

Municipal Art Society Newsletter

I.M. Pei Receives Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal at MAS Benefit

The Municipal Art Society bestowed its highest honor, the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal, to world-renowned architect I.M. Pei at a benefit dinner February 27. Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy, Jr., presented the award named in their mother's honor to Pei, whose work has helped shape modern architecture in New York City and around the world.

The 69th Regiment Armory on Lexington Avenue was transformed by a gleaming pyramid, designed in homage to Pei's works. It was both dinner tent for the 360 guests and gigantic screen for a slide retrospective of Pei's work, presented by Paul Goldberger, chief cultural correspondent for *The New York Times*.

Historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., recalling the priority that Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy placed on the arts, called for renewed understanding of their importance in the life of the nation. "I would hope," Mr. Schlesinger said, "that with the barbarians hammering at the gate, this ceremony would help rally support for the concerns so eloquently expressed by President Kennedy, so beautifully urged and embodied by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and so splendidly executed by the man we honor tonight."

The event was chaired by Duane Hampton and Arie Kopelman, with honorary chair Brendan Gill. Also



Warm handshakes and winning smiles were the order of the day at the MAS benefit on February 27. Above: John F. Kennedy, Jr. and Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg applaud after presenting the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal to I.M. Pei. Right: Benefit Committee member Helen Tucker and honorary chair Brendan Gill. Bottom, L-R: MAS president Brendan Sexton congratulates benefit co-chairs Arie Kopelman and Duane Hampton on a wonderful evening.



photos: Steven Tucker

presiding were MAS chairman Stephen C. Swid and president Brendan Sexton. New York City First Lady Donna Hanover Giuliani welcomed guests with anecdotes about both Pei and her son Andrew.

Major supporters included Mr. and Mrs. Sid R. Bass, Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Hearst, Paul Mellon, The Doris Duke Foundation, Pei Cobb Freed and Partners, and the Walt Disney Company.

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