

Along with Special Sculpture—

Modern Office Building

ANCHORAGE, AK. — This spring the beauty of Anchorage's downtown area — breakup notwithstanding — will be enhanced by the addition of a new, modern office building and a very special sculpture which has been commissioned to grace its courtyard.

The structure, developed by Carr-Gottstein Properties, Inc., and to be known as the Carr-Gottstein Building, is a luxurious, seven-story office tower located at Third and K Streets. Scheduled for completion at the end of April, the complex has been designed to include a broad, open, landscaped courtyard where the sculpture will be located.

The open concept in the courtyard area has been carried through in the design of the building itself. Set back from its property lines, the building is situated overlooking Cook Inlet and, according to company

officials, will provide a spectacular view of both the Inlet and Mt. McKinley.

Win Hovey, president of Carr-Gottstein Properties, says the building employs six floors of continuous window glass and glass panels, fashioned specifically to augment the feeling of a broad, nonconfining structure as viewed from street level. The same concept is maintained inside the building through use of custom appointments and spacious office suites, tailored to meet the requirements of its tenants.

Although finishing touches are still being applied, Hovey says the building has already been partially leased. He says, however, that leasing arrangements are still available. The first floor of the building, he says, has been designed as a sheltered parking area for tenants, while the upper six floors will provide a total capacity of 70,000 square feet of office space.

In the center of the building's courtyard will stand a sculpture of a blue whale, a tribute to the single largest animal ever to exist on Earth. The sculpture will rise some 20 feet in height, scaled to approximately one-fifth the actual size of the giant sea mammal.

Josef Princiotta, Jr., an Anchorage artist, has been commissioned to perform the work. The commissioning, formally announced by Larry Carr, chairman of the board of Carr-Gottstein Properties, was made through a competitive selection process. According to Princiotta, the design will depict, in a realistic approach, "the interaction of man and his environment."

"While the design conveys and relates its a specific message to me," he says, "I'm hopeful it will have its own particular message for everyone who views it."

Surrounding the sculpture will be a series of extensively landscaped planters composed of shrubs, trees and other plantings. The courtyard itself will be composed of Chena River rock embedded in a tan colored concrete matrix which will also be employed on the sidewalks. The main sidewalk entrance to the building will be heated to prevent dangerous icing, common during Anchorage's long winters.

Princiotta's sculpture, which is to be unveiled in late Spring, is simple in design, yet intricate in execution. According to the artist, months of research have gone into the planning of the piece, including research study on blue whales; close cooperation with architects and engineers; and trips to California and Hawaii to observe whales and other sea mammals common to the same species.

"In February," says Princiotta, "I flew to Hawaii specifically to observe the great blues in their natural breeding waters off the isle of Maui. Humpback whales were present in abundance, but, for the first time in the experts' memories, no blues have appeared."

Princiotta reports that discussions with various experts on the Cetacean species, the scientific classification for members of the whale and dolphin family, indicate the great blue whales are severely threatened with extinction. "The population of these great, intelligent animals has been decimated by an automated whaling industry which turns their remains into products such as shoe polish, pet food and car wax.

A resident of Anchorage area for the past ten years, Princiotta has a broad background of credits in both the commercial and fine arts fields. For the past five years, however, he has devoted the main thrust of his work specifically to sculpture.