

Historic Resources Committee, a
Professional Interest Area of the American Institute of
Architects, adopted unanimously 15 March 1997,
Washington, D.C.

RETHINKING the decision finding the Gettysburg Visitor Center and
Cyclorama Building ineligible for listing in the National Register of
Historic Places, and allowing its demolition as a noncontributing
building.

WHEREAS We find the determination of eligibility report to be much
more complete and balanced in the areas reflecting Civil War activities
in the area of the Visitor Center and Cyclorama Building, than in the
section concerning the building and its architects,

WHEREAS Considering the internationally important status of the
architect, Richard Neutra, FAIA, and the very small number of his
commissions built in the Mid-Atlantic region, the building assumes an
importance greater than the reviewer allowed...

RESOLVED In view of this we request a rethinking and reevaluation of
the determination. As one of a number of Mission 66 buildings by
internationally prominent architects, the building should be judged in
the context of Mission 66 and work commissioned by the NPS during
the era of construction. It also merits judging in relation to other Neutra
structures in its area; of the other nine buildings identified in the area,
the overwhelming number are residential, with only two of the projects
being public, one a college dormitory and the other a classroom
building. The Visitor Center thus stands alone as a public work and
ought to be judged in that context.

WE URGE the involvement of Neutra scholars and architectural
historians in a rethinking of the decision that this building is not
eligible for listing.