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ART MAILBAG

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# 'I Stand By My Architecture'

To the Editor:

**H**aving just recently returned from a prolonged trip abroad, my attention was brought to Ada Louise Huxtable's article "It's Stylish, But Is It Art — Or Spinach" (Jan. 25) concerning my architecture in Stamford, Conn. In that article Mrs. Huxtable makes numerous fallacious statements about my attitude towards my work, and I feel I must now set the record straight.

Mrs. Huxtable's supposition that I have renounced and regret my architectural work in Stamford is false. I have done no such thing. I stand by my architecture with as much conviction now as I did when the buildings she refers to were designed and built. Unfortunately, Mrs. Huxtable based her entire premise on a misleading article by Andree Brooks (Real Estate, Oct. 19, 1980) in which I was absolutely and egregiously misquoted. I take it as a despicable affront to have first Miss Brooks and then Mrs. Huxtable twist my words to suggest that I feel failed in my work. That is simply not true.

I told Miss Brooks in her interview with me that I felt that the buildings in Stamford which, in the last eight years,

have mushroomed up around my work there, have made Stamford a hodgepodge; that the city now lacks the cohesion of an overall design focus; and that I turn the other way when I pass it on the highway because of this jarring lack of harmony. However, I have absolutely no regrets about what I designed and none about what I was trying to accomplish, which was to create a total environment of architectural integrity in the city of Stamford. My only lament is that those buildings constructed subsequent to my work have failed to achieve this end.

As for Mrs. Huxtable, I would like to inform her that to differ with her is not a crime and does not need the offering of a "mea culpa." We have diametrically opposed views about life and architecture. I believe in life and individuality; she, apparently, believes in the opposite and in anonymity along strict Miesian lines. I believe in the duality of existence; she believes in the extremes of either saints or devils.

Architecture, like every other human endeavor, should reflect life. It should be a fluid, vibrating backdrop to the varied and constantly changing modes of life. An expanding, contracting, pul-

sating architecture would reflect life as it is today and therefore be part of it.

I am sure that Mrs. Huxtable will continue to entertain her readers. But I hope that the next time she will have the courtesy to interview her subjects before she enters them as statistics in her gossip column.

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*Andree Brooks replies:*

I did not misquote Mr. Bisharat or misrepresent his stated opinions in any way. During a lunch interview which lasted over an hour he was lamenting the lack of control he had over the overall look for downtown Stamford rather than regretting his individual designs.

*Ada Louise Huxtable replies:*

There seemed to be a raised environmental awareness, or a reevaluation of his early buildings, in Mr. Bisharat's comments on the architectural failures of downtown Stamford. Apparently, he was merely deploring the lack of a total Bisharat look. Architecturally, we are still far apart. Clearly, he does not understand my views. And for me, his buildings vibrate and pulsate a bit too much.