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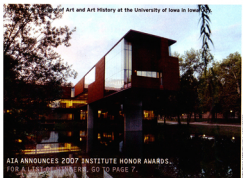
WRT PRESUMED WINNER OF AQUARIUM COMPETITION

IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST



A team led by Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT) is the presumed winner of *Primmeter Vision*, a design competition held by the New York Aquarium in Coney Island, according to a source who asked for anonymity. The list had been narrowed to three finalists in October: the Philadelphia-based WRT, and the New York firms Smith-Miller + Hawkins, and West + Voss with West 8. Press representatives for the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the organization that runs the aquarium, explained that an official announcement

may not come until March, and that they cannot confirm whether a winner has been selected at all. However, principals at the two other shortlisted firms told *The Architect's Newspaper* that they had been thanked for their efforts and that they were no longer under consideration. The project is intended to give the institution a more public face by redesigning the entire perimeter of its 56-year-old facility; a chain link fence currently marks its Surf Avenue border, while a bland concrete wall overlooks the boardwalk. **continued on page 6**



Art and Art History at the University of Iowa in Iowa



WORLD BODY WILL JUGGLE EMPLOYEES OVER SEVEN YEARS WHILE REPAIRING 55-YEAR-OLD HEADQUARTERS

UN APPROVES RENOVATION

When the United Nations was completed in 1953, its architects drafted specifications that called for repairs 25 years hence. But according to Werner Schmidt, a UN spokes-person, the building was so well constructed that plans were put off. It was not until 1998 that the General Assembly voted to tackle the long-overdue renovation, though it has taken until now for a concrete plan to take shape. On December 23, the General Assembly voted on a budget of \$1.88 billion for a renovation process that will take place in ten stages, according to the United Nations Capital Master Plan (UNCMP), with construction beginning this summer on temporary offices and meeting spaces for the headquarters' 4,000 employees.

The entire complex will be renovated, including the 39-story Secretariat, the domed General Assembly Hall, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, and the conference center, as well as underground facilities linking all four buildings; it is scheduled to be complete in 2014. "Basically the point is to bring this building up to current New York City building codes," said Mark Camara, a project manager working with the UN.

All the UN facilities were built according to the 1938 New York City Building Code, which was not amended for 30 years. The buildings are rife with asbestos and saddled with a \$35 **continued on page 3**

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NEW YORK CITY DECLARES WAR ON ILLEGAL ADS

DOB Cover-Up

Is there no such thing as bad publicity? New York City says it wants to challenge that notion by cracking down on the burgeoning number of illegal outdoor advertisements. The city's Department of Buildings has announced that it will strengthen enforcement of existing laws that ban advertising on sidewalk sheds, the structures erected over sidewalks to protect pedestrians from construction debris. Fines for the illegal tailboards range from \$2,500 to a maximum of \$25,000. Offending ads could **continued on page 6**

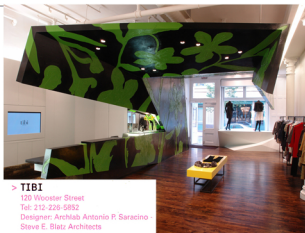
BRITISH ARCHITECTS ACCUSE AUTHORITIES OF SACRIFICING DESIGN IN THE CITY'S BIGGEST BUILDING INITIATIVE IN DECADES



Aquatics Center by Zaha Hadid

OLYMPIC FUROR

As London's Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) prepares to launch a competition for the design and delivery of a velodrome for the 2012 Games, leading UK architects including Lord Norman Foster, Ken Shuttleworth, and David Morley are lining up to compete. And with the December announcements that **continued on page 9**



> **TIBI**

120 Wooster Street
Tel: 212-228-5852
Designer: Archibab Antonio P. Saracino
Steve E. Blatz Architects

The new women's clothing store Tibi in SoHo occupies a space typical of the neighborhood: a very long, not-too-wide space with a high ceiling and cast iron columns. Tibi, however, doesn't look much like its neighbors, because of two massive green-and-black canopies suspended from the ceiling. Starting with an arch-like form at the front entrance, the canopies fold in, over, and down, creating darker, more sheltered spaces within the bright loft room. "We wanted to create a forced perspective, because otherwise the shop is incredibly long," explained Antonio Saracino, who, with Steve Blatz, makes up the firm archLAB. The two forms actually create four distinct zones within the boutique, because the more straightforward white spaces between them have a different scale altogether. The architects wanted to use a floral pattern because Tibi's owner began as a textile designer and is known for her extravagant prints. "We chose black and green because they are her signature colors," said Blatz, "but what's amazing is that she gave us total freedom to design the pattern ourselves."