

MUSEUM OF TELEVISION AND RADIO

New York City, New York

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A R C H I T E C T S



The Museum of Television & Radio is not a museum in the traditional sense with artifacts housed in cases or hanging on walls. It houses the sounds and images that portray the history of broadcasting. Its elegant white façade is loosely based on Brunelleschi's Pazzi chapel in Florence and fits in nicely with its neighbors on New York's 52nd Street. The Museum of Television and Radio fits a monumental building into a context of row houses and large commercial structures. The design accomplishes this by establishing strong corners to provide a contrast with neighboring buildings and by conforming to the height and scale of the row houses to the east. A type of contextualism is at work.

Just below the lobby at the ground level, there is a two hundred-seat theater for audio-visual programs, discussions, and lectures. The second level contains a ninety-seat theater for seminars, discussions and other presentations. The heart of the museum, the library, is located on the fourth level, where a computerized catalog system describes the television and radio programs available. On the third and fifth levels, media consoles are located where individuals or groups view their selected material.



Completion Date: 1992
Area: 72,000 square feet