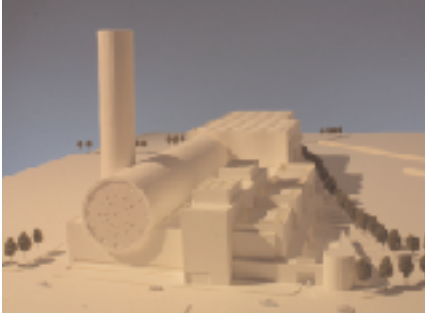


TRANDGAS ENERGY POWER PLANT

Brooklyn, New York City

PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE
ARCHITECTS



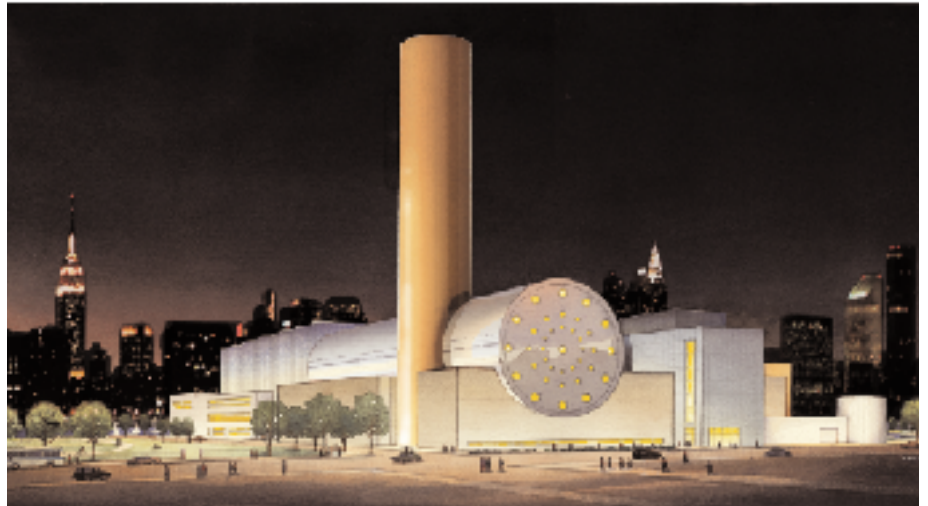
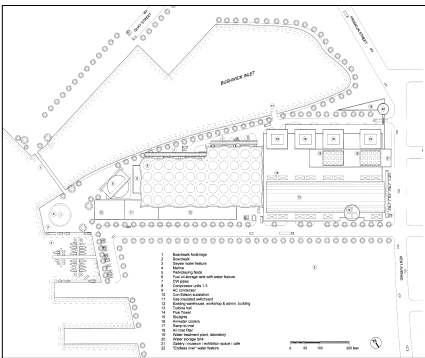
The firm was commissioned to create a design concept as part of the client's Article X submission to build a 1,100 megawatt gas powered energy facility on the East River waterfront of Brooklyn.

The broad brush strokes of the building are defined by the engineering works inside. But the components of a modern power station are rendered with powerful forms and composed so as to combine aesthetics with functional necessity: The turbine hall is defined by the barrel vault which becomes a long cylinder, nestled into the stone plinth of the turbine building base. The flues are brought together into a single cylindrical tower which acts as a counterpoint to the horizontality of the cylindrical turbine hall. The condensers adjacent to the river are swathed in a gently undulating veil that serves to reduce noise emission, but also to visually soften the impact of the large mass of the condenser units. This aesthetic treatment of the condenser building converses with the strong geometric forms of the turbine building



Kent Avenue is the building's most important place of interaction with the public: The rectangular form enclosing the air/water coolers terminates in 15,000 square feet devoted to civic use, or other uses that will generate street activity, such as galleries, cafes or a museum. The ground floor is high-ceilinged with a prominent street frontage. A water feature will occupy the 30 foot wide stretch of garden below the barrel vault, beyond which the continuous ribbon window will offer passing pedestrians and visitors a chance to peer into the turbine hall, day and night. Diagrams and displays will explain the functioning of the power plant. The end of the turbine hall cylinder is perforated by an array of circular windows, a 21st Century reference to the rose windows of the great cathedrals of antiquity.

The design anticipates the future recreational development of this stretch of the Brooklyn water front. A hoped-for pedestrian boardwalk will pass the riverside end of the building complex, cross a footbridge over the Bushwick Inlet, and continue northwards into Greenpoint and toward Queens. A powerful water feature in the form of a geyser anchors this end of the building. At regular intervals of perhaps six or ten minutes, the geyser will erupt, beginning slowly at first to allow onlookers a dry escape, until it reaches well above the height of any other man-made fountain in the world.



Completion Date: 2006 (projected)