

BUILDING PROCESS.

FOUR ASSUMPTIONS IN ARCHITECTURE:

1. BUILDINGS AS COMMODITIES.
2. BUILDINGS AS INVESTMENTS.
3. MASS PRODUCTION.
4. REMOTE CONTROL.

BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS - THEY DO NOT ALLOW THE PATTERNS TO OCCUR.

1. COMMODITY IS SOMETHING THAT COULD BE BOUGHT AND SOLD.

BLDGs AS COMMODITIES BOUGHT, USED AND SOLD... THEN TORN DOWN.

CONTRASTED WITH THE FEELING PEOPLE HAVE TOWARDS THEIR HOUSES.

- IN PUBLIC HOUSING - THEY BECOME "UNITS"
- THE AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM.
- SAME IN TRACT HOUSES.

→ NOT SO MUCH WHAT IS IT THAT'S GOOD FOR THE OWNER.

→ BUT AN INVESTMENT WHICH COULD BE SOLD FOR PROFIT.

- WHEN THIS IS NOT THE CASE - THE BUILDING ALLOWS US TO BE FREE - LIBERATED.

- THERE IS A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PERSON AND HIS HOUSE.

THIS ATTITUDE ~~IS~~ CONFUSES ~~THE~~ THIS RELATIONSHIP.

- ☆ THE SEPERATION AND FRAGMENTATIONS OF PARTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT ALSO RESULTS ~~FROM~~ ~~THE~~ THIS ATTITUDE OF PARTS INDEPEND. FROM THE REST OF THE ENVIRONMENT. COULD BE BOUGHT + SOLD.

2. INVESTMENT

→ MADE ON THE PART OF THE BANK.

examples

① → AT 11% Mortgage. A \$50,000 house costs \$171,421 by 30 YEARS. ~~BE~~ 3 X THE AMOUNT.

② → MORTGAGES ARE GENERALLY 30 YEARS. BANKS WANT TO KEEP LENDING MONEY.

→ BUILDINGS ARE BUILT NOT TO LAST MORE THAN 30 YEARS.

→ THIS DECLINES THE QUALITY OF BLDGS. ~~THE~~ PRESSURE FROM BANKS ON BLDGS SO THAT THEY COULD BE RENWED.

③ → BANKS SET VARIOUS STANDARDS FOR LENDING MONEY.

→ LEADS TO STANDARDIZATION.

→ LEADS TO HOUSES START LOOKING THE SAME.

THE CENTER TRIED TO DEVICE A SYSTEM OF HOUSING ~~WHEREBY~~ WITHOUT NEED FOR MORTGAGES.

→ START WITH SMALL AMOUNT OF SEED MONEY.

→ BUILDING GRADUALLY OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS.

→ THIS ATTITUDE FOR GROWTH IS IN TUNE WITH THE FAMILY'S.

→ THE MONEY SPENT IS SPREAD OUT OVER TIME RATHER THAN A LUMP SUM.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS HAVE THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS.

→ PRISONS ARE NOT BUILT ACCORDING TO THE CRIME RATE

→ PRESSURE ON THE STATE TO BUILD ~~SMALL~~ PRISONS. FROM THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY - ARCHITECTS. COMPANIES LENDING - ALL WANT TO MAKE PROFIT.

~ MOTIVES FOR BUILDINGS ~

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3. MASS PRODUCTION.

× TRAILER HOMES, BLDGS, COMPONENTS, MASS PRODUCTION OF THE PLANS, ZONING etc. OF TRAILER HOMES.

ASSUMED O.K. BY MASS PRODUCTION.

DIFFERENT FROM BLDG AS A PROCESS.
LEADS TO

- STANDARDIZATION OF DESIGN.
- DEGENERACY OF DESIGN.
- STERILITY.
- NO QUALITIES - THINGS ARE PRODUCED TO COVER UP THE STERILITY.
- W/W CARPETS, ARTIFICIAL STONE WALL..

THESE THINGS ARE RECOGNIZED AS IMPORTANT YET CANNOT BE HAD.

× MANUFACTURER PROVIDING ① BUILDING MATERIALS ~~THAT~~ ~~THE~~
OR ② EQUIPMENT TO THE BUILDER.

① IF YOU ARE PROVIDING BASIC MATERIALS YOUR FREEDOM IS NOT LIMITED.

② IF YOU ARE PROVIDING COMPONENTS THEN YOU CAN ONLY PUT THEM TOGETHER.

EQUIPMENT - ABLE TO INTRODUCE BUILDING SYSTEMS WHICH ARE LESS CAPITAL INTENSIVE.

→ SPRAYED CONCRETE AGAINST FORMWORK. USING EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT. YET DO NOT COMPROMISE A BUILDER'S ABILITY TO SHAPE HIS ENVIRONMENT.

4. REMOTE CONTROL.

PEOPLE NOT DIRECTLY IN CONTACT WITH ENVIRONMENT TO CONTROL IT FROM FAR AWAY.

BEHIND THE IDEA OF RENTAL AND SPECULATION. THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT IT IS O.K. TO OWN SOMETHING, CONTROL SOMETHING AND NOT BE NEAR IT.

BUILDING CODES: SAYS ITS O.K. FOR A PUBLIC BODY TO TAKE CONTROL OF A PERSON'S HOUSE.

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- BUILDING CODES ARE WRITTEN IN TERMS OF THE FINISHED PRODUCTS RATHER THAN THE PROCESS WHICH BUILDS THE BUILDING.
- ARMS LENGTH CONTROL OF B.CODES. SIMILAR TO ZONING LAWS. IN A NEIGHBORHOOD - WHO HAS THE KNOWLEDGE, RIGHT, + RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE LAND COMMONLY OWNED.
- TODAY - IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE CITY TAKES CONTROL.
- RELATES TO CONTROL WHICH PEOPLE OUGHT TO HAVE AT THE EXTREME LOCAL LEVEL
- RELATES TO TAXES PEOPLE PAY...
- PEOPLE'S DEALINGS W/ENV. HAPPENS AT LOCAL ENV. NEIGHBORHOOD - ~~NOT MUCH~~ ~~HOW~~
- THE MONEY DOESN GO INTO NEIGHBORHOODS
- DEGREE OF CONTROL NOT REFLECTED.

Lec: C. ALEXANDER.

ROLE OF ARCHITECT.

Q: WHAT CAN A PERSON FUNCTION IN THE WORLD TO PRODUCE BLDGS, NEIGHBORHOODS ETC. OF THE KIND DESCRIBED?

FIRST PART OF QUARTER.

① - DESCRIBED THEORY OF P. L. AND HOW THEY COULD WORK.

② - GEOMETRIC FUNCTIONS

③ - MANY INSTITUTIONS HAVE TO CHANGE TO ALLOW THINGS TO HAPPEN.

HENCE: WHAT IS?

THE STATUS OF THE ARCHITECT ~~THEY~~ MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

× RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN - DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION.
 × " " - ARCHITECT + BUILDER.
 × NATURE OF THE - " + "

2 FUNCTIONS SHOULD RESIDE IN A SINGLE PERSON.

THERE IS A PARADOX:

1. INTIMACY OF DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION.
2. THE CONSTRUCTION VOLUME IN SOCIETY AND NO. OF PEOPLE IN THE SAME FIELD.

◆ SINCE IN THE PROFESSION IT IS ASSUMED THAT DESIGN PROCESS COULD BE SEPERATED FROM THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

2 CATEGORIES OF REASONS:

1. SOCIAL
2. EMBEDDED IN THE ART.

IF WE AGREE THAT IN THE WORLD PEOPLE HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO THEIR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

PRACTICALLY - IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ALL PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH 2 ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSONS.

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→ THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE OF THE INCREMENTAL NATURE OF THE PROCESS
IT IS RIDICULOUS AT EACH POINT TO GO BACK TO THE ARCHITECT AND BUILDER.
- IT IS NOT PRACTICAL.

→ BUILDING CEREMONIES - IN ALL SOCIETIES PLAY A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE. THE ACT OF BUILDING SEEN AS A SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION - SOLIDIFYING PEOPLES LIVES.

→ WITH THIS IN MIND - THE BUREAUCRATIC DIVISION IS RIDICULOUS...

2. EMBEDDED IN THE ART.

PRACTICALLY:

AS ONE IS BUILDING, DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS ITSELF, ONE GETS INSIGHTS ON HOW TO PLACE THE NEXT STEP.

ABSTRACTLY:

IN TERMS OF THE CENTERING PROCESS.

WHEN YOU ARE BRINGING WHOLE INTO THE BUILDING - YOU ARE BRINGING FEELINGS INTO THE CONSTRUCTION -

THE DISTANCES TO THE LAST INCH.

EXAMPLE: HALLWAY IN HOUSE IN MARTINEZ.

→ ARCHITECTS OF EARLIER PERIOD ACTED AS P.R. MEN FOR INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES → LED THE WORLD TO BELIEVE THAT MODULAR COMPONENTS IS GOOD. THE PRODUCTS IN SWEETS CATALOGUE DO NOT ALLOW THE GEOMETRIC PROCESS IN WHICH THE LAST INCH COUNTS.

→ IN ORDER TO DO THIS: YOU HAVE TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP TO THE BUILDING - JUST LIKE A PAINTER TO HIS BRUSH.

→ SINCE ASSEMBLING COMPONENTS FROM SWEETS CATALOGUE ARE NOT O.K.

→ IT IS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP WAYS OF BUILDINGS WHICH WILL ALLOW THE PROCESS TO OCCUR.

→ NOT TO GO OUT AND ASSEMBLE COMPONENTS FROM SWEETS CATALOGUE.

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> DEVELOPMENT OF WAYS OF BLDG WHICH
CREATE THE UNITY BETWEEN DESIGN AND
CONSTRUCTION.

SLIDES:

- . BLDGS WITH THE KIND OF FREEDOM IS REFLECTED.
- GUIDE WORK FOR COLUMN.
- CORRUGATED CARDBOARD. USED AS FORMWORK FOR VAULTS. THIS ALLOWS FOR CONTROL TO THE LAST INCH.
- TILE STAMP.
- STYROPHOAM USED AS GUIDE WORK TO CREATE BALUSTRADE.
- STYROFOAM FORMWORK.
- RECESSED ORNAMENT IN A CEILING.

AIA ALLOWS ARCHITECT TO BE HIS OWN
CONTRACTOR - NOT FOR THE SAME REASON
PURELY ~~THE~~ FINANCIAL.
PARADOX

THERE 7,000 ARCHITECTS
400,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

THE NO. OF WORKERS REPRESENT THE
VOLUME OF CONSTRUCTION - VS. THE
VOLUME OF 7000 PROJECTS..

→ PROBLEM OF JOBS
+ " " DIGNITY OF THE WORKERS.

RESPONSIBILITIES INVOLVED:

SAFETY, LEGAL, HEALTH, FINANCIAL ETC...
HENCE 400,000 CANNOT DO IT.

EACH ONE OF 7000 IS RESPONSIBLE FOR
400,000.

EACH PROJECT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKERS.

→ HOW CAN YOU SET UP AN OPERATION WHEREBY
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT 60 WORKERS -
60,000 SQ. FT / year.

THIS IS A PARADOX -

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ASSUMING THAT 60 PEOPLE COULD WORK COHERENTLY, IN A PROCESS DESIGNED TO ALLOW PEOPLE TO BE PARTICIPATING IN A PERSONAL AND CREATIVE WAY.

→ NOT ONE AS AN OVERSEER (FOREMAN) GIVES GUIDANCE.

HOW DO YOU DEVICE A WAY TO DO THAT WITHOUT OPPRESSING THEM.

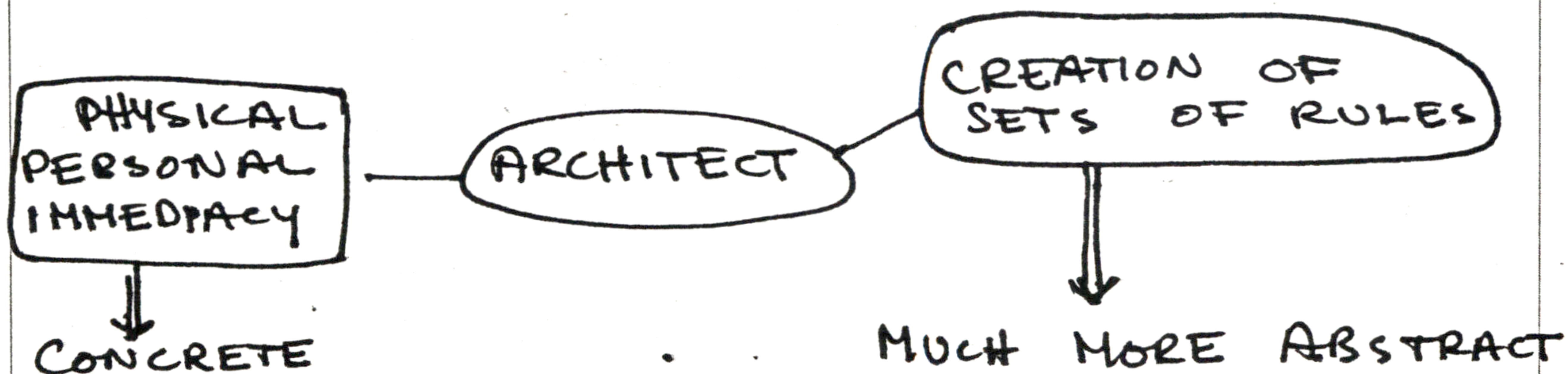
→ THE ANSWER BRINGS US TO THE GENERATIVE APPROACH.

→ ~~THE~~ WHAT ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IS THE CREATION OF A SET OF RULES WHICH PERMIT EACH THEIR FREEDOM AND ALSO GUARANTEE THE COHERENCY OF THE WHOLE WORK.

→ THE CREATION OF SETS OF RULES WHICH WILL CREATE ORDER IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

→ OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE THESE RULES.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST TASK AND ONLY WAY TO BRING SANITY BACK.



WHAT IS NEEDED ARE STRONG SETS OF RULES WHICH ARE SO DEEP AND SO POWERFUL THAT PEOPLE DO NOT LOSE THEIR CREATIVITY.

