Strike at Columbia Architecture School Traced to Anger Over Exclusion from Planning

The school's professional concerns include the physical relationships between the university and its community. Most of the students have chosen to focus on the fields of architecture and planning, not on a sense of social responsibility in troubled urban times.

According to students and faculty members, the university, however, has never paid much attention to the social, aesthetic or symbolic aspects of architecture. Its institutional expansion has created considerable hostility in the Morningside neighborhood. Relocation problems have been complicated by racial problems with rising costs in the Harlem community.

The year was marked by the 10-block renewal plan from 125th to 135th Street for housing, industry and recreation. A plan being sponsored by Columbia and the city's Housing and Development Administration, is just the latest of a series of building and planning issues on which the school and administration have differed.

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The original scheme for the site was developed and presented by Percival Goodman, director of the School of Architecture. It involved the addition of a new faculty, the creation of a new college and a new set of architectural buildings.

Architectural criticism has been less than mild. "It's the usual procedure," said one critic. "The students are focal points of interest, and they must come and tell you that they don't like it. But they can do it because you can't stop them."

In the last few years, while buildings continue to be completed, there have been protests by students and by professors.

In 1962, Allan Temko, an architectural critic, and Columbia professor of architecture, wrote an article in The New York Times about the rehabilitation of the college and the Harlem and Morningside communities.

Construction of the gym was the issue enunciated by the strike. Negro students who took over Hamilton Hall. The administration, inclusion of community facilities made the gym an asset to Harlem. To the students, their design and concept were an abuse of public parks and of the Harlem community.

At the School of Architecture, the problems are the subject of a dissent for more than five years.

The idea of an architectural center would not be complete without an arts and crafts gallery, which should be of the highest quality. The university's planning policy has swayed the architectural school.

The Urals Hall of Business, which was given by Mr. Usk, was picked by the architector's students as a groundbreaking ceremony in 1962 and again when it opened in 1964.

Mr. Usk, who has been in architectural planning, has been involved with the university's planning policy. He was asked to approve plans already under way or for which foundations were already being laid. "We were asked to approve plans already under way or for which foundations were already being laid," said Professor Giorgulis, head of the division of architecture.

Although the university is still a major source of architectural students, the architector students see the rebellion as much as bigger than the building. They consider it a re- sulting from the rise of public pressure on the university to become more socially responsible.

"We are strengthening that structure now. We have approached the university more directly to related existence and changing urban conditions. The school has the authority to institute its own reforms. A student "design-i" began last week to study the Columbia gym. One group is investigating the possibility of relocating the building it to the present, with the encouragement of the students. Other groups are researching the impact of the gym on the neighborhood. Most are working on subjects related to Columbia and its environment. According to Professor Abrams, who has been given a planning course in an off-campus collaboration with an East Harlem group, this year the university has received more direct projects.

"We don't want benevolent paternalism," said Steven Poole, a second-year student, suggesting a "design-i" who wants self-determination.

"For these students right now there is the danger of being handled like a charity case by the city's public relations office," said a student, "because they are not doing what they want to do."