

# For a 'Living Image' of F. D. R.

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Architectural critic and historian

ONCE again a plan for a monument in monument-laden Washington is generating heated debate—the plan for a permanent tribute to Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to be erected between the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

In 1955 Congress created a commission to make arrangements for such a tribute to the thirty-second President.

"It would be well to cast aside, at the beginning, any previous building or work of art as a model to be directly imitated," said the venturesome report an advisory group of architects and city planners subsequently made to the commission. "We must look to the character and work of Franklin Roosevelt \* \* \* the essential Roosevelt \* \* \* to give us the theme of a memorial that will do him the honor he deserves and transmit his living image to future generations."

The memorial promises to make the most important change in the Washington scene since the completion of



**SITE**—The F. D. R. Memorial will rise on the narrow strip of land between the Potomac River and the Tidal Basin. The Lincoln Memorial is seen at the left of the site, the Jefferson Memorial at the right, and the Washington Monument in the distance across the Basin.

the shrines to Lincoln and Jefferson. As a result of a national competition held by the commission, a \$50,000 prize-winning design has been found. It was chosen last month from among 574 entries by a panel of prominent judges appointed by the commission.

The winner is shown here, along with five runners-up, each awarded \$10,000, and several other entries by leading

architects. However, the judges' designation of a winner does not assure construction. The design must also be approved by the full commission, then by Washington's Fine Arts Commission, the National Parks Commission and ultimately by Congress, which has not been noted for support of avant-garde efforts in the arts. (Whatever the outcome, the winning architect

named last month will receive his \$50,000—compensation for work done thus far. But the commission is not bound to use any of the entries.)

The prize design is an open arrangement of giant tablets bearing historic statements of F. D. R. Among some 2,000 words, selected for the tablets with the aid of Harvard professor Frank Friedel, are:

"The only thing to fear is fear itself."

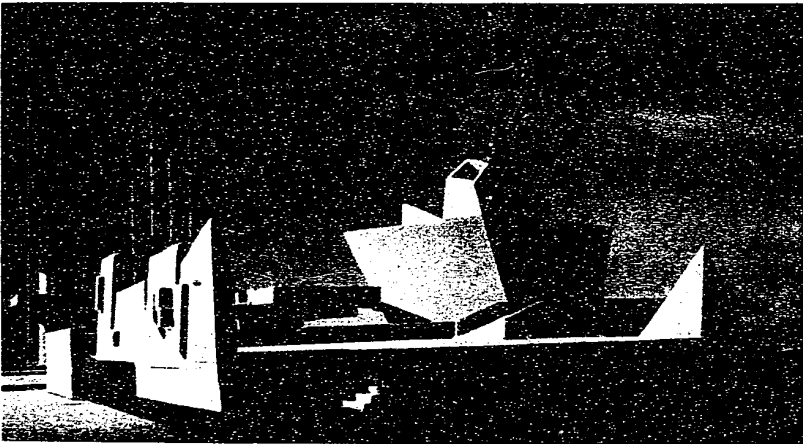
"I see one-third of our nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished."

"This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny."

SINCE it was made public, the design has been much discussed. Unfavorable comments have included "instant Stonehenge" and "book-ends."

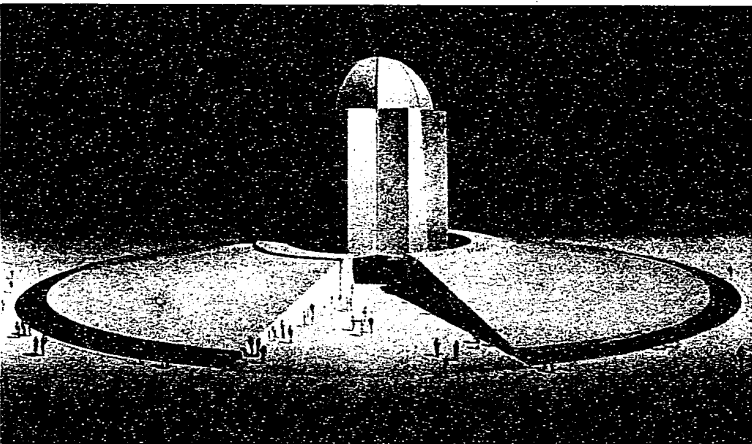
Advocates contend that the prize winner is a rare example of a thoughtfully conceived and located design—in a city that is too fast becoming a free-for-all for memorials. They call it forceful, if not strikingly original, and praise it as a sensitive, contemporary response to an awesome artistic and social challenge.

## OTHER ENTRIES BY LEADING ARCHITECTS



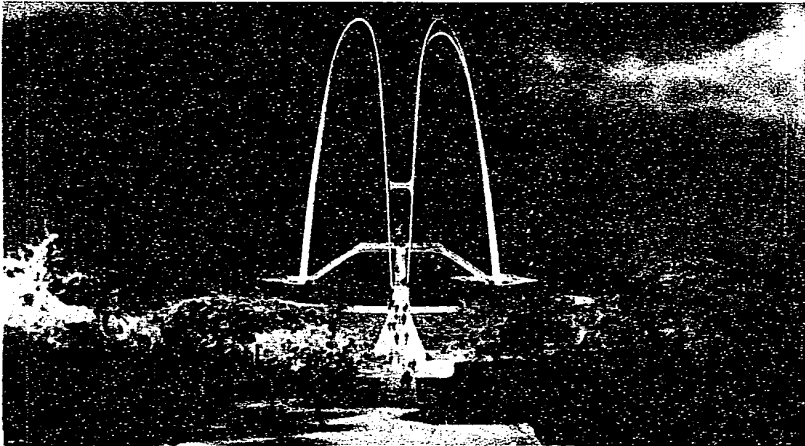
Percival Goodman.

**RECORDED ON A WALL**—Achievements of the late President's four terms are inscribed on the tablets, left, which form a wall of this memorial. At the center is a statue chamber.



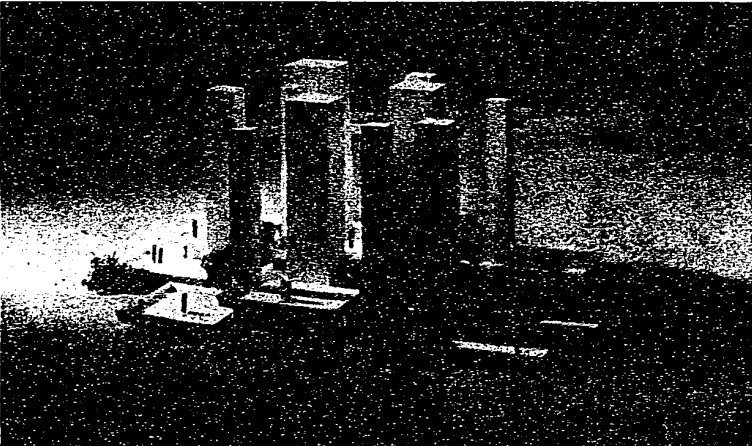
Philip Johnson.

**TRADITION UPDATED**—A modern adaptation of a classic idea: the statue in a temple-like building. This shrine, with a golden dome, houses a thirty-foot-high likeness of F. D. R.



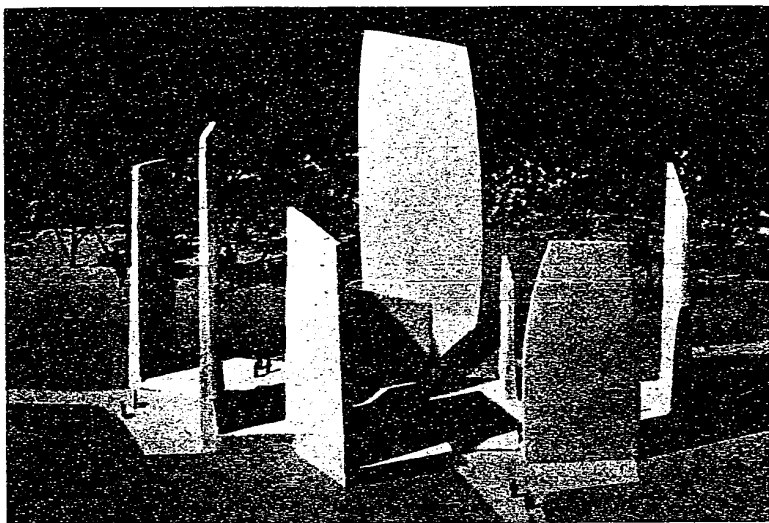
Architects: Minoru Yamasaki and Associates, Landscape architect: Lawrence Halprin.

**SOARING SIMPLICITY**—At the end of a long approach, a heroic statue stands at the top of stairs framed by four slender curves of concrete, which represent the Four Freedoms.



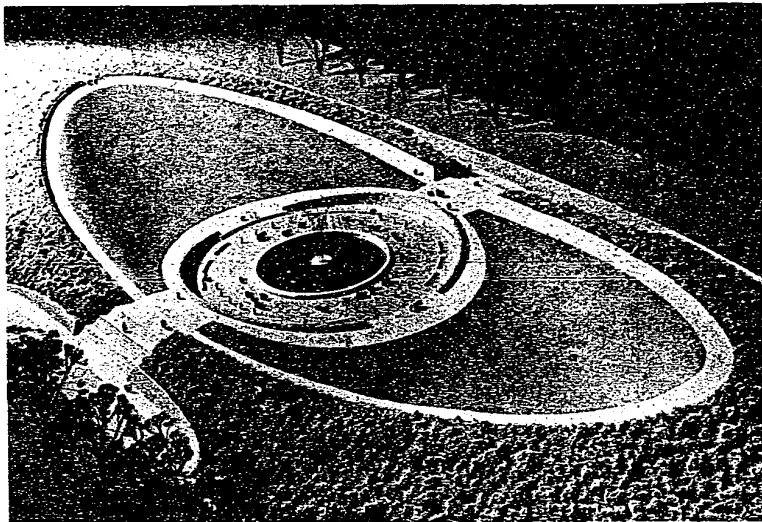
Architect: John M. Johansen, Designers: John D. McVitty, Maria Fenyo, Sculptor: Costantino Nivola.

**MEMENTOES OF THE MAN**—Massive towers boldly thrusting skyward to express F. D. R.'s stature, cover chambers where photographs, films and recordings vividly recall the man.



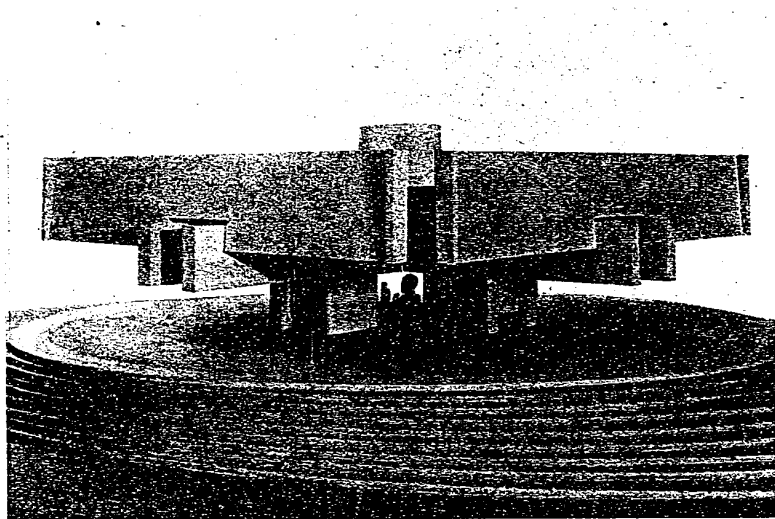
Architects: William Federsen, Bradford Tilney, Joseph Wasserman, David Beer. Sculptor: Norman Hoberman.

**WINNER: ENDURING WORDS**—Memorable Roosevelt quotations would be engraved on gigantic stone slabs, the tallest 165 feet, in the design that took first prize of \$50,000.



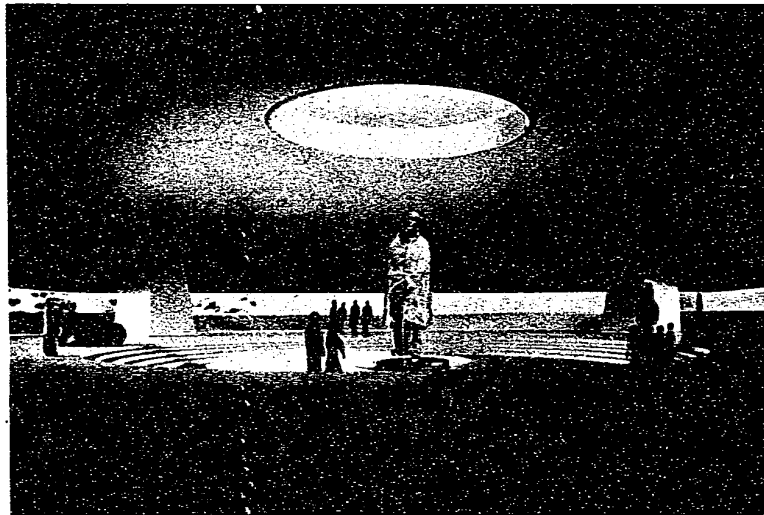
Sasaki-Walker-Lunders Associates.

**WATER, EARTH AND SKY**—This runner-up uses "earth sculpture"—a grassy, bowl-like hollow open to the sky. The fountain symbolizes the generous flow of F. D. R.'s humanitarianism.



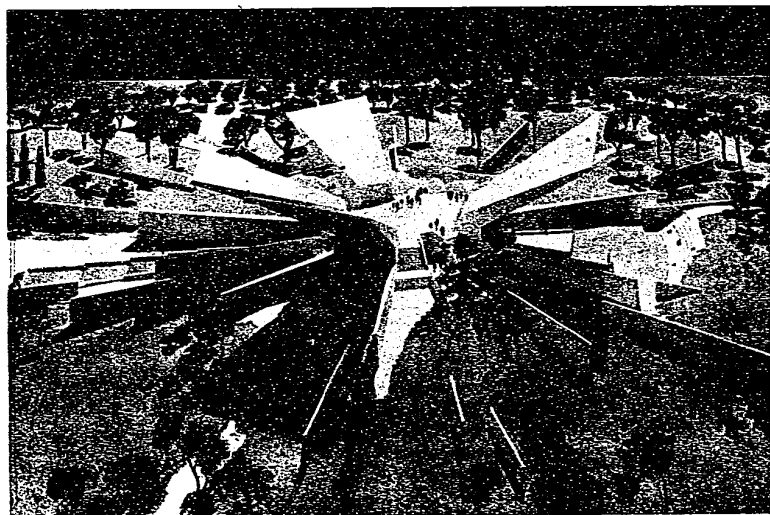
Tasso Katselas.

**ABSTRACT SHRINE**—A monumental bust of Roosevelt is sheltered by a startling, reinforced-concrete structure, its complex forms chosen to represent the age he lived in.



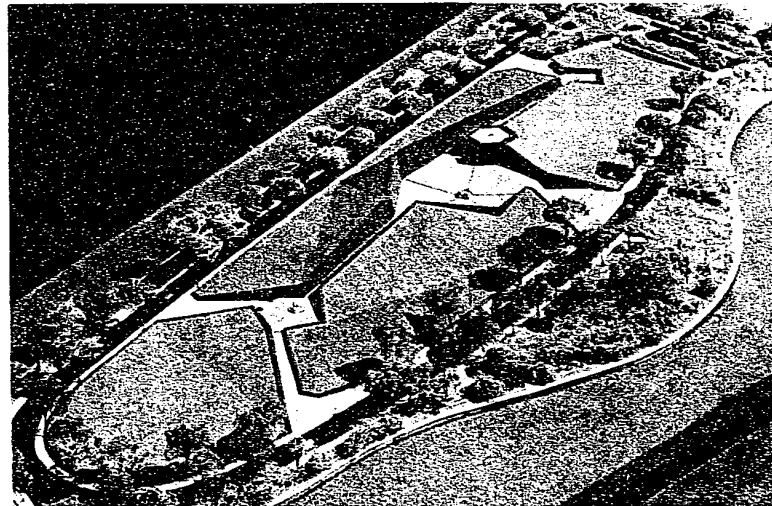
Rolf Myller.

**FIGURE OF F. D. R.**—The skylit statue dominating a serene space is a timeless memorial concept. In this version, no walls or doors obstruct one's view of the horizon outside.



Architect: Abraham Geller. Associates: Douglas Gordon, Diana Kirsch, Claude Samton, Peter Samton.

**FOR FOUR FREEDOMS**—Four ceremonial courts sheltered by concrete canopies center about an open plaza. Beneath the plaza is a room containing the Four Freedoms documents.



Architects: Joseph Wehrer, Harold Borkin, William Johnson. Sculptor: Thomas McClure.

**CEREMONIAL SETTING**—This landscaped park was envisioned as the formal site for the presentation of annual awards, which would be created to further the ideals of Roosevelt.