VISIONS, CENTERING AND WHOLENESS   March 26, 1979

In looking over the various proposals which you have made

so far, I realise that there is one crucial aspect of

                             yet
the process, which I have not made clear --- and which,

as far as I can see, almost none of you have so far

understood.

Almost Any one of your proposals, even when it is careful,

sincere, well thought out, and even based on a genuine

x~~i~~x~~m~~x~~mm~~ inner vision in your mind, is still essentially

solitary. What I mean by that, is that it exists, more

or less independently of its surroundings, even when it

is intended to relate most carfeully to its surroundings.

You can learn to recognise this, if you realise that almost

all these visions or proposals, are, in your minds,

independent of the exact moment in the sequence when they

occur. That is, suppose we imagine a sequence of proposals

P_1, P_2, P_3,..... leading up to P_n which is your proposal,

then although your proposal usually has general relevance to

some of what has come before it (lets say to P_1,P_2 and P_3),

it still floats as a proposal, independent of whether it

is precsiely P_n, or P_{n+1}. That is, as far as you are concerned,

your proposal is valid, according to its general relationships

to the overall site, according to the general nature of the

project, and according to the general nature of what has been

done before it. But no one of you has realised yet, that
your proposal should be enormously sensitive to the exact
moment in sequence when it comes, and that a certain proposal
might make sense as P_n, ~~smbmhbmmbmbmhbmnbmnbhabnbmabmabmn~~
following P_{n-1}, but the moment one other proposal comes
in between, even in a place fairly far away from the place
which
~~where~~ you have been thinking about, then a properly executed
project in your site would be enormously different. Indeed,
                        even the location,
the whole idea of what you proposed might no longer be
relevant at all, because the gestalt of the whole has shifted
so enormously, and now you must be sensitive to that, the new
site which is now different.

Let me explain all this another way. At any given moment in
the evolution of the site, there is a certain configuration
there, which consists of all of what has been built, up to
that moment. If we are now going to try to make one "next"
proposal, about what to build, ~~wemmsh~~ we must ask ourselves
"What is the best possible place to put the next proposal",
or "What proposal, and where ~~placed~~ placed, and how formed,
will do the most to make the site more complete, more whole,
at the next stage, as a totality.". We are able to do this,
because we can pay attention to the site in its present state,
"listen" with our inner ear, for the gaps, for the lack of
wholeness, for its most essential incompleteness, and then
do what we can to mend it, to heal it, by doing one thing which
does more than any other to make the ~~whalemxhm~~ entire project   more
whole.

This is the essence of any authentic vision, and it is the failure to understand this, which has been making your visions so strange, so egocentric, and so weird, in even in your own minds. The authentic vision, comes into your mind, because it springs from your understanding of the whole, it presents itself to you, as the completion of the whole, as the form of life, the place, the orgaqisation which does most to bring the entire thing to life, still more, as a totality.

The same is true of centering. It is the essence of the centering process, that you always search, in your mind, for the most poignant gap, the most needy spot, for the rift whose mending will to the most to heal, and help to form the not yet known emerging whole...

And the implication of this attitude is, of course, that you ask yourself what to do next, at each point, as though, and with the inner certainty, that there is <u>one</u> best answer, and that you are lsitening, trying to find that answer. This does not mean that there always is one best answer. There may be two or three perhaps, almost equally good. But your mental attitude, at each moment, must be "What is <u>the</u> single best thing that I can do now, at this moment, to bring the whole to life".

And, of course, within this attitude, what you propose at time P_n, for a given area of the project, will be <u>entirely</u> different from what you would propose a moment later, after one more project has been added, because the gestalt of the whole has changed <u>entirely</u>, and what is needed

now, to make the whole complete, is entirely different

from what it was a moment before.

When you understand this properly , then
                        will
mind finally, you realise, that in this process, there is almost

no room at all for anything which is personal... because you

in the egocentric sense... because you merely become the

vehicle, the medium, through which the demands of the site

speak, and make themselves felt... but your vision is

a product of the inner shouting of the site, not a

product of your whimsy or your fantasy....

But to the extent that your inner ear is accurate, to the

extent that you can listen to what the project, in its totality,

at any given moment is calling for, you will produce something

far more wonderful, often more fantastic, because it is more
     truly
remaining based on what is there, than anything you could
       of
dream of by trying to be original.