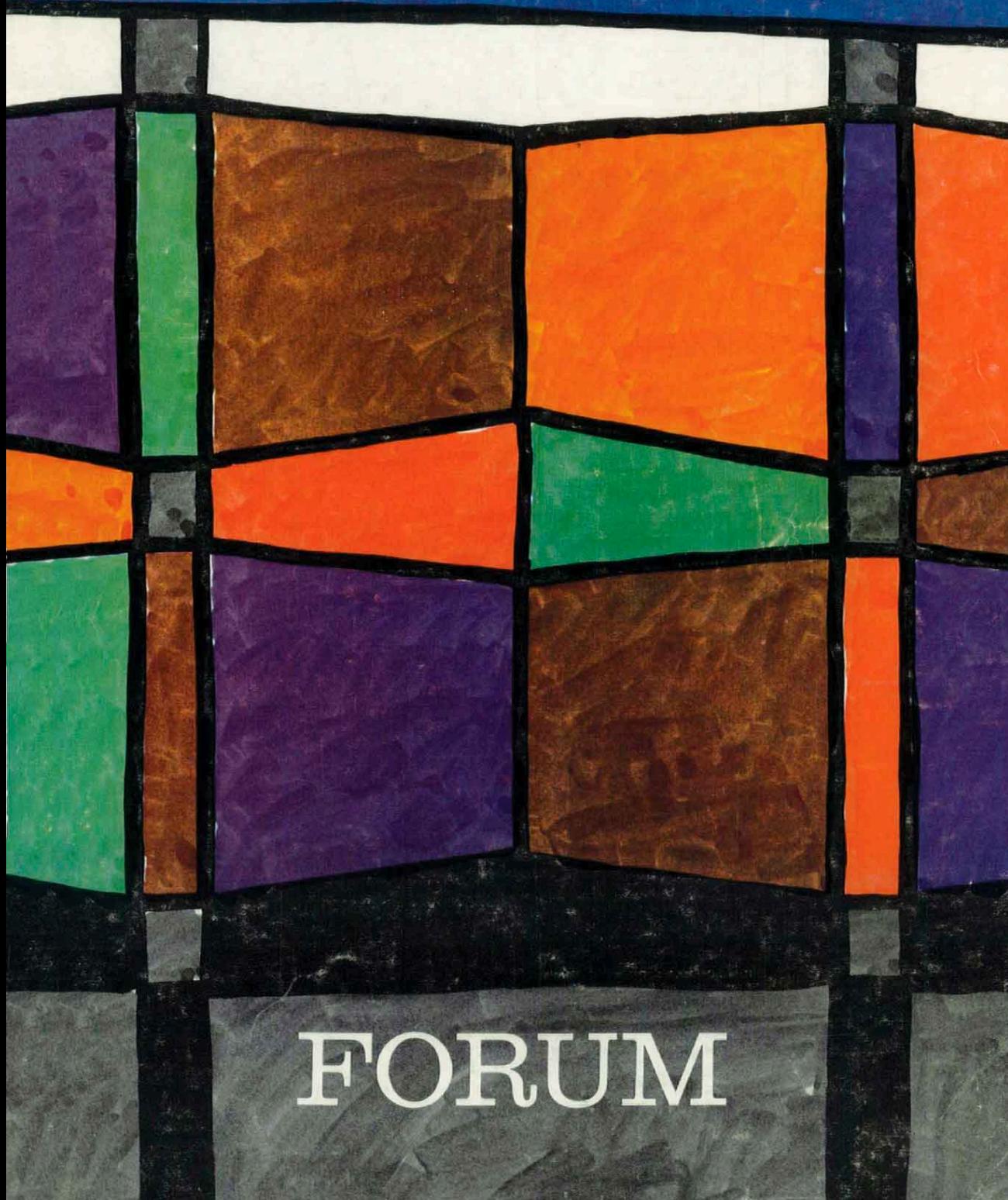
Komai's colorful, child-like illustration based on the plan of a high school classroom in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Full issue



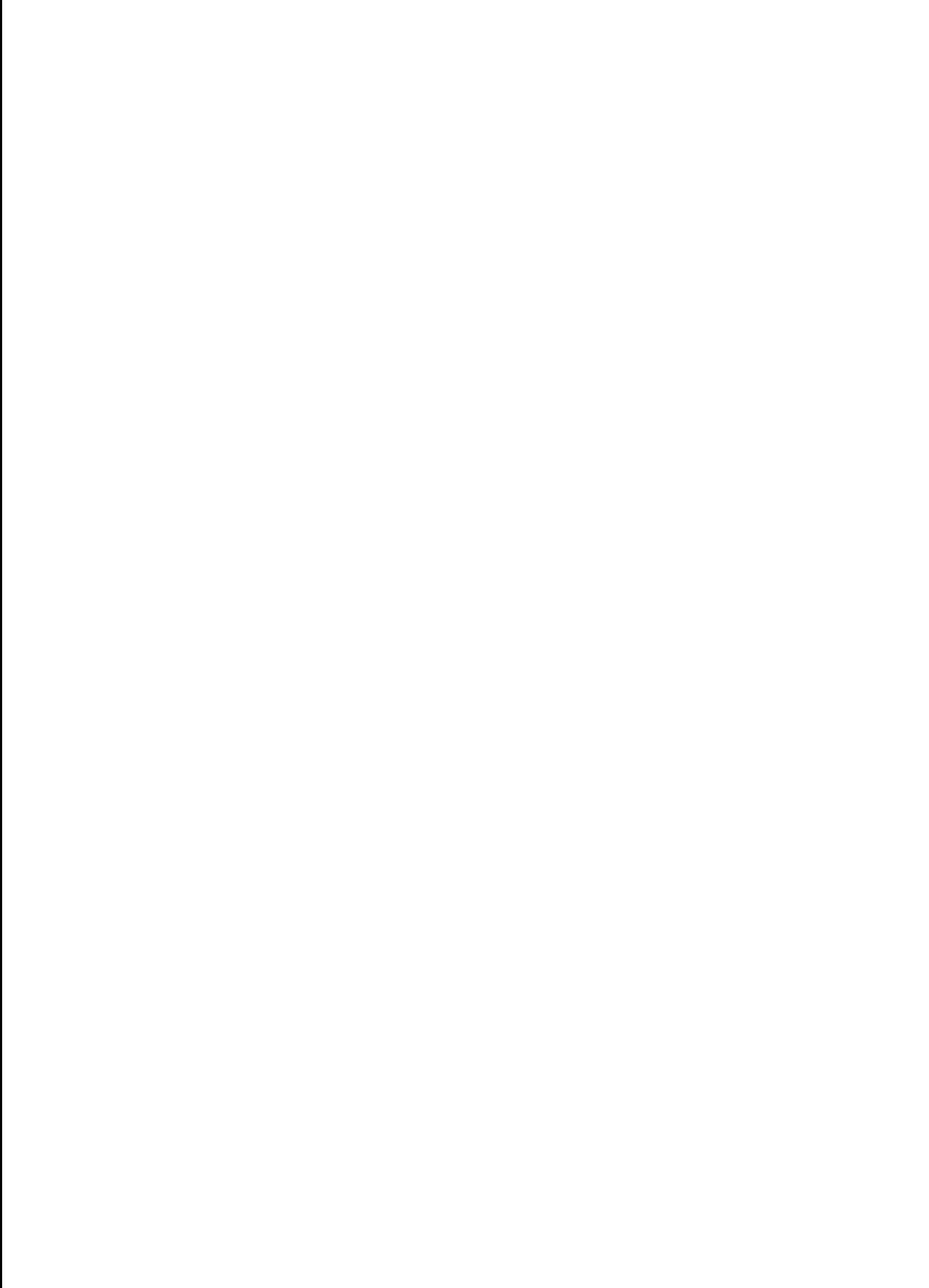
Stillwater High School in Stillwater, Oklahoma, designed by architect John Rowlett of Caudill, Rowlett and Scott. Photograph by A.Y. Owen

Architectural Forum the magazine of building December 1960

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**FORUM**



## December 1960

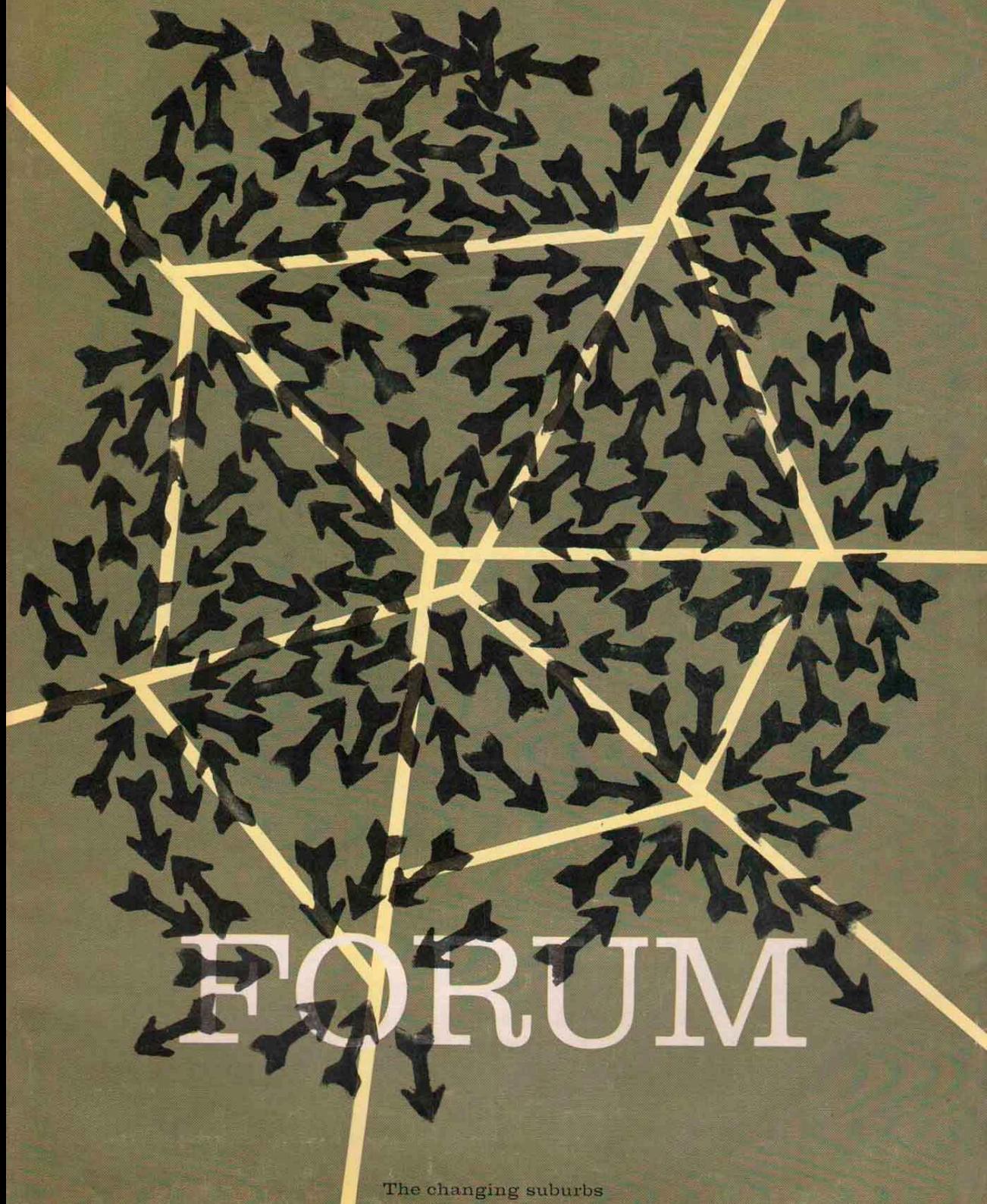
The illustration abstracts details of the façade of Lake Erie College's commons, designed by architect Victor Christ-Janer.  
Full issue



Lincoln Hall social hall at Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, designed by Victor F. Christ-Janer & Associates

Architectural Forum the magazine of building January 1961

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The changing suburbs



January 1961

For an issue focusing on changing suburbs, Komai evokes mass urban shifts. Full issue

Working in the suburbs

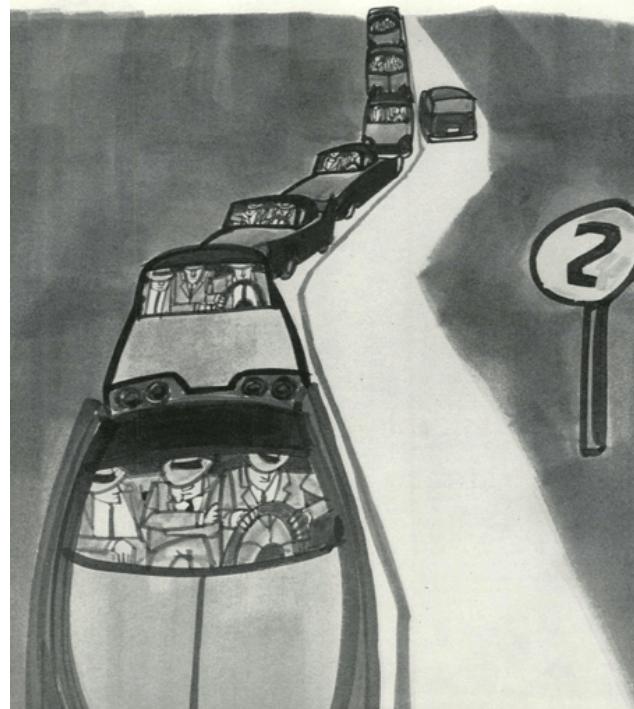


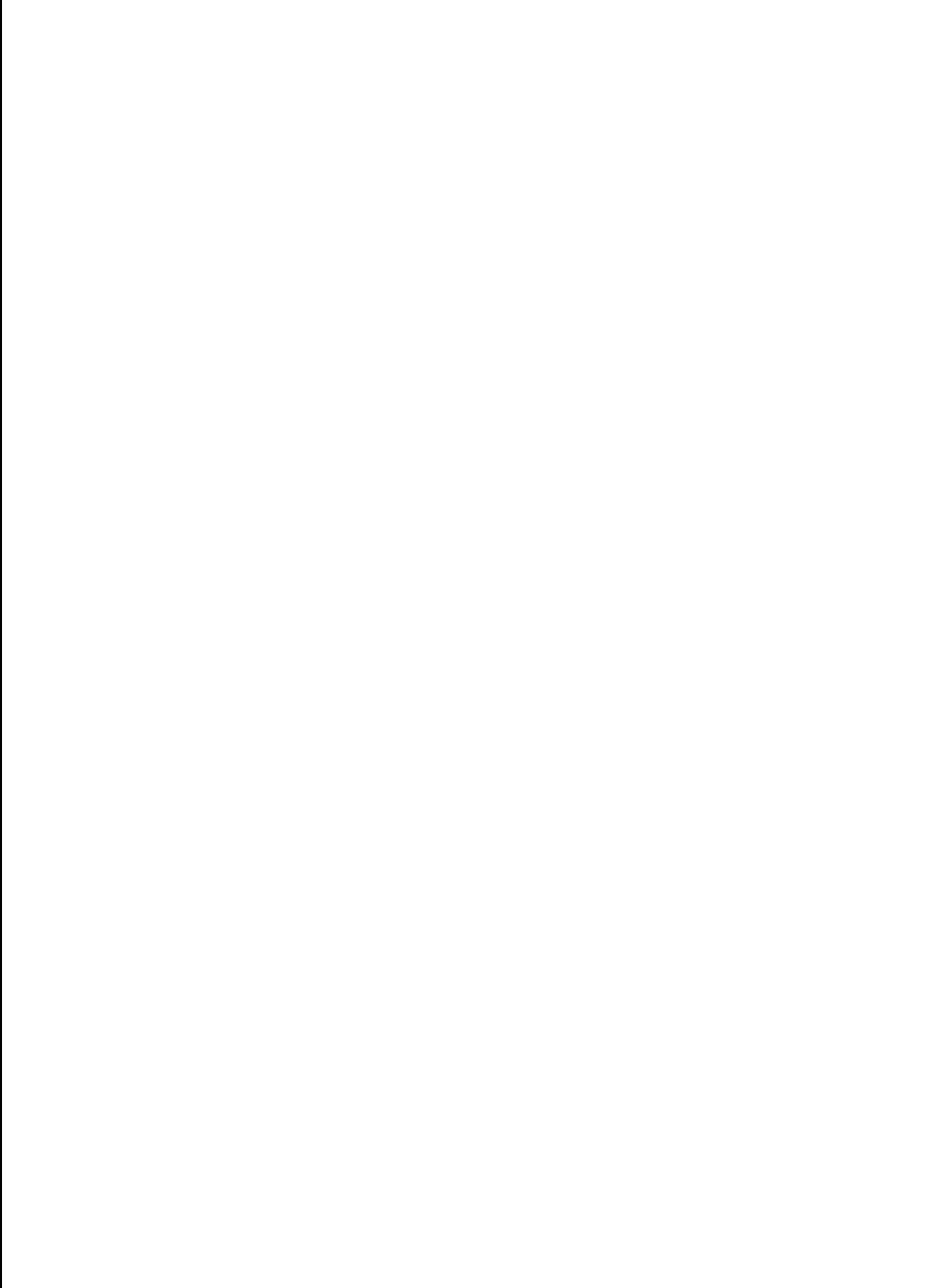
Illustration by John Suzuki for an article entitled "Working in the Suburbs"

Architectural Forum the magazine of building February 1961

REMODEL  
RENEW  
REPAIR  
RENOVATE  
**REBUILDING**  
RESTORE  
RECONSTRUCT  
REPLACE  
REHABILITATE  
RECONVERT  
REDESIGN  
RECONDITION  
REORGANIZE  
RECLAIM  
REJUVENATE  
RECREATE  
REINVEST

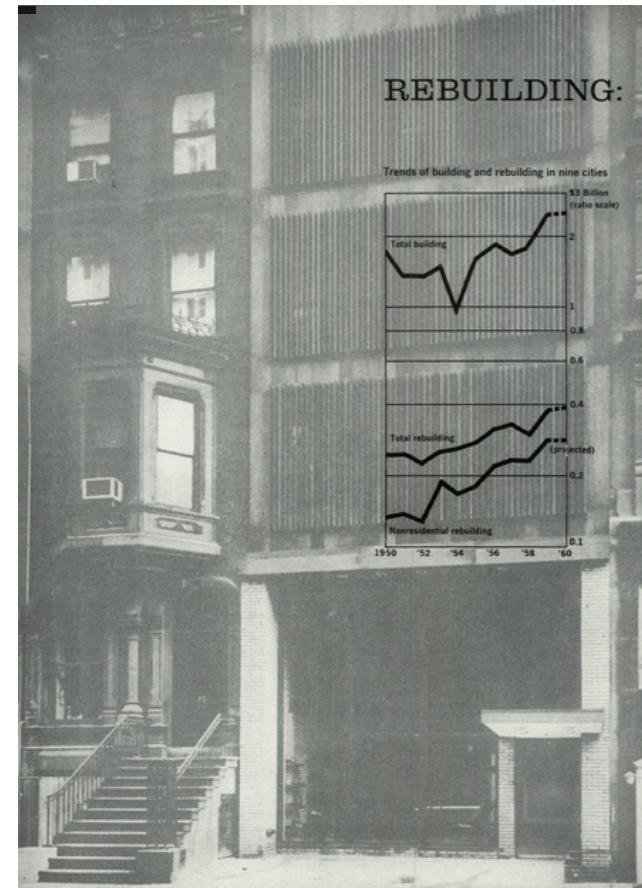
**FORUM**

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February 1961

Komai's stacked lettering forms a structure for an issue about  
rebuilding. Full issue



Photograph by Louis Reens for an article on the rebuilding business

Architectural Forum the magazine of building May 1961

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# FORUM



May 1961

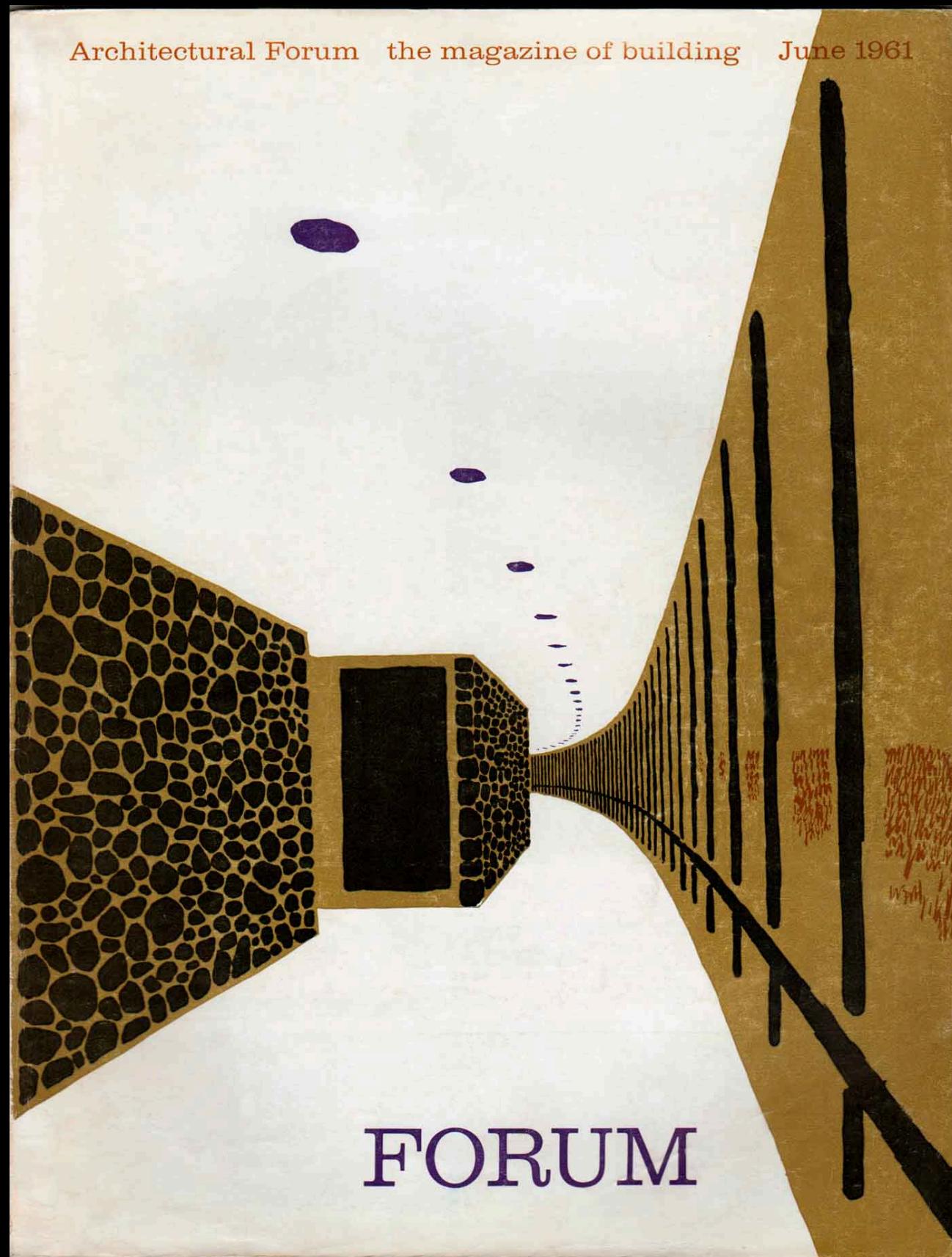
Illustration by Komai based on the design of the headquarters of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, designed by architects Dreyfuss & Blackford. Another example of Komai's striking ability to render architectural form in strict abstraction.  
Full issue

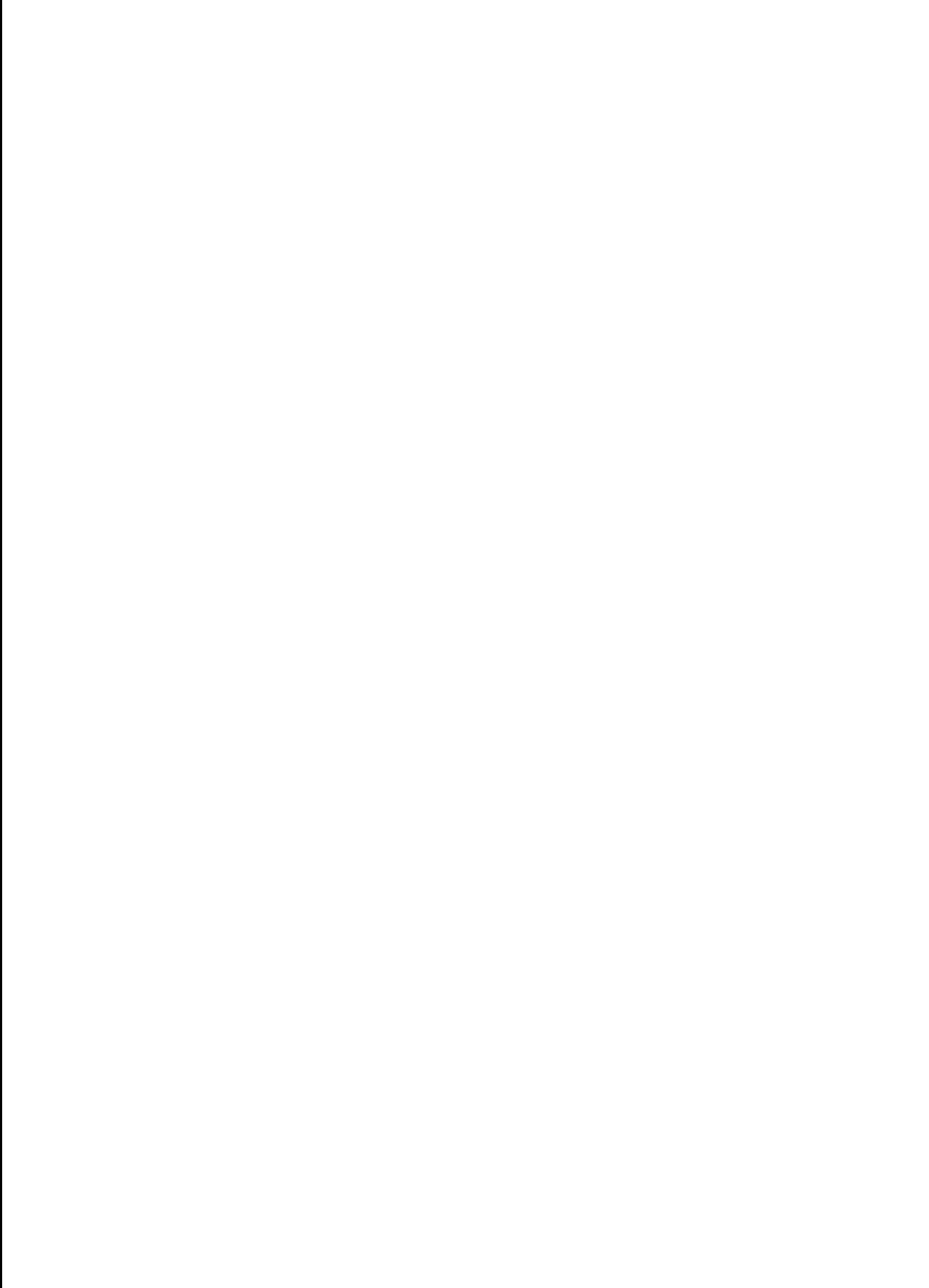


Municipal Utility District Building, Sacramento, California, designed by Dreyfuss & Blackford

Architectural Forum the magazine of building June 1961

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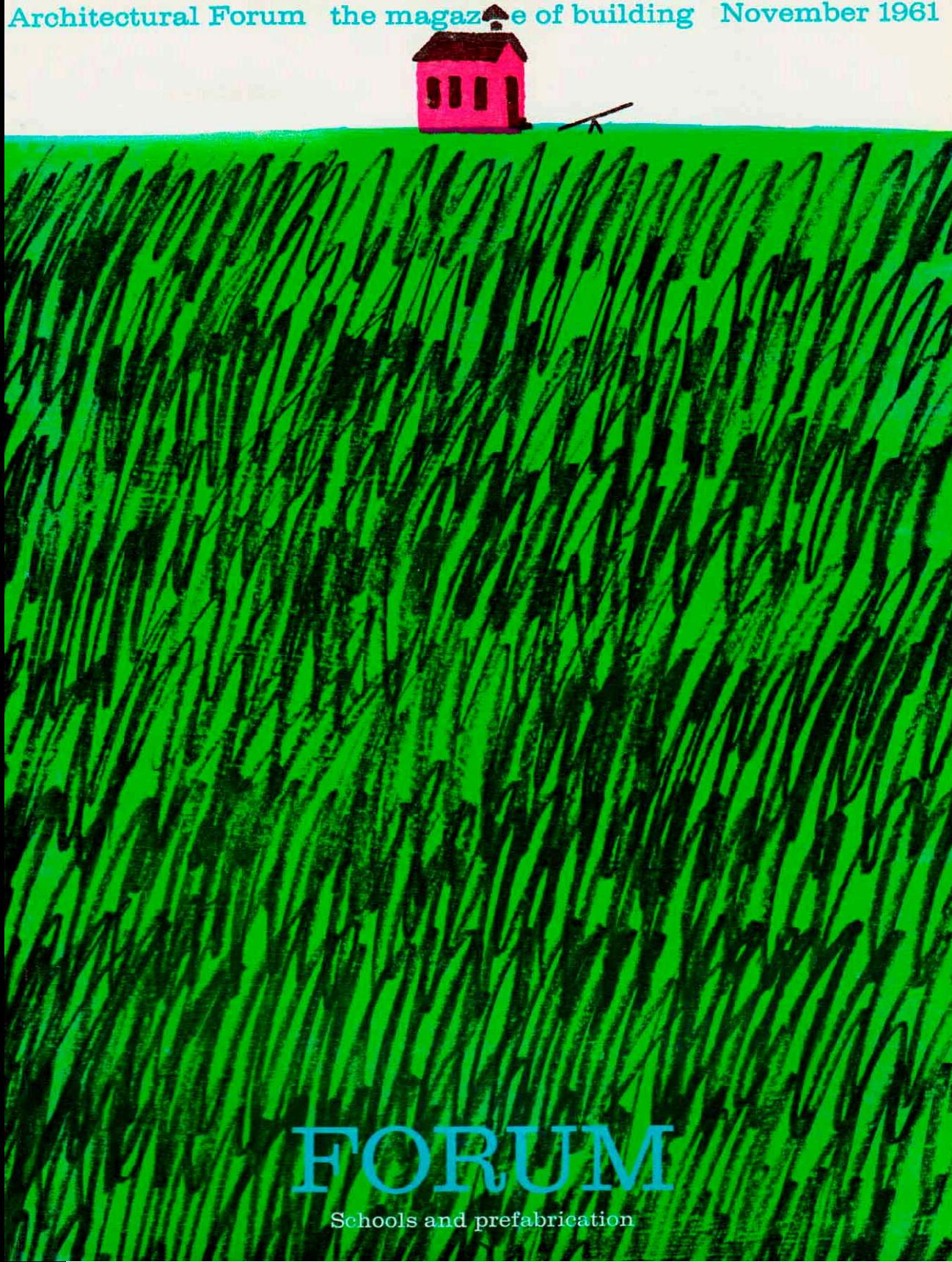
June 1961

Komai's somewhat more realistic drawing of Eero Saarinen's  
IBM research center in suburban New York. Full issue



IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Westchester County, New York,  
designed by Eero Saarinen

Architectural Forum the magazine of building November 1961



# FORUM

Schools and prefabrication

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1961

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November 1961

An illustration by Komai squeezes the emphasis of the horizon line to the very top for a special issue on schools and prefabrication. Full issue



Minnie Jeffries Primary School, Detroit, Michigan, designed by Linn Smith Associates, Inc.

# FORUM

JOLIET MARQUETTE RANDOLPH LOUIS SULLIVAN SOLDIERS FIELD MRS. O'LEARY DES PLAINES RIVER FORT DEARBORN DANIEL H. BURNHAM TRIBUNE HULL HOUSE CHICAGO HARRISON PULLMAN THE CUBS MCCORMICK RUSH PUMP ROOM TIT ALTGELD GARY KINZIE MIES HEIGHTS OAK WOODS FUNCTIONALISM STOCK EXCHANGE NATURAL HISTORY WINNETKA SCHOOL MAGNIFICENT MILE BASCULE BRIDGES LAKE MICHIGAN MARSHALL FIELD LINCOLN PARK 1<sup>ST</sup> SKYSCRAPER MERCHANDISE MART WABASH SANDBURG ROBBIE HOUSE STOCKYARDS WHITE SOX CONGRESS DE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION CANAL CALL OPIN' GHOST TIT WACKER COMISKEY "THE FRONT PAGE" DIVISION ST. "STEEL FRAME" "THE FIRE!" "WATER TOWER" "GARRICK THAT TODDLING TOWN" BEEF & CARSON PIRIE SCOTT UNION STATION STATE ST. STATE ST. MIDWAY AUDITORIUM OAK ST. BEACH HYDE PARK MASSACRE MICKEY FINN COTTON CLUB GOLD COAST ROOKERY MARINA SIEUR DE LASALLE GRANT PARK WILLIAM JENNEY THE LOOP CITY FIELD ART INSTITUTE BOARD OF TRADE SHEDD AQUARIUM BLACK SOX BLACKHAWK JACKSON PARK CICERO SWIFT FLW HALSTED CICERO CYCLOTRON HAYMARKET CHICAGO PIANO RIDS! EBONY COOK COUNTY UNIVERSITY ASTOR ST. SHORELESS JOE BERTIE MEGS FIELD GOLD COAST ROOKERY MARINA



## May 1962

Komai's typographic skyline for an issue about architecture in Chicago was his favorite cover for Architectural Forum. It was chosen for "Graphic Arts USA," the exhibition of American graphic design that was organized by the United States Information Service. For the exhibition, the English masthead was replaced with a Russian version that read "Artistic Design." In 1963 the exhibition opened in Kazakhstan, visited Moscow and two other cities in 1964, and completed its tour in Romania in 1965. The cover was Komai's calling card to the diplomatic world; in 1963 Komai went to work full-time for the United States Information Service. Full issue

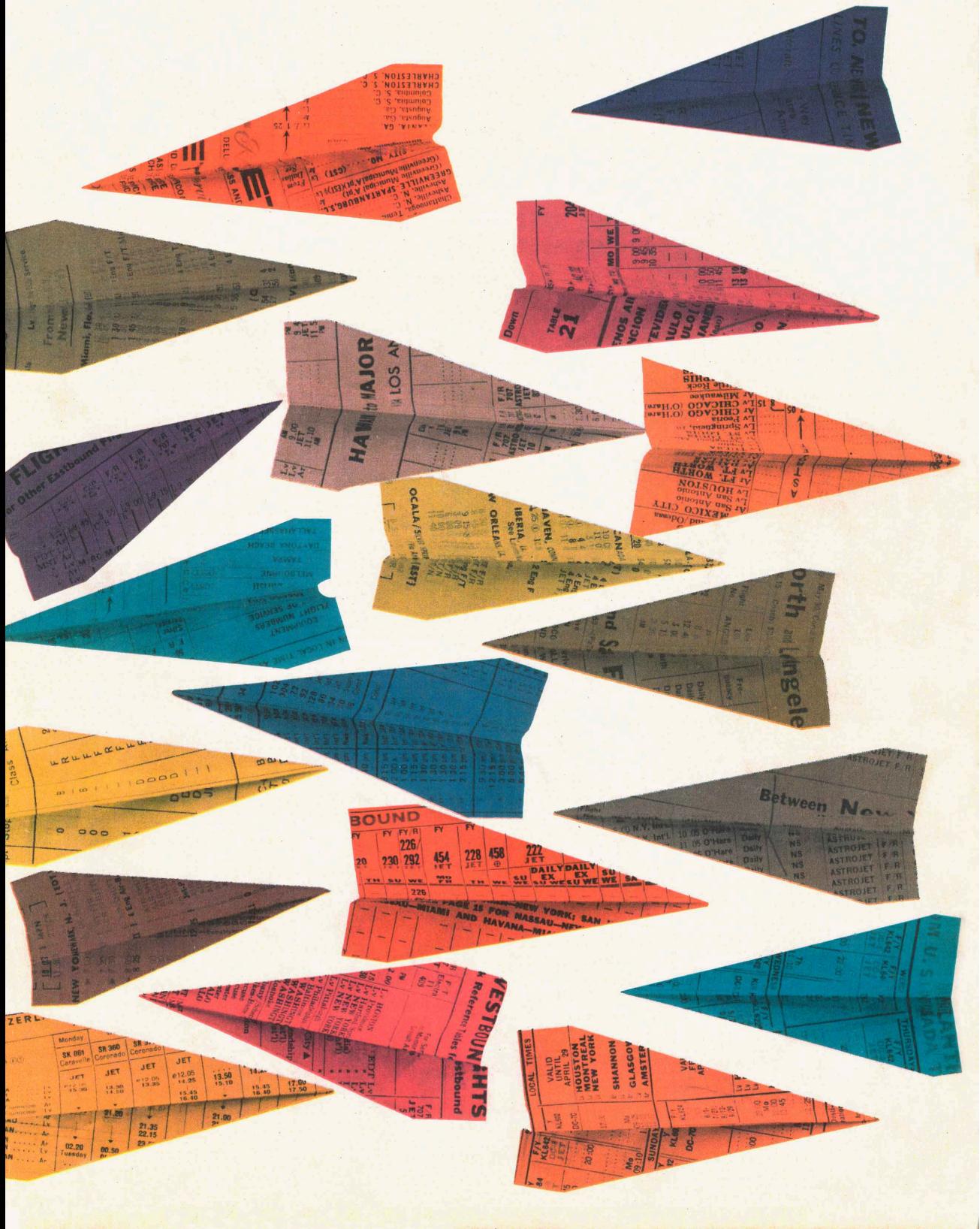


Marina City, Chicago, under construction. Designed by Bertrand Goldberg.  
Photograph courtesy of Portland Cement Association

**ARCHITECTURAL FORUM THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING**

JULY 1962

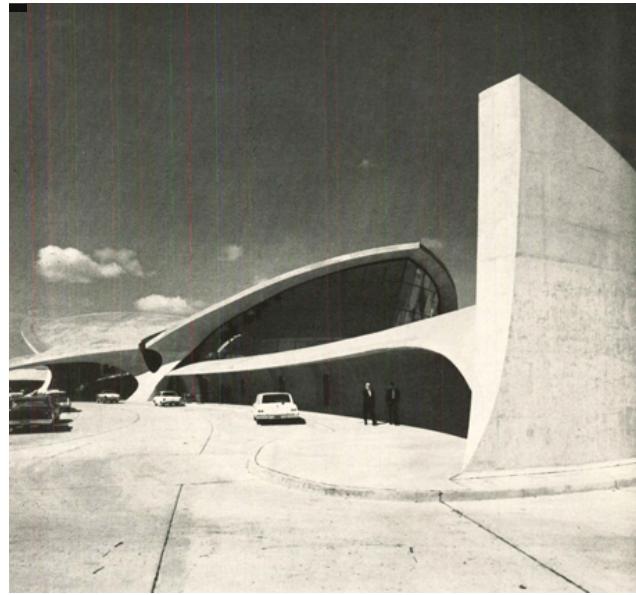
# FORUM





July 1962

For an issue on new airports, Komai folded airline schedules into paper airplanes, then photographed and colorized them into an animated fleet. Full issue



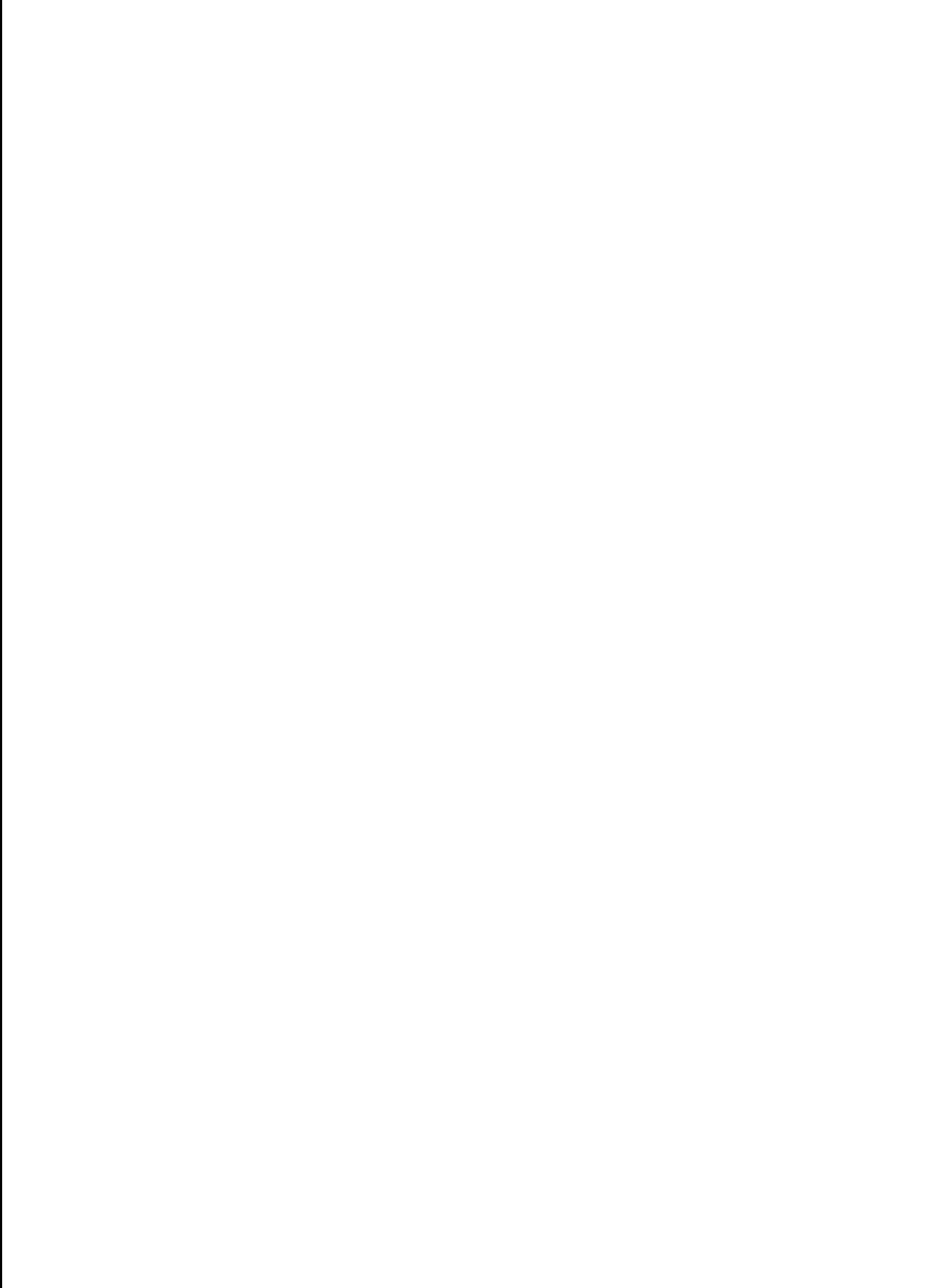
Eero Saarinen's Trans World Airlines terminal at Idlewild Airport (JFK Airport)

ARCHITECTURAL FORUM THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING JANUARY 1963

# FORUM



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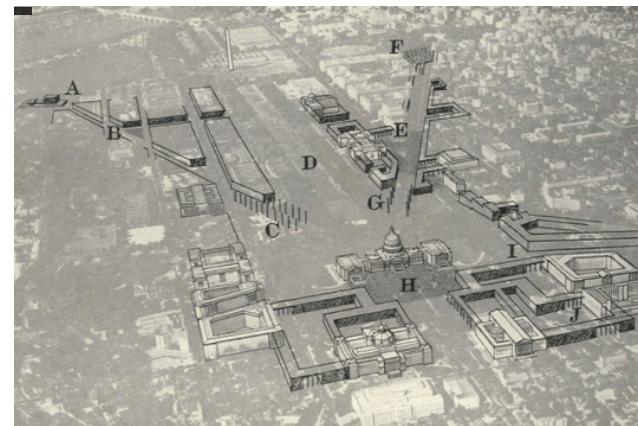


## January 1963

Peter Blake, managing editor of *Architectural Forum* at the time, wrote of this cover: "Ray disappeared for a week or two, very mysterious in his elegantly Asian way, and made everyone extremely nervous; was he going to meet our printer's deadlines? And what on earth was he going to produce? With a few minutes to spare before the printer threatened to shut down the presses, Ray Komai walked into our offices and unwrapped what looked like an odd sort of pillow: he had sewn together a wonderfully zany fake 'souvenir' — a kind of pillow case of the sort that souvenir peddlers might (but never did) sell to Washington's millions of tourists."

Former staff designer Peter Bradford, then no longer at *Architectural Forum* but working nearby, wrote of this cover: "...they called me and I ran over. I laughed at the thing, it was so silly, so thoroughly apt. I stood there, still wondering after so many years, who was this guy anyway? Who would go to

such lengths and pains to embroider a once-and-gone cover?"  
Full issue



Architect Paul Rudolph's design suggestions for improving Washington D.C.

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# FORUM

ARCHITECTURAL FORUM THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING MARCH 1963

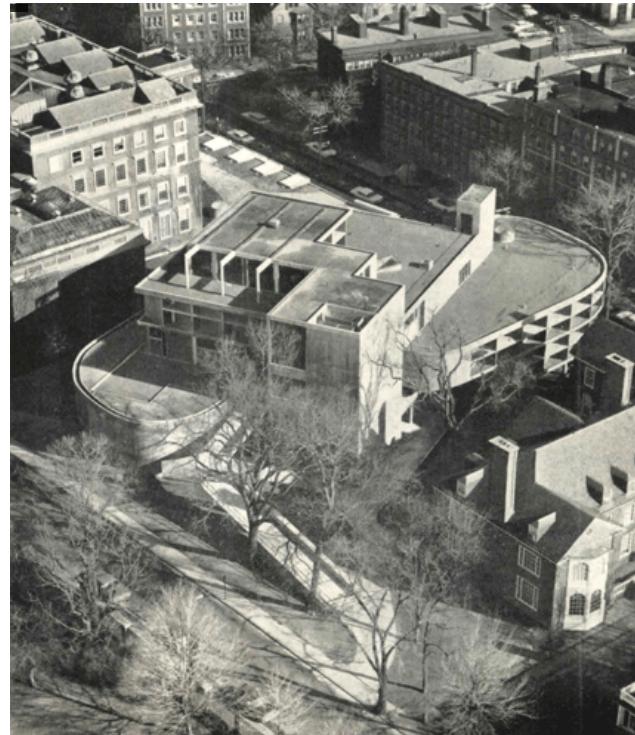




March 1963

A varsity "C" cover for an issue about the design of colleges.

[Full issue](#)



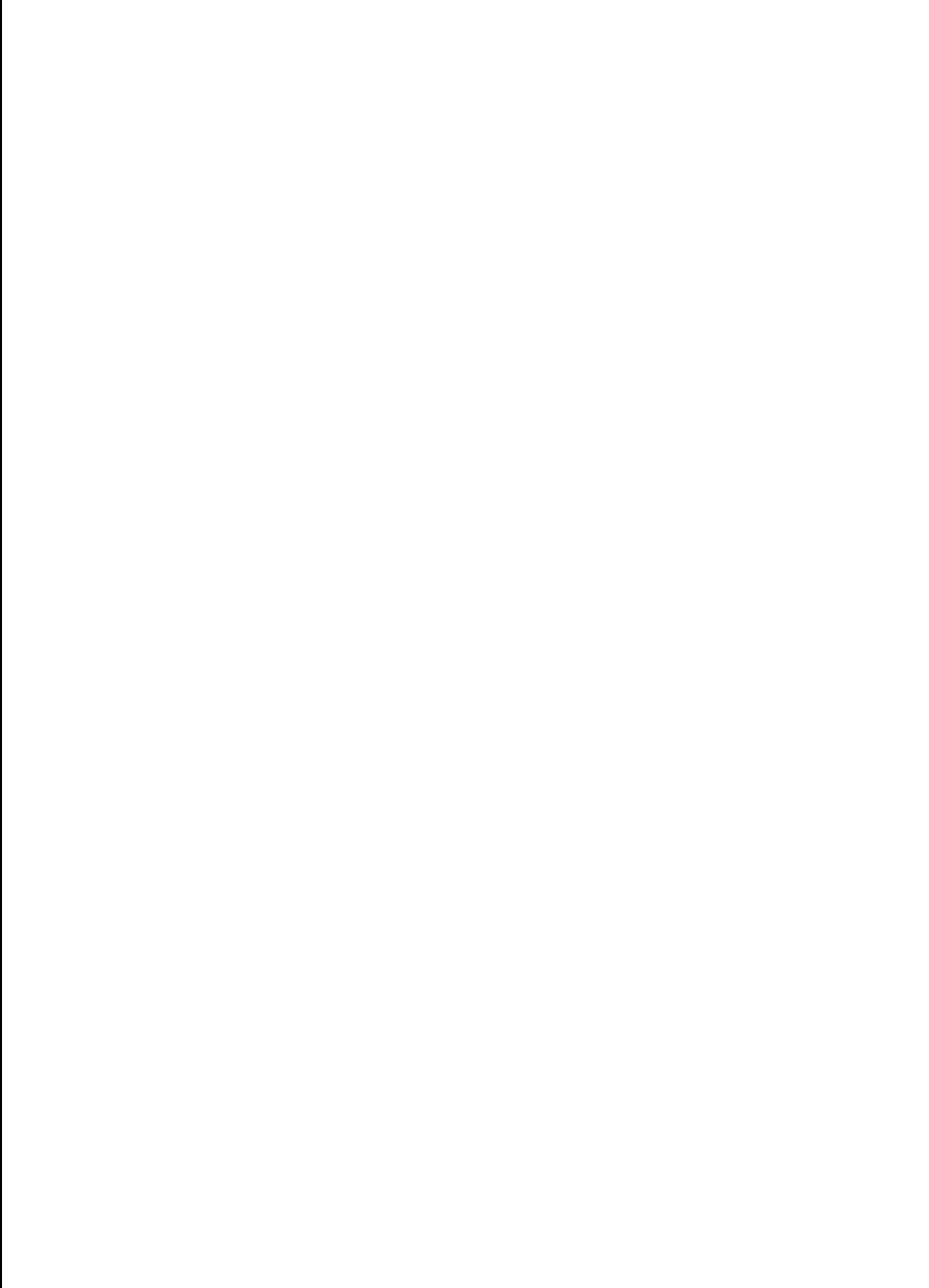
Le Corbusier's Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University

ARCHITECTURAL FORUM THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING OCTOBER 1963

# FORUM



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Kor



October 1963

A question mark becomes a road sign on the cover of an issue  
about urban transportation. Full issue



Photograph by Michael E. Bry for an article on urban transportation

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# Contributors

This site was created by The Graphics Office, an exhibition and graphic design firm in New York City ([thegraphicsoffice.com](http://thegraphicsoffice.com)). Angela Voulangas and Doug Clouse are the office founders and principals.

The following people and organizations made this site possible, and we are grateful for their help:

Natalie Nardello, who bravely agreed to explore the Quire platform with us and developed the site.

The staff at the Getty Publications office who created Quire, encourage its use, and answered our questions.

The USModernist website and its archive of scanned Architectural Forum magazines.<https://usmodernist.org/index-af.htm>



Luisa Baeta, for her retouching skill.

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Greg D'Onofrio and Patricia Belen, New York.

Hirasaki National Resource Center, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles.

Michael Komai and The Rafu Shimpo.

Tami Komai Hofer.

Ken Komai.

Rebecca Lown, for generously sharing her scanner.

The National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

The New York Public Library, Art & Architecture Collection.

Beverley Payeff-Masey, Executive Director, MetaForm Design International, in New York City, for photographs and recommending a visit to the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

Carol Wahler and the Klaus F. Schmidt Reference Library at the Type Directors Club, New York City.

Alexander Tochilovsky, Curator, Herb Lubalin Study Center of Design and Typography, Cooper Union, New York City.

Photographer Robert Wright.

Erin Dunigan from the Getty Museum for patiently answering all of our Quire questions.

Kris Thayer from the Minneapolis Institute of Art for her support and tips for using Quire.

# About

Ray Komai: Architectural Forum covers, 1953–1963 presents large images of 46 covers of Architectural Forum magazine that were designed by Ray Komai. The project includes an introduction and brief descriptions of each cover. Embedded in the cover descriptions are related photographs from the original issues, as well as links to scans of the full magazines on the website of usmodernist.org.

This project accompanies a book about Ray Komai by Doug Clouse of the Graphics Office, published by Counselor Books (<https://amzn.to/2CSlKLM>), and was inspired by an exhibition based on the book at Fordham University in 2019. The magazine covers were the most popular visual element in the exhibition but there was not room in the exhibition to provide descriptions of each cover. This project presents those descriptions, while also providing The Graphics Office an opportunity explore the online publishing. Online publishing offers museums opportunities to share information and exhibitions in new ways.

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