





Kenneth D. Snelson, sculptor who designed and built the sculpture for the "Tower of Light" pavilion, assembles his 70-foot high "Photonium" in the Court of Light at the pavilion. Mr. Snelson also designed the entrance sculpture, "Electronia."

Aluminum Sculpture Adds Final Touch to Exhibit Building

OUTSIDE the "Tower of Light" and in the pavilion's Tower of Light Court are two large sculptures designed and built by Manhattan sculptor Kenneth D. Snelson.

The two pieces are constructed of aluminum tubing suspended in a network of stainless steel wire. They employ a principle, originated by Mr. Snelson, called

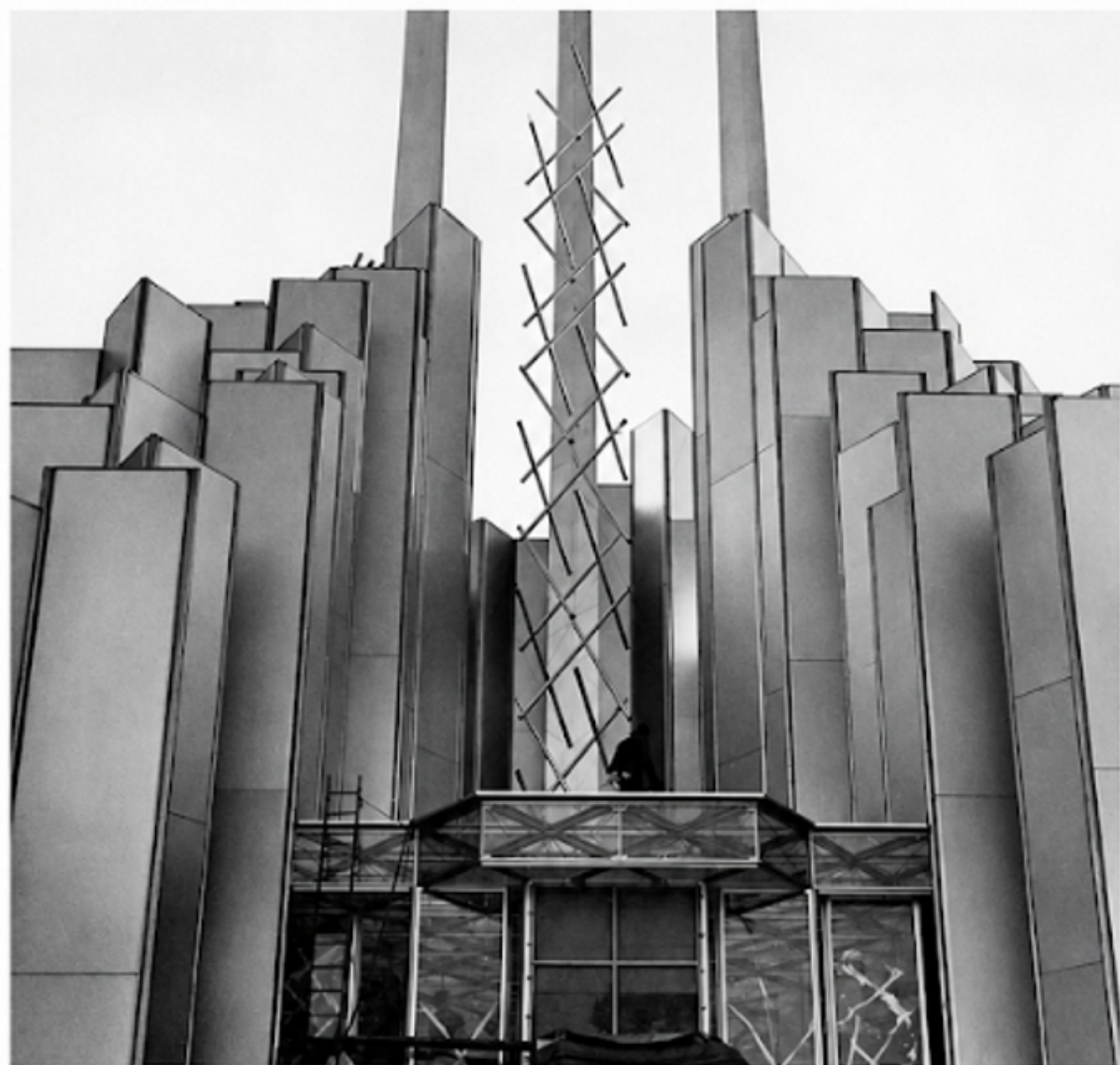
"Photonium," the main sculpture which highlights the "Tower of Light" pavilion, is shown in the Court of Light at the exhibit of the pavilion of the investor-owned electric utility companies at the New York World's Fair. The sculptor was Kenneth D. Snelson of New York.

"floating compression." He describes the system as that of a metal balloon in which the tube-like members perform the expansive role of a gas, and the steel wire that of the skin of a balloon. Pre-stressing of the wires gives the structures their remarkable strength and resilience.

Mr. Snelson calls the 70-foot column sculpture in the Tower of Light Court "Photonium." It is so named for the basic particle of electromagnetic energy, the photon. The 12-billion candlepower of photons from the "Xenon" lamps beneath the sculpture reflect from its 30 aluminum tubes and its 138 steel cables.

"Electronia" is the entrance sculpture to the pavilion. It is named for the electron, the elementary





"Electronia," on the opposite page, the sculpture at the entrance of the "Tower of Light" pavilion, is transported to the World's Fair site by helicopter. The work of art is shown passing the Statue of Liberty. The aluminum sculpture, "Photonium," above, in the Court of Light at the investor-owned electric power and light companies' exhibit at the Fair, adds the final touch to a magnificent building. Kenneth D. Snelson created the sculpture.

particle of charge which gives us light and power. Electronia stands 30 feet high, is 35 feet wide, 12 feet deep, and weighs 750 pounds.

When viewed by day, Photonium seems to float on air. At night, in the path of 12-billion candlepower of light reaching for the sky, the sculpture is a majestic piece of art providing a final touch to a magnificent building. Photonium is a column of 30 artistically balanced aluminum legs, weighing 700 pounds.

The simplicity of form which Mr. Snelson has achieved in this sculpture reflects his philosophy of art. He says he prefers to concentrate on the structural precision which aluminum allows. He stays away from clay and bronze because of their "redundancy." He recalls that as a boy he was never able to cover the skeleton of his model airplanes. It was the "bones" of the planes which he found most interesting.

Mr. Snelson is well known for his investigations into principles of electronic structure. One of his theories is concerned with the shell structure of atoms,

wherein he offers an intriguing new explanation for the atom's electronic and magnetic organization. This theory was described in detail in the February, 1963, issue of *Industrial Design* and in the May, 1964, *Science Today*. The Snelson Atomic Model uncovers a principle of electronic structure which, according to some physicists, suggests the first logical glimpse into a solution of the so-called "quantum riddle."

He has lectured on structure at various colleges and universities in the United States. His work has been shown at the New York Museum of Modern Art and at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute, and was the subject of a color feature in *Fortune* magazine.

Mr. Snelson made the original discovery of the floating compression structure as a student with R. Buckminster Fuller in 1948 at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. He also studied painting and design at the University of Oregon, the Institute of Design in Chicago, and with Fernand Leger in Paris, and engineering at Oregon State College.