

## The Center for Architecture announces *Four Freedoms Park, a Memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt Exhibition*, Opens on Oct. 19



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**NEW YORK, NY, October 11, 2012** — Louis I. Kahn, FAIA (1901-1975), considered one of the most important American architects of the twentieth century, evolved an original theoretical and formal language that revitalized modern architecture. This includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park, the plans of which Kahn was apocryphally holding when he was found dead at Pennsylvania Station in 1975. An exhibition at Center for Architecture, opening Oct. 19, will celebrate the realization of Louis Kahn’s design, which has been 40 years in the making.

On view will be sixteen drawings of the park, along with a set of time-lapse videos documenting its construction. Two photographs accompanied by iconic books about project’s history will reveal the true magic of this project, which was recently executed and completed by Mitchell/Giurgola Architects.

### **BACKGROUND ON THE PARK AND ITS REALIZATION**

Four Freedoms Park is a memorial Franklin D. Roosevelt and the “Four Freedoms” be outlined as part of his 1941 State of the Union address: these four fundamental freedoms are of speech and expression; worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. In late 1973, Mayor John Lindsay and Governor Nelson Rockefeller announced the plan to develop Welfare Island into a vibrant residential community and changed the name to Franklin D. Roosevelt Island. Included in the plan was the Kahn-designed memorial at the southern tip of the island. Louis Kahn’s sudden death in 1974 and the city’s subsequent fiscal crisis in 1975 initially stalled the memorial, after many attempts in the intervening decades. *Coming to Light*, an exhibition on the project held at The Cooper Union in 2005, provided renewed support for the project. Construction began in Mar. 2010; the Park will be officially dedicated on October 17, 2012, by President William J. Clinton. Click [here](#) for more information about the Park and Memorial.

*As a part of Archtober’s “Building of the Day” tour series, please join us for the Park’s open house from 11:00am to 3:00pm on Oct. 19th. There will be remarks at 12:30 pm by Gina Pollara, AIA, Executive Director of FDR Four Freedoms Park LLC, and Sue Ann Kahn, daughter of Louis Kahn.*



### **About the AIA New York Chapter**

AIA New York is the oldest and largest chapter of the American Institute of Architects with almost 5,000 architect, allied professional, student, and public members. AIANY is dedicated to three goals: design excellence, public outreach and professional development. [www.aiany.org](http://www.aiany.org)



### **About the Center for Architecture**

The Center for Architecture is a destination for all interested in the built environment. It is home to the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter and the Center for Architecture Foundation, vibrant nonprofit organizations that provide resources to both the public and building industry professionals. Through exhibitions, programs, and special events, the Center aims to improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment, foster exchange between the design, construction, and real estate communities, and encourage collaborations across the city and globe. For more information, please visit [cfa.aiany.org](http://cfa.aiany.org).