

# ARCHITECTURE

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If you have been wondering what the unnamed prestigious corporation that has offered to buy St. Bartholomew's Church for \$100 million might build in its place, Tim Prentice, architect-turned-artist, has let his fancy soar. His "St. Bart's Sketchbook," a series of montages based on Bertram Goodhue's landmark building at Park Avenue and 50th Street., explores the possibilities with tongue in cheek and a wicked eye. The drawings will be on view from Tuesday through Jan. 30 at the Urban Center, 457 Madison Avenue, the north wing of the restored Villard Houses, which is now occupied by a coalition of art, architecture and environmental groups. The more sumptuous south wing has been incorporated into the new Palace Hotel.

In this case, 26 pictures are worth 26,000 words. "Options" surrounds the church with office skyscrapers made of stock tables, including the legend "Do Not Forget the Neediest," and "Prestigious American Corporation" substitutes a mildly loony Saul Steinberg drawing of a one-story taxpayer for the elegant, Byzantine-style edifice. In "Air Rights," a stupifyingly banal tower rises directly from the elaborate French Romanesque portal. The definitive statement must be King Kong surmounting the Byzantine dome. At last report St. Bartholomew's had decided not to sell its church building, but was entertaining offers for its community house and garden.

*Ada Louise Huxtable*