

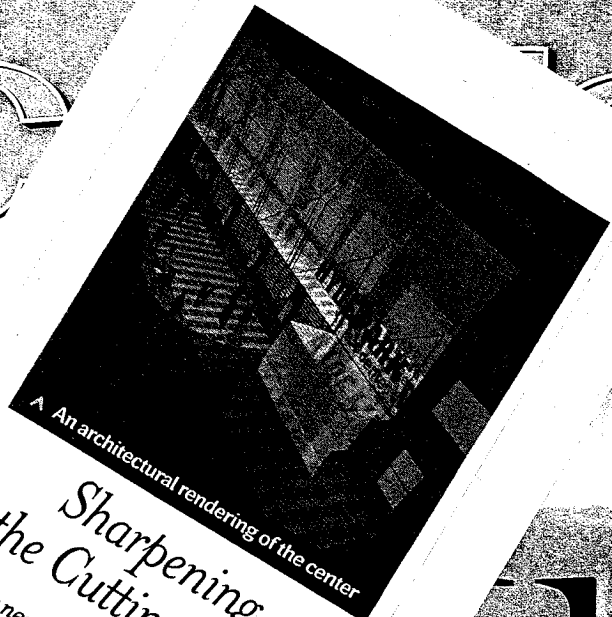
THE UNHOLY DEBACLE OF DIVINE INC. * LET'S PAFF VEGAS GOES CHICAGO

Chicago

JUNE 2003

Summer

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An architectural rendering of the center

Sharpening the Cutting Edge

The new Hyde Park Art Center gets a high-tech design

Imagining the dusty old army PX on South Cornell Avenue as a highly polished, high-tech exhibition space for visual art requires some serious mental machinations. Yet that's what the directors of the Hyde Park Art Center were asked to do when the university offered them a 35-year lease on the building and the chance to vacate its present crumbling facility.

As the first venue to exhibit the Chicago Artists, the Hyde Park Art Center is familiar with supporting the work of visionaries. For this latest challenge, the directors turned to the architect Doug Garofalo to transform 32,000 square feet of raw space into a modern exhibition area.

"It's a perfect space for them," says Carofalo. "And what we're planning is something that really hasn't been done before." The center's facade of the new design is a 128-foot-wide glass projection system that will make it possible for digital art to be screened on the facade so that passersby can view it.

The renovation is the focus of a new capital campaign that plans to raise \$5 million for construction costs and an expanded operating budget for the 64-year-old art center, one of Chicago's oldest alternative arts organizations. The center's annual benefit, held in the new building in April, was an opportunity for patrons both old and new to catch a glimpse of the space before construction begins.

Garnering \$170,000, the gala set a record for the center's fundraising. Now it's a question of procuring a few million more for the capital campaign. But luring prominent patrons—Ruth Horwich, Barbara Burrell, John Buck, and Lois Weisberg among them—to the South Side helped. And, "although the Hyde Park Art Center is fairly well known for its work in the past," says the center's executive director, Chuck Thurow, "this was an opportunity for many new people to be introduced to it and for those who have lost touch to find us again."

—DEBORAH WILK

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