

## PINNACLES OF '80S ARCHITECTURE

## Form, function and flair build winners

By Karen S. Peterson  
USA TODAY

From New York's refurbished Carnegie Hall, to the United Airlines space-age terminal at Chicago's O'Hare airport, to Beverly Hills' Kate Mantilini restaurant, you may be passing through some of the USA's most architecturally significant spaces without even knowing it.

They're among the American Institute of Architects' 1988 Honor Award winners, to be announced today. The AIA has feted a varying number of honorees each year since 1949.

Many of today's 15 winners for design excellence — 10 U.S. structures, five overseas — are easy-access public sites. And they're as diverse as New York's massive Jacob K. Javits Convention Center and California's serene Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In addition to the 15 top winners, the Washington, D.C., area's Dulles International Airport — with its terminal that looks like a bird in flight — gets special recognition. Architect Eero Saarinen will receive a 25-year award for a "design that has stood the test of time," says the AIA's Ann Carper.

What sets them apart?

No one set of criteria was used to judge the 512 entries from USA architects, says San Francisco's Bill Turnbull, chairman of the AIA jury. But considerations include use made of the site, craftsmanship, budget, attention to detail.

AIA staffer Kevin Fry defines good architecture briefly: "You know it when you see it."

The award winners, Turnbull says, add a little oxygen to the air of everyday life. "They affect the quality of the environment." They include:

► **United Airlines Terminal 1 Complex; architect, Murphy/Jahn.** Pedestrian concourses are awash in light from giant skylights. And underground, passengers move through a tunnel that vibrates with neon and music. "It makes travel a celebratory experience, like the great railroad stations of 100 years ago," says Turnbull.

► **Kate Mantilini Restaurant; architect, Morphosis.** Once a bank and now a "roadside steakhouse, and a social phenomenon," says owner Marilyn Lewis, Mantilini's boasts a huge mural of the Mike Tyson-Marvin Hagler fight, plus celeb frequenters such as Warren Beatty and Bette Midler.

The AIA citation calls the theatrical Mantilini's "inventive, strong, an example of both the art of architecture and the use of art in architecture."

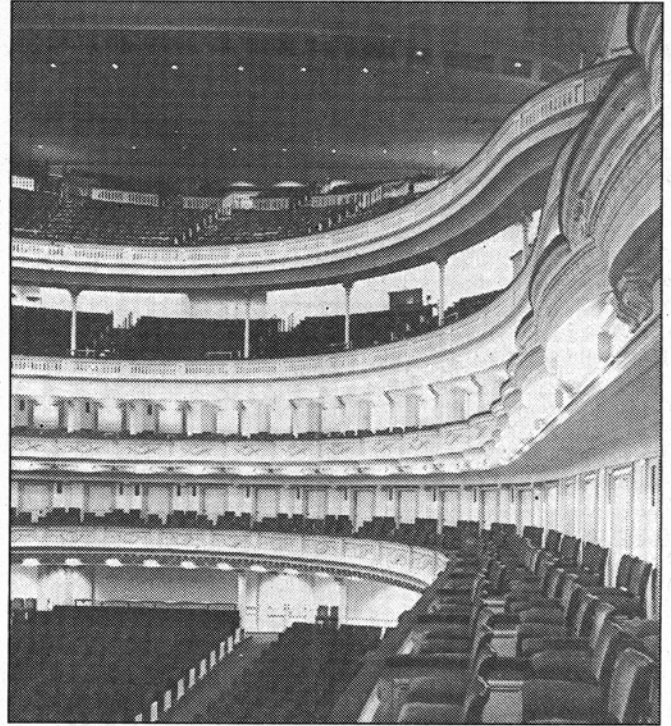
► **Carnegie Hall restoration; architect, James Stewart Polshek and Partners.**

## Champions of design



By Timothy Hursley

**TERMINAL OF TOMORROW:** The United Airlines Terminal 1 Complex is an airy, skylight concourse at Chicago's O'Hare.

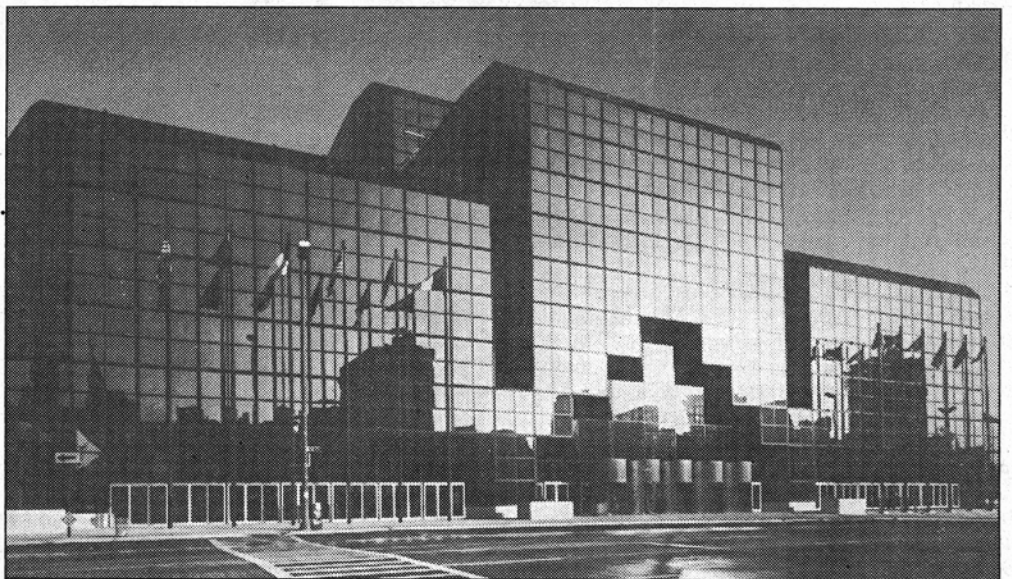


By Cervin Robinson

**CARNEGIE HALL:** The restoration effectively — but very respectfully — upgraded New York's historic concert hall.

## AIA award recipients

- **Atlanta:** Georgia-Pacific Center High Museum
- **Beverly Hills, Calif.:** Kate Mantilini Restaurant
- **Chicago:** United Airlines Terminal 1 Complex
- **Culver City, Calif.:** 8522 building.
- **Houston:** The Menil Collection
- **Middlebury, Conn.:** Library, Westover School
- **Monterey, Calif.:** Monterey Bay Aquarium
- **New York:** Carnegie Hall and the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center
- **Princeton, N.J.:** Feinberg Hall, Princeton
- **Venice, Calif.:** private guest house



Nathaniel Lieberman Studio

**JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER:** Its many panes of glass offer a clear view of New York's skyline — and it provides a large amount of space without looking like an airplane hangar.

"You don't have to follow Henry Ford's philosophy that new is better," Turnbull says. The hall, opened in 1891, has had a subtle face-lift with a redesigned lobby and more rehearsal space.

Patrons regard the hall "the way they do a comfortable wool sport coat," says Lawrence P. Goldman of the restoration project. "We have never been a silk suit, and we didn't want to become glitzy."

Awards go to things old and things new — and combinations of the two, such as the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The challenge here: creating a modern aquarium on an his-

toric, salt-encrusted site that author John Steinbeck called "tin and iron and rust and splintered wood, chipped pavement... canneries of corrugated iron."

Architects Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis worked in the "footprint of the last major sardine cannery to close," says the aquarium's Hank Armstrong. "The building just melts into the environment."

New York's Jacob K. Javits Convention Center — designed by I.M. Pei & Partners — is a leap away on the design spectrum. "Most convention centers resemble airplane hangars," notes the center's Gus

Engelman. "But this place was built with an eye to beauty as well as space."

The main hall of the 21.9-acre site is framed by 16,000 panes of glass providing an unencumbered view of the New York skyline. "At all times," the AIA jury citation notes, "one is aware of being in the middle of a large, vibrant city."

Another challenge the AIA recognizes is creating something serendipitous in a small or unorthodox space.

Another winner — Scogin Elam and Bray Architects Inc. — designed a public art museum in a skylighted office the size of a greenhouse. They cre-

ated the High Museum at Atlanta's Georgia-Pacific Center, in a space 24 feet wide, 140 feet long and 40 feet tall.

"This is a very elegant facility that works well to display art," says Gudmund Vigtel, museum director. "People are amazed. They don't expect to find this kind of an environment in the heart of the Atlanta business district."

All of the honorees fulfill Turnbull's personal criteria for excellence: "The building must have an idea behind it. That idea must deal well with people, reflect a specialness of place and circumstance — and it must meet a budget."