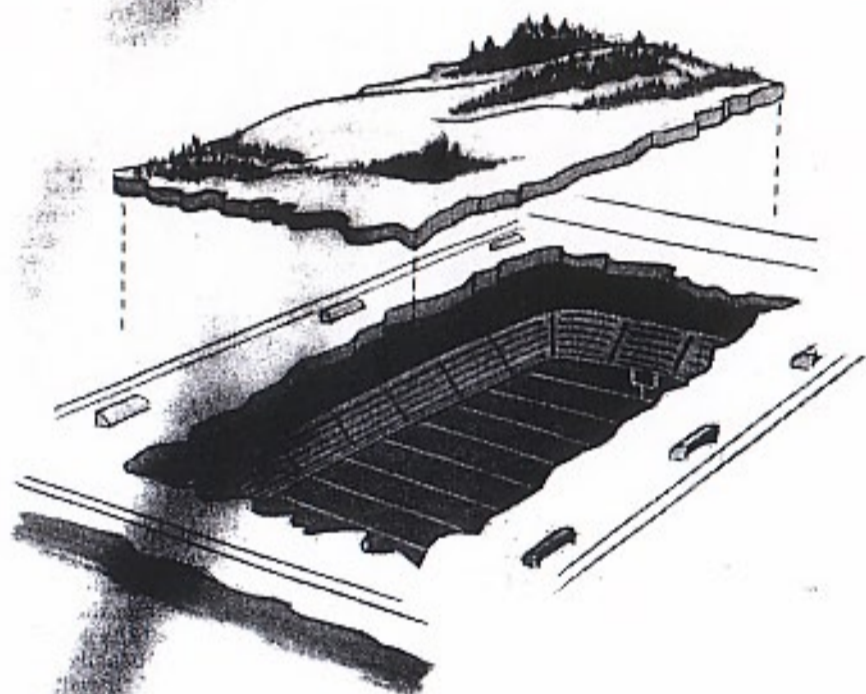


Op-Art
BRUCE McCALL

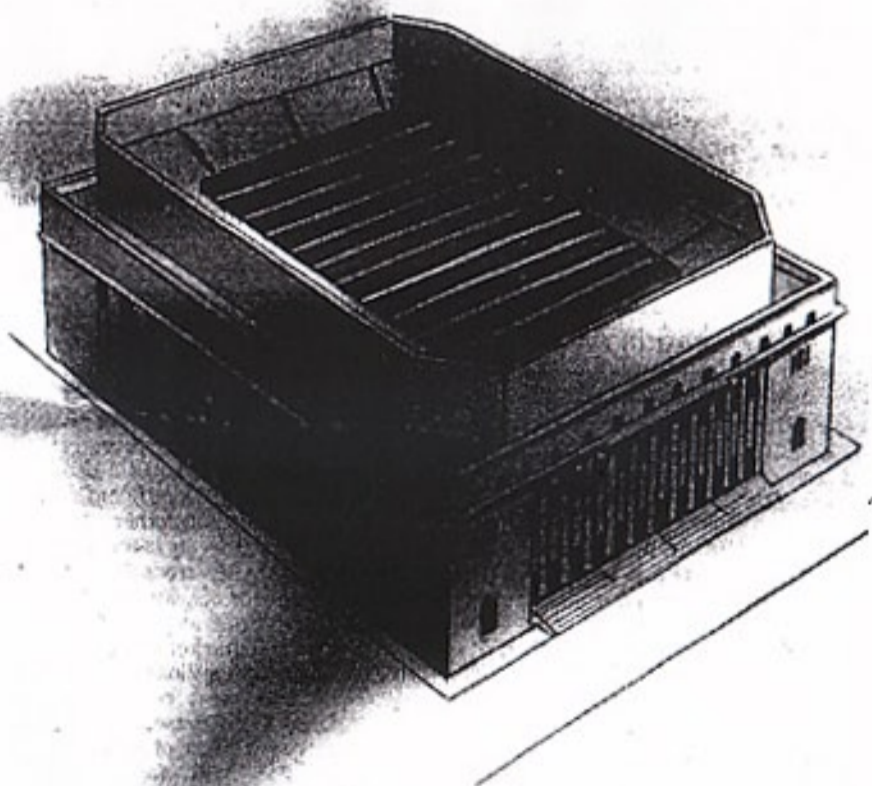
Field Trips

It's become easy to bad-mouth the new West Side stadium proposal. But know what, New Yorkers? Negativity isn't what built the Huntington Hartford Museum or the Van Wyck Expressway or Grant's Tomb. They were built by optimism, and that's what's needed now: the positive energy to create a West Side stadium even a West Sider can love. Time's a-wasting, people — after all, those folks from the Olympic committee were here this week — so mull these four new proposals. You'll agree, any one of them has what it takes to turn those brickbats into bulldozers!



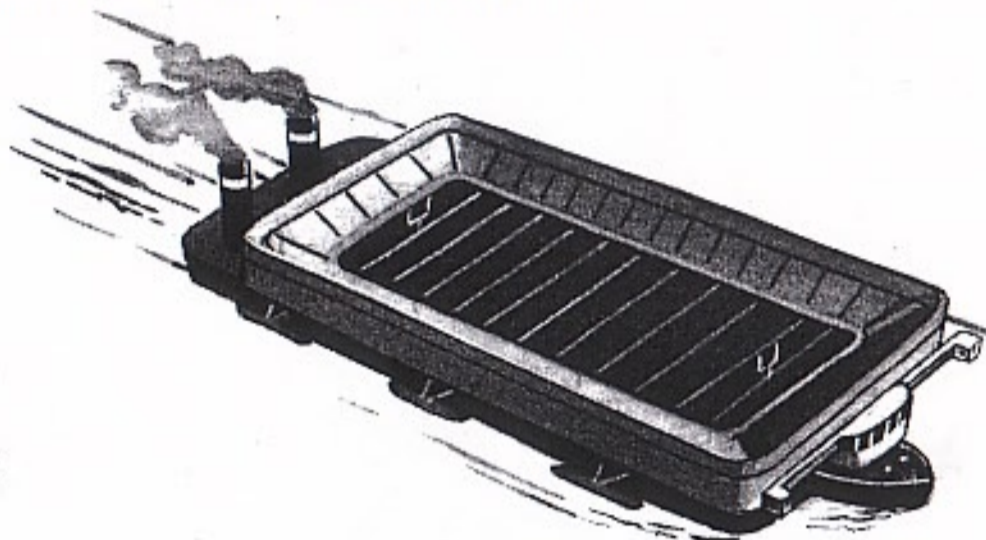
The Subterranean Alternative

The stadium is built deep beneath the footprint of the proposed structure — out of sight, out of earshot, out of mind. A further sop to antidevelopment purists: on ground level, where the stadium would have been, is a nature reserve landscaped to duplicate conditions circa 1600, before desecration by generations of developers. Risk: buffalo stampedes wreak havoc in Chelsea art galleries.



The Midtown Alternative

Here's a project that would involve no land grab. Also, because area traffic is already hopeless, who would notice if it gets worse? Even so, the fiercely anti-stadium Dolan family — who run Cablevision and Madison Square Garden — are already criticizing this more centrally sited Near West Side Stadium, apparently for no better reason than that it is to be erected atop the central post office building on Eighth Avenue, directly opposite the Garden. Risk: Garden roof becomes artillery range.



The Offshore Alternative

Abandoning that controversial West Side site and indeed terra firma altogether, a mighty 70,000-passenger floating stadium — the S.S. New York Wets — perpetually circumnavigates Manhattan Island, becoming no neighborhood's and thus every neighborhood's stadium, while reducing the population of offended parties to no more than a few capsized kayakers. What's more, crewmen on oceangoing tankers plying the Hudson will ogle the majestic new colossus and then bring word of its wonders home to Taiwan, the Philippines and Greece. As a result, tourism will boom, adding \$400 billion annually to the city's economy. Risk: player seasickness affects quality of the game.



The Zabar's Alternative

This admittedly dark-horse plan moves the stadium a few blocks north into the airspace above Zabar's at Broadway and 80th Street. Traditionalists might sniff, but Zabar's crowd-control experience — funneling 500,000 shoppers an hour through its doors, accommodating them all in less space than you would find in a city bus, and keeping them happy with a fan-pleasing variety of tasty domestic and imported, kosher and non-kosher gourmet refreshments — makes it eminently viable. Risk: Olympic athletes performing here in the 2012 Games overindulge on challah, babka; no new records set.