



By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE  
Architecture is the largest user of energy in the United States. This surplus is only by transportation of all the energy this country consumes wastes 10 per cent. The beautiful New York skyline at night, its romantically spaced, brilliantly lighted, offices, is ample of  
An gate en  
Appraisal waste. This more, is in  
exhibition

"The Architect and the Energy Crisis," sponsored by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. A traveling show of photographic enlargements designed by Arnold Sakis, underwritten by corporate foundation and Government funds, it can be seen at the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Exhibition Center at 125 Avenue and 56th through April 28.

The exhibition is a  *mea culpa* of the architecture profession. Its purpose is less a matter of visual play or design presentation than the statement of a message.

It is an ironic message. Indeed. In essence, it is that the fantastic, self-sufficient, miraculous, mechanized world created by the 20th-century architect—a world of huge, sealed buildings with their own microclimate and environment—considered the triumph of modern times and technology, is not always a boon and is sometimes a shameful waste.

Funny, a lot of us have been saying something like that for a long time in the energy crisis. We were not as concerned with such things as heat loss, however, as with crimes against nature and mankind.

Ordinary people have been less than happy in these technological marvels. Inside the hum of the air conditioning vies with Muzak in the vacuum of the

There is no spring of the calendar or the soul.

In Spring, in Rome, young men lean out of windows when the beauty of the morning is almost too much to bear, bursting with greetings for the girls below. Not in New York. The buildings are sealed and faceless.

"Operable windows deserve more consideration," says the exhibition text, dealing, of course, with energy loads. Inside the hum of the air conditioning vies with Muzak in the vacuum of the

of standardized, large-scale and air-conditioning design. Size and cost have often made such practices inevitable.

What can be done to curb this? The fact is, the show through architectural text states, "in recent designs? Suggestions range from houses and commercial buildings have seldom been designed to conserve energy. Suddenly, the architect, developer and investor are being hoist by their petard.

To quote the exhibition further, "Energy waste occurs in cooling, heating, lighting, ventilation and transportation and in uses of form and material."

Maximum natural light penetration—remember daylight—so studiously ignored by the purveyors and specifiers of luminous ceilings and fluorescent fixtures, is urged.

So is the use of planting, to reduce heat loads on exposed hard surfaces. To say nothing of reviving people.

The exhibition is presented as a plea for a "return to reason" in the consumption of energy by the architecture profession through sensible design practices, but it sounds equally like a plea for a return to some principles of human response. Give or take a kilowatt, it's none too soon.