

Scaled-Down Plans for Kennedy Library Unveiled; Cost, With Glass Pyramid Gone...

By JOHN KIFNER Special to The New York Times

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Scaled-Down Plans for Kennedy Library Unveiled; Cost, With Glass Pyramid Gone, Put at \$15-Million

By JOHN KIFNER

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 7 — Scaled-down plans for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library were unveiled here today amid continuing controversy over the project in the city that contributed so much to his mystique.

The plans for the monument near Harvard Square to house the Kennedy archives and museum were born 10 years ago in the national outpouring of grief over his assassination.

But the intervening decade has taken a heavy toll both in rising costs of construction and in changing public attitudes.

Symbolic of the concession to these forces, the plans were revised to eliminate the original distinctive glass pyramid and crescent-shaped building, which had been denigrated by some architectural critics as grandiose, and the substitution of a plan repeatedly described by its architect, I. M. Pei, as "much more modest."

"Hopefully, these revisions will meet some of the objections," Steven E. Smith, president of the library corporation and brother-in-law of the late President, said.

"We hope," he continued, "the John Fitzgerald Kennedy library, as described here today, will be a fitting memorial to President Kennedy, a welcome and environmentally acceptable neighbor, and a cultural, historical and educational

asset to Cambridge, the commonwealth and the nation."

The new \$15-million plan calls for two roughly triangular-shaped building complexes, their hypotenuses facing across a 500-foot by 200-foot strip of park. The building facing on the Charles River would house the Kennedy Library and Museum, the second building would house Harvard University's School of Government and its Kennedy Institute of Politics.

The new proposal also eliminates two theaters that had been included in the original museum.

The reduction in size also means that only six million papers from the President's collection will be stored in the archives, with the 16 million remaining documents staying in the present General Services Administration warehouse in nearby Waltham.

There was widespread approval here when the city council welcomed the library after the President's death and when the state gave the Metropolitan Bus and Streetcar yards by the river—soon to be vacated—to the General Services Administration for the complex.

But in recent years, sharp opposition has grown to the plan in the two distinctly different neighborhoods near the project. Some residents in the wealthiest area of the city, centering on Brattle Street, fear that the library will bring

hordes of tourists in and ruin their neighborhood.

Conversely, residents in the poor and largely black Riverside and Cambridgeport areas, running along the Charles just east of the university, fear that developers will move in, land values will increase in their neighborhood and they will be forced out.

Mr. Smith, who played a considerable role in the Kennedy family's political campaigns, appeared somewhat defensive but determined that the library would be built as he made the presentation at a news conference early this afternoon and later at a session for city officials and neighborhood representatives in the City Council chambers.

He used such phrases as "less monumental" and came equipped with a quotation from Samuel Eliot Morrison, the Harvard historian, to reply in the negative to the question of whether the scholarly archives and the tourist-attracting museum might be separated into two locations.

The deep loyalty, experience of shared political wars, and even reverence for the late President felt by Mr. Smith and others associated with the project add up to a driving force behind the library.

The corporation's offices are in the Beacon Hill apartment across from the State House that young John F. Kennedy took when he returned from the war and that he maintained as

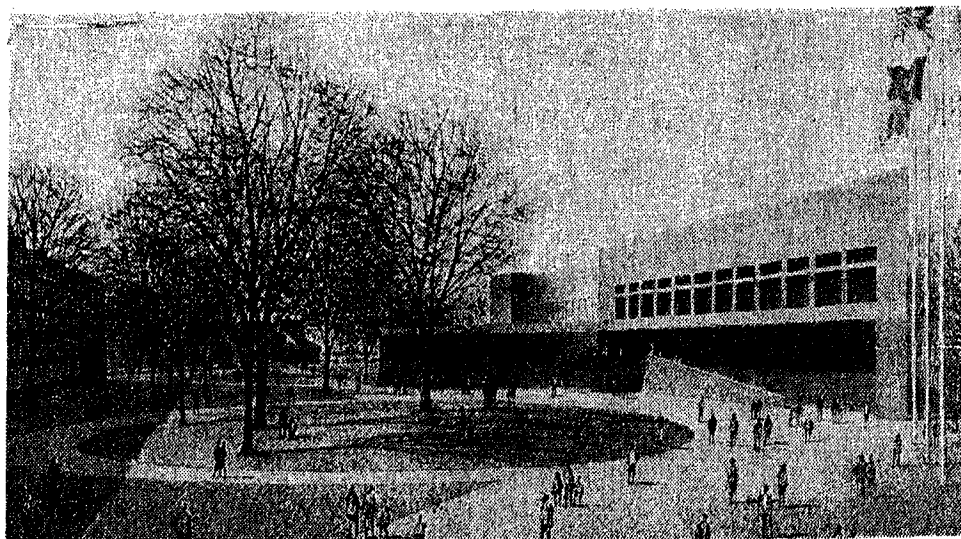
his voting address until he was slain.

But opponents contend that the Kennedy monument would generate an influx of tourists—estimated today by the library sponsors at perhaps 8,000 on a heavy day—that will overwhelm the already congested Harvard Square area. Some fear that it will change its character from university-related specialty and book shops to souvenir stands and fast-food franchises.

Mr. Smith noted today that the proposal for the library, as a G.S.A. project, must pass an environmental impact study. Opponents of the library have charged that the consulting concern hired to conduct the study, C. E. Maguire, has a history of political dealing.

One major issue is parking, and it has been complicated by the marshy landfill in the area that makes an underground garage prohibitive.

The new plan contains a large, landscaped area for 435 automobiles that Mr. Pei described as "a parking park." In addition, Mr. Smith said, the library planned to use additional facilities across the river at the Harvard Business School and at a Massachusetts Turnpike lot for the overflow. Dan H. Fenn, the library director, said that a timing system would be devised to discourage visitors from leaving their cars too long in the library parking lot.



An artist's rendering of the new design of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. At the right is the library. At the left is the planned Academic Building for Harvard

University, including the John F. Kennedy School of Public Affairs. The original design had one large building for both the library and the Academic Building.