Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONL

RECEIVED

DEC 8

1976

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW</i> T TYPE ALL ENTRIES				RMS
NAME				
The Brooklyn Museum				
AND/OR COMMON The Brooklyn Museu	ım			
LOCATION	au	1		
STREET & NUMBER Intersec	ction with	Washin	gton Avenue	
Eastern Parkway, Southwe	est of /		NOT FOR PUBLICAT	
Brooklyn	_ VICINITY OF	16th	- Elizabeth	
New York	36		COUNTY Kings	047
CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PI	RESENT USE
DISTRICTPUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED		AGRICULTUR	마이에 무무리 하면 하면 보다 만든 사람이
X_BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIE	D	COMMERCIA	LPARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	WORK IN PR		EDUCATIONA	
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESS		ENTERTAINM	
OBJECTIN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRI		GOVERNMEN	
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRES	TRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY  NAME Brooklyn Institute of Ar  STREET & NUMBER Eastern Parkway				
Brooklyn	_ VICINITY OF		STATE New Yor	k
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION			
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Registe	r's Offic	е		
STREET & NUMBER Municipal Build	ing			
CITY. TOWN Brooklyn			STATE New Yor	k
REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SUR	VEYS		
New York City Landmarks	Preserva	tion Co	mmiggion ID	0155
March 15, 1966			STATE _COUNTY XLO	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS NYC Landmarks Pr				
CITY, TOWN			STATE New Yor	

CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

X\_EXCELLENT \_\_GOOD

\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS

\_UNEXPOSED

\_UNALTERED X\_ALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Brooklyn Museum stands on the south side of Eastern Parkway northeast of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, at the north end of Prospect Park. Grand Army Plaza and the Park Slope residential district are located west of the museum, and the Botanical Garden is adjacent on the south.

The museum's architects originally conceived of the building as an immense square divided into four quadrants with four inner courts surrounded by galleries. Of this plan only the north side and the northeast quadrant have been constructed, forming an L-shaped structure which occupies four and a half acres. Constructed of Indiana Limestone, the building is 510' in length, and stands four and a half stories in height.

The main portion of the neo-classical structure is the north side, along Eastern Parkway. The long horizontal mass of this facade is balanced by projecting pavillions located in the center and at the ends of the facade. central pavillion constitutes the dominant feature of the composition because of its greater projection, the dome which rises above it, and its Ionic hexastyle portico. The portico's pediment is decorated by elaborate architectural elements including sculptured figures in the tympanum, and the shell and anthemion cresting. The end pavillions project less prominently from the main wall plane, and rise only a little higher than the walls of the basic horizontal A pair of engaged Ionic columns mark these pavillions. mass. The bays which intervene between the pavillions are articulated by pilasters which rise from the structure's raised basement to a full classical entablature. The walls extend above the entablature and are decorated by cresting and by twenty heroic-sized sculptured figures which stand on low pedestal blocks above each pilaster and engaged columns. Simple classical architraves surround each window. The sculpture which ornaments the facade and the names carved in the frieze represent aspects of knowledge.

The east elevation consists of seven bays and a corner pavillion. The wall treatment repeats the architectural motifs of the east elevation except that low pilasters were substituted for statuary above the cornice of the main wall.

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTE	RED	Alic	2 2 1977	

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, Kings County

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER #7 PAGE 2

Deviating from the original scheme, the rear (south side) of the building was finished off with plain masonry walls pierced by a few windows. The interior of the building contains numerous galleries, but only one of the four courts envisioned in the original scheme. Known as the auditorium Court, this room is an interpretation of the small cloister at the Church of Santa Maria della Pace (1504) in Rome.

The only significant alteration of the main facade was the removal in 1937 of the portico stairway by the Works Progress Administration. The scuptured figures at the front entrance, installed in 1963, were carved in 1916 by Daniel Chester French for the entrance to the Manhattan Bridge. The firm of Brown, Lawford and Forbes added a projection at the rear of the structure to accomodate a stairwell and an entrance from the parking lot. A new addition to the rear has been planned by the firm of Prentice, Chan, and Ohlhausen. Within the museum, installation of additional gallery space has at least partially concealed the colonnades which separated the central rotunda from the galleries which lay to the east and west.

AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	X_SCULPTURE
X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _AGRICULTURE X_ARCHITECTURE _ART _COMMERCE	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICCOMMUNITY PLANNINGARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICCONSERVATIONAGRICULTUREECONOMICS X_ARCHITECTUREEDUCATIONARTENGINEERINGCOMMERCEEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICCONSERVATIONLAWAGRICULTUREECONOMICSLITERATURE  X_ARCHITECTUREEDUCATIONMILITARYARTENGINEERINGMUSICCOMMERCEEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTPHILOSOPHYCOMMUNICATIONSINDUSTRYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT

SPECIFIC DATES 1893 design BUILDER/ARCHITECT McKim, Mead, and White

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brooklyn Museum, significant architecturally as an example of the American neo-classical style and historically as an important cultural institution, was built between 1895 and 1906 according to the design of McKim, Mead, and White. Although only a portion of the grandice architectural scheme originally conceived by the architects, the museum building is an expression of the civic pride and cultural sophistication of Brooklyn at the turn of the century. The museum's architectural significance is enhanced by exterior statuary and sculptural decoration by Daniel Chester French.

In 1823 one hundred residents of the community of Brooklyn formed the Apprentice's Library which, although short-lived, was reorganized in 1843 as the Brooklyn Institute. Formed for the purpose of "enlarging the knowledge in literature, science and art," the organization received a large endowment from Augustus Graham, a wealthy Brooklyn distiller.

The community which the Institute served grew into a significant urban center during the second half of the nineteenth century, particularly after the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883. An influx of wealthy merchants and professionals heightened the cultural aspirations of the community and expanded the needs of the Institute. In 1890 the organization founded the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and three years later a grandiose architectural scheme for a new museum facility was devised for the Institute by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White.

Financed by the City of Brooklyn and subsequently the City of New York, construction began in 1895 at the northern most end of Prospect Park. The west wing was completed in 1897, the central pavillion in 1904, and the east wing in 1906. The immense square edifice conceived by the architects was never completed. The structure which did result however constitutes the completed north or street side of the design and is in itself a significant architectural achievement. Monumental in scale, the museum building is an articulate American expression of neo-classical design of the late

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERT  UTM REFERENCES	ATA y 5 acres			
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	TOLLING Teripo			
	and the second			
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LIST ALL STATES AND C	OUNTIES FOR PROPERT	IES OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
Division for Hist	ce of Parks & F coric Preservat	ion	August, 1976	
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
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Agency Bldg. #1,	Empire State F	Plaza	518-474-0479 STATE	
Agency Bldg. #1,	Empire State F	Plaza	518-474-0479	
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# RECEIVED DEG 8 1976 DATE ENTERED AUG 2 2 1977

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, Kings County

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE 2

nineteenth century. It is an excellent example of McKim, Mead, and White's work in this style.

With the construction of the limestone facility on Eastern Parkway, the Institute began redirecting its efforts away from a generalist educational institution toward a museum specializing in the fine arts. This change was completed during the 1930's. Continuing to serve the cultural needs of Brooklyn, the Institute today uses its structure to house its offices, to exhibit its well regarded collections, and to present a variety of educational, theatrical, and musical programs. A significant contribution to the visual environment, the Brooklyn Museum is an important part of Brooklyn's physical and cultural identity.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 22 1977

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

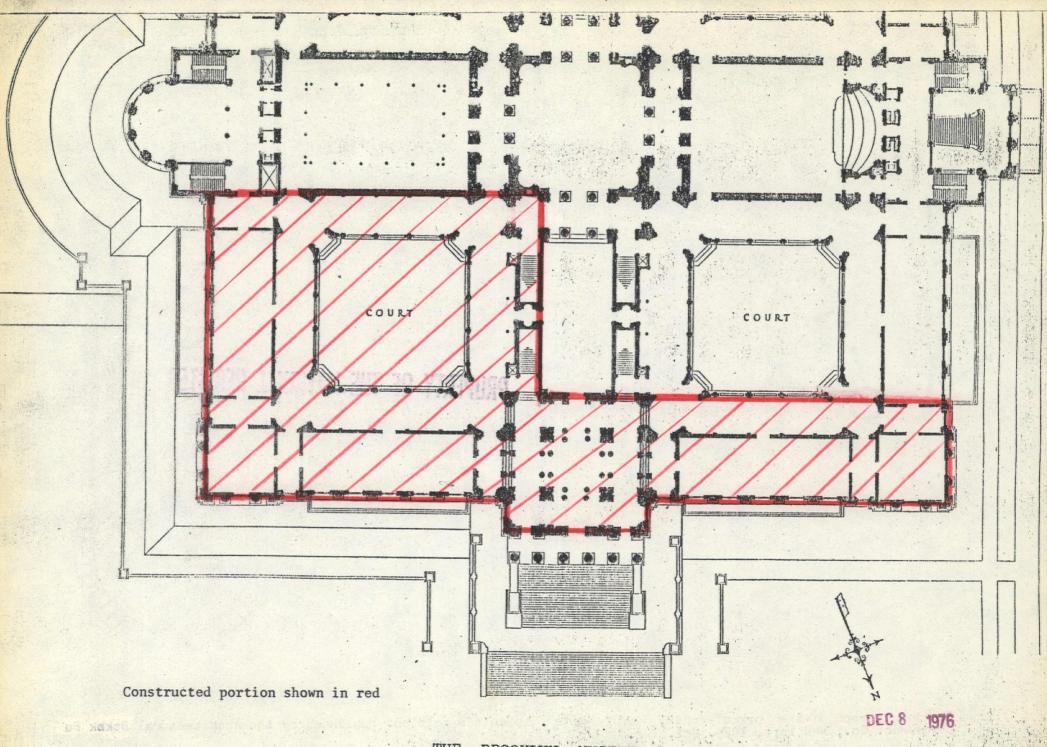
The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, Kings County

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER #9 PAGE 1

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Designation Report. March 15, 1966.



THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM

### PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



AUG 2 2 1977

From "A Monogragraph of the Work of McKim, Mead & White" Studentt's Edition. Published by the Architectural Book Pub. Co., New York, 1925. Vol. Two.

Property Il Brooklyn, Muse.	177000944 Kings
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ARCHITE	Accept Myhute 4-4-77
	ARCHEOLOGIST
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National Register Write-up Federal Register Entry  Send-back Re-submit	Entered AUG 2 2 1977



# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Kings Co.

Brooklyn Museum, Eastern Parkway at

Washington Avenue

DEC 8 1976

Brooklyn, New York County

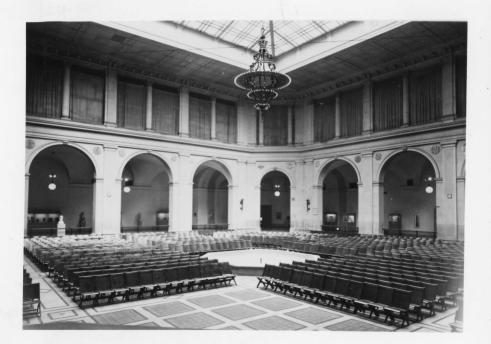
Photo credit: NYC Landmarks - 1968

Neg. filed at: NYC Landmarks Preservation
Commission, 305 Broadway, NY, NY

AUG 2 2 1977

Looking at the north facade.

Brooklyn Museum



neg: N.Y.C. Landmarks Preservators 1976
Commission
305 Boadway, NY, NY
Kings Co. # 2062

### PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

AUG 2 2 1977

Auditorium Court 1973





#### LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

305 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

Elizabeth K. Ralph
Research Assistant
Division of Historic Preservation
South Sivan Street Building
Albany, N.Y. 12223

Dear Ms. Ralph;

The Brooklyn Museum photo of the front facade is an accurate and up to date. There have been no alterations or changes to the building. I have recently visited the building and find this to be true.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Brunetto Landmarks Specialist

1 1. 1. 1. 1. it.

NATIONAL

REGISTER

ember 3, 1976

DPB:cg

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

NEW YORK

Date Entered

AUG 2 2 1977

Name

Location

Brooklyn Museum

Brooklyn Kings County

#### Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan Hon. Leo C. Zeferetti

Regional Director, North Atlantic Empire State Plaza
Region Albany, New York

State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Orin Lehman Commissioner, Parks and Recreation Agency Building #1 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12238

### 'NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-4-77 INITIALS: MJL Reviewer

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

Brooklyn Museum MUKIM, Mead , WINILE

Neo-Classical Revival

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

Eastern Parkway and Washington Ave. STREET & NUMBER

36

Brooklyn CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 16th

STATE

New York

VICINITY OF

Kings

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

047

WEST

code

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

(PRIVATE) STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME) :

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

FEATURES:

VINTERIOR Substantially intact-1 \_ unknown - 4

- not applicable - 7

Yes-restricted

EXTERIOR ✓Substantially intact-2 \_unknown.-5 \_ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3 \_ unknown -6

Not applicable-9

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

CONDITION -

ACCESS -

\_\_Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0 \_G000 RUINS

\_UNALTERED \_Reconstructed

ORIGINAL SITE MOVED \_Unknown

\_FAIR

UNEXPOSED \_Unexcavated

\_Excavated

Unknown

historic district?

YES

NO

Yes-unrestricted No access

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? IF YES, NAME:

NO\_

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? IF YES, NAME:

YES

NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

SIO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then-Museum

now- museum

SIGNIFICANCE:

\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

\_CONSERVATION

\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION \_LAW/Gov't/politics \_science

- entertainment \_health

\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_ECONOMICS

\_\_LITERATURE

\_recreation

\_ARCHITECTURE \_ART

\_EDUCATION

\_MILITARY

\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

settlement

\_COMMERCE \_COMMUNICATIONS

\_ENGINEERING \_EXPLORATION \_INDUSTRY

INVENTION

\_MUSIC \_\_PHILOSOPHY

\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

\_TRANSPORTATION \_OTHER (SPECIFY)

\_socio/cultural \_urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES

ecoldest2 YES

"only" YES

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Neo-Classical Revival

architect/m.builder: McKim, Mead .+ While

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan: sulphure by Daniel Cheskr French

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):1895-1906

> - DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1937 - portice staurway removed by WPA HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE (S): 1963- 1916 sculpture by Daniel Checks French

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV"T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

FEDERAL 'AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Built to accomposate the Brooklyn Institute of Arts + Sciences; only pertiatly architec built by 1900; an expression of community's civic peride and cultural sopolistication at turn of century.

#### NATIONAL REGISTER D 2) OTHER NAMES: 1) NAME as it appears on federal register: rooklyn Museum 5) LOCATION street & number (6)NPS REGION city / town county vicinity of state ina OWNER PRIVATE OSTATE OMUNICIPAL OCOUNTY OMULTIPLE OFEDERAL (agency name) (S) ADMINISTRATOR: 9 EXISTING SURVEYS \_ HABS \_ HAER \_ NHL 10 FUNDED? \_ YES \_ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION FEDERAL STATE if state who prepared form? (14) WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? 15) ACREAGE WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? LOCAL DNO PRIVATE ORGANIZATION DYES. NAME DNO CONDITION deteriorated Maltered □original site 17 features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 DSUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 O SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT - 3 Dexcellent Oruins Qunaltered moved ONOT INTACT-O 2□ NOT INTACT-O O NOT INTACT - O Dgood unexposed Dreconstructed Dunknown UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5 S UNKNOWN -6 Dfair unexcavated Dexcavated ≥ NOT APPLICABLE -7 ₩ NOT APPLICABLE-8 MOT APPLICABLE - 9 BACCESS DYES-Restricted DYES-Unrestricted 19 ADAPTIVE USE TYES MO 20 No Access Unknown SAVED? TYES IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? Tyes Unc AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE : 22 CLAIMS: explain ☐ ENGINEERING - 11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.- 15 □ POLITICS / GOVT . - 21 ☐ RECREATION -28 'first' ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT - 26 ☐ LAW - 16 RELIGION - 22 SETTLEMENT-29 ARCHEOLOGY - historic - 1 COMMUNICATIONS - 7 ☐ LITERATURE - 17 ☐ EXPLORATION - 12 SCIENCE- 23 URBAN PLANNING-31 'oldest' ☐ AGRICULTURE -3 CONSERVATION - 8 ☐ HEALTH - 27 MILITARY - 18 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) MARCHITECTURE-4 □ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ INDUSTRY - 13 ☐ MUSIC - 19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 'only' EDUCATION-10 ART-5 ☐ INVENTION - 14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY - 20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION - 25 ETHNIC GROUP functions adates of initial construction: 1895-1906 major alterations: 1937 Portico Stanway removed he WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Muselum historic events: 1893 design concewell; 1963-addition CURRENTLY: Museum architect: architectural style(s): engineer: master builder: nekem, Meas & White Classical nalandscape architect/garden designer: interior decorator: 33 artisan: @ artist: builder/contractor: & sculpture MAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: 1843 organization of community cultural organization; 1890 Brooklyn Institute of INSTITUTIONAL: MATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP Built to accomodate the Grooklyn Institute of arts and sciences naseum was constructed between 1895 to an expression of the evice pride and cultural sophistica the partial materialization of a monumental architectural design tectual fum of mckem mead, and