

# The New York Times

## Real Estate

### POSTINGS

**\$2.6 Million, 4,500-Square-Foot Minicampus Doubles as a Community Garden**

## For the New School, a New Courtyard

The recently planted red maple saplings are almost bare, but the Boston ivy has begun creeping up a stucco wall in the 4,500-square-foot Vera List Courtyard at the New School for Social Research in Greenwich Village.

The \$2.6 million minicampus of sorts, which opened this month and doubles as a community garden, includes 60 saplings, as well as pygmy, sassa and black bamboo trees. It was designed by Martin Puryear, a prominent sculptor, and Michael Van Valkenburgh, a Cambridge, Mass., landscape architect. The architect of record is Mitchell/Giurgola Architects.

"We sought a sense of spaciousness," said Mr. Puryear. "We tried to keep every stroke clear and surface detail to a minimum."

So they redid the original buff brick walls with stucco. "The neutral quality gave the space greater immensity," said Mr. Van Valkenburgh, whose firm completed the restoration of Harvard Yard two years ago.

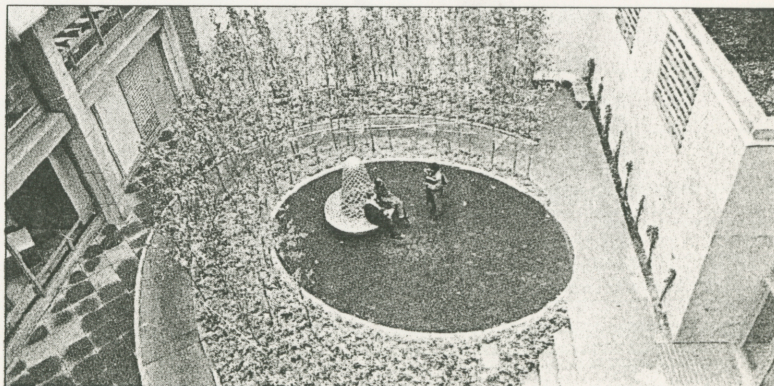
The new courtyard sits atop basement reading and writing rooms and between the original 1931 New School building designed by Joseph Urban, at 66 West 12th Street, and Eugene Lang College, at 65 West 11th Street, which recently underwent a \$2.8 million renovation.

The courtyard now has graceful ramps for the disabled, and a translucent glass canopy separates a garden path from an enclosed walkway above it. Three circular benches, each

resembling a mortar and pestle, were designed by Mr. Puryear. Two, one granite, the other stainless steel, are outdoors, while the third, in the 12th Street lobby, is made of rock maple.

Jonathan F. Fanton, the president of the New School, compared the new courtyard to a country walk, and described how it might be used.

"A couple of kids might sit on a bench talking," he said. "You might see a seminar there in the spring or, neighbors permitting, a jazz concert. On the left you can see kids inside having coffee and on the right reading, talking and contemplating. And, in our case, kids could be 90 years old."



Aaron Fineman for The New York Times

The new Vera List Courtyard at the New School for Social Research.