

Lec. C. ALEXANDER

## III GEOMETRY CENTERING.

→ LECTURES DEAL WITH A GENERATIVE PROCESS.  
PHENOMENA WHICH LEADS TO THESE STRUCTURES.

QUESTION: 1) CAN ONE MAKE SUCH A THING?  
2) HOW - UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS?

◆ THE PHILOSOPHY OF MODERN ARCH. MISLEADS ONE TO THINK THAT ONE NEEDS "INSPIRATION" TO PRODUCE GOOD DESIGNS.

◆ YOU CANNOT DO THE SAME THING WITH THE PROPERTIES AS THE PATTERNS, BECAUSE IT CANNOT BE DONE IN ONE OPERATION BECAUSE THEY ALL WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY EX.

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DRAWING WITH BOUNDARIES YOU HAVE TO DO IT INCREMENTALLY.

→ UNLIKE PATTERNS WHICH ~~WAS~~ ARE SEPERATE ENTITIES, THE PROPERTIES LACK THAT BECAUSE THEY OVERLAPP WITH EACH OTHER.

→ WHAT KIND OF PROCESS CAN PRODUCE THESE STRUCTURES.

→ YOU HAVE TO ASSUME THAT IT HAS TO BE A GENERATIVE PROCESS.

① ONE SEES A SERIES OF "WHOLES" FROM LARGER ONES TO SMALLER ONES. ~~IF~~

SINCE THERE IS THIS HIERARCHY OF CONDENSED WHOLES THEN:

② IS IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE A BIG WHOLE AND DIVIDING IT INTO SMALLER AND SMALLER WHOLES.

EXPERIMENTS RELATING TO THIS QUESTION → RESULTS WERE STIFF AND LIFELESS. THE FEELING OF SPIRIT ~~DEAS~~ DOES NOT APPEAR.

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→ UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS DID THESE ORNAMENTS WHICH HAD THE QUALITY WERE PRODUCED?

→ IT HAPPENS MAINLY WHEN A PERSON IS NOT TRYING TO DO ANYTHING.

(TALKING ON TELEPHONE AND DOODLING.)

SOMETHING TO DO WITH EGO AND EGOLESSNESS.

→ THERE ARE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A THING MAKES ITSELF THROUGH YOU AND THERE ARE OTHER CONDITIONS WHICH YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE IT.

WHETHER YOU ARE THE MASTER OF IT OR IT THE MASTER OF YOU.

♦ WHAT KIND OF A PROCESS THAT COULD LEAD YOU RATHER THAN IT LEAD YOU?

YOU CANNOT KNOW AT WHAT SCALE YOU ARE ENTERING BECAUSE WHAT YOU ARE DOING OVER AND OVER IS THE SAME OPERATION.

How

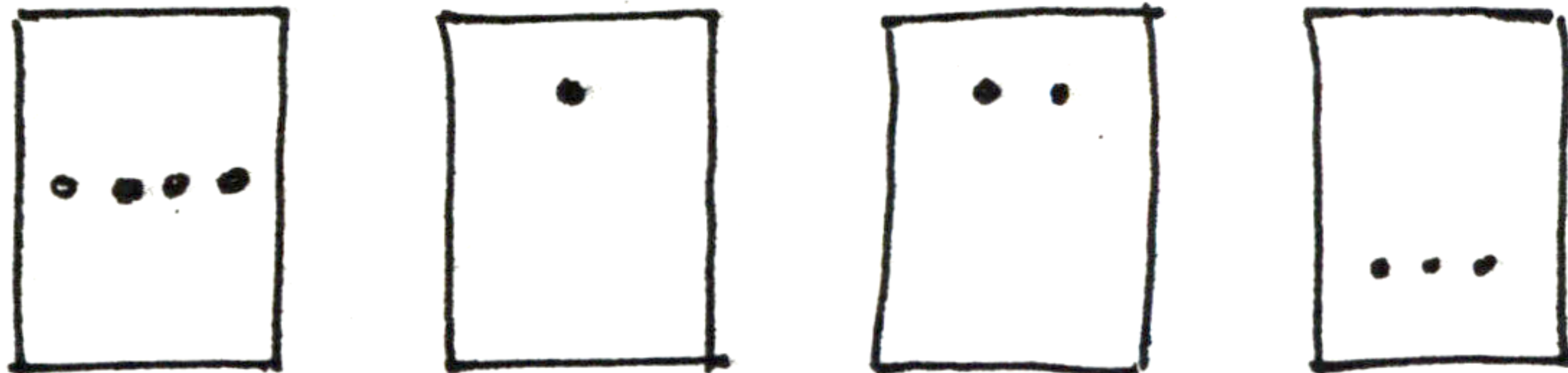
"CENTER" AS A "WHOLE"

THE STRUCTURE IS ONE OF CENTERS → WHICH INDUCE CENTERS IN THEM. EVERYTHING AT EVERY LEVEL HAS THIS POWER.

EXAMPLE :

DIVIDES

$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow$



ROOMS WITH COLUMNS. X

♦ PRESENCE OF A FEELING OF CENTERDNESS IN EACH PART.

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PROCESS.

WHEN MAKING A CENTER.

① YOU ARE PAYING ATTENTION TO 4 MORE CENTERS, AND TO SOME LARGER CENTER WHICH YOU ARE A PART OF.

② → SMALLER CENTERS OF A LARGER SCALE

③ → PAYING ATTENTION TO THE SHAPE NEXT TO THE THING (REFERS TO POSITIVE, NEGATIVE SPACE.)

THIS PROCESS IS THE SAME APPLIED AT VARIOUS SCALES. ALWAYS:

- ① CENTER.
- ② CENTER OF CENTERS.
- ③ CREATION OF SPACE AROUND CENTERS.

THE BIRTH OF THE LARGEST CENTER IS SIMULTANEOUS AND UNPREDICTABLE.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE PRACTICAL WORLD OF BUILDING?

### ◆ IN MEXICALI PROJECT

THE BUILDERS' YARD - THE FOUNTAIN - THE COURT-YARDS.

MOST PATTERNS CAN BE VIEWED AS CENTERS.

- IF:
- I. ALLOW THE SCALE TO SKIP AROUND.
  - II. ALLOW THE PATTERNS TO INTRODUCE CENTERS WITH FUNCTIONAL MEANINGS RATHER THAN COMING FROM WITHIN.

YOU BEGIN TO SEE A UNION AND THAT THE THEORY ABOUT THE PATTERN LANGUAGE IS A SPECIAL CASE OF A MORE GENERAL ONE.

- THE FEELING EXPERIENCED BY A PERSON DOING THIS PROCESS.
- A CONNECTION BETWEEN ONE'S FEELING AND THE PROCESS ITSELF.
- ~~A~~ A REMARKABLE SELF-HEALING PROCESS.
- A SENSE OF CONNECTION TO THE WORLD ~~WHICH RELATES~~ ~~IT~~ NEW TO THEM.
- BEAUTIFUL THINGS CAME OUT.
- A SENSE OF INTEGRATION WITHIN THEMSELVES
- IN TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES THIS EXISTS AT THE LEVEL OF WHOLE SETTLEMENTS.

THINGS PRODUCED ~~ARE~~ UNDER CONDITIONS OF PROCESS:  
 ARE — MIRRORS OF THE SELF.  
 — FELT AND TRANSMITTED TO PERSON.  
 IN ~~THE~~ THE PLACE — IS ALL OF THE FEELINGS OF HEALING AND UNITEDNESS OF PERSON MAKING IT.

THIS IS NOT TRUE OF OUR OWN WORLD.  
 BECAUSE IT CANNOT OCCUR IN THE WORLD

• TILE — IMPOSSIBLE TO REPRODUCE.

YOU CAN SEE SELF-HAND — OR YOUR SELF — CANNOT ~~SEE~~ BE REPRODUCED BY MACHINE.

TRY TO GET A HOLD IN YOUR MIND OF THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WHERE A CITY THE SIZE OF BERKELEY WAS BEING BUILT BY A PROCESS WHERE THIS PROCESS OF CENTERING IS APPLIED.

THE SHATTERING IMPACT OF SUCH A TASK.

WILL DISCUSS NEXT WEEK.



Lec. HOWARD DAVIS.

— FIRST LECTURE IN LAST  $\frac{1}{3}$  OF COURSE.

GENERAL CHANGES NEEDED

- PRODUCTION      - ZONING      - FINANCING.
- CONSTRUCTION   - CONTROL

DEMANDED CHANGES IN THESE FIELDS.

◆ GENERAL EXAMPLES:

~~EXAMPLE~~ BOUNDARIES.

POSITIVE - NEGATIVE SPACE.

- PROBLEMS LACK GOOD PATTERNS AND/OR A PROBLEM OF PURE GEOMETRY.
- NOT INSTRUCTIVE TO LOOK AT BUILDINGS WHICH ARE GOOD IN ONLY SOME PARTS.

BESIDES LOOKING AT BAD EXAM  
WHAT KINDS OF PROCESSES ARE NEEDED  
TO REPLACE THE ONES EXISTING.

- ① - THE PROCESS OF GENERATION IN THE ENVIRONMENT, AT ALL SCALES, IS SOMEHOW SIMILAR TO THE GEOMETRIC PROCESSES OF CENTERING.

THIS MEANS THAT THE RESULTS ARE  
UNPREDICTABLE.

- ② - THE CAPACITY TO DO THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME.

THE PROCESS CANNOT BE HAMPERED BY  
PROCEDURES, TO DO RIGHT THING WHEN NEEDED.

- ③ - HAS TO ACT AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF SCALES AT THE SAME TIME.

- ④ - A KIND OF IMMEDIACY OF ACTION REQUIRED.

EXAMPLE : IN MEXICALI

- WERE ABLE TO PLACE FOUNTAIN IN EXACT PLACE.

- JUMP IN THE LEVEL OF SCALE.

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- THE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ITSELF:  
THE SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS, IS VERY IMPORTANT.

- ALSO TRUE IN A LARGE SCALE URBAN FORM.  
PROCEDURES WHICH ALLOW A STRUCTURE TO BE LAID OUT OVER THE COURSE OF TIME.  
NOT DESIGNED, BUT GREW NATURALLY.

◇ ARCHITECTS BELIEVE THEY CONTROL THE BUILDING

THE BUILDINGS ARE A PRODUCT OF A "CULTURE OF BUILDING" - A SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION  
ARCHITECTS ARE ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE BUILDING FABRIC.

EXAMPLE: A BUILDING IN ENGLAND.  
COMMUNITY BLDGS.

- PUBLIC BLDGS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT.

USING MODULAR PREFAB. COMPONENTS.

THE FORM OF THE BLDG. IS A RESULT OF THE PROCESS OF PRODUCTION.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: • DAVIS.

• MAJOR ARCHITECT.

- PARTNER IN CHARGE.
- CHIEF PARTNER.
- PLANNING COMMITTEE.
- PLAN CONSULTANTS.
- PLANNING OFFICIALS.
- BUILDING CODES.
- FIRE MARSHALS.
- CONTRACTORS
- SUB-CONTRACTORS.

BECAUSE THERE WERE ABOUT 30-40 PEOPLE INVOLVED. THE FORM OF THE BUILDING WAS SUCH THAT THE COMMUNICATION HAD TO BE CUT TO A MINIMUM.

THE SHAPES HAD TO BE STANDARDIZED.

→ THE DEGENERATE SHAPE THAT THE BLDG TAKES REFLECTS THE RELATIONSHIP INVOLVED.

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A SIMILAR THING IS TRUE FOR MOST BUILDINGS  
IN TERMS OF PRODUCTION THE SAME THING OCCURS.

• DETAILS HAVE TO MEET IN A CERTAIN WAY

AT THE LARGER FABRIC URBAN SCALE,  
THERE ARE THINGS EFFECTING THE FORM  
OF A CITY ~~THAT IS~~

• ZONING.

• LAND DIVISION EFFECTING BIG BUILDINGS  
AND SMALL BUILDINGS TO EXIST TOGETHER.

LAST PART OF COURSE

• SYSTEMS OF CONSTRUCTION WHICH ALLOW

• MODES OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION WHICH  
PUT THE CONTROL TO THE PEOPLE TO MAKE  
DECISIONS

• CHANGE IN CONCEPTION OF WHAT ARCHITECTS  
AND PLANNERS ROLES ARE.  
AND WHAT THEY COULD DO IN TERMS  
OF CHANGE

