

# METRONOME





Kristin Jones / Andrew Ginzel, METRONOME, 1999.

Brick, concrete, steel, aluminum, bronze, gold, incandescent light, steam,

L.E.D. numeric display, sound; 98 x 200 feet overall.

Commissioned by The Related Companies, L.P. for One Union Square South.

New York has a new space for time. Like the idea of public, time is animated by multiple meanings. Glacial or momentary, advancing or receding, there are myriad concepts and experiences of time. Metronome is a stunning, north-facing elevation on the newly constructed One Union Square South, a multiple use 27-story building developed by The Related Companies, L.P.

In the original concept, the architects Davis Brody Bond LLP proposed an artwall. Intrigued by an ambitious partnership of private vision and public interest, the developers enlisted the Public Art Fund, Inc. to organize a national competition to define this great wall. Artists Kristin Jones and Andrew Ginzel proposed a public site where the imponderables of time are experienced through vivid, physical metaphors. Jones and Ginzel, with a legion of contributors and collaborators, have created an enduring image of the temporal.

Located at a prominent site at the southern edge of Union Square, Jones and Ginzel's Metronome establishes a palpable connection with its neighborhood and an expansive history of the city. With traffic converging from many directions, a major subway stop, the incessant activity of office workers, students, shoppers, and other pedestrians, and a historic square in perpetual renewal, Jones and Ginzel's evocation of the mysteries of time is meditative passage in the tumult of Union Square.

Using the scale and systems of architecture to render a poetic and provocative testament to time, Metronome attracts the different forces of a collective civic imagination. The central, vertical section of One Union Square South consists of courses of bricks laid in a wave-like pattern of concentric rings radiating from a dark cavity near the top of the building.

In contrast to the active fluidity of the brick façade, a casting of a great boulder from northern Manhattan anchors Metronome to the enigmatic stillness in deep time. At the top of the wall, an open hand in a gesture of inquiry or invitation offers an explicit connection to the park's equestrian statue of George Washington and the turbulent social history of Union Square.

Like a living organism, the architecture of Metronome embodies the immanence of change. To the right of the brick tower, the exacting rotation of a golden sphere is calibrated to the moon's movement around the earth. On the eastern wall, a sprint of illuminated numbers moving in alternate directions concurrently add and subtract time each day. In the blur of digits in the center, the unintelligibility of time achieves a visceral presence. One hundred feet above the street, the haunting aperture at the top of the tower exhales steam, light and sound. Twice each day, an audible summons and a great plume of steam announce noon and midnight. Giving physical presence to the temporal and intangible, Metronome is imaginatively and unequivocally on time.

Patricia C. Phillips





Kristin Jones and Andrew Ginzler have worked collaboratively since 1985. They have won numerous national and international awards and fellowships, and are represented in museums, galleries and architectural spaces throughout the world. Their contemplative works explore themes such as equilibrium, memory and time.

The Related Companies, L.P. is a fully integrated real estate firm with divisions specializing in acquisitions/development, financial services and management. Since its inception in 1972, The Related Companies has grown to more than 1,100 professionals, overseeing a real estate portfolio valued in excess of \$7 billion in 40 states.







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The Related Companies, L.P., and Kristin Jones and Andrew Ginzler would like to acknowledge the support of the Public Art Fund, The Municipal Art Society and the many individuals whose dedicated efforts made METRONOME possible.

<b>Brick:</b>	Grant Kafarosfski, Manuel Faria, Michael Ngai and Tommy Grealis of Artex Systems Inc., Ontario, Canada
<b>Architect:</b>	Harold Fredenburgh, New York, NY
<b>Structural Engineer:</b>	Richard Donald, New York, NY
<b>Sound:</b>	Edmund Campion of the Center for New Music and Audio Technologies, Berkeley, CA
<b>Steam:</b>	Vivienne Jolles and John Rodgers, Marina Del Rey, CA
<b>Geology:</b>	Philip and Donald DiGiacomo, Azusa, CA
<b>Metal:</b>	Herbert Koenig and Joseph Eppich of Allied Bronze, Long Island City, NY
<b>Systems Engineer:</b>	Harry Spielberg of Cosentini Associates, New York, NY
<b>Boilers:</b>	Marvin Wasoff, Brooklyn, NY
<b>Controls:</b>	Glenn Polly and Dennis Flood of Videasonics Systems Inc., New York, NY
<b>Speakers:</b>	John Meyer of Meyer Sound Laboratories, Inc., Berkeley, CA

## One Union Square South

<b>Building Architect:</b>	Davis Brody Bond, LLP
<b>Construction Drawings:</b>	Schuman Lichtenstein Claman Efron Architects

## Additional thanks to:

Michele Adams	Sara Fitzmaurice	Kenneth Lidonnici	Ellen Ryan
Frank Addio	Michael D. Flynn	Diane Lowy	Gil Santos
Joe Albanio	Susan K. Freedman	Patrick R. Lyons	Deborah Schneiderman
Alice Aycock	Lisa Frigand	Navid Maqami	Glenn Scott
Al Baldwin	Lorenza Galeone	Carlos Marcial	Brendan Sexton
Kent Barwick	Amy Gallagher	Stephen Margulies	Stephen Siegrist
Mike Beganyi	Charlie Gambino	Carlins Medeiros	Joe Soares
Carlo Benenuto	Bob Germano	Greg Meeh	Bob Spring
Barry Benepe	Brendan Gill	Ronay Menschel	Jeff Spring
Emma Berenblit	Angela Glass	Frank Michielli	Evelyn Strouse
Deborah Bershad	David Gmach	Jim Miller	David Sundberg
Jeffrey Blau	Marian Harders	Sara Davenport Miller	Gordon Thomas
Enid Braun	Bill Hayes	Mary Miss	Justin Tiedemann
Daniel Brody	Joseph Hayes	Aguinaldo Mota	Neil Tyson
Albert K. Butzel	Barbara Hoffman	Jack Muccigrosso	Danny Vargas
Tracy Calvan	Ray Jackson	Frank Murphy	Pedro Vargas
Tony Carello	David Jehn	Peter A. Murphy	Nicholas C. Veikos
Keith Crandell	Thomas Jennings	Tim Murphy	John Von Bergen
Tony D'Andrea	Oscar Jobman	Scott Myers	Robert Walsh
Gary Davis	Mike Kamber	Bob Nelson, Sr.	Scott Wardrop
Camillo Di Cesare	Ted Kinnari	Paul O'Neill	Jeffery Wasson
Eric V. Dost	Kathy Kinsella	Joe Pimental	Norman Weiss
Tom Eccles	Karen Kitchen	Charles Platt	Brad Whitemore
Peter Federman	Jonathan Kuhn	Robert G. Puddicombe	Bruce Wicks
James M. Fennekohl	Joe Lambert	Jennifer Radke	Matthew Wright
Wendy Feuer	John Lash	Laura Raicovich	
Lola Finkelstein	Marvin Lewin	Frank Randazzo	

Front cover photo: T. Charles Erickson

Inside panel photos: David Sundberg/Esto