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Tiffany Plaza [The Inhabited Landscape: An Exhibition]

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Tiffany Plaza

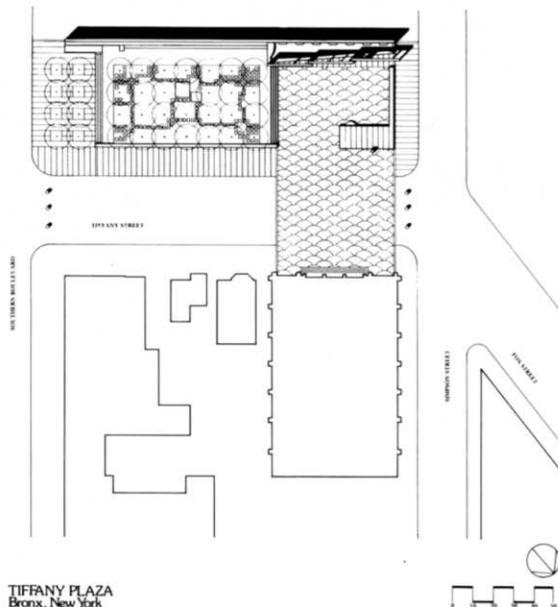
Jury Comments

Tiffany Plaza inhabits the edge of an open place in the South Bronx. Its partly veiled images are entirely alien to the surrounding physical evidences of a departed culture; they are meant to be evocative of another past, closer to the hearts of its present population.

The plaza is a compelling example of contrast and reciprocity in a cultural landscape. It is composed of two adjacent spaces separated from each other by a slight change in elevation; one is an open fountain plaza, the other a shaded bosque. The open fountain plaza enfronts a modest red brick Roman Catholic church. A raised platform and speaker's podium enable the plaza to be a place for civic and religious events. A white stucco and glass block wall defines the space immediately in front of the fountain wall. Recessed in its bays are partially framed individual lion's head fountains, which animate the plaza and provide a needed touch of variety to what is otherwise a highly abstract composition of walls and planes. Despite the marked difference in appearance and detailing, the church and plaza appear to be part of the same functional space and stand in a reciprocal relationship. One is reminded of central plazas throughout the Hispanic world and the elegant walls of Luis Barragan's outdoor spaces.



A



TIFFANY PLAZA
Bronx, New York

C

Architect's Statement

Tiffany Plaza in the South Bronx develops ideas of significant public open space explored earlier in the Cooper Field Bathhouse, Trenton, New Jersey. Tiffany Plaza uses walls made of concrete, stucco and glass block to define a hard-paved plaza that faces and becomes a piazza to a Catholic Church across the street. Here, the hard edge of the space is softened by the introduction of subtle color—a soft pink—the play of light and sound created by water pouring from lion's head fountains, and the



B

introduction of a grassed and treed area adjacent to the main gathering space. The materials, color and language of the components used at Tiffany Plaza make conscious links and associations that recall the homeland of the neighborhood's largely Hispanic population.

A Tiffany Plaza
 Photograph by Elliot Fine

B Tiffany Plaza
 Photograph by Elliot Fine

C Tiffany Plaza, site plan