EXPERIENCE THE ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY OF THE NEW YORK WORLD’S FAIRS

Text by Stephanie Strasnick | Photography courtesy of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum | June 24, 2015

A postcard from the 1964–65 World's Fair in Queens, New York.

Few examples of the Art Deco, modern, and postmodern architecture erected for the New York World’s Fairs exist today. But the legacy of these structures lives on in photographs of the fairs that are housed in collections around the world. Queens College’s Godwin-Ternbach Museum in New York has assembled more than 100 of these pictures for “Persuasive Images: Architecture and the 1939–40 and 1964–5 World’s Fairs,” a tribute to the fairs’ structural achievements.

In addition to the photos—which highlight designs by such luminaries as Alvar Aalto, Philip Johnson, and Oscar Niemeyer—the exhibition will offer visitors who attended the fairs the opportunity to record their memories. A collaboration with the Queens Memory Project, this element of the show will add further context to the images and shed light on the lasting effect the fairs have had on the Queens community.

June 29 through July 27 at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, 405 Klapper Hall, 65–30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, New York; gtmuseum.org

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