

LIPSTICK BUILDING

53rd at Third

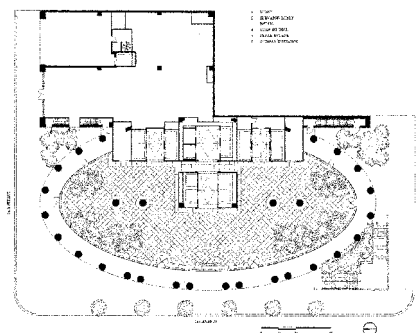
New York City, New York

PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE
A R C H I T E C T S



When Hines began work on 53rd at Third, the red and pink granite office tower with an elliptical plan, they knew they needed something to make the project stand out. Third Avenue was not then known for premier architecture and high-end office towers. Hines and the firm determined that above all an unusual shape, particularly one where all the exterior offices became "corner" ones, would be a great way to start. The final product is one of the most unusual buildings on the New York skyline, which also happens to command very high rents.

Johnson, who can rarely help but think about history, has remarked that the oval shape and surrounding colonnade is reminiscent of Italian baroque architecture. One of the best qualities of the building is its public presence. As an oval placed in a rectangular lot, plenty of public walk space was created. The high glassed in lobby is both a spectacle to be watched from the exterior, as well as a place from which the bustling sidewalk activity in New York can be observed.



Client: Gerald D. Hines Interests

Completion date: 1986

