

# Art Concept Embraces Architecture

By FRANCES LIDE  
Star Staff Writer

When she leased a five-room suite of offices in Georgetown last January, Allen Dunnington Rosse moved in "with just a desk, a chair — and sort of an idea."

But the idea has crystalized, step by step, and is ready to be unfolded this week as "Architectural Art, Inc.," a service designed for architects, developers and private enterprise.

Behind the concept is Mrs. Rosse's conviction that art should be an integral part of architecture — and "art in public places should be the best there is."

The five-room, second-floor suite at 3039 M St. NW. has been converted into an impressive studio for the display of scale models, characteristic pieces and photographs of the work of some of the best known of contemporary artists and sculptors.

Through these, and a series of photo-montage slides that she can show to prospective clients, Mrs. Rosse is equipped to suggest works of environmental art which could be commissioned, on a massive scale, for major buildings and plazas.

Mrs. Rosse has issued invitations for a formal opening on Thursday from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

One of her "show cases" will be the roof garden behind her suite where several sculptures will be exhibited in an outdoor setting.

These include a Minimal sculpture of steel, painted red, by Tal Streeter, who calls the work, "Lincoln Memorial."

Though the untutored might see it as a pair of large brackets, artistically placed together, the title brings it to life as the chair in which the brooding figure of Lincoln is seated.

Sculptor in residence at Bennett College, Millbrook, N.Y.,

Streeter has exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, among others.

Belgian sculptor Robert Helmsmoortel is represented in the garden by "Sentinel," a dramatic work, about 6 feet tall, of fiber glass painted black.

Mrs. Rosse is proud of the artists represented by Architectural Art, Inc., which include such names as Ronald Bladen, Tony Smith, Mary Preminger and Jack Youngerman, among others.

(Works by Bladen and Smith, who also belong to the Minimal school of sculpture, were commissioned for a show at the Corcoran last fall. Smith's big "Smoke" can still be seen in the gallery's main atrium but Bladen's "Big X" has since been dismantled).

Also on Mrs. Rosse's lists are such well known modernist sculptors working in Washington as Rockne Krebs, Ed McGowin and Alfredo Halegua.

One of the categories to be featured by Architectural Art will be "Sculpture for Water", many of which could be used as fountains.

An example is a small model of what might be described as a study in cylinders, a wheel-shaped design by Mary Preminger. Though it might be used in other ways, Mrs. Rosse can visualize it with water flowing over the ledges.

A "light wall" by Stanley Landsman, who had a major exhibit in the Whitney Museum's recent light show, was designed especially for Architectural Art, in the form of a model, of course. It is a mirrored open-faced "box", with a geometric design inside which is endlessly reflected for a fascinating effect.

Ursula Meyer's stainless steel variable units in geometric shapes will be shown with signs reading, "Please Move", instead of "Do Not Touch". This will enable the viewer to create his own sculpture, as he might create a house from building blocks.



Allen Dunnington Rosse fashions her own contemporary sculpture from Ursula Meyer's variable units of stainless steel. Other compositions are suggested in photographs on the wall.