

Notes on a conversation with Mr. Burkhardt
March 25, 1957

(Copy also in
Trustees -
Architects Comm. file)

Report on his Boston meeting with
Pietro Belluschi

At first ^{Mr} Br. Belluschi said 'no' to the suggestion that he design a library for Bennington College. Too busy - said his friends told him he took on too much.

Mrs. Emmet told him about the college. The educational philosophy interested him. When told about the Barn architecture he was very much interested.

Said he would like to work on the problem - said he better not. Would like to work on it very much but really should not, etc.

Mrs. Emmet asked about his considering an associate architect - "well, yes".

He mentioned three Cambridge firms he thought would be good:

Robert Woods Kennedy

Has time, is thorough, gives real consideration to problem, sometimes buildings are fine, but sometimes they don't "sing". A building should sing.

Karl Koch Associates

Fitchburg Youth library
Associates - Frederic L. Day, Jr.
(Married Barbara Walker '41)
Leon Lipshutz.

P.B. says he's good.
Koch worked with Belluschi on alterations to Temple Israel in Swampscott.

Hugh Stubbins Associates

P.B. says he would think up something good - and that would be it - we'd have to take it. (M.S.H.:- sounds a little Breuerish)

Belluschi suggested that the architects be interviewed on their own merits. This was done by Mrs. Emmet and Betty Mills Brown. They asked if the architects could be told that Belluschi was interested. He said he would rather

not be mentioned - he really ought not to get involved in this. When interviewed, the architects were mildly interested until Mr. Belluschi's name mentioned. Then each said he would be very much interested in the project.

In this situation Belluschi might consider himself a consultant designer but seemed to be relaxed about the situation as far as his "associates" were concerned. Says he sometimes has been consulted on an hourly basis.

He said not to worry too much about an architect's lack of library building experience. There are experts who can be consulted from time to time.

Mrs. Emmet suggested that Mr. Belluschi pick the architect he would like to work with. M.S.H. suggested that Belluschi not be the one to choose the architect for Bennington College; that whatever architect is chosen, the college should be assured of his close, very real interest in the problem and that he be the responsible agent. M.S.H. mentioned fear that the library would slip between too many "Associates" and not amount to anything. Compared this to our early reason for not considering large firms.

Mr. Burkhardt talked to Mrs. Emmet this morning, March 25, 1957. Trustee Committee is meeting Wednesday, March 27th. Does not feel need of F.H.B. or M.S.H. Said to wait to see what happened. F.H.B. made it clear about not going too fast on this thing.

F.H.B. thinks if architect selecting committee, F.H.B., T.P.B., G.Y.L., M.S.H. comes to an agreement on an architect, the name can be offered to Trustees for their consideration.