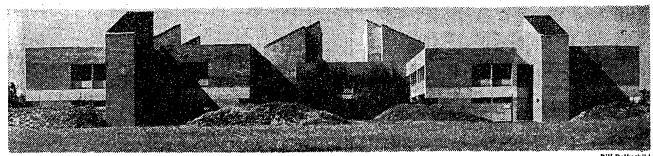
Architecture: 6 Designs Win Bard Merit Awards

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

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One of the Bard Awards of the City Club of New York went to the Bronx State Hospital Rehabilitation Center, designed by Gruzen & Partners for the New York State Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corp.

By ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE

Just a little more than 10 years ago, the City Club of New York made news by not giving its Bard Awards for Excellence in Architecture and Urban Design. It made the nonpresentation with considerable fanfare. There was nothing good enough, the City Club announced, to merit recognition in the public sector, which it alternates annually for the prizes with buildings of the private sector. The nonprize was meant to chasten city and state agencies for the parlous state of the city's public architec-

A decade later, the picture changed. The Bard Awards, announced today, have gone to six "outstanding achievements in publicly sponsored construction completed in the past two years within the five boroughs of New York." These include a hospital facility, a community swimming pool, and four examples of housing.

The City Club's joy in the

results, however, was not un-

tempered by criticism. No

First Honor Award was given

because nothing was consid-

ered a "hero achievement." Recreation and Cultural Af-The prizes were Awards offairs Administration; and an Merit, signifying "designassortment of housing proj-skill, client awareness, andects put up by the New York sensitivity to surroundings."City Housing and Develop-

The real significance of thement Administration and the announcement, however, is New York State Urban Dethe indication of a vast in-velopment Corporation.

crease in attention to the Of the housing projects, design of socially important three are for the State Urban construction — a category Development that represented the nadir of They are Twin Parks Northarchitectural achievement ineast by Richard Meier and

architectural achievement in east by Richard Meier and New York a short time ago. Associates, for the Dematteis The trend is more remark-Organization, and Twin Parks able than the individual Northwest Site 5 and 11, by buildings. It is representative Prentice and Chan, Ohlausen, of the profession's turn to for the D. U. First Realty the problems of the public for the D. U. First Realty the problems of the public Company, both in the Bronx, sector, and an accelerated Company, both in the Bronx, concern with public and Coney Island Houses Site urban design categories. This and 6 by Hoberman and is part of the social and Wasserman, for the Starrett environmental consciousness Housing Corporation, in that has invaded the archi-Brooklyn. Giovanni Pasaneltectural world in recentla's Twin Parks Housing is a tectural world in recentla's Twin Parks Housing is a curious omission. years.

The prize-winning build- The New York City Housings are the Bronx State Hosing and Development Adminpital Rehabilitation Center stration project is East Middesigned by Gruzen and Part-Town Plaza by Davis, Brody ners for the New York State Health and Mental Hygiene Facilities Improvement Corporation; the Bedford-Stuyve-

Associates, built for the East Midtown Community Housing Corporation. It is on East 23d Street between First and Second Avenues.

The jury found its selections superior, but "flawed." It criticized the lack of innovative planning and construction in most of the housing, but considered the projects' markedly higher design qualiy a good omen for the future.

Jury members were architects Hugh Hardy, Henry C. Horowitz, Edward F. Knowles and Charles H. Warner. Donald E. Weeden represented the City Club. Allen B. Strauss was chairman of the program.

The Bard Awards, established in 1962, honor Albert S. Bard, a long-time crusader for better architecture in New York. He would be pleased that the score has gone from zero to six.

sant Community Pool by

Morris Lapidus Associates for

the New York City Parks,