

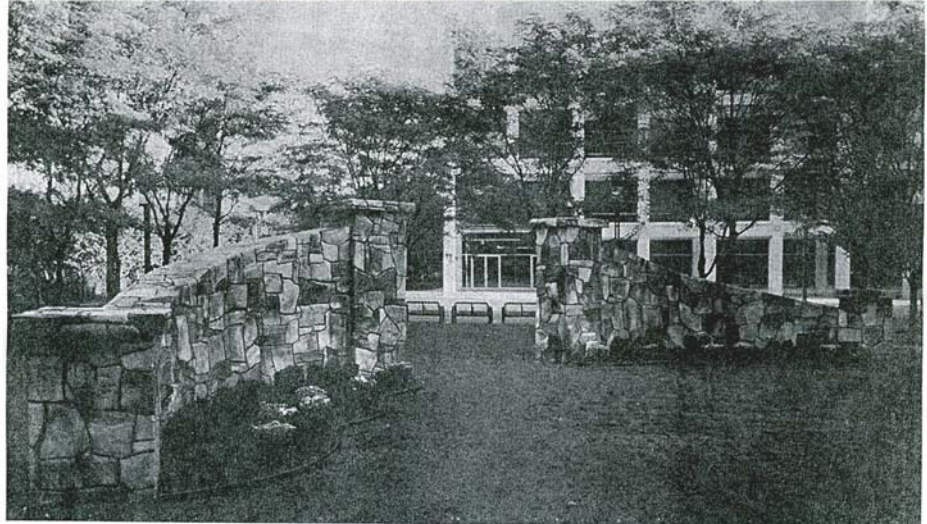
JASON MIDDLEBROOK

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INSIDE ART

Carol Vogel



Public Art Fund

Styrofoam grandeur: Jason Middlebrook's "Grand Entrance at the Commons" is at Metrotech in Brooklyn.

Art in Urban Landscape

Metrotech, the complex of corporate offices in downtown Brooklyn that includes Chase Manhattan Bank, Bear Stearns and Brooklyn Union Gas, has just installed a show of special commissions by five young artists.

Since its inception eight years ago, Metrotech has been known for its public art — both permanent installations and temporary exhibitions — and for giving younger sculptors a chance to work in a public place.

The Public Art Fund, a nonprofit group that installs art around the city, has been responsible for Metrotech's program. This season it placed all but one of its new commissions in the Metrotech commons. Visitors are greeted by "Grand Entrance at the Commons" by Jason Middlebrook, a Brooklyn-based installation artist. He created a false entrance outside the complex, the kind one might find in an upscale suburban housing cluster, made from Styrofoam, wood and paint.

There is also the Australian artist James Angus's "Basketball Dropped from 35,000 Feet at Moment of Impact." Using three-dimensional computer-aided design technology, the artist simulated the impact of a basketball that has fallen from an aircraft to a New York sidewalk. Kirsten Mosher, a Manhattan installa-

tion artist, made "Local Park Express," an interactive sculpture in which benches and planters travel along train tracks. In the trees, Sharon Loudon, a Manhattan artist known primarily for her drawings, created "Tangled Tips," webs of luminescent pale blue wires.

In the lobby of MetroTech 1, the Canadian artist James Carl has made "Dupes," life-size, finely detailed recreations of an A.T.M., a Federal Express box and a metal detector like those used at airports.

Each artist was given \$10,000 toward the fabrication of the works, which will be on view for at least a year. Some works installed last year, like Tony Matelli's "Stray Dog" and Do-Ho Suh's "Public Figures," are so popular that they are staying a second year.