



Thursday, June 28, 1984 O&E

(F)E

Capitol idea

Architect develops long-range plan

Bingham Farms-based architect Sigmund Blum may be best known on home turf for his design of the K mart World Headquarters in Troy, the First Federal Building in Detroit or the United Terminal at Metropolitan.

But, across the state, he's the architect behind the changing face of the Capitol complex in Lansing.

His grand design, conceived 20 some years ago, which would have made the complex a regional showplace, never made it. But, a modified plan is now taking shape.

The original called for a broad plaza, retaining the old Capitol at one end and new, contemporary-styled buildings for the executive, legislative and judicial branches at the other.

But, all isn't lost. Blum's two-section Ottawa Street Office Buildings, thin structures sitting on a podium with a sunken courtyard containing a stainless steel fountain, were completed last winter.

They came in \$1 million under the estimated \$44 million, something of a phenomenon in this time of continually rising costs.

To indulge in a bit of hindsight, had Blum's entire plan been carried out in the 1960s, it would have cost \$40 million, now it would be at least five times that figure.

HIS NEW obelisk shaped Capitol Building, the basic design for which was approved in the 70s, is still on the drawing board.

Seated at his desk in the Bingham Farms office building, Blum said there never was any thought of demolishing the old Capitol which he said should be restored and maintained to "give a historical viewpoint" and house certain departments.

"The whole concept is to see the old Capitol at one end and the new one at the other," he said.

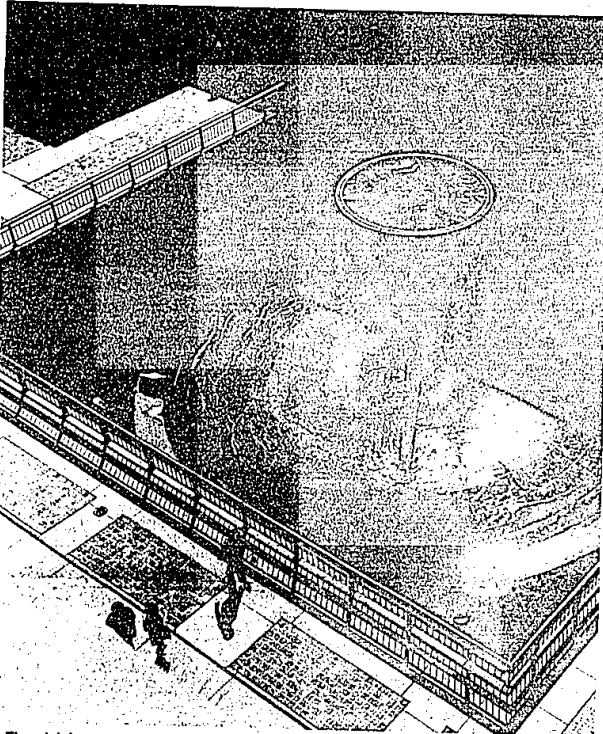
The Ottawa Street buildings are of limestone panels and thermal gray insulating glass. The panels match the exteriors of the Law and Mason buildings and blend with the Capitol.

The new buildings have four floors of office space above the plaza level and two below for computer space, conference center, cafeteria and parking.

Blum also designed the 25-foot tall stainless steel fountain, "Ottawa Falls," in the sunken court.

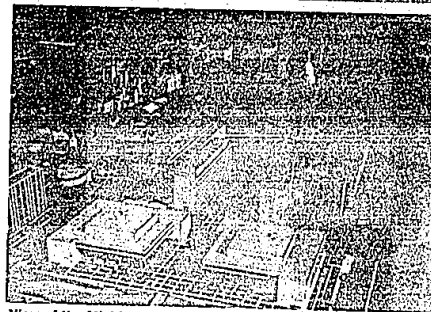
Blum completed his architectural studies at University of Illinois and has been a visiting professor at University of Detroit, University of Illinois, University of Michigan and Lawrence Institute of Technology.

He has also been active in local and national activities for the American Institute of Architects and has received more than 50 international, national and local design awards.

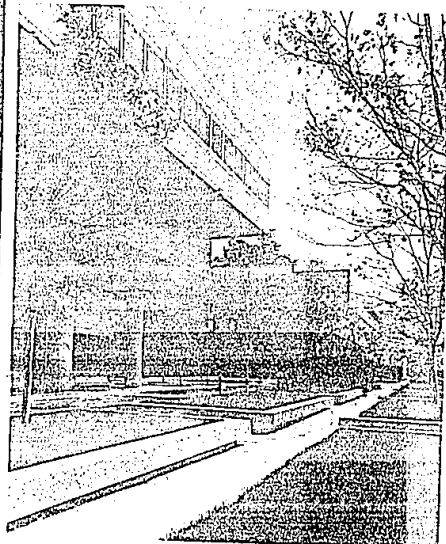


The stainless steel "Ottawa Falls" fountain, 25-foot tall, was designed by Sigmund Blum. The fountain with a stainless steel dish, 14 feet across and four feet

deep, rests in a sunken courtyard by the Ottawa Street buildings at the western end of the complex.



View of the Michigan governmental complex in Lansing shows the twin Ottawa Street buildings in the foreground at the western end of the mall. The buildings in the complex have been limited to a height well below that of the Capitol dome.



The Ottawa Street buildings are the newest addition to the governmental complex. The stepped facades of the structures on the west and south are designed for shading and energy efficiency.

Art to enjoy without going bankrupt

By Sarah E. McNeil
special writer

A desire for original art often fades quickly when prices are considered.

There are solutions to this problem. Reproductions can provide daily enjoy-

ment of well known art works. Contemporary fine art posters enable one to have major recent art work in the home. An art poster from the '30s can add mystique and a billboard poster can act as grand scale art, making a dramatic statement on what used to be a bare wall.



Dramatic silkscreen titled "CMF" is available at Grafikas, 218 W. Merrill, Birmingham. The gallery, specializing in posters, opened several years ago in the basement of the 220 Merrill Building and has since found wide acceptance with collectors who like good and relatively inexpensive art.

In this area posters, prints and reproductions are available at Grafikas in Birmingham, Print Gallery in Southfield and many other galleries and shops.

Posters, prints, and reproductions should be considered more than merely decorative choices.

As Diane Shipley Takealan, owner of the Print Gallery, said, "Original posters are works of art in their own right, created for a specific event."

Because a poster represents something, whether a performing arts event of the America Ballet Theater, a sports event like the Detroit Grand Prix, or a movie such as "Casablanca" or "One with the Wind," they reflect an individual interest. They become more of a personal expression than just a decorative choice.

POSTERS can become scarce. For example during the John Singer Sargent show a few years back at the Detroit Institute of Art, only 3,000 exhibition posters were made of the show. The demand for these posters still exists making a Sargent Exhibition poster increase quite a bit in value.

A similar thing happened with the First Montreux Jazz Festival poster for Detroit. Posters vary in cost. An original poster, made by photomechanical lithography, is high quality. The average cost is \$35.

Some posters are silkscreen and average around \$85 because the artist is

more involved in the process and the posters are usually hand pulled.

Reproductions are a touchy issue. The original is of course always the most coveted. Reproductions allegedly prove that you can't afford originals, but it is a rather myopic view to feel that originals are the only appropriate art worthy of purchase.

The educational value of reproductions is indisputable. Our study of the history of art is clearly enriched by slides and images reproduced in books.

Without reproductions or extensive travel to major cities our vision of art would be severely limited. Through reproductions skills to recognize periods, styles and specific artists are developed.

The Print Gallery is able to provide just about any reproduction made. Posters and prints are cataloged according to subject or geography.

Shipley-Takealan feels it is important for her staff to have an art history background. These sales people can quickly locate or aid you in finding a desired piece and can offer valuable information on artists and processes.

Grafikas probably has the most extensive frames available in this area. The framing techniques are unusual and often show innovative planning.

The gallery uses a French mat technique with triple matting, colored bevels and the top mat blocked out. For an Art Deco look three frames are fitted together with a tiered effect and dramatic lines.

WOOD FRAMES, lacquered and stained in unusual colors or high gloss finishes, help a posters become elements of design or unique wall hangings.

Norma Malton of Grafikas said that if the frame is under \$6 a foot it will be within reach of most customers.



ANDY WARHOL

GALERIE BORJESON
HAMINGATAN 4:211 22 MALMO SWEDEN
DECEMBER 3-23, 1983

Poster for Andy Warhol's show in Sweden featured his portrait of revered actress Ingrid Bergman. The poster is available at The Print Gallery, 25203 Northwestern, Southfield. In addition to posters, this gallery has a large selection of graphics of all kinds.