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Etching, Size 9x12  
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published in connection  
with the installation  
exhibit at LAICA,  
Los Angeles Institute  
of Contemporary Art

a few prints are  
still available at

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1513

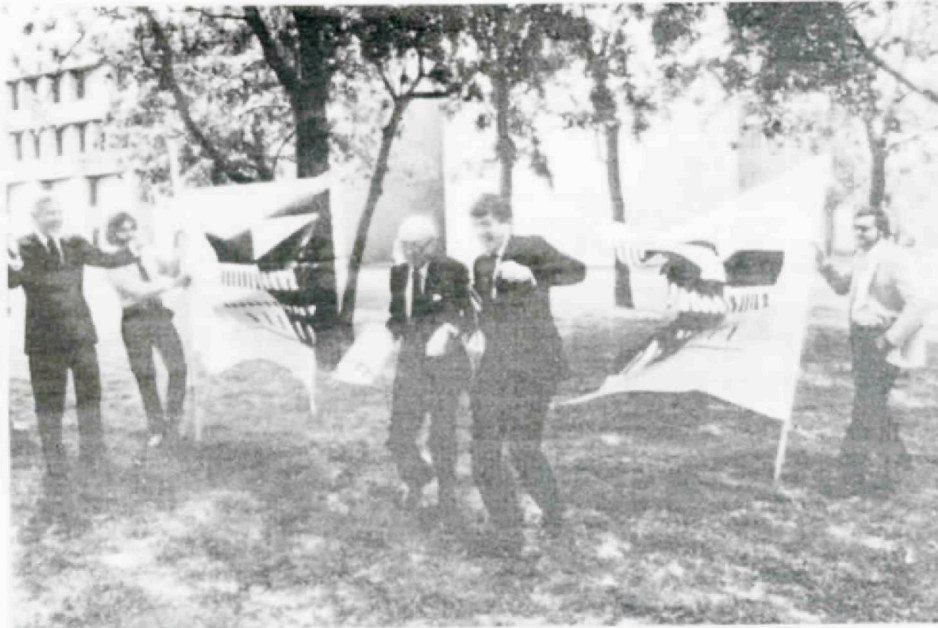
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## Big Cité Beat

En route to the dedication of the Transco Tower on 12 April, Philip Johnson stopped by the University of Houston to rip his design for the Ledoux-inspired College of Architecture Building. Crowned with a postmodern mitre, Johnson used his finger to open a slit in a giant rendering of the building, which he and John Burgee then ran through. The ad-hoc event was organized by UH Professor Burdette

Keeland since Johnson could not attend the official groundbreaking by Governor Mark White and collaborating architect Eugene Aubry. Nervous UH officials discouraged media coverage of the unsanctioned event, which included a dig-in with "soft" shovels by Burgee, Johnson, Keeland, and architecture grad student Vicki Barrington, impersonating Mayor Kathy Whitmire.

Philip Johnson and John Burgee rip Architecture Building as Burdette Keeland (left) applauds



What dire threat confronts Philadelphia's historic Center City? According to Philadelphia Inquirer architecture critic Thomas Hine, it is the "curse of Houstonism." This chilling possibility took form after two developers announced plans to construct office buildings higher than the statue of William Penn atop Philadelphia's City Hall. The tallest of these? A piddlin' 60 stories. Don't those boys in the City of Brotherly Love know that down here we grow 'em taller 'n that Outside the Loop?

UT-Austin's Southwest Center for the Study of American Architecture will feature the work of Harwell Hamilton Harris in a major exhibition planned for the spring of 1985 by Visiting Scholar Lisa Germany. A gift from Austin architect David B. Barrow, Jr. has enabled the UT Architectural Drawing Collections to acquire Harris's papers and drawings, and the School of Architecture is raising funds to endow the Harwell Hamilton Harris Fellowship in Architecture. Best known for his California houses of the '30s and '40s, Harris was chairman of the School of Architecture at UT from 1951 to 1955. During his term there he added Colin Rowe, John Hejduk, Robert Slutzky, Marcus Whiffen, and Bernhard Hoesli to the school's faculty. Underwriting the exhibition is the Amon G. Carter Foundation of Fort Worth; Harris's biggest house in Texas was for foundation president Ruth Carter Stevenson.

H. H. Harris and Lisa Germany (Photo by Debbe Sharp Focus)



There are those who claim that the average Houstonian is not interested in the public life. Yet recent events would suggest otherwise. In fact two events suggest that Houstonians, like people everywhere, love to watch others as much as they want to be seen. This year over 50,000 people gathered on two successive nights at Miller Theatre in Hermann Park to watch the Houston Symphony's free Fourth of July concerts. The crowd was so large that it spilled well over the top of the grass-covered hill and stretched almost to the perimeter roads. To see so many people gathered so peacefully in a Houston public space was as warming as the weather they sat through. On the private side, Homart Development Corporation estimates that over 250,000 people per day strolled the interior streets of their new Deerbrook Mall (Charles Kober and Associates, architects), featuring Houston's first Macy's, the weekend of 20 July. The crowds were wall-to-wall and the feeling was akin to a Hong Kong street. Yet nobody seemed to mind. In fact, many seemed positively thrilled at the excitement of the urban life, albeit in a suburban mall.



(Photo by Paul Hester)

Arriving by executive helicopter, Michael Graves and Houston developer J.R. McConnell touched down at Galveston's Bob Smith Yacht Club on 24 July to announce McConnell's 15-year development plan for over 400 acres on the island's East Beach. Co-investor Graves will head the design review committee for what a

hand-lettered banner hanging from the club's ceiling proclaimed "The Hilton Head, the La Jolla, the Carmel of the Southwest." Graves also is to design two condominium buildings and a club for East Beach. In addition he is architect for a set of townhouses that McConnell will build in Houston.