

ARCADE



Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, Wa.
Permit No. 13571

Seattle's Calendar for Architecture and Design March 1981
Vol. 1 No. 1 One Dollar

ave. E.
WA 98112

INTRODUCTION

Greetings. The new publication ARCADE, which you are holding in your hands, is an experiment in integration. ARCADE will bring news of interest to architects and designers each month, drawn from many sources in and around Seattle. We will also include items of note from Portland, as it has always been a lively center of architectural activity, and is close enough that people here can make the trip often. If you have any news you would like to have presented or are part of an organization with activities that would be of interest, please contact us or put us on your mailing list. "Presentable" news includes articles, essays and letters and we urge you to consider this paper as a forum for discussion. Four pages might easily become eight if ten pens were dusted off and taken to hand.

Our city Seattle is growing physically at an enormous rate. Every time we turn around the skyline changes, and it seems that most of the political issues here these days have to do with housing or building in some fashion. As a result, people are meeting more often to discuss these issues and make proposals for the future. Witness the recent Urban Block Symposium that was held at the University of Washington. We feel there is a need for a paper that can report these events

before they happen, so that more people can become involved, and that fewer will say, "I never knew."

The name ARCADE was chosen for its associative qualities. It is architectural: the Penguin Architectural Dictionary defines 'arcade': "A range of arches carried on piers or columns, either free-standing or blind, i.e., attached to a wall." It signifies a framework through which one sees a varied and diverse group of images, and we intend to present you with an inclusive set of news items set within a standard graphic framework. An arcade signifies movement; memories of walking along or within; moving poetically toward the future with reason at the elbow, just as we hope the future of architecture in Seattle will move.

We hope you will enjoy this presentation of news, and invite your support and criticism. This first issue is complimentary. However, the next will be available only by subscription (page three) or at our distributors, so subscription checks are in order if you are an armchair habitue!

Editor, Catherine Barrett

THE URBAN BLOCK SYMPOSIUM: TWO VIEWS

by Dennis Ryan

A dead horse was beat again one rainy day last November in Seattle, but fortunately not for long. Efforts to deflect the blows took hold and the energies of flagellation were turned to assessing the dismal situation and most important suggesting what could be done about it.

The horse in this case was the present urban architectural orthodoxy and its dominant model — the tower on the plaza within the urban grid. Ministering to its needs was the symposium at the University of Washington titled *The City: The Urban Block*. The symposium's purpose was to seek a better model for downtown architecture than the current practice-of-the-art supplies.

Attended by approximately 500, it was co-sponsored by the Henry Art Gallery at the University and by *Blueprint: For Architecture*, the local forum for architecture directed by Larry Rouch. The event was completely underwritten by the Howard S. Wright Construction Company as a public service in celebration of its 95th Anniversary. A good many of those in attendance were from the construction and development community. Others were architects, city officials, urban planners and designers, students and people interested in urban architecture and development.

Why would all these people spend an entire day, some to return after dinner for the concluding session, listening to six speakers give individual lectures and participate together on several panels?

Some were attracted to the "search for a worthy successor to the single-use high rise." The developers were there, one said, to see if architects really had anything to say to them about building our downtown blocks.

Many were there to check out the first phase of a three-year long project initiated by Rouch and the Henry Art Gallery to draft a program for a funded international design competition to invite architects and urban designers to develop prototype proposals for a Seattle block. Entries in the competition, slated to begin this spring, will be judged by both theoretical and practical criteria, which were to be established at the symposium. Following the competition will be an exhibition of drawings and models of the winners (Summer 1982) and a symposium to assess the results of this inquiry. And of course a publication of the results — advanced prototypes of urban architecture.

The Symposium's principal speakers, mainly from the East Coast, can be credited in part for Seattle's full house — the curious and the critical; those open to ideas and those wary of any more eastern imports to this city.

Anthony Vidler, professor of architecture at Princeton, was teamed with Fred Koetter from Harvard; Jorge Silvetti, also at Harvard and in practice, joined Daniel Solomon, San Francisco architect and professor at Berkeley. George Baird, who teaches in Toronto and whose firm was consultant for Toronto's downtown plan, and New York architect Diana Agrest gave afternoon lectures.

Vidler's message, conveyed by a deft slice through architectural history, was that whereas architects used to pay attention to the larger whole and think of cities in terms of infrastructure and elements like space, activity, position, grouping and civic expression, many have gradually come to see cities only in parts, as individual buildings and fragments that turn inward on themselves rather than connecting with and becoming part of it all.

Koetter too hit heavily on how the concept of civic space, design and public values has all but disappeared in American urban architecture. He called for some poetry to supplant the architecture of formula, developed only with regard to economic prescriptions and zoning regulations. And he used a series of case studies to illustrate how this poetry could be written by paying attention to the design of the public and private realms of buildings in the urban block.

continued on page four

by Katrina Deines

Last fall's Urban Block Seminar was a major architectural event in Seattle. It is still discussed, mainly because of the upcoming design competition for a block in the Denny Regrade. But the most significant value of the day-long Seminar itself was the attention to historical traditions in urbanism. In order to better define and address the problems of today's cities, we must recognize the sources of their problems and the reasons for their successes. The Seminar was a rewarding exposure to varied and learned interpretations of the history of city development — a kind of "how we got to where we are now."

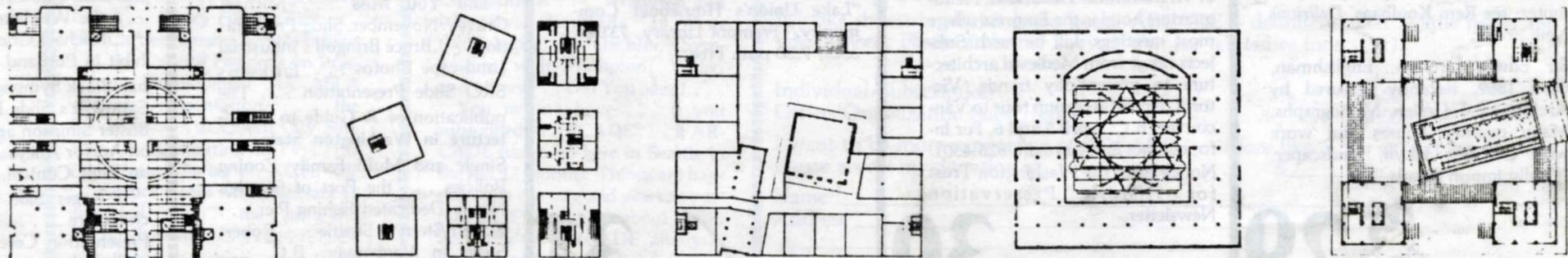
Virtually all of the speakers presented some historical information, but the major portion of the historical groundwork was laid by Anthony Vidler, Professor of Architecture at Princeton. His lecture was an account of the history of the European city from the eighteenth century (the era of the beginnings of "modern" Western thought) to the Modern Revolution, represented most typically by the work of LeCorbusier. Vidler's thesis was that the ideas of the Industrial Revolution gave birth to the "modern city." Unfortunately many of these ideas were fundamentally anti-urban. The city in the nineteenth century became unable to cope with its growing problems of overpopulation, pollution and traffic. The abhorrence of these problems led to models such as the Garden City, which is based on the same ideal as Corbu's *Ville Radieuse*, the "tower in the park." The city fabric itself, the basic stuff of which the city is made, became repugnant, messy, uncontrollable. Utopian theorists spawned schemes for ideal cities, ideal buildings, and ideal environments in which the modern human could dwell. The Utopians' plans had sociopolitical overtones as well: since the crowded, polluted city caused crime and corruption, a good environment would cause people living in it to be good.

In combination with this anti-urban bias, Vidler pointed out a growing tendency to monumentalize all new building, even commonplace functions such as the market or the dwelling. These became as grand as a temple, church or palace in pre-industrial times. The result is that there is no balance between the monumental and the background support fabric, for every building becomes a monument. Each building stands alone, and thus there is no interaction, no intercommunication, no community. The city becomes a fragmented group of independent elements.

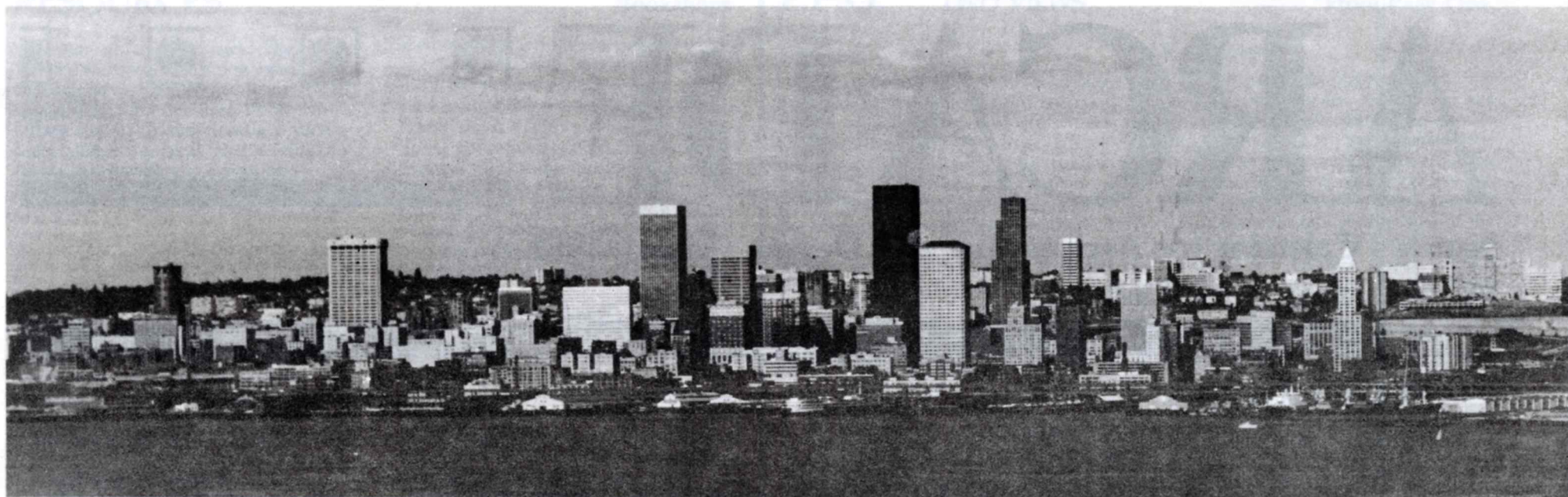
Fred Koetter, Professor of Architecture at Harvard and practicing architect/urban designer, shared the role of historical anchorperson with Vidler. Koetter emphasized urban development in the United States, and concentrated on the idea of "public space," a recurrent theme of the Symposium. Without the intercommunication of buildings, there is no public space. In today's cities each plaza is the precinct of its building alone. It is not "public" space in the sense of a common contribution of the architectural fabric, or of a civic focal point. This public realm reinforces and realizes the city's community spirit. Koetter showed the American tradition for public space: the village green, the town square, Main Street: spaces as focal point. In the "space-positive" city the space left between the buildings is as important as the buildings themselves. This is why urbanists like Koetter study the Nolli map of Rome: it depicts Rome in plan, showing the structures dark and the spaces (streets, plazas, arcades, courtyards within buildings) light, so that either the buildings or the spaces can be the "figure," the positive area, and the other the "ground," or negative. The streets, squares, alleys, and sidewalks are the city's circulatory system, its interconnecting network. The recognition and celebration of this is the impetus behind the creation of public space.

Vidler and Koetter established a forum in which the other speakers participated. George Baird, architect and teacher from the University of Toronto, questioned the applicability of European models to solutions for cities in the United



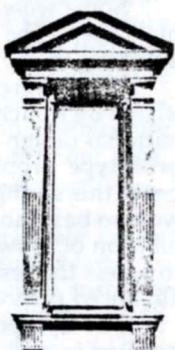

continued on page four



Drawings from "The Urban Block" Winter 1979 Design Studio at the U of W, taught by Steven Holl. Authors include: George Wagner, Alan Razak, Katherine Retelas, Jennifer Dee and R. L. Jones.



S M T W T

<p>WINTEREND AT THE UW: All during this week the evening lectures will be roaming the campus and the architecture department in particular. Open forums will be held at noontime in Gould Court. For further info, contact the Department of Architecture, 543-4180.</p> <p>Augustus Pugin, Englishman, born 1812.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1</p>	<p>LECTURE: Paul Thiry on the Seattle CBD, Johnson Hall, Room 6, UW, 8 p.m., Free.</p> <p>EXHIBIT: "Lake Union Neighborhood." Downtown Library, 100 Fourth Avenue, Third Floor.</p> <p>Northwest Regional Conference of Student Chapters of the AIA. Through March 7 at the UW.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p>LECTURE: Gerald Gerron on the Seattle CBD, Architecture Hall, Room 207, UW, 8 p.m., Free.</p> <p>O.O.T.* LECTURE: Peter Eisenman. First Presbyterian Church, 1200 S.W. Alder, Portland, Oregon. 8 p.m. Free. For info contact Portland AIA: (503) 223-8757.</p> <p>*Out-Of-Town</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p>LECTURE: Lars Lerup from the Institute of Architecture and Urban Studies in New York, Architecture Hall, Room 207, UW, 8 p.m., Free. Lars Lerup has been published in the series, "Pamphlet Architecture."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p>LECTURE: Victor St. Architecture Hall, Room 8 p.m., Free. Verify th with the Department of ture, 543-4180.</p> <p>LECTURE: Dan Peters Alaska-Yukon-Pacific E and the Brooklyn Neighr University Branch Libr Roosevelt Way NE, 7:30 p</p>
<p>EXHIBIT: "Needle Images" 1981 Photography Extravaganza Space Needle Observation Deck February 2 - March 22</p> <p>WALKING TOUR: Volunteer Park, PM, David Streetfield tour leader. Also on Tuesday, March 10</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p>City Council on Housing and Urban Development Committee meets every Tuesday this month at 9 a.m., Room 1101, Municipal Building. Meetings open to public.</p> <p>WALKING TOUR: Ellsworth Storey's Craftsman Cottages, PM, Rob Anglin, tour leader. Also on Sunday, March 15.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p>LECTURE: John Owen, "Evolution of the Popular House in Seattle," 8 p.m., Room 322, Gould Hall, UW, Free.</p> <p>Hector Guimard, Frenchman, born 1867. "The best of the Art Nouveau." Some buildings: Castel Berenger, Paris; Metro Stations, Paris. Also see recent Architectural Design 1/2 1980 (issue on "New Free Style").</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p>March 31 is the deadline for project proposals and applications for residencies in the Washington State Arts Commission's 1981-82 Artists-in-Schools program. Specialists in all areas of design and fine arts are eligible. Info: Washington State Arts Commission, Attn: Marcia Pinto, Mail Stop FU-12, Olympia, Wa. 98504.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p>LECTURE: Alan Gowans: tural Symbolism of the Second British Empires, 322 Gould Hall, UW, F</p> <p>EXHIBIT: "Portland Vict Home, 1870-1900", December 1981, Portl chitectural Preservation 26 N.W. Second, Portlan Hours: T-F 10-3, Sat 1 12-4, Admission Free.</p>
<p>The City of Seattle Office of Policy and Evaluation will be releasing its background report on the Land Use and Transportation Project sometime in mid-March. Copies will be available for public review at that office, 300 Municipal Building. Phase II will begin in late March and carry through April and will consist of citizen participation meetings and workshops.</p> <p>Watch for more news in our April issue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15</p>	<p>WALKING TOUR: Queen Anne Hill, PM, Pauline Hanover, tour leader. Also on Saturday, March 21.</p> <p><i>Arcane-Item of the Month:</i> The Urban Block Competition. Sources have it that this interesting and mysterious competition is very much in the works and will probably be good scoop material sometime in April. It's a long way to Tiparrary . . .</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p>A.R.C.A.D.E.</p> <p>Our introduction explains why the title ARCADE. It was chosen for its formal, historical and inclusive qualities. ARCADE could also be an acronym, i.e., "Ain't Real Cool Architecture Done Easily." ARCADE is sponsoring a contest to choose the best acronym. Send in your entries and the best one will win a free year's subscription. And it will be published in our April (Fool's) Issue! Deadline for the contest is March 15th. Let's see now, "Architects Raise Cain And . . ."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p>WALKING TOUR: Georgetown, PM, Ernest Marris, tour leader. Also on Sunday, March 22.</p> <p><i>Within its two primary faces external structural assertions are not binding; its interstitial space exists as a realm of pure possibility.</i> Fred Koetter, "On the In-Between," Harvard Architectural Review, Spring 1980.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	
<p><i>In these colonnades, construct spacious recesses with seats in them where philosophers, rhetoricians, and others who delight in learning may sit and converse.</i> Vitruvius</p> <p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p>LECTURE: J. M. Neil, "Seattle's Southern Neighborhoods: Rainier Beach, Beacon Hill and Mount Baker," Rainier Beach Library, 9125 Rainier Ave. S., 7:30 p.m. Free. Same lecture Thursday night, March 26 at the Greenlake Library, 7364 E. Green Lake Drive No., 7:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p>WALKING TOUR: Historic Ballard, PM, Ernest Marris, tour leader.</p> <p>For those of you planning downtown projects, be sure to consult Ralph Doid, City Planner, whose desk adorns the lobby of the Municipal Building — C. T. Chew's work is currently on view at the Fourth Avenue Entrance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	
<p>Raymond Hood, American, born 1881. An early skyscraper promoter; see Rem Koolhaas' <i>Delirious New York</i>.</p> <p>Sir Edwin Lutyens, Englishman, born 1869. Recently featured by Architectural Design Monographs. Many country houses and work with Gertrude Jekyll, landscaper. "Oddly impish details."</p>  <p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p>CONFERENCE: April 1-6: Society of Architectural Historians. Headquarters hotel is the Empress where most meetings will be held. Subjects range from Medieval architecture to present-day trends. Victoria, April 1-4; group tour to Vancouver, B.C. April 5 and 6. For info, contact Earl Layman, 625-4501. Notice from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Newsletter.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p>LECTURE: Howard Droker, "Lake Union's Houseboat Community," Fremont Library, 731 N. 35th, 7:30 p.m. Free.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">31</p>	<p>DID YOU MISS?</p> <p>Did You Miss . . . Michael Graves' November Slide Presentation . . . Bruce Bringolf's Industrial Landscape Photos . . . Erickson's SRO Slide Presentation . . . The publication of <i>A Guide to Architecture in Washington State</i> . . . Single and Multi Family Zoning Policies . . . the Port of Seattle's Newly Dedicated Fishing Pier . . . Robert Stern in Seattle . . . Robert Stern in Vancouver, B.C. . . . Thomas Van Leeuwen and</p>	<p>Ideologies of the Skyscr the Best Quotes of Gerr . . . the Westlake Court . . . Michael Graves's Dra hibit in Portland . . . ban Block Symposium . . . Satiowitz's Slide Presenta Buster Simpson and Andy on Art for Alleys . . . the on Rent Control and De . . . Roger Sale on Sea chitecture . . . the AIA Presentation Ceremony v Philip Johnson on two (2 . . . Alvar Aalto Exhib</p>

ARCADE

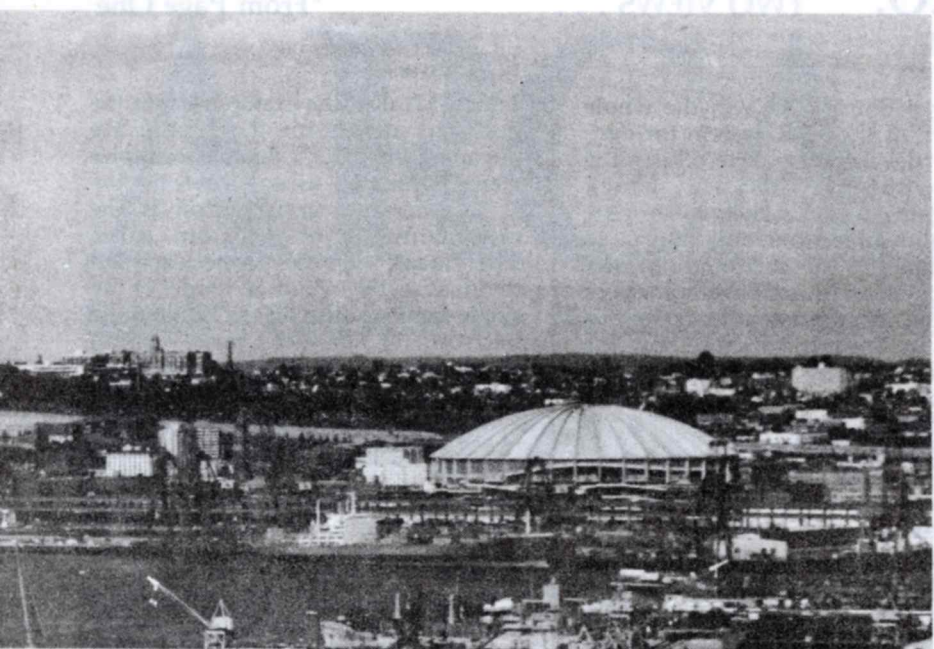
Vol. I, No. 1

ARCADE is published ten times a year in Seattle, Washington. Subscription rates are \$7.50/year for individuals, and \$10/year for offices or organizations. Individual copies: one dollar. Address all correspondence to: ARCADE, 2318 Second Avenue, Box 54, Seattle, Washington, 98121. This text is set in Paladium and printed by Consolidated Press of Seattle.

Editors: Catherine Barrett, Susan Boyle, Katrina Deines, Ann Hirschi
Portland Correspondent: Greg Simon
Contributors: Dennis Ryan, Gregory A. Minaker

Deadline for material submitted for the April issue (submit typed copy, double-spaced) is March 18.

Editorial comments, letters, address changes and news items should be sent to the editors at this same address. Please contact us if you would like to assist in the writing or publication of ARCADE. ARCADE may be found at Glover/Hayes Bookstore, 85 Yesler Way; Peter Miller Books, 1909 First Avenue, and other local bookstores.



Photograph by Gregory A. Minaker

F S MARCH 1981

Steinbrueck, 207, UW, is lecture Architect-

Michelangelo Buonarroti, Italian, born 1475.



DINNER: 7 p.m. in UW Gould Hall. ASC/AIA sponsored; \$5/person; no reservation necessary.

LECTURE: Richard Kadulski, Canadian architect, talks on solar energy and Roger Kemble, award-winning architect from Vancouver talks on his work; 11 a.m., UW HUB Auditorium. Free.

WORKSHOP: Historic Photographs: Collecting, Preserving and Identifying, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Suzzallo Library, U of W. Free.

PETER EISENMAN IN PORTLAND

Peter Eisenman, New York avante garde architect, Pioneer Courthouse Square contestant, and director of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, will discuss his own work and the part that European and earlier American plazas play in contemporary design of spaces.

This is the second in the series, "The City Pleasurable — Water and Magic in an Urban World," funded by the Oregon Committee for the Humanities and the Portland Chapter AIA. The series will be moderated by E. Kimbark MacColl, Portland historian and author. Future lecturers are Rudolfo Machado (April 20, 1981), Edmund Bacon (May 19, 1981), and Charles Moore (June 1, 1981).

Press release from the Portland AIA. Peter Eisenman is well-known; however, for a quick review of his most famous work, see *Progressive Architecture*, June 1977, pp 57-67. Also see *Oppositions/6*, Fall 1976, for his Editorial, "Post-Functionalism."

Architect-First & 8 PM, free.

Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Prussian, born 1781. "Classicism wonderfully interpreted." Some buildings: New Guard House, Berlin; Old Museum, Berlin.

HOME SHOW at the Kingdome through March 22.

John Owen

EVOLUTION OF THE POPULAR HOUSE IN SEATTLE

John Owen's Study of Popular Housing includes a broad range of professional and academic work. As project manager for Historic Seattle's *Urban Resources Inventory*, he worked with Victor Steinbrueck and Folke Nyberg in identifying the architectural character and urban design elements of Seattle's communities; aiding in the production of an inventory that is one of the most innovative surveys to date. His Thesis on Popular Housing dealt, among other topics, with the processes by which popular life-styles and imagery combine to develop housing types and styles over time.

John has written articles and lectured. His talk will be a visual history of Seattle's common house types examining the questions: why do they look like they do, what made them popular and what is their importance in designing Seattle's future.

12

13

14



arcana caelestia; celestial mysteries, arcana imperii; state secrets.



Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, Frenchman, born 1736. His prolific career ended with the Revolution, but until that time he was one of the most imaginative neo-classicists of Europe.



ALAN GOWANS

ARCHITECTURAL SYMBOLISM OF THE FIRST & SECOND BRITISH EMPIRES

Alan Gowans, Canadian and well-known world lecturer, will talk about: How Georgian, Gothic Revival, and Beaux-Arts (Imperial Bombast) styles promoted and supported Britain's 18th- and 19th-century Empires across the world. (Examples: pre-Revolutionary America, Canada, India, Pakistan, Ceylon).

Notes from College of Architecture & Urban Planning, University of Washington.

19

20

21

Full Moon

Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, German, born 1886. "God is in the details."

WALKING TOUR: Harvard-Belmont Historic District, PM, Shirley Courtois, tour leader. Also Monday, March 30.

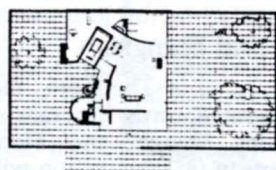
WALKING TOURS, ETC.

WALKING TOURS, some LECTURES and EXHIBITS are from the publication, "This City, Seattle: Calendar of Events," published by the History Department of the Seattle Public Library. WALKING TOURS are free but tickets are required as tours are limited to 20-50 participants. Tickets are available from the History Dept. of the Downtown Library. For info call 625-4893. WORKSHOPS are free but pre-registration is required. For registration forms call 625-4893 or visit the History Dept. of the Downtown Library.

26

27

28



Mount Angel . . . Heather Ramsey's Model at the Belltown Cafe . . . Bucky Fuller's Talk . . . the Cartier-Bresson Photo Exhibit . . . the Council Hearings on Waterfront Development . . . ASLA Awards Presentation . . . the Model Exhibit at Queen City Savings . . . Restoration on TV: "This Old House" Series on KCTS TV . . . Bruce Goff's Most Pleasant Illustrated Talk . . . the Purini and Botta Exhibits . . . Wines (SITE) . . . Charles Jencks . . . and Frank Gehry speaking on Their Work in

Vancouver, B.C. . . the Portland Competitions . . . "Tradition and Identity: Towards an Anthropological Architecture," Symposium with Frampton, Vidler, and others . . . Did You Miss? . . . You needn't have . . . if you subscribed to ARCADE . . . if ARCADE had been here in Seattle in the last 12 months. Things are happening in our city and you can participate if you know about them. Subscribe to ARCADE and you won't miss out!

Special Assistance on this issue: Dennis Anderson, James Burns, Carl Chew, Randy Hayes, Judy Kleinberg, Maxine Martell, Peter Miller, Galen Minah, Maura Shapley

ARCADE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

It looks shoestring but it looks good. ARCADE is definitely what Seattle needs and what I need. Please enter my subscription for ten issues (one year).

Individual Subscription \$7.50
Office/Organization Subscription \$10.00

I want to be more supportive of ARCADE . . . more like a pier or a column.
Please accept my donation of \$_____

Name _____
Address _____

Send check or money order to: ARCADE, 2318 Second Avenue, Box 54, Seattle, Washington, 98121.

Those of us who get The New Yorker were amused upon reading of the January opening of "New York City's first architectural bookstore," Urban Center Books. Seattle is such a literate city in general, and it's filled to the gills with design professionals. So naturally there are already a number of bookstores here that cater to our interests.

Foremost among these is Peter Miller Books, a ★★★★★ bookshop that carries well over 1000 titles on architecture, planning, landscape, graphics, calligraphy and commercial design. PM also carries a selection of periodicals including GA, Abitare, Architectural Review and Design Quarterly, et al, and academic and new wave publications such as The Harvard Architectural Review, Oppositions, Via and Archetype.

Other bookshops that carry a good selection of new architectural and design mags and books are Elliott Bay, the Fix-Madore Book Company, Broadway Books, Arbur Books and the University Bookstore. Tower Books has a surprisingly wide selection of architecture books, arranged in a supermarket-like setting. Its hours are also super-market-like, daily from 9 a.m. to Midnight.

The used or rare book market is much more specialized and its products less predictable. An interested reader of old books can re-view recent history just as it portrayed itself and this quality makes them worth the search. There are gems to be found, or at least sought, by the collector as well. Glover/Hayes usually has a wide selection of art books, particularly those on photography, in addition to other design-related fields. Shake-

speare and Martin specialize in regional books, including those on architecture, old guides and pamphlets. They also have a large selection devoted to Frank Lloyd Wright: books, reproductions and memorabilia. Old Seattle Paperworks has old periodicals, newspapers, posters; daily grist for the cultural mill. Shorey's Union Street branch has a larger upper floor collection, including technical manuals and architectural periodicals from the 30s, 40s and 50s.

For those who search out-of-town markets, Powell's in Portland is considered a renewable northwest resource, so vast is its used book stock. William Stout Architecture Books in San Francisco is comparable to Peter Miller Books with additional titles available by mail. Stout provides a subscription service for over 35 foreign and domestic architectural magazines and the bookstore also underwrites the publication of Pamphlet Architecture. Stout's catalog is available for \$2.00. For another \$2.00 Arthur Minter's of NYC provides four catalogs per year on "a selection of scarce and rare books, catalogs, ephemera and periodicals on the fine and decorative arts... photography and architecture." Minter's emphasis lies in special areas of architecture history and foreign titles. ★

Susan Boyle

RESOURCES will be a monthly review of tools-of-the-trade. Future columns are planned on Equipment and its Sources, Model Building and Model Builders, Salvaged Buildings Materials, Architectural Illustrators and Photographers, and on other topics suggested by ARCADE readers.

- A.R.C.
91 Yesler Way
- Arbur Books
4505 University Way N.E.
- Broadway Books
408 Broadway East
- The Elliott Bay Book Company
1st South and South Main
- The Fix-Madore Book Company
3 Pike Hillclimb/1507 Western Avenue
- Glover/Hayes
85 Yesler Way
- Peter Miller Books
1909 First Avenue

- Shakespeare and Martin
608 Second Avenue
- Shorey's
110 Union St. and 119 Jackson St.
- Tower Books
20 Mercer Street
- The University Bookstore
4326 University Way N.E.
- Powell's
1005 West Burnside, Portland 97402
- William Stout
17 Osgood Place, San Francisco 94133
- Arthur Minter's
84 University Place, N.Y., N.Y. 10003

CIVICS



REGIONAL/URBAN DESIGN ASSISTANCE TEAM VISITS

Hold on to your hats! Later this spring you might notice a stiff breeze blowing from the direction of downtown, that may cause you to grab your bowler and scratch your noggin in thoughtful contemplation — all at once. The gusts will have been stirred up by a whirl-wind visit of a team of "experts" who will come to town as part of a Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team sponsored by the Seattle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The subject of their study? A topic of mighty import on everyone's lips these days . . . You guessed it . . . "Downtown Living."

The timing and subject matter of the proposed R/UDAT for Seattle should be of great interest to all of us in the design professions, coming as it does on the back of the Single Family Land Use Policies (already adopted), on the tail of the Multi-Family Land Use Policies (adoption imminent), and just a few steps ahead of the Downtown Land Use Policies, for which the background study is presently occurring. It provides an excellent opportunity for us to participate in an objective assessment of the forces that are presently shaping the skyline of Seattle's downtown.

Although the exact dates for the visit have not yet been determined, the team of eight or ten persons, skilled in a variety of fields including sociology, political science, economics as well as architecture and urban design, is expected to arrive in late April or early May. The study area is bounded by Denny Way, I-5, the Kingdome and Elliott Bay.

Obviously, the astuteness and orientation of the team members who participate in Seattle's R/UDAT will affect the final report, as will the selection of specific background material that they receive beforehand as they study up for their visit. As the advisory committee of the local AIA prepares for this event, they will be accepting recommendations. It should be clear, however, that team members volunteer their expertise and cannot be involved with any projects in town, nor can they accept future commissions for work that may result from the study.

In acknowledging the increasingly complex context in which we must build, we might be advised by Belgian architect, Maurice Culot who is quoted in Architectural Association Quarterly (Dec. 1975): "The quality of the town building does not depend on the ability of the technicians, but rather on the quality of the democratic debate preceding the architectural options."

For more information on how to participate in the R/UDAT debate, contact the Seattle Chapter American Institute of Architects at 622-4938. ★

Ann Hirschi

D. Ryan

George Baird dealt with the whole question of the FAR system for controlling development. He illustrated the problems of big block developments that seek only to maximize allowable floor area and in so doing ignore the surroundings and the impacts on future development of adjoining properties. He used his studies in Toronto to show how the process of land subdivision and assembly affects the form and character of a city and how street hierarchies downtown can be altered when high-rise entrances of large scale developments front on one street and ignore the others.

The results of the symposium must be measured in several ways. Too much of the day was spent listening and some of what was said was undecipherable, architectural jargon; some just plain hard to understand. But that it took place in Seattle and was so well attended by a mixed audience is a definite plus.

Rather than squaring off against one another, Seattle's designers, developers, municipal authorities and the public need to find ways to pull together in the city-building process. The sharing of ideas and ideals in public forum is a good start. From this one we certainly learned that language is a formidable problem within architecture, as theory speaks to practice and it back and as architects speak to others about buildings and building. The only way to improve the language, however, is to use it, test it, and refine it. In the upcoming competition terms such as types, prototypes, models, solutions and criteria will have to be carefully defined.

Furthermore, it would be exciting to have entries in the competition from teams representing amalgams of architects, developers, government officials and other interest groups. Rouch challenged the symposium in saying, "The form of the city is an issue that is virtually ignored — there is no goal, no vision, no consensus of what it ought to be, and seemingly no process or method for arriving at a new idea of the kind of city we want to live in." In effect of course there are visions; each discipline has its own view of the world and of what cities can and should be like. And each has its own way of expressing this. The competition by collectives could well serve to enrich our vocabulary of ideas. The best way to achieve the vision of the city is to tap the diversity of views of what the city ought to be. Such teams in Seattle could have a decided advantage, for although they might not win the international race, great strides would be taken toward growing our own brand of urban design. ★

Dennis Ryan is chairman of the urban design program in the University of Washington College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

COMPETITIONS

WESTERN SUNSHINE

The Washington Passive Solar Design/Build Competition is underway. It is closed: all 275 registrants have been assigned numbers and are busy working on their entries. However, we thought it useful to publish the schedule as it stands so that you might watch for the results. Project entries are due April 1, 1981 and will be judged through April and May. In June of this year the winners will be announced and a portfolio of the designs will be published by Western SUN. For further information, contact Nancy Nysten at 545-7414.



K. Deines

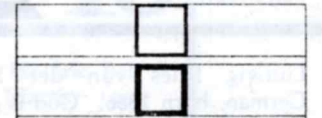
States. Most of the examples from the past and models for the present are European; Koetter's Boston examples were discounted as applicable to the U.S. generally, since Boston is the most European of American cities. The ideal of the American individualist, the suburban model of the single-family house on the lot, and the mistrust of density make urban development according to European traditions problematic here. The grid is the single most identifiable tradition in U.S. city history, and its value is in its continuity. The erosion of the grid has led to the disparate incongruity of the city blocks. The grid, then, is recognized as a strong connective motif in U.S. cities.

Daniel Solomon, an architect and professor from San Francisco, discussed the relationship between the real and the ideal, and this theme was strong throughout the Seminar. The ideal is a necessary reference point as a formal impetus to design. In this way the utopian vision has a real usefulness: the ideal image to hold up for comparison and conversion to the real situation. This is the idea behind formal typologies: that there exists an ideal form from which the architect draws in order to design a real building. The architect must adjust, alter and fit the ideal to suit the particular circumstance. The skill of the architect, then, is to be articulate in a vocabulary of form and to be creative enough to tailor that vocabulary to best fit a particular situation. Solomon called the resultant architecture "a dialectic between form and circumstance."

These are frustrating concepts for the architect whose idea of architecture is an original form set away from its surroundings, relating to nothing in either its formal tradition or in its physical location. But they are useful, even indispensable notions in working towards a model for urban architecture which again reflects the culture, is meaningful to the citizens, establishes a sense of community and defines a true public realm.

While no specific directions for future work were developed at the Urban Block Seminar, the examination and evaluation of urban traditions, both successful and unsuccessful, should help to give us a key to future efforts. The encouragement is that successful city places really do exist; the challenge to us is to draw from these examples in drafting an architecture which represents our times, our location and our traditions. ★

Katrina Deines is a graduate of the University of Washington Master of Architecture program and is currently working at The Bumgardner Architects.



Shakes and Shingles

The Fifth Biennial Architectural Awards Program of the Red Cedar Shingle and Handsplit Shake Bureau (in conjunction with the AIA). Entry forms are due June 12; actual entries due July 17. Open to all architects (not required to be AIA members) whose projects have been completed after January 1, 1976. Information: Red Cedar Shingle and Handsplit Shake Bureau, Suite 275, 515 116th Avenue NE, Bellevue, Washington, 98004.

WOMEN IN DESIGN

April 30, 1981 is the entry deadline for the Women In Design International Competition. Write WID International, 530 Howard Street, Second Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105.