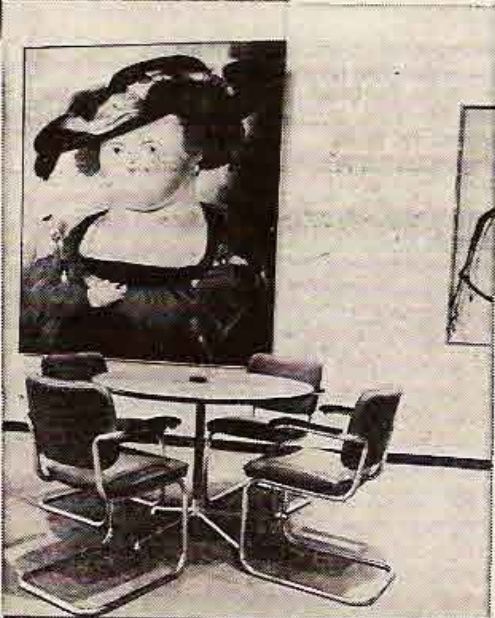
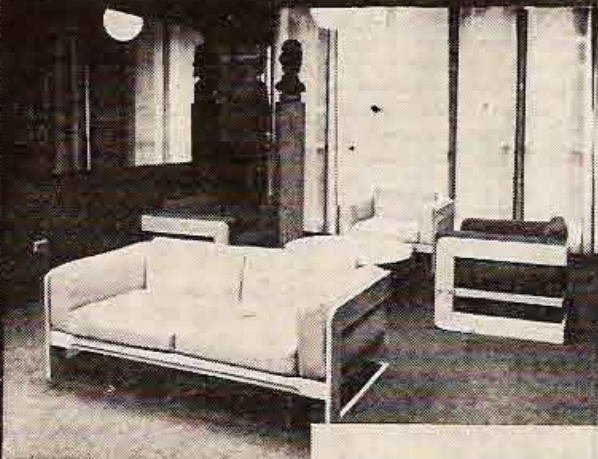
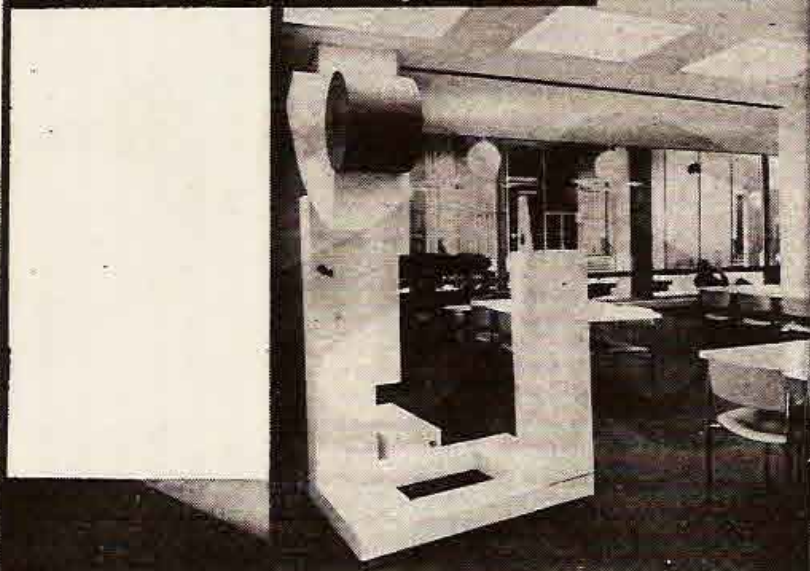


The New Look at The New School



From top to bottom: Small leisure and snack room with dropped ceiling lighting, Turner-T chairs and butcher block table; reading room facing sculpture court; sitting room with carpeted walls and Stendig lounge furniture (all in the Alvin Johnson Building); larger-than-life-size painting that is one of several forming background for modern furnishings in the main reading room at the new Graduate Center.

Not only has The New School for Social Research in downtown New York acquired a new Graduate Center building in the past year, it is also giving a facelift to its existing undergraduate building two blocks away.

The results in both cases make for a learning environment that is modern in design as well as colorful, comfortable and practical.

When the New School took over a department store building just over a year ago, architectural design was limited by the existing structure, but architects and designers, Frost Associates, decided to concentrate the available funds on making the interiors work.

Architect Alan Goldsamt has given a continuity throughout the interior with the use of wall-to-wall carpeting in most areas, glass wall construction, graphics and a series of light boxes over classroom and other important areas for quick identification. Strong color accents on walls and furnishings also make the classrooms quickly identifiable.

Paintings and sculpture by major artists are placed in the entrance hall and also in meeting and reception rooms, in addition to a full-scale art gallery which has continuous shows. Most of the works are on loan from galleries or lent by the individual artists, with some for sale.

A BLENDING OF modern furniture, which ranges from comfortably upholstered lounge seating through to contemporary library stacks and colorful metal and plastic stacking chairs for the classrooms is used throughout the school. It is a mixture of Stendig, Herman Miller, Knoll, Harvey Prober, J. C. Furniture, General Fireproofing, Steelcase office furniture and Estey Corporation.

Interior designer Susan McLaughlin has emphasized the subtle use of color, different in each area, yet co-ordinating with floorcoverings and draperies everywhere.

The dining room is divided into small eating areas with Herman Miller free-standing partitioning, as the students preferred this to one large eating area. A large reading room, which doubles for receptions on occasions, has a mixture of lounging and upright chairs grouped around low or high tables respectively for study or more relaxed conversation. The library has areas with Herman Miller carrels and straight backed chairs for concentrated study as well as a pleasant lounge for quiet conversations, smoking and relaxation.

Mohawk carpeting is used throughout the building with the exception of the classrooms and the dining room which have vinyl asbestos tiles.

Much work also is being done in the two existing buildings which are linked together by a sculpture court.

THE MOST DRAMATIC CHANGE has taken place in the Alvin Johnson building in what used to be a small reading room and what was once a library situated on either side of a central hallway. The areas, including the hallway, have been unified by the use of dark brown Durhair carpet from the Dunken Carpet Corp. used both on the floors and walls. The reading room, the larger of the two rooms, is used for registration twice a year and, therefore, the project architect for this building, Ken Sailor, had the idea of using Stendig's Raimondo series of knockdown furniture for this area. At registration times it will be knocked down and stored in a back storage room. An area now separated by a sliding white wall will be opened up. In both rooms, the upholstery on the lounge seating is bright and colorful in a mixture of clear orange, fuschia, yellow and gold.

The lounge or sitting room, which is long and narrow has been opened up by a wide mirror which runs the length of the inside wall. A new type of panel track system for draperies that enables them to be drawn, is used throughout the building, but is particularly effective in the street side of the lounging areas where panels are in different colors to give a strong treatment on one side and allowing for the outside to come in on the other which faces the sculpture court.

A small leisure and snack room on the third floor of the building is strictly a fun room. Because of its ugly proportions, the architects decided to drop the ceiling by the use of large hanging paper lights that are graded in intensity as one goes further into the room. Once again, the room is furnished in colorful modern furniture and is carpeted on the floors, over a wall bench for additional seating and on up the walls. Magazine and coat racks were also specially designed for the room by the architects.

— MARGARET MARDEN