



ALFRED EISENSTAEDT—LIFE

WRONG SHORE, RIGHT IDEA

Forum:

While finding agreement with your presentation of "The suffering shore line" (FORUM, June '61), I must admonish your pictorial section for misidentifying Alfred Eisenstaedt's photo on page 91.

This view is not of the Staten Island shore line, but of Brooklyn at the Gowanus Canal. The trestlelike structure over it is the Smith and 9th Street station of the IND subway line.

Civic pride has not prodded me to come to the defense of this stepchild of the "Empire City." On the contrary, I will readily admit that this "visual squalor" is predominant throughout most of the north and west shores of Staten Island.

RICHARD E. JOINSON
Staten Island, N.Y.

Forum:

Three cheers for Walter McQuade and FORUM for "The suffering shore line" (June '61). Now, if you could get Washington interested in matters such as this, instead of the moon, there might be some hope for the human race.

A major portion of my work, through the years, has been of subject matter pertaining to the sea and ships. Every visit to the shore line has been and is filled with frustration, for seldom is it possible to eliminate entirely the myriad trash heaps from the view. Many of our contemporary foreign camera artists achieved

initial reputations of superiority over the domestic group simply due to the factor of their lands and people being more photogenic than ours. There existed a reverence for nature.

Let's first set our house in order.

HANS MARX
Photographer
Baltimore, Md.

WELFARELESS ISLAND

Forum:

I see with alarm in the June issue of FORUM the Richmond-Gruen-Stevens project to develop Welfare Island by housing 70,000 people in a "city within a city." A city, moreover, without a park. A city, moreover, which is to be monoclass. A city, moreover, which provides no employment for its inhabitants. A city which can make \$59,947,500 profit for the government of the city of New York. (This must be a better bargain than the Louisiana Purchase.)

Perhaps we shall do better when we have read full reports of the recent talks by Social Critics Lewis Mumford and Catherine Bauer Wurster.

Perhaps then we shall begin to design an environment, and not just money-making machines.

PHILIP LANGLEY
Architect, landscape architect
Ville d'Avray, France

WHO'S A BANDIT?

Forum:

"Memorial to a gallant band," a monument to the Brigata Sassari (FORUM, June '61), is excellent, and I am glad to see this presentation. But I would like to say that I read with some surprise—and I assume Nivola would have read it with some surprise and humor—that "The Italians . . . lose all their wars and win all their war memorials." In actuality, the Italians won their wars: in 1866 (against Austria), in 1912 (against Turkey), in 1915-1918 (against Austria and Germany), in 1935-1936 (against Ethiopia); and lost the war of 1940-1945. I don't believe anyone is more anti-nationalistic and anti-racialistic than I am, but certain truths must be established.

As to your confirmation that

the Brigata Sassari were ". . . recruited entirely from among Sardinia's proud descendants of bandits," let's leave it at that. It is like saying that divisions of the U.S. Army recruited from the region of Chicago are composed of descendants of gangsters. Constantino Nivola—those who know him can say so—is not a descendant of bandits, nor does he look like one.

BRUNO ALFIERI
Zodiac Magazine
Milan, Italy

• *Italians are much too charming to win wars—at least we'd prefer to think so. Regarding the Sardinian bandits, this intelligence came from FORUM's favorite non-bandit, Tino Nivola himself. (They were unsuccessful, nonviolent bandits, of course!)*—ED.

COLLABORATIVE TOWER

Forum:

Concerning the construction of the water tower at Casablanca (FORUM, May '61) which we built with our consulting engineer, Eduardo Torroja of Madrid, we wish that there could have been some mention of the close collaboration between the engineer and the contractor which made possible, from conception through execution, the smooth progress of a design of great boldness.

FERNANDEZ
Societe Marocaine
d'Exploitation des Entreprises
Rabat, Morocco



FERNANDEZ

BACK TO THE CAVES

Forum:

Your magazine appears to have launched a drive to enlist architects in the promotion of the

twentieth century's newest building form — fallout shelters (FORUM, Feb. and Mar. '61).

With the building of these, man's untiring efforts through the centuries have been brought full circle—back to the caves. (Of course, these are technologically superior caves. After all, we have learned something in all these years.)

And when man emerges from his new caves, he will start, not like his primitive ancestors in an untamed world of natural creation, but in a tamed world of his own making: burnt, devastated, ruined, and contaminated.

STIG HARVOR
Architect
Ottawa, Ont.

Forum:

One can only hope that we expend as much energy on the possibility of peaceful prevention of attack, as is suggested we spend preparing shelter for it.

JOHN R. MASLEN
Portland, Ore.

ERRATA

The article, "The Low Cost of Fine Buildings" (FORUM, June '61) miscredited the design of the Norton Building in Seattle. Bindon & Wright of Seattle were the architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of San Francisco were the consulting architects.

In the same issue, FORUM's report on the new IBM Research Center in Yorktown Heights, N. Y. neglected to credit Bolt, Beranek & Newman, Inc. with the acoustical engineering of the main auditorium.—ED.