



# MODULUS 21

*Politics and Architecture*



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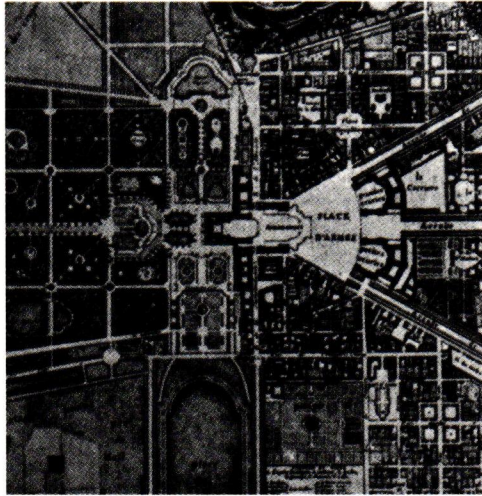
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# Introduction

Adrienne Lakadat

Politics and architecture are inextricably linked. A general reluctance to address the political impact of our work makes this statement seem polemical. Architecture, however, depends on patronage, and its evocative potential has in all times been commandeered by those in power. Because it serves as a lasting symbol of the hopes and dreams of the society which constructs it, architecture finds itself allied with politics.

Avoiding this reality, we become stylists and artisans. For behind the word professional lies an assumption of general

involvement in our society as politic.

Revolutionary ideas have spawned architectural symbols of their projected societies. Nazi Germany and revolutionary Russia each produced symbols of their future world, meant to show both their power and their intent. These architectural visions of a brave new world give us insight into the ideas and values behind them.

But what are our values and what future are we building? Our built environment reflects our assumptions and

aspirations as a society. Our goals, then must necessarily encompass those things most important to us, beauty, justice, society. As professionals, we find ourselves in the thick of a political question. Architects are not given free reign in deciding what or how to build and yet their actions, in aggregate, have tremendous effect.

Here, then, are collected ideas and prescriptions from a wide range of professionals, on just how architects can think about their work and how they might take steps to act as politicized citizens.





