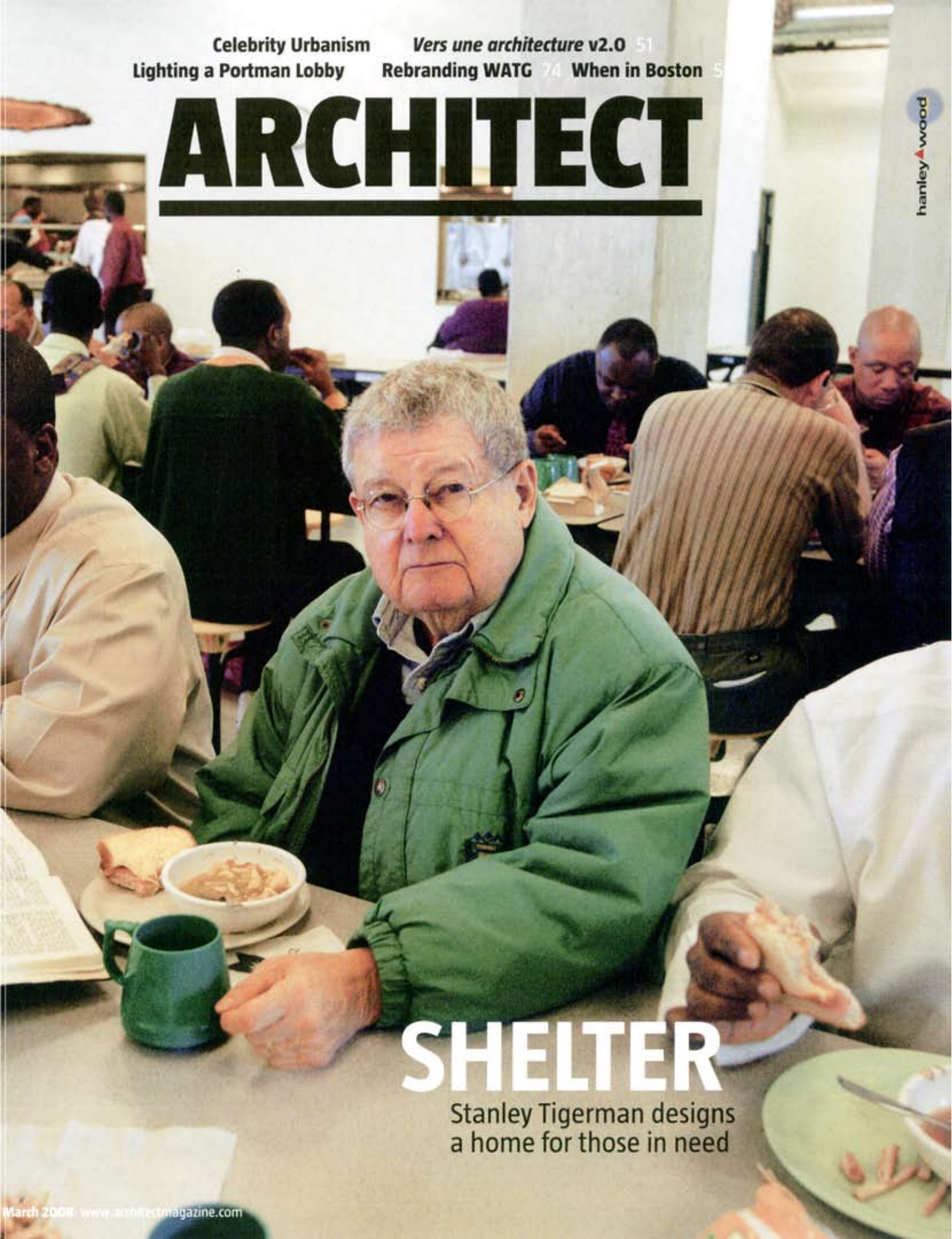


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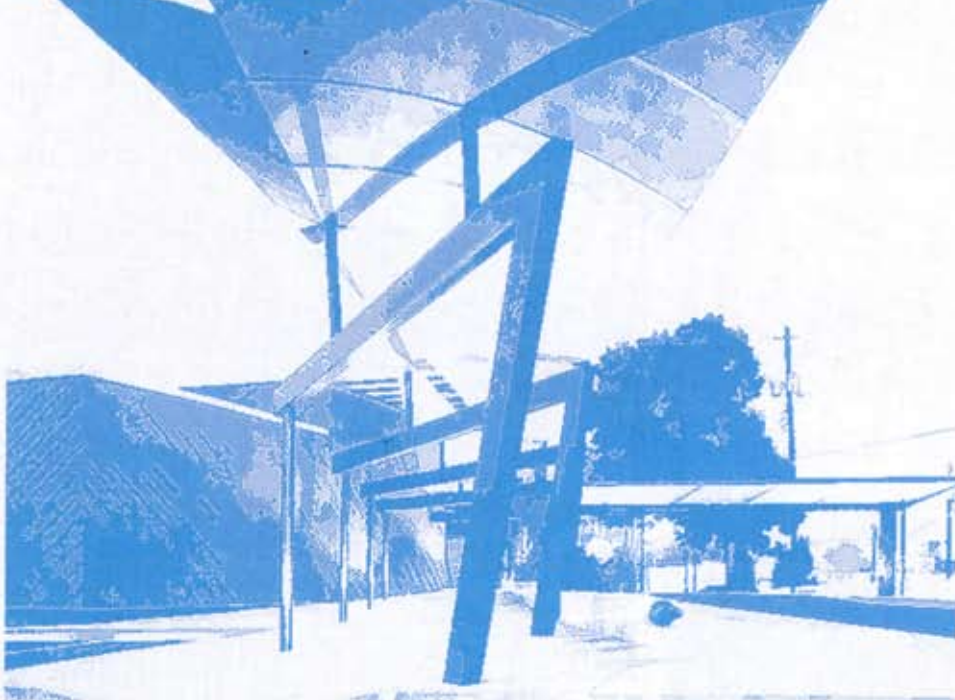


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Preservation

Scogin and Elam's Buckhead Library Could Be Razed



Developer offers county \$24 million for award-winning Atlanta building, built in 1989

ATLANTA'S BUCKHEAD LIBRARY, a long, low 22,000-square-foot structure whose eccentric entry canopy is a familiar icon of the late 1980s, faces a premature end. Designed by local architects Mack Scogin and Merrill Elam, the library is a distinctive building on the northern edge of the city's sprawling metropolitan region. Many of the design's features

are instantly recognizable to the firm's fans—scale-like slate shingling, simple forms that are just slightly off-kilter, and a deceptively simple plan that mixes geometric gymnastics with simple programmatic accommodations.

The nine-acre area surrounding the single-story structure is being redeveloped as The Streets of Buckhead by locally based Ben

Carter Properties. The district promises a mix of shopping, office, hotel, and residential uses. The first phase, now under construction, is scheduled to open in November 2009.

In early February, the developer offered Fulton County—which owns the building and its two-acre site—\$24 million for the property. Not initially reported was that Carter had previously offered \$18 million. Some local officials, apparently not fans of the building's avant-garde design, seemed positively disposed to the overture. Atlanta native Scogin recalls that some local businessmen have been gunning for the building since it was first proposed almost two decades ago. "They wanted developers to take over the site and do what this developer is proposing," he says. "The library shouldn't come under the direction of private enterprise. The library is symbolic of the city and represents the place."

The library, which counts among its accolades a 1993 National AIA Honor Award, wouldn't be Scogin and Elam's first building in Atlanta to be demolished; earlier this year, Emory University razed another structure from the same period in their careers. And the firm has also been embroiled in a controversy over an earlier 20th century design: In 2007, a jury chose the pair's proposal to save Paul Rudolph's endangered Riverview High School in Sarasota, Fla., but their solution to preserve the midcentury icon was set aside for another due to politics.

Grassroots support to save the library appeared on the internet within days of the announcement that the building might be razed, and hundreds have signed the online petition (ipetitions.com/petition/SAVETHEBUCKHEADLIBRARY). AIA Atlanta president Bruce McEvoy, while not calling directly for saving the building, released a statement urging "an intelligent conversation about appreciation for our civic buildings." EDWARD KEEGAN

Moves

Feiner Goes Vegas

Former GSA chief architect departs SOM for the Sands Corp.



Edward Feiner

FORMER GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA) design guru Edward Feiner departed the Washington, D.C., office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in February. This month, he begins a new job as senior vice president and chief architect at the Nevada-based Las Vegas Sands Corp. Feiner will be in charge of design management for the publicly traded company's numerous integrated resort projects around the globe. "It's akin to what I did at the GSA," he says, noting that he leaves SOM on the best of terms.

Feiner had been with SOM since February 2005, most recently serving as director of the D.C. office. Previously, he spent 35 years working for the federal government, including a nine-year stint as chief architect for the GSA Public Buildings Service. During that time, Feiner was instrumental in developing and implementing the GSA's acclaimed Design Excellence Program, whose legacy includes numerous significant new public buildings across the country. EDWARD KEEGAN