

CITY PLANS STUDY ON USE OF SPACES

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Architect Is Hired to Assist in Environmental Design

By CHARLES G. BENNETT

A \$55,000 study to improve the quality of environmental design and the use of open space in the city's housing and renewal program was announced yesterday at City Hall.

Mayor Lindsay and Jason Nathan, Housing and Development Administrator, said that Lawrence Halprin & Associates of San Francisco, architects, would begin the survey next month. Half of the money will be put up by the city and half will come from Federal urban renewal funds.

Emphasis on Open Space

"We want New Yorkers to use and enjoy their open spaces," Mayor Lindsay said at a City Hall news conference.

"We have given new emphasis to the quality of living in New York by stressing the vital necessity for high quality design. The careful placement of buildings, tree planting, lighting and 'street furniture' will create a more intimate and beautiful environment. The study will assist us in meeting these goals."

Later yesterday the Mayor's office was asked if there was any inconsistency in the award of the design-study contract to the Halprin concern in the light of the delay of the office of Controller Mario A. Proccino in approving a pending design contract to that firm in

connection with the plan for Flushing Meadows Park.

The Mayor's office said Mr. Procaccino's agency had approved the new housing-design study in advance; also, it was explained, the new study contract had been signed before any work under it had been authorized.

There was no comment from the Controller's office on why the new Halprin contract could be approved when the Flushing Meadows contract was held up because, among other reasons, the firm is registered in California. New York and California have reciprocal licensing arrangements, but this arrange-

ment has not been accepted by the city.

But some city fiscal aides noted that the two contracts were dissimilar. The Flushing Meadows one, they observed, called for an actual architectural design. The new housing contract, they noted, covered merely a study.

In the forthcoming study, to last six months, the consultant architects will survey six representative city renewal and housing developments as to the use of open space, the placement of buildings and the uses and designs of streets.

It will be determined

whether the projects fit into the city's landscape, whether they add to or detract from their neighborhood and whether they make good use of open space and streets.

The sites to be studied are:

¶The West Side Urban Renewal Area, 87th to 97th Streets, Central Park West to Amsterdam Avenue.

¶Bellevue South, 23d to 30th Streets, First to Second Avenues.

¶Tompkins Square, 10th to 13th Streets, Avenues C to D.

¶Penn Station South, 23d to 29th Streets, Eighth to Ninth Avenues.

¶Dayton Towers. East: Shorefront Parkway to Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Beach 74th to Beach 81st Streets; West: Beach 102d to Beach 105th Streets, Shorefront Parkway to Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Far Rockaway, Queens.

¶Cadman Plaza, bounded by Fulton, Henry and Clark Streets Brooklyn.

Mr. Nathan said the consultant architects would "look for missed opportunities in the use of open space" in the six developments. They will draw up "general environmental planning principles and guidelines for future projects," he explained.