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# Mott B. Schmidt, Designed Wing for Gracie Mansion And Homes of the Wealthy

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Mott B. Schmidt, who designed town and country houses for the Rockefellers, Morgans, Vanderbilts and Astors and in 1965 was the chief architect for a new wing at Gracie Mansion, died Friday at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, Conn. He was 88 years old and lived in Katonah, N.Y.

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Bellevue  
He was 68  
East 80th

A specialist in Georgian residential architecture, Mr. Schmidt designed a number of the original Sutton Place houses, including mansions for Anne Morgan and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt.

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For Gracie Mansion, the 179-year-old official residence of the Mayor of New York, he recreated an 18th-century ballroom modeled after a similar room in a house built for the Lyman family of Waltham, Mass., in 1790.

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The two-story, \$800,000 Gracie Mansion wing was built with private contributions from individuals, business concerns, labor unions and philanthropic foundations throughout the city.

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The city has owned the mansion since 1891. In 1942 it was designated as the Mayor's official residence and in that year Fiorello H. La Guardia was the first Mayor to occupy it.

### Spaciousness His Trademark

Spaciousness was a prime characteristic of Mr. Schmidt's work.

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His entrance halls, often 16 feet square, usually contained a fireplace and led to a drawing room, a sitting room, a dining room and a library.

More than five decades ago, Mr. Schmidt told an interviewer that American architecture in 1921 was "a million percent better than anything being done abroad." "Abroad they have all the wonderful things of the past," he said, "but they are not producing things today that will compare with them. It seems that architecturally they have slumped."

### A Powder-Room Point

Not one to pass up a bit of whimsy, Mr. Schmidt produced the plans of Miss Morgan's new house in the early 1920's and pointed his finger at the "powder room."

"That will be an unusual room," he said. "The name explains exactly what it will be used for. The name comes from Versailles, when ladies always resorted to a special chamber to powder their hair."

Born in Middletown, N.Y., Mr. Schmidt was a 1906 graduate in architecture at Pratt Institute.

He leaves his wife, the former Katherine Temple Lapsley.

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