

# Worlds They Never Made

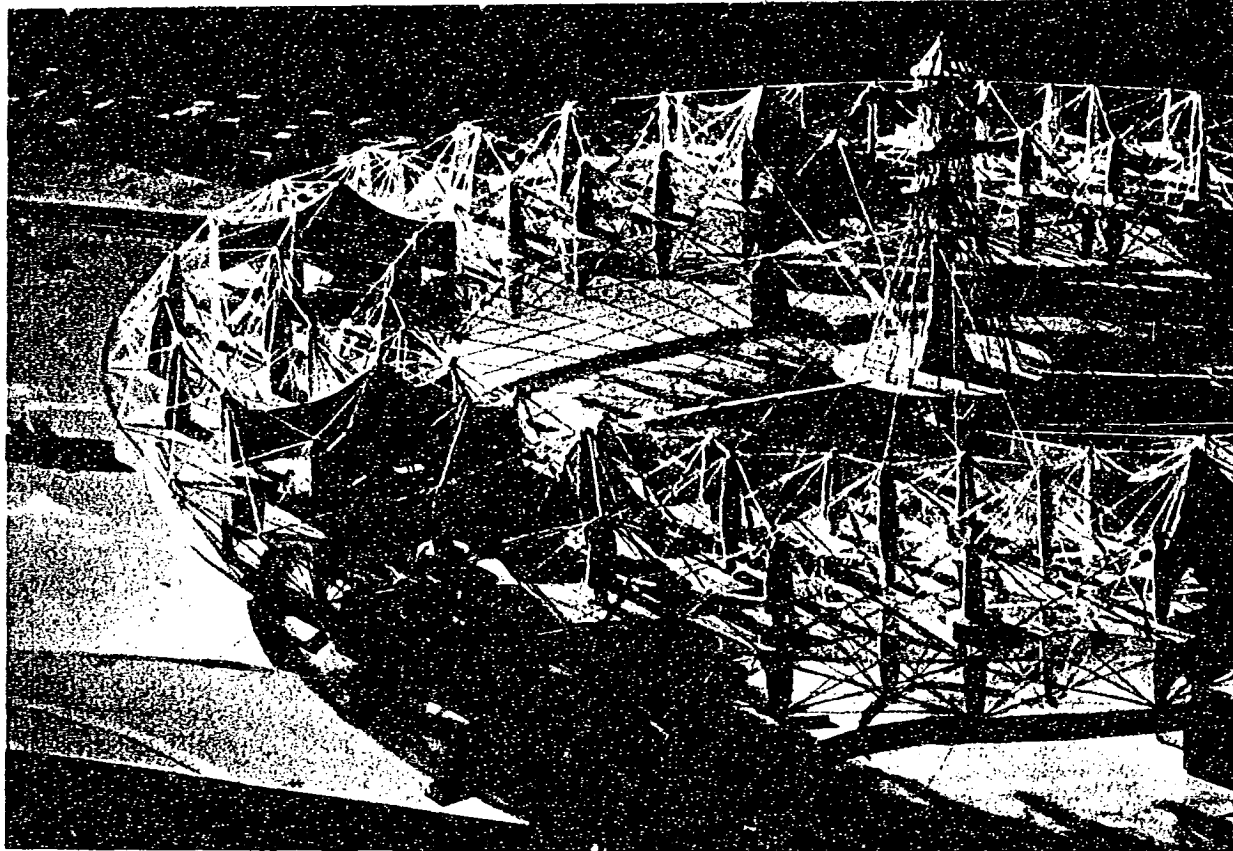
By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

**T**HE dreams of architects, both sleeping and waking, are filled with vast, visionary projects for re-making the world.

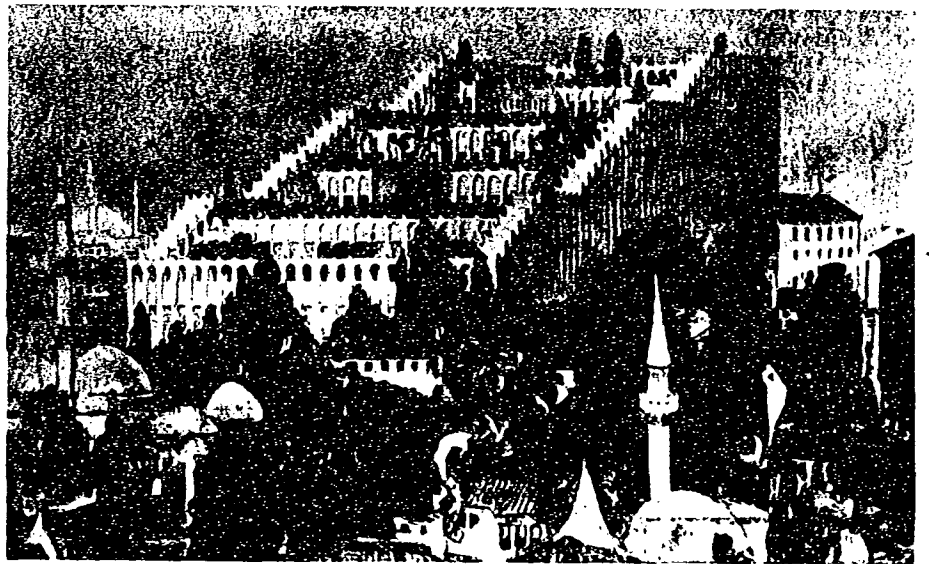
These superman schemes, ranging from the invention of radical structural systems to the creation of whole new cities, are electrifying excursions into what might be called the never-never land of subconscious architecture. Their like has not been seen on earth, and probably never will be. Drawing-board extravaganzas of startling, almost megalomaniac scope, they are compounded equally of revolutionary technology, strange subliminal drives and the architect's eternal, unrelenting desire to play God.

Although architects have developed their fantasies throughout history as a kind of professional escape hatch, such projects are particularly prevalent in our time of unprecedented technological and social change. This no-holds-barred, highly imaginative work is light years away from everyday problems of leaky roofs and subdivision split-levels, from clients' eccentricities and society's accepted tastes and standards. No compromises or concessions have inhibited the expression of the most extraordinary ideas, whether they are cities in the sky or underwater dwellings with aquarium views. Here is the architect's dream life—a fantastic, fascinating, completely unbuilt world.

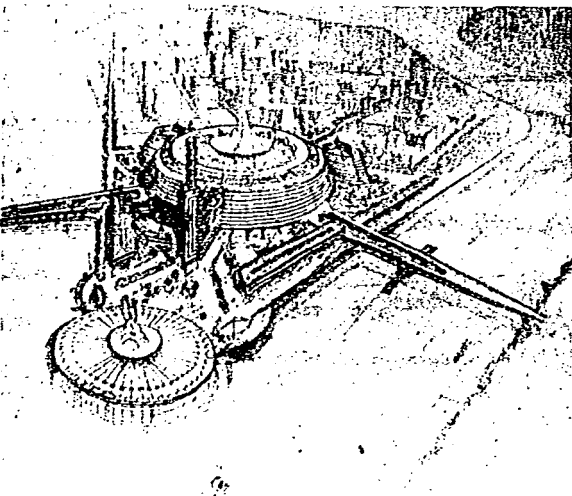
This world—often as disturbing as it is stimulating—is the subject of a new exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, "Visionary Architecture," opening to the public on Thursday. A roundup of some of the most provocative proposals of the twentieth century, it continues through Dec. 4.



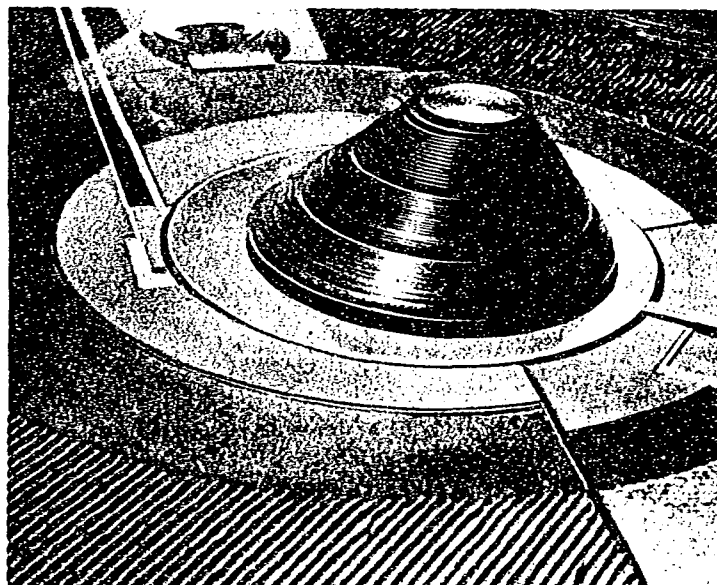
**SUSPENSION CITY**—A city in the form of a round bridge sits, self-contained, high above the water. The "bridge city" was imagined as straddling the Hudson River by J. W. Fitzgibbon and C. D. Sides. Its rim is a road enclosed in a tube; the spindle shapes are skyscrapers.



**GREAT STEPS**—A towering metropolis combines building rows and terraced gardens in a manner reminiscent of Babylon's hanging gardens. Designed for Istanbul in the Twenties, it was the unrealized dream of Hans Poelzig, pioneer German modernist.



**CIVIC CENTER**—A fantasy project for Pittsburgh by Frank Lloyd Wright was to accommodate theatres, gardens, roof fountains and fairy-tale towers. Wright was one of the few architects able to reconcile vision and reality in practice.



**Left—CIRCULAR CITY**—A man-made conical mountain has been proposed by French architect Jean Claude Mazet. It would be a complete metropolis. He visualizes work areas in the center, residences around the perimeter and exterior grooves for roads.