



PRESS KIT



GARDEN STATE ARTS CENTER,

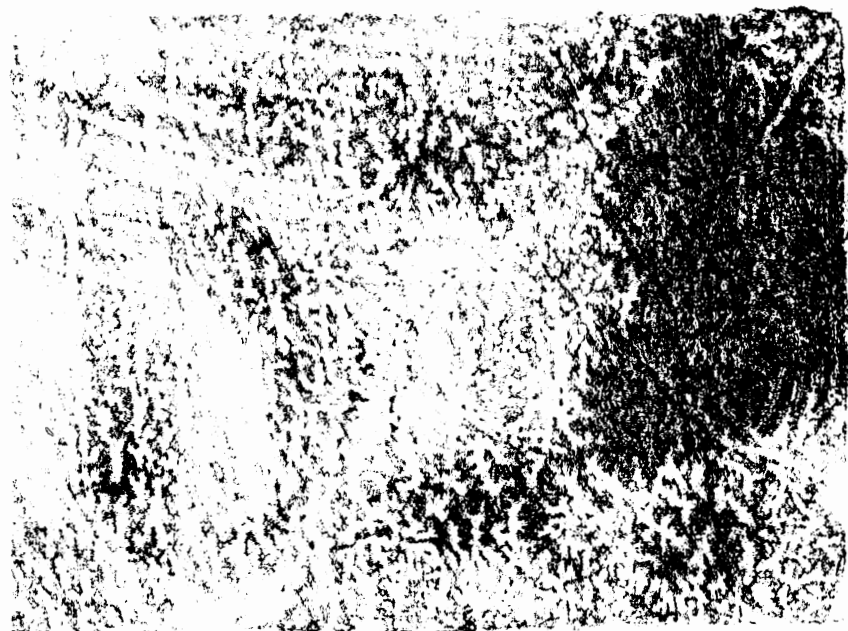
Master Plan Design Debut,

Wednesday, December 1, 1965
2:30 P.M.

904.92
A792
1965m

New Jersey Highway Authority,
Administration Building
Garden State Parkway
Woodbridge, New Jersey

DEPOSITED COPY
Do Not Remove From Library



974.90
A792
1965m
copy 1



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.

Chairman

JOHN B. TOWNSEND

Vice Chairman

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR

Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI

Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

RELEASE AFTER 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

1965

V.

Garden State Arts Center
Unique Architecture

An architectural treatment rarely seen in this section of the country will bring unique form to the amphitheater of the new Garden State Arts Center soon to be built at Telegraph Hill Park in New Jersey.

Utilizing what architects call a double concrete catenary design, the open-sided amphitheater will feature a huge inverted dome, or parabola, suspended on a network of steel cables.

Edward Durell Stone, the architect commissioned by the New Jersey Highway Authority to design the Center at Telegraph Hill on the Garden State Parkway, says the inverted dome principle has several obvious advantages.

It is not only aesthetically appealing in the way it blends the man-made structure with the natural environment, Stone points out, but it is far less expensive to build than other types of roofs which might be used to cover such a broad area.

The inverted dome is 200 feet in diameter, while the cantilevered roof on which its supporting ring of concrete girder rests is 260 feet in diameter and covers more than an acre of land.

Supporting the roof will be eight massive hollow columns, each one five-and-a-half feet in diameter.

(MORE)

A third, and equally important reason for the unusual roof design, says Stone, is the improvement in acoustics it provides. Sound is contained in the enclosure and in the natural "bowl" provided by the topography, rather than being dissipated above the performing area.

The striking white concrete edifice will provide covered seating for 4,800 persons; and, making full use of the topography, Stone has incorporated in his plans a natural grassland seating arena that continues the sweep of the man-made seats. All told, some 5,000 additional persons can be comfortably seated outdoors on the lawn.

First to be built will be the eight supporting columns. These will be so situated that they will support both the cantilevered flat roof and the 200-foot-diameter box girder that will act as a "compression ring".

The four columns closest to the stage will contain vertical slits two feet wide and high enough to hold nine theatrical lights with which the stage can be bathed. In actual operation, the lights would be adjusted--a ladder runs up the inside of these hollow columns--for the type of performance.

The hollow supports toward the rear of the amphitheater would be used as drainage conduit and for placement of recessed speakers for supplementary amplifying.

Once the supporting columns have been cast in place, the flat roof will be constructed. This, too, will be of concrete, approximately 20 inches thick at the columns and tapering to six inches at its outer edges.

The third stage of construction calls for the casting in place of the nine-foot high box girder that will serve as the compression ring. From this ring, extending inward to a smaller "tension" ring 25 feet in diameter, will be 56 high-strength steel, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch cables. Of the type used on suspension bridges, the cables must be carefully and precisely stressed both before and after the roof is in position. To accomplish this, difficult mathematical equations must be worked out with the aid of computers.

(MORE)

The actual concave roof of the amphitheater will be made of pre-cast concrete panels, each one approximately 30 feet in length and precisely tapered to fit over the supporting cables. Three separate kinds of panels will be required and these will be cast at the rate of six panels a day.

The pouring of the roof panels alone is expected to take more than two months, although this will be done while the supporting columns, girders and the flat roof are all being constructed.

The design of the roof panels has been carefully calculated. They are in the form of an inverted U with a broad base so that, even with the cementing that will be applied over the exposed cables, the roof from the inside of the amphitheater will have a patterned irregular surface. This, Stone points out, is far superior acoustically than an absolutely smooth surface which might cause unwanted reverberation.

Inside the structure, the focal point will be the stage--approximately 120 feet wide and 45 feet deep, large enough to accommodate a full symphony orchestra. Beneath the stage are complete facilities for performers--dressing rooms, orchestra rooms and storage areas.

Employing modern day materials to the fullest, the amphitheater will be mainly of concrete construction with a minimum of steel substructure. Exposed surfaces will be of white concrete, eliminating any tendency toward drabness encountered in earlier concrete buildings.

Individual seats of the fiberglass, fold-up type used in outdoor arenas are envisioned in the plan.

#



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.

Chairman

JOHN B. TOWNSEND

Vice Chairman

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR

Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI

Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

RELEASE AFTER 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

1965

IV.
Garden State Arts Center
Musical Spectrum

The amphitheater of the Garden State Arts Center will eventually serve the entire spectrum of musical performances.

Starting with its first full season in 1967, the Center is to present a six-week Festival in July and August each summer that will feature the finest talent in the world of symphony, opera, ballet and popular music.

Performances are expected to be given by such renowned groups and individuals as the New York Philharmonic Symphony, the American Ballet Theater, the Metropolitan Opera (concert form), Harry Belafonte, and leading jazz and popular artists.

Performances by outstanding international attractions will also be presented.

The annual Music Festival is to include performances by foremost New Jersey organizations such as the New Jersey Symphony and Garden State Ballet, as well as by leading choral groups.

Beyond the 24 performances of the Music Festival, the amphitheater is designed for use by a multitude of New Jersey cultural organizations. From June through September will be heard many outstanding professional, semi-professional and amateur groups.

(MORE)

The amphitheater is ideally suited for performances of many types-- band concerts, band competitions, pipe and drum corps, marching bands, barbershop quartet singing and competitions, choral singing, orchestral performances, opera in concert form, ballet and other dance attractions.

The amphitheater will be made available at nominal fees to recognized and responsible organizations or groups, as well as to educational institutions throughout New Jersey.

#



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.

Chairman

JOHN B. TOWNSEND

Vice Chairman

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR

Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI

Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

RELEASE AFTER 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

1965

III.

Garden State Arts Center
Quick-Change Stage

The stage of the amphitheater for the Garden State Arts Center has been designed with Broadway know-how to serve a diversity of performing purposes in quick-changing procession.

Noted Broadway scenic designer and theater consultant Ralph Alswang, working with architect Edward Durell Stone and Arts Center Administrator Peter Lawrence, has developed the concept of a flexible stage for the amphitheater that can be adapted to the needs of widely varied programs.

As consultant to Stone in the design of the project, Alswang devised the idea of a unique multi-purpose stage that would permit its transformation in a matter of minutes from a symphonic concert shell to a platform for the presentation of ballet, opera or jazz.

A newly-designed acoustic shell will provide superb presentation of symphonic music without amplification; yet it can be removed easily so that lights and scenery might be employed for other forms of entertainment.

The stage will be flexible enough to allow performers to appear thrust forward into the audience, or behind the more usual proscenium. Seats can be added or removed easily to accommodate either type of presentation.

Equal in height to a three-story building and 120 feet wide, the stage area provides several means for the presentation of orchestral music. The stage is also 45 feet deep.

(MORE)

Symphony orchestras will perform on-stage in the acoustic shell; and in the pit in front of the stage a full 100-piece orchestra can also be seated for operatic and ballet performances. The pit is so designed that a small orchestra can be utilized, with the remainder of the pit area covered and replaced by additional rows of seats for patrons.

A full set of lines and pipes are provided on-stage with a modern counterweight system to allow for rapid changes of scenery and lights. Although the stage does not feature a "fly-loft" for the hanging of a major opera presentation, it can be used for a full variety of stage presentations on a night-to-night basis.

Alswang has designed and lighted more than 110 Broadway shows, including "Sunrise at Campobello", "Peter Pan", "A Raisin in the Sun", "King Lear", "Come Blow Your Horn" and the forthcoming "Hostile Witness". He has also designed all of the productions of Harry Belafonte's concert appearances.

Currently, Alswang is designing the interior of the famed Palace Theater in Times Square being converted into a legitimate theater for an opening in January. He has made a similar contribution to the new Fischer Theater in Detroit, one of the most active legitimate theaters in the United States.

Plans for a new legitimate theater in Dallas, Texas, are now on his drawing board as he develops further ideas with prominent architects across the country.

Architect Stone, aided by creative consultants such as Alswang, has designed the Arts Center structures that will be built on the Garden State Parkway at its Telegraph Hill Park in Monmouth County just 30 miles south of Newark.

#



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.
Chairman

JOHN B. TOWNSEND
Vice Chairman

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR
Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI
Executive Director

MILTON LEVY Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

RELEASE AFTER 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

1965 II.
Garden State Arts Center
Behind-The-Scenes

Behind-the-scenes facilities for the proposed amphitheater in the Garden State Arts Center should delight performers and stage hands at the New Jersey site.

Special consideration was given such items as dressing rooms, storage areas and lighting facilities in the design of the amphitheater for the Arts Center on the Garden State Parkway.

Wherever practical, most of the utilitarian functions are carried out beneath the stage of the amphitheater. There can be found storage areas and the dressing rooms for featured artists, other individual performers and chorus, as well as large locker rooms for use by more than a hundred orchestra members. Two "star" dressing rooms are located on the stage itself.

Passageways connect directly with the orchestra pit allowing for entrance to the orchestra pit directly from the dressing room area.

The orchestra pit is designed in two sections, with the use of one or both depending upon the type of program staged. In cases where the stage itself accommodates the orchestra--as in a concert--the orchestra pit may be used as additional seating for patrons.

Measuring 24 feet in depth, the pit will incorporate provision for hydraulic operation to add versatility in the placement of the orchestra.

(MORE)

Lighting, normally controlled from precarious catwalks, will instead be handled by a combination system that will use the supporting columns and special light booths incorporated in the roof of the amphitheater.

Spotlight placement will be at the rear of the amphitheater and directly above the stage, while theatrical lights--36 of them--will be pre-set to focus on the stage from the columns.

In combination, the lights on the stage, in the columns and under the roof total several hundreds of the newest instruments, featuring the long-lasting, more powerful quartz bulbs.

A sound reinforcement system has been designed especially for the amphitheater. Orchestral and operatic performances can be presented in the acoustic-perfect theater without artificial reinforcement. For presentations of soloists, popular artists and similar performances requiring sound systems, a major installation is provided which brings the music and words to the far corners of the amphitheater, including the thousands who can be seated on the spacious lawn surrounding it.

A complete sound-control room is part of the building, permitting the recording of performances and the moment-to-moment monitoring of the sound system. Television outlets will permit televising of any performance.

#



Garden State Parkway INFORMATION

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.
Chairman
JOHN B. TOWNSEND
Vice Chairman
RICHARD R. O'CONNOR
Treasurer
D. LOUIS TONTI
Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

RELEASE AFTER 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

1965
Garden State Parkway
Camouflaged Parking

I.

Parked cars at the Garden State Arts Center will be camouflaged.

Recognizing that 2,000 automobiles in one huge parking lot could easily destroy the naturalness of the Telegraph Hill Park site, the designers of the Center made nature an ally to combat this problem.

Each row of parked cars at the Center on the Garden State Parkway will be screened from the next and from the amphitheater location itself by rows of dense foliage.

The natural contours of the land will be retained as much as possible, further helping to camouflage automobiles.

Tree-lined walks dividing the parking areas will help maintain a park-like setting and will provide safe pedestrian access to the amphitheater.

The parking areas, although effectively hidden from view, will also be located away from amphitheater seating to prevent interference of automobile noises with performances.

Present plans call for 1,800 cars to be accommodated with overflow provision for another 200, making a total of 2,000 automobile spaces. Special provision for chartered buses is also included in the design.

Future parking will be provided for another 2,000 cars; the new parking area to be located on the opposite (west) side of the Garden State Parkway from the amphitheater. Shuttle buses will be used to transport patrons from the west to east side and back.

#

Statement by Governor Richard J. Hughes

Prepared for Garden State Arts Center
Press Conference, Dec. 1, 1965

There are few better measures of man's achievements than his architectural and cultural standards.

Here in this model of the Garden State Arts Center we see an impressive merging of these two criteria....an architectural masterpiece that will be dedicated to the fulfillment of man's cultural need.

What Edward Durell Stone has created is most impressive.

But it is only a beginning. Because as long as men create works of art, facilities such as the Garden State Arts Center will continue to write the cultural history of our age.

For the State of New Jersey, the Garden State Arts Center should be a source of great pride because it is destined to become one of the most famous stages in this Nation.

For me, there will always be a feeling of special gratification that this imaginative and much needed project was begun and--I promise you--will be completed during my term as Governor.

THE GARDEN STATE ARTS CENTER
IN A NUT(cracker suite)SHELL

- PURPOSE:** To provide a platform for all the art forms, both performing and visual; as well as a haven for nature lovers and other recreational facilities for New Jersey residents and their visitors.
- LOCATION:** Telegraph Hill Park on the Garden State Parkway in Holmdel Township, Monmouth County, some 30 miles south of Newark; some 35 miles north of Toms River; and less than 50 miles east of Trenton, New Jersey's Capital.
- AREA:** Some 250 acres of the Telegraph Hill Park's 350-acre expanse across both sides of the north-south Parkway will be available for the cultural-recreational development, with the basic site centered around an amphitheater on the east side.
- FINANCING:** New Jersey Highway Authority, which operates the Parkway as a toll road, will build the Arts Center in stages at an estimated cost of \$2½-million. The bulk of the work will be done in the first stage during 1966 to include construction of basic amphitheater. No tax funds involved in project.
- SCHEDULE:** First-stage construction to start early Spring, 1966, with completion before January 1, 1967 permitting first full season of annual Music Festival that Summer.
- FACILITIES:** Open-sided amphitheater seating 4,800 persons under cover with surrounding sloping lawn accommodations for another 5,000 under the stars; art exhibition mall; nature trails; restroom and refreshment areas; parking for 2,000 cars; artificial lake serving winter sports activity; Monmouth Museum for art, nature and science (separate but cooperating unit); botanical gardens and drama theater in later stages.
- DESIGN:** Internationally-famed architect Edward Durell Stone designed master plan for Center under commission by the Highway Authority early in 1965. The basic facility, the amphitheater is of a double catenary design featuring an open-sided white concrete structure with a huge inverted dome suspended on a network of steel cables and a cantilevered supporting circular roof set on eight massive columns. Roof covers more than an acre of land.
- STAGE:** Equal to three-story building in height, 120 feet wide and 45 feet deep, stage is a flexible unit with a removable acoustic shell to serve presentation of symphonic music without amplification. Performers can appear thrust forward into the audience or behind the more usual proscenium.
- AUXILIARIES:** Existing real estate and internal network of roads at Telegraph Hill Park valued at \$1-million wholly owned by the Highway Authority and completely accessible to and from the main north-south arteries of the Parkway; ski slope planned on west side; Parkway picnic facilities at Telegraph Hill to be blended in.



Garden State Parkway NEWS RELEASE

SYLVESTER C. SMITH, JR.

Chairman

JOHN B. TOWNSEND

Vice Chairman

RICHARD R. O'CONNOR

Treasurer

D. LOUIS TONTI

Executive Director

MILTON LEVY

Director of Public Relations

Tel. 442-8600

WOODBIDGE, N.J.

RELEASE AFTER 2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

1965 - 28

Garden State Arts Center
Master Plan Unveiling

Woodbridge, N.J., December 1---The New Jersey Highway Authority today unveiled famed architect Edward Durell Stone's master plan for the first-stage design of the Garden State Arts Center spotlighting a unique concrete amphitheater in a spacious lawn setting.

Governor Richard J. Hughes, who first announced the proposal for the roadside cultural center in his annual message to the Legislature last January, was scheduled to review the master plan and model with Authority officials at a special press conference here this afternoon.

The \$2½-million Arts Center is to be built by the Authority at Telegraph Hill Park on the Garden State Parkway, which it operates. The Parkway site is located in Holmdel Township, Monmouth County, 30 miles south of Newark and easily accessible via the New Jersey-long superhighway.

The Center's basic facility, the designed amphitheater is open-sided to permit an audience spread out on the surrounding lawn in a natural bowl along with covered seating for 4,800 persons. Some 5,000 are to be accommodated on the sloping lawn under the sun or stars.

Planned to be completed next November with an initial full season of music and other art activities in 1967, the Center's first-stage facilities will include besides the amphitheater an art exhibition mall, provision for parking 2,000 automobiles, nature trails, refreshment places and restrooms below ground level.

(MORE)

In a statement prepared for the master plan unveiling, Governor Hughes said:

"There are few better measures of man's achievements than his architectural and cultural standards.

"Here in this model of the Garden State Arts Center we see an impressive merging of these two criteria...an architectural masterpiece that will be dedicated to the fulfillment of man's cultural need."

He added that for the State of New Jersey the Arts Center "should be a source of great pride because it is destined to become one of the famous stages in this Nation.

"For me, there will always be a feeling of special gratification that this imaginative and much needed project was begun and--I promise you--will be completed during my term as Governor."

As drawn by the internationally-renowned architect Mr. Stone, the Arts Center amphitheater follows what is known as a double concrete catenary design featuring a huge inverted dome or parabola suspended on a network of steel cables. It is an architectural style seldom seen in the East.

The inverted dome, 200 feet in diameter, has a supporting ring of concrete girder resting on a cantilevered circular roof which is 260 feet in diameter and covers more than an acre of land. Eight massive columns, each five and a half feet in diameter, support the roof.

The stage in the design of the amphitheater will be a flexible type with an acoustical shell for presentation of symphonic music that can be readily removed to permit other forms of entertainment. It will accommodate a full 100-piece symphony orchestra on stage or in the pit below.

The large parking area is convenient to the amphitheater although set off from it with dense foliage which will also be used to screen the car spaces row by row. All this will be on east side of Telegraph Hill Park.

(MORE)

A mirror pool
~~An artificial lake~~ serving aesthetics in summer and sports activity in the winter is incorporated in the master plan for the cultural-recreational project. The Authority also plans a ski slope on the west side of Telegraph Hill Park opposite the basic site of the Arts Center.

Telegraph Hill Park, which encompasses some 350 acres spread across both sides of the north-south Parkway, was acquired at the outset by the Authority as part of that superhighway's right-of-way under a legislative call for development of roadside facilities "to promote the public health and welfare." The Authority was created by 1952 legislation.

The flora-rich land owned by the Authority and the internal network of roads which it built there represents a million-dollar head start on the Arts Center project. Existing picnic facilities at Telegraph Hill will be blended in with the new development.

Some 250 acres of the Telegraph Hill Park are available for the Arts Center facilities, which will be easily reached from either the main northbound or southbound roadway of the Parkway.

The Monmouth Museum serving art, nature and science will also be located at Telegraph Hill Park as an independent but closely cooperating part of the Arts Center. The museum building will be designed by Pietro Belluschi, one of the nation's most distinguished architects.

The Museum will also operate nature trails and a wildlife sanctuary under Authority sponsorship at the Telegraph Hill Park site.

The Arts Center architect, Edward Durell Stone, is world-famed for the design of such structures as the United States Embassy in New Delhi, India; the American Pavilion at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair; and the Museum of Modern Art and the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art in New York. More recently, he designed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., a national cultural center.

The Parkway's Arts Center will serve a diversity of interests. Music in many forms will be the main feature at first. Starting in 1967, the amphitheater is to be the scene of an annual six-week Music Festival in July and August offering the finest talent in New Jersey and the world of symphony, opera, ballet and popular music. But the amphitheater is also designed for use by schools, semi-professional and amateur groups, and such other organizations in New Jersey.

Among other things, a theater for drama and botanical gardens are planned at the Center in later stages of the project.

The Highway Authority will operate the Center without resort to tax funds. Admissions to be charged for some of the events plus the additional toll income from motorists traveling to and from the Center via the Parkway are to pay for the operating costs.

Former Broadway producer and concert impresario Peter Lawrence has been engaged by the Authority as Administrator of the Garden State Arts Center and all the Telegraph Hill Park programs covering the recreational-cultural range.

Chairman of the Highway Authority is Sylvester C. Smith, Jr., of West Orange, a former president of the American Bar Association. His two fellow Authority Commissioners are Vice Chairman John B. Townsend of Ocean City and Treasurer Richard R. O'Connor of Elizabeth. All three appointive posts are non-salaried. Authority Executive Director is D. Louis Tonti of Holmdel.

#



Garden State Arts Center

From Milton Levy

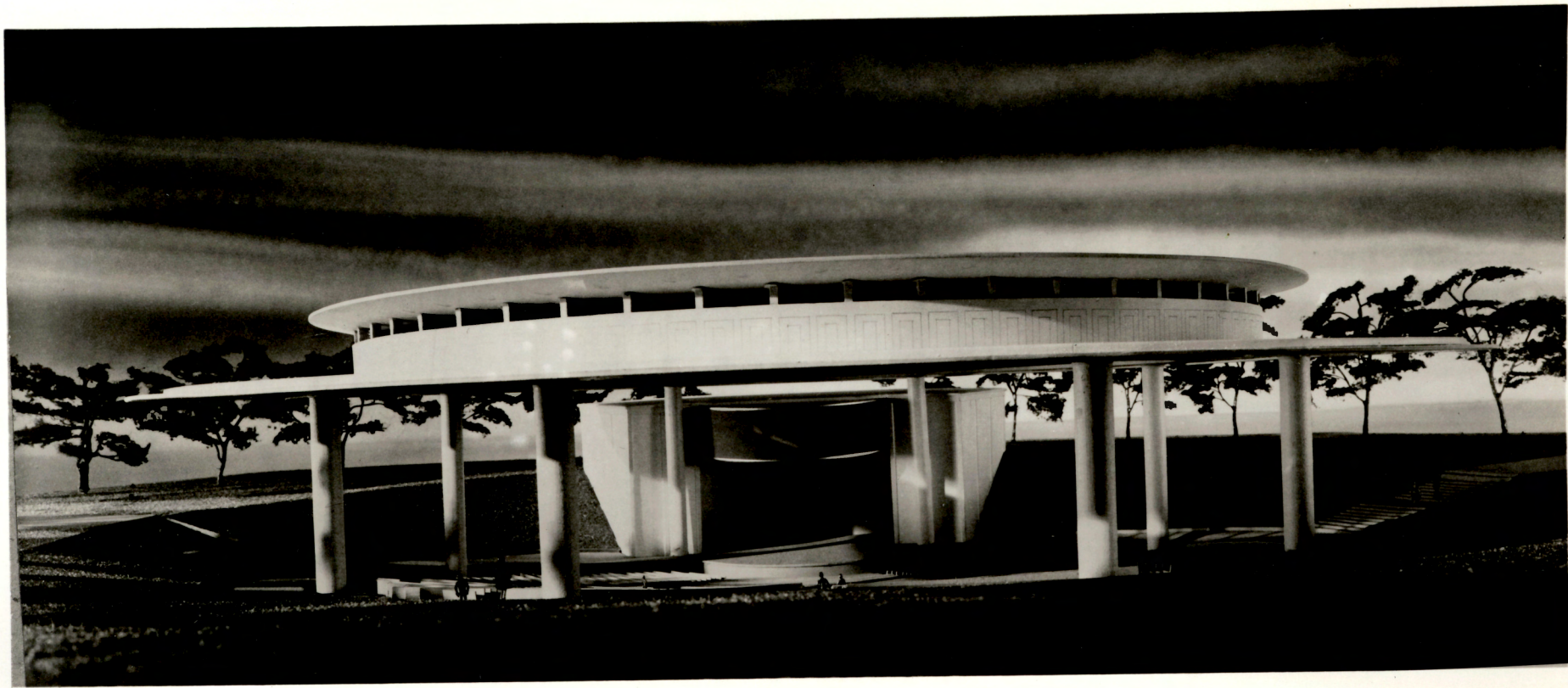
Director of Public Relations

Garden State Parkway

Woodbridge, New Jersey

Phone: 442-8600 (201)

UNUSUAL ARCHITECTURE: Rarely seen in the East, the double concrete catenary design of the Garden State Arts Center amphitheater is shown in this model of the detailed drawing by architect Edward Durell Stone. The design features a huge inverted dome suspended on a network of steel cables. Cantilevered supporting roof set on eight massive columns will cover more than an acre of land at Telegraph Hill Park site.



Garden State Arts Center

From Milton Levy

Director of Public Relations

Garden State Parkway

Woodbridge, New Jersey

Phone: 442-8600 (201)

STAGE VIEW: Model of design for Garden State Arts Center amphitheater by famed architect Edward Durell Stone shows its proposed setting in a natural bowl at Telegraph Hill Park, with the stage clearly visible from surrounding lawn. Topography will also insure acoustical clarity for entire audience. The amphitheater stage will be 120 feet wide and 45 feet deep, large enough for a 100-piece symphony orchestra.



Garden State Arts Center

from Milton Levy

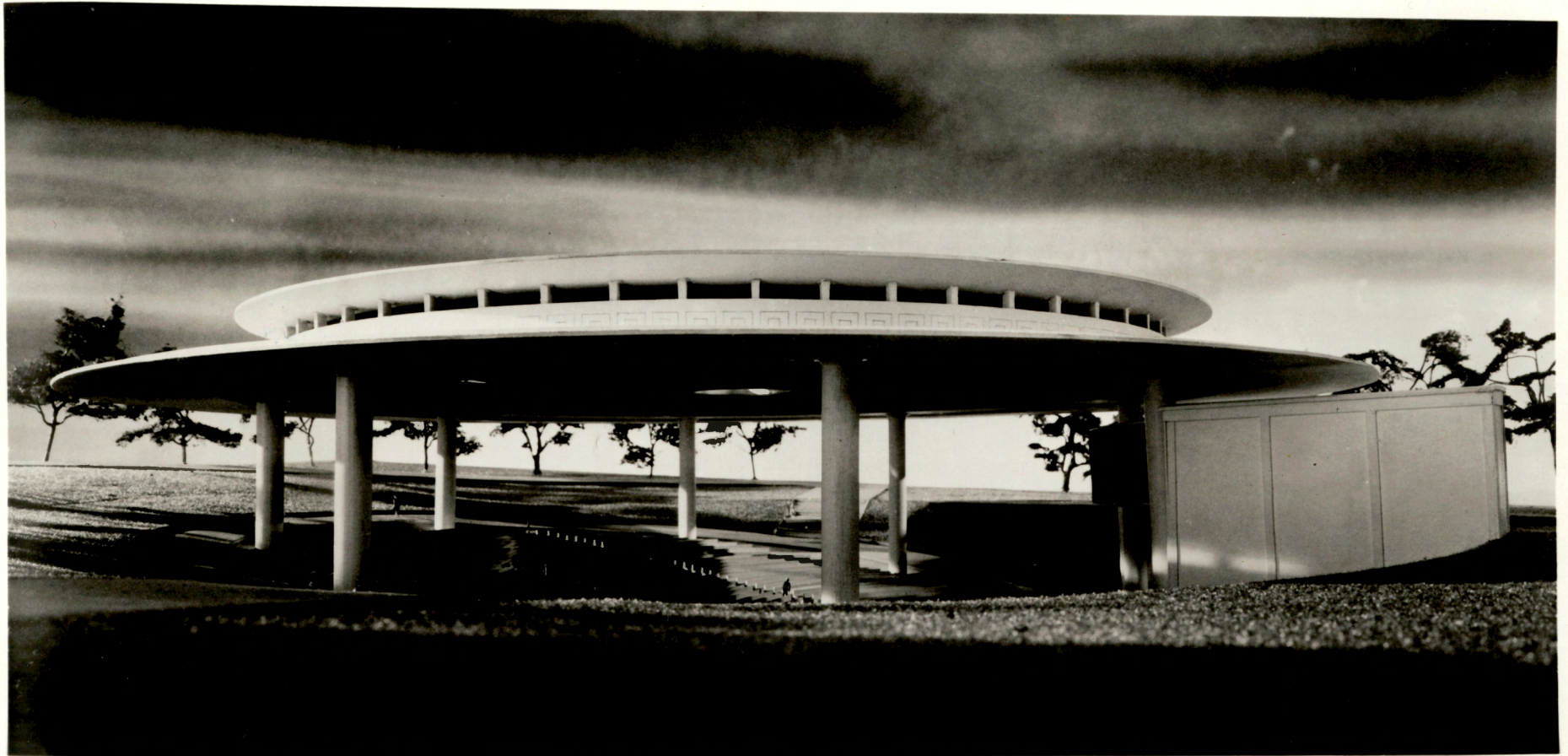
Director of Public Relations

Garden State Parkway

Woodbridge, New Jersey

Phone: 442-8600 (201)

CAMOUFLAGED PARKING: Overall view of Garden State Arts Center site in model of design by architect Edward Durell Stone shows camouflaged parking area between amphitheater at top right and northbound roadway of Garden State Parkway at lower left. Dense foliage will screen each row of cars and set the parking area off from amphitheater and the Parkway's main roadways at Telegraph Hill Park location of Center.



Garden State Arts Center

from Milton Levy

Director of Public Relations

Garden State Parkway

Woodbridge, New Jersey

Phone: 442-8600 (201)

MUSIC UNDER THE STARS: Side view of model for Garden State Arts Center amphitheater as designed by famed architect Edward Durell Stone shows planned setting at Telegraph Hill Park location. Graduated seating for nearly 10,000 persons will be provided, 4,800 under concrete structure's overhanging circular roof and remainder on lawn which slopes gently around the proposed site along the Garden State Parkway.