LITHO CITY: *A Master Plan*

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One of the most extensive and important area development plans in metropolitan New York's future is incorporated in a large-scale model of Litho City and environs, including Lincoln Center.

The model of the 36-acre project to be developed under sponsorship of Local 1 of Amalgamated Lithographers of Greater New York embraces a master plan of the entire West Side Lincoln Center area, from 57th Street to 72nd Street and from the Hudson River to Central Park.

This handsome and extensive three-dimensional study is a unique example of a major urban development project which has been conceived by Kelly & Gruzen, Architects-Planners, to be coordinated in future design plans for an entire area of more than half a square mile of Manhattan's West Side surrounding Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

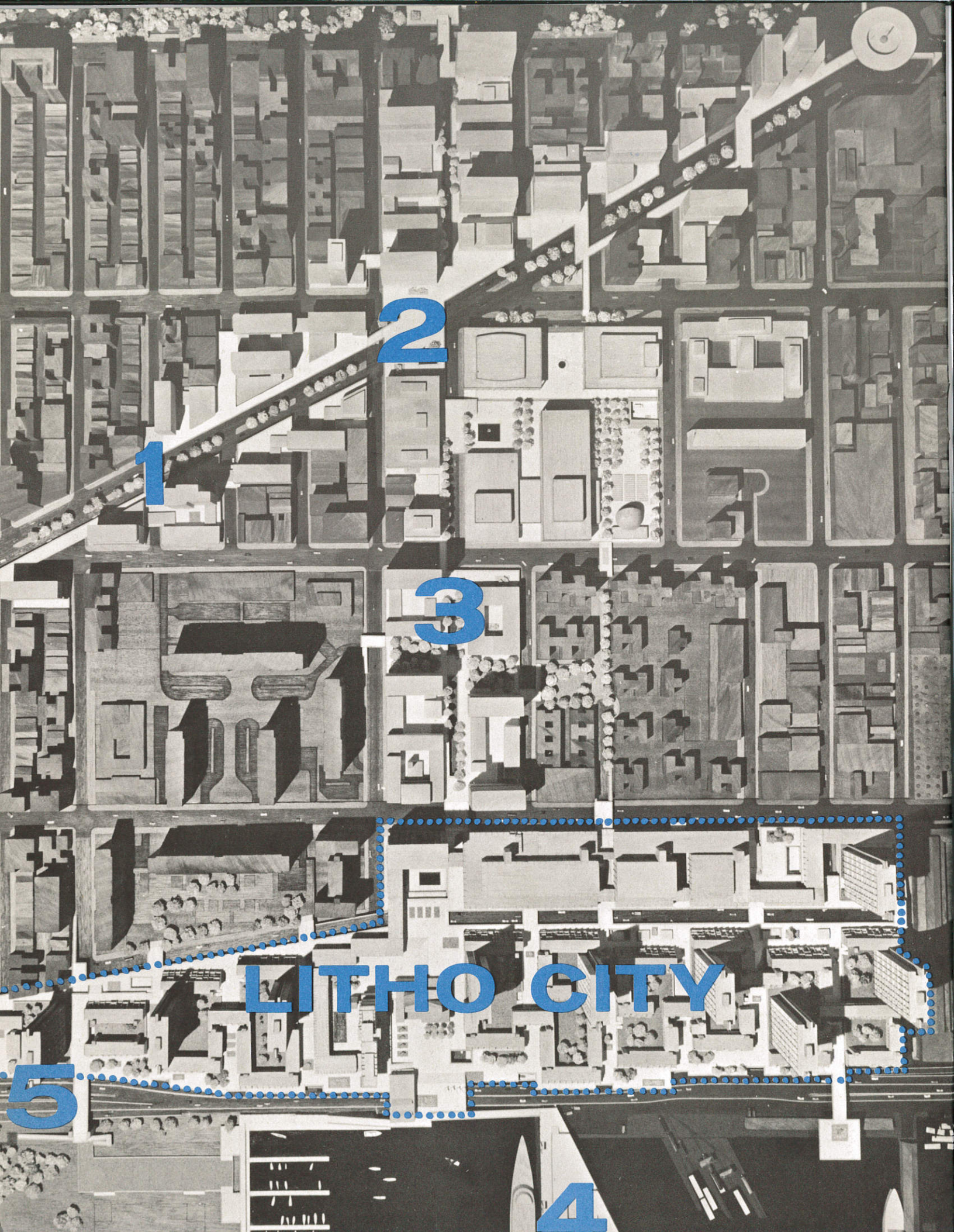
It is the concept of Edward Swayduck, President of Amalgamated Lithographers Local 1, that Litho City will provide an environment within great architecture designed to enhance the beauty and the value of one of the most important developmental areas in the city's rapidly changing and often uncoordinated building growth.

At the present, Lincoln Center is a complex of fine architecture and cultural planning isolated in a confused area of depressed neighborhoods and mixed property values, without benefit of future planning. The Litho City Master Plan demonstrates the dramatic potentialities of the entire area.

The environmental model was created by the architectural firm of Kelly and Gruzen, and it is Swayduck's plan that the finest available architectural talents shall be enlisted on a consulting basis to assure the essential quality of greatness so often lacking in major New York building developments. To this end, an Architectural Advisory Committee will assist in guiding the project through subsequent and final design stages.

Litho City will represent the most advanced and enlightened concepts of city planning. It will provide housing for some 15,000 people, complete with cultural, educational, recreational and commercial facilities. The project site will utilize 36 acres of "air rights" above the tracks of the New York Central Railroad freight yards, from West 57th Street to 72nd Street, along the West Side Highway and the Hudson River.

As a terminal axis to the adjacent Lincoln Center, Litho City will provide extensive promenades and parks, town houses and tower apartments, with sub-surface transit and parking facilities, and a Hudson River Marina and heliport in its waterfront facilities.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LITHO CITY
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Master Plan Proposals

The master environmental model presents an area scheme of vital interest to city planners as well as to Lincoln Center which would be greatly enhanced in value and in accessibility by such a coordinated architectural evolution.

Among the significant area development proposals featured in the Kelly and Gruzen model are:

1. The development of Broadway as a first-class shopping boulevard, and the rebuilding of the majority of structures between Columbus Circle and 72nd Street. The design suggests means of uniting the many small odd-shaped parcels of land into super-blocks, and unifying Broadway with a raised pedestrian mall.

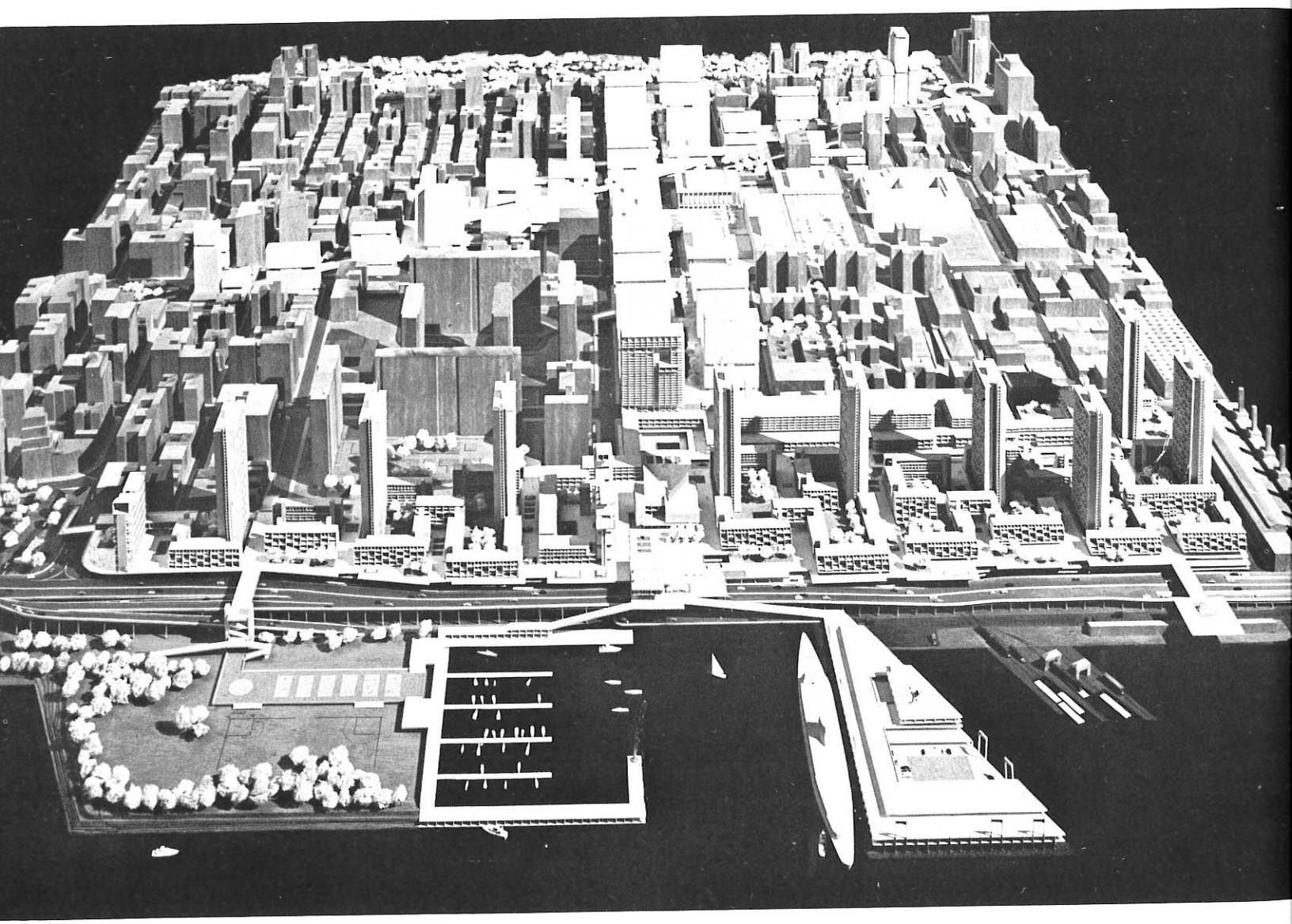
2. The creation of a "Lincoln Plaza" by means of a raised deck spanning Broadway at 65th and 66th Streets, thereby providing pedestrian access, free from automobile traffic, to the concert halls at Lincoln Center, and creating a focus in front of Lincoln Center for the commercial activity along Broadway.

3. An east-west pedestrian mall raised above 65th Street, linking Central Park and Lincoln Center to the center of Litho City where the New York Times Plaza and the United World Center will be located. This link will extend to the proposed new waterfront development along the Hudson River.

4. A revitalized and "waterscaped" riverfront area which will include a 21-acre park, a marina, and a new luxury liner pier with roof-top heliport.

5. A revised traffic plan which extends the crosstown transverse to the waterfront through Litho City, in a pattern designed to efficiently serve the recreation areas and piers. The model shows expanded West Side highway exits to facilitate this and to provide access to the parking reservoir under Litho City.

Facilities Planned for Litho City



As its organic heart, Litho City will contain a United World Center. This will be a hostel for 1,000 international students studying in New York, and an additional accommodation for United Nations delegates and other foreign visitors of state. Situated on the east-west axis from Lincoln Center to the waterfront, this complex of dormitories, lecture halls, exhibition galleries, lounges and restaurants will provide a distinctive extension of the cultural facilities of Lincoln Center. And as the axial heart of Litho City, the United World Center will serve to unite the main plazas and pedestrian spaces.

The New York Times executive office tower is also proposed as an integral part of Litho City, facing a new plaza at the crossing of the pedestrian axis. This "Times Plaza" will be similar in character to Rockefeller Center in providing cafe and restaurant attractions for theatre-goers. The New York Times printing plant will frame one side of Litho City's shopping mall.

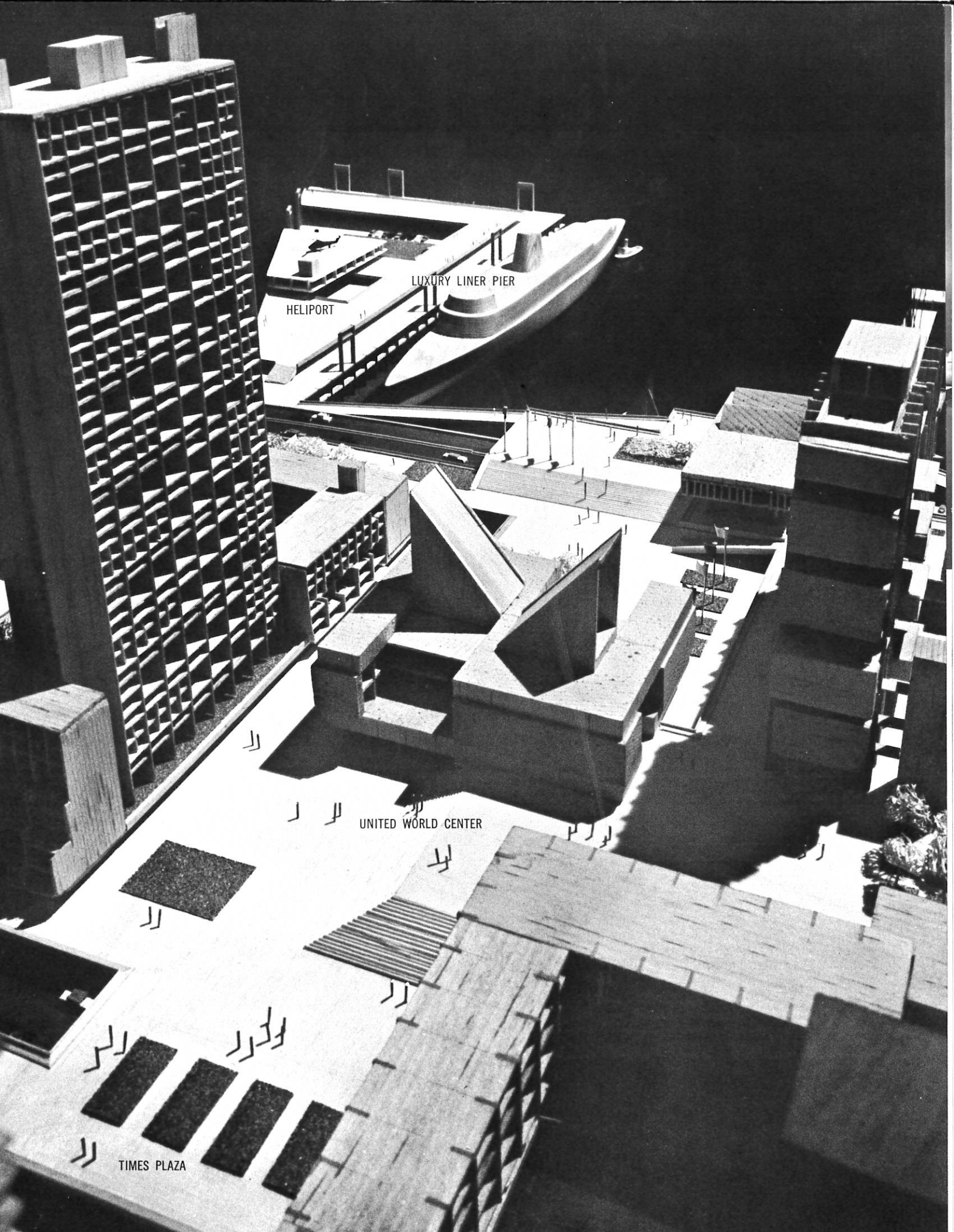
A new luxury liner pier, proposed for the Italian Lines, will replace existing derelict piers. Placed at the end of the extended east transverse for automobile access, this pier will use the parking areas of Litho City. The pier roof will accommodate a heliport to serve the entire West Side area, and will contain restaurants and public walks which will attract pedestrians across and over the West Side Highway by way of ramps linking the pier to the platforms of Litho City.

A new addition to Riverside Park will extend the park five blocks further south to 67th Street, thereby creating a continuous pedestrian promenade along the Hudson River, through Litho City and into Lincoln Center.

A marina for pleasure boats will frame the lagoon in front of the United World Center and the waterfront restaurants. This also is tied to Litho City by ramps over the West Side Highway.

The Master Plan model also proposes some 15 acres of new sports fields to provide needed recreational space for the expanding West Side area.

UNITED WORLD CENTER
THE NEW YORK TIMES PLANT


LUXURY LINER PIER
HELIPORT
UNITED WORLD CENTER
TIMES PLAZA

The Basic Plan of Litho City

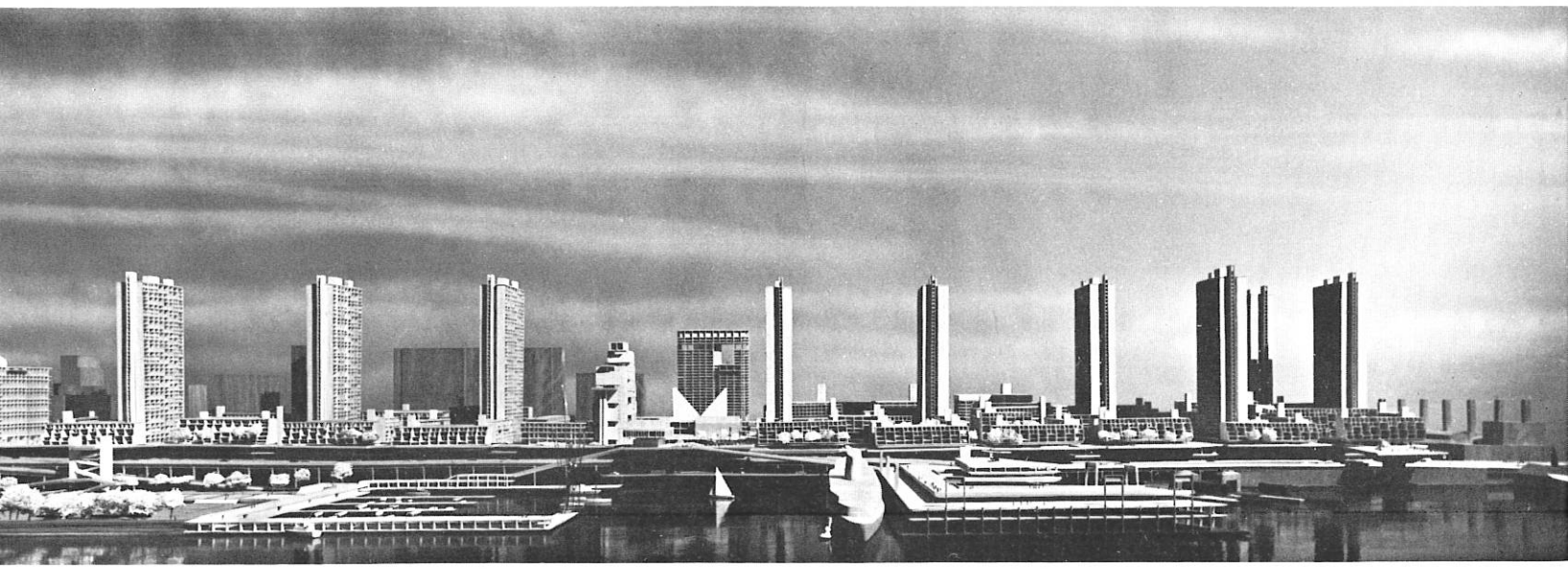
The Litho City complex will rise above five decks that span and cover the New York Central tracks. Plans call for 5,300 dwelling units in a grouping of 40-story high rise towers alternating with low courtyard apartments and town houses.

The housing quadrangles containing these towers and town houses are so arranged that open vistas of the river will be enjoyed from neighboring buildings. Low housing is grouped around shielded courtyards to create outdoor recreational space and protection from river winds.

With lower decks devoted to parking, mechanical services and roadways for access and egress, the top deck of Litho City will remain free for development of staggered-level parks and sculptured "courtyard" areas in a setting designed to bring charm and variety to the total environment.

Regional and local shopping facilities will be grouped along an internal mall, with provision for offices, services, utilities, and parking for 4,000 cars on two lower decks.

Traffic consultants are A. H. Vollmer & Associates.



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113 University Place, New York 3, N.Y. Edward Swayduck, President

Photographs of model by Louis Checkman

Lithographed by Crafton Graphic Company

Designed by Robert Hallock