

May 3, 1962

Mr. Lawrence B. Anderson, Professional Advisor
Boston City Hall Competition
Government Center Commission of the City of Boston
1 Court Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Jury wishes first to commend the Mayor, the Council, and the Commission for their foresight, generosity and energy which made possible this competition for Boston's new City Hall. This is a most important event and the results will affect Boston for the coming 100 years. This competition is important for it sets as a goal the very best which architecture can offer Boston in its bold redevelopment program. An appreciation comes from the Jury for the work of the Professional Advisor, Lawrence Anderson, and his staff, whose constant help has made our own work possible.

The Jury wishes to commend the eight finalists who were selected from 256 original entries. While each of the eight submissions was a fine effort, the Jury after hours of careful study and discussion was enthusiastically unanimous in its choice of the winning design. No. 6.

The site selected is excellent and allows for a dignified, appropriate and exciting City Hall. This building is a keystone between the historic past and the brilliant future which is to come. It takes thoughtful recognition of Faneuil Hall, Dock Square and Quincy Market and yet is a powerful design in its

own right.

As all members of the Jury at one time or another have lived in Boston, they felt a deep responsibility towards the rebirth of the Boston central area. The Jury was searching for the solution which would best meet the following criteria:

- Recognize the City Hall as an imposing symbol of City government at its best,
- Meet in a practical, efficient and flexible way the daily uses of its various functions,
- Relate in scale and character to the surrounding buildings and spaces,
- Possess a clear structural validity,
- Display appropriate and sensitive use of materials,
- Be within acceptable economic bounds,
- Possess architectural significance apparent to the Boston citizens.

The winning design significantly answers these criteria and dramatically goes beyond the functional requirements in its alive and exciting solution to the program. It provides new dimensions in civic space. At a distance the building achieves great monumentality, drama and unity and in detail the contrasting textures, the play of light and shade, the richness of forms and spaces, culminate in a series of dramatic terraces which provides a strong focus for the symbol of city government. It is a daring yet classical architectural statement, contained within a vigorous unified form.

The vigor of the design radiates into the plaza with the grand series of gently sloping terraces which unifies the

Civic Center, develops a particularly fine view of Faneuil Hall, and extends into the structure as the base containing the public service areas.

The structure clearly defines the areas of heavy public contact and the areas devoted to ceremonial functions including the Council Chamber. Two major means of access are provided to the Council Chamber, the Mayor's offices and the Visitors' Gallery by a spacious stairway and by elevators. From the main entry one also gains access at the same level or by escalator to the departmental staff offices requiring major public contact.

The bold aesthetics of the building are unified by the sensitive integration of its mechanical, electrical and structural elements which emphasize and delineate the variety of internal spaces.

The major administration offices are located on the upper floors in flexible and practical open spaces.

Brick has always been a typical Boston material and the Jury was pleased to see it used in such an effective manner in the Plaza itself and in the lower terrace walls. The remainder of the building is formed of reinforced concrete, both poured in place and precast, offering a contrasting variety of textures.

To sum up: the Jury was unanimously delighted to see its best hopes for a great building for Boston so brilliantly fulfilled.

May 3, 1962

Respectfully submitted,

O. Kelly Anderson

Pietro Belluschi

Harold D. Hodgkinson

Walter Netsch

Ralph Rapson

Sidney Rabb

William W. Wurster, Chairman

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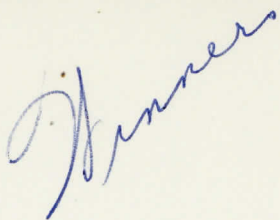
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KALLMANN, McKINNELL and KNOWLES
121 East 54th Street
New York, New York



Three members of the Columbia University faculty teamed in submitting a design for the new Boston Government Center building. One is a native of Germany, another a native of Great Britain, and the third a native American from Brooklyn, New York.

The dean of the trio is Gerhard Michael Kallmann, born in Berlin, Germany in 1915, educated in England, and well known as a very perceptive critic and writer about modern architecture as well as for his own creative work. He studied at the Architectural Association School of Architecture, London, England, 1935-1940 and won the Architectural Association Diploma, Associate Royal Institute of British Architects. Professor Kallmann, a member of the Columbia University faculty as an assistant professor of Architecture, has been design critic at the Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology, on the faculty of Cooper Union, New York and a visiting critic at Cornell, Yale and Washington University of St. Louis. He has been a contributor to Architectural Forum and Architectural Review.

English-born Noel Michael McKinnell, 27, is a graduate of Manchester (Eng.) University and Columbia University where he is a tutor in first year design and at the Graduate School of Design. He has traveled extensively in Europe and has been associated with Percival Goodman in the FDR Competition; Carson, Lundin and Shaw of New York and Charles R. Colbert of New York.

Edward F. Knowles, 32, Brooklyn native with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Pratt Institute in 1951, teaches architecture at Cooper Union and at Columbia University and has traveled extensively and studied throughout Europe, Canada and the United States. Among the firms with which he has been associated are Philip Johnson of Connecticut, Edward L. Barnes and Unger and Unger.

In association with the Kump Associates of Palo Alto, California, he designed the \$2,500,000 Pine Manor Junior College of Chestnut Hill in Greater Boston, and has designed projects in New York City and Florida.