

Halprin and Kenzo Tange—are known for the highest quality of professional service.

Yet the Controller's office is beset by doubts about the status and contracts of these gentlemen and is auditing some of their accounts for "reasonableness." The apparent hitch is that the architects, in the interest of expediting the job, started work before contracts were signed—a lumbering nine-month process. Expecting to be paid for the early work seems to be considered unreasonable.

This, of course, is the kind of standard New York operating bureaucratic procedure that makes good plans founder, great buildings crumble and architectural excellence evaporate. Only the hacks and experience-hardened can handle the process, and New York shows it. Until good intentions at the top are met by good practice below, the situation cannot change. The great shall continue to be made equal to the least, and all shall be delayed, diluted and reduced to the lowest common denominator by civil service sabotage.

# Architectural Obstructionism

Mayor Lindsay and Controller Procaccino recently issued a joint statement from City Hall saying that the city will pay higher architectural fees "to achieve the very best in the design of its buildings and to insure the highest quality of professional service."

But back at the Controller's office no one is paying the architects of the Park Department's new Flushing Meadows plan, an "activities" park designed to meet the recreational needs of dwellers in the slum tinderboxes. The money is there, the signed contracts are there, and the architects—Marcel Breuer, Lawrence