

5 August 1997

Introduction to the Kimbell catalogue

In the middle of the week toward the end of March 1994 Ed Bass called me to arrange a meeting for the following Sunday. He wanted to see us at our Boland Street gallery at five o'clock in the evening if convenient. " And could you and Scott just be by yourselves?" he asked, in a voice that had its usual good-humored buoyancy but with an intriguing air of mystery.

At exactly five o'clock Ed knocked on our gallery door. He had his very friendly golden retriever Cuervo with him, and under his arm he carried a huge black leather portfolio. We exchanged a few pleasantries, but it was plain to see that he wanted to get to business immediately. Scott and I quickly cleared off our bird book demonstration table. Ed put the portfolio on the floor, unzipped it and pulled out a large sheet of paper. It was a blue print - David Schwarz's plan for the front facade of the new Performing Arts Hall that we knew was about to be proposed for downtown Fort Worth. Ed had mentioned the project to me on several previous occasions but only in the most casual way. It was now almost April, and Ed had not said a word about the theater since my friend Nancy and I had stayed with him on a skiing vacation at Aspen the previous January.

As he spread the blueprint out upon the table Scott and I felt a ~~real~~ surge of excitement. The building as outlined in front of us was truly old world in feeling, like something transplanted out of 19th century Prague. It was the kind of conservative design for which Schwarz was well-known - both in praise and in criticism.

Ed scarcely let us make any comments before he pulled out the second sheet. He did most of the talking while we just stood there stunned by the elegance of this next blueprint which showed a cutaway view of the theater's interior. It was a warm and intimate view, and again very old worldly, a direct contrast to the elegant but rather impersonal look of I.M. Pei's Morton Myerson Auditorium in Dallas.

In the next two hours Ed Bass talking, almost lecturing with an infectious enthusiasm, pulled out one blueprint after another, showing the stage design, the proscenium arch, the great central dome, the wonderful private boxes with the two other tiers of balconies over them. View after view of an elegant, albeit very conservative building. Scott and I loved it. We thought that kind of theater would fit perfectly into downtown Fort Worth and make a night at the opera really a special event. Now and then Ed would pause and point out on the plans places where painted decorations might be appropriate, but before Scott or I could say anything, he would be pulling out another blueprint. By the time the last plan was laid before us my brother and I were tired and hungry for mom's usual Sunday dinner.

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*Two hours
and I was
tired*

Kimbell Art Museum

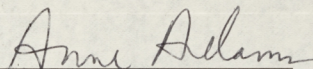
3333 Camp Bowie Boulevard ~~Box 2440~~ Fort Worth, Texas 76107 817-332-8451 Cable Kimbart

Office of the Registrar

Date Received: 2/20/98

Received from: Stuart & Scott Gentling
4801 Harley Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107

for the purpose of "The Art of Ornament"
the objects listed below. exhibition


Museum Registrar

Description	Insurance Value
Central dome: painting of dome section 40 x 60" Scott Gentling Central dome: large painting of complete dome 10' x 7' (5 sections) Scott Gentling	
Incoming No. I-98.22	