Jan. 18  Board Meeting/Indianapolis
Jan. 27-29  Grassroots/Washington D.C.
Feb. 22  Executive Board/Meeting/Indianapolis
Mar. 28  Executive Board/Meeting/Indianapolis
April 25  Executive Board/Meeting/Indianapolis
May 5-7  AIA National Convention/Philadelphia
May 23  Board Meeting/Indianapolis
June 27  Executive Board/Meeting/Indianapolis
July 25  Board Meeting/Monthly
Aug. 22  Executive Board/Meeting/Indianapolis
Sept. 26  Board Meeting
Oct. 13-15  AIA IN/KY Convention/Louisville
Nov. 28  Board Meeting/Indianapolis
Dec. 15  Executive Board Meeting

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BSU DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE ADDS GLUE

For the first time, the Ball State College of Architecture is producing a student journal. Glors among us. Coming soon to a coffee table near you will be images and projects, stories and tales of places far and away, the artwork and paths of inquiry that perhaps you haven’t traveled in years. All bound in a package seen with the raw vision of the architecture student, spoken to you in the voice of the architecture student, produced by the very hands of the architecture student. Glors the tie that binds. On April 8 you could have, your very own BSU architecture journal. Collectors item? Perhaps. Unwinding in April is your connection.

Contact the BSU journal editors and let us know how you want us to see: you, too, two, two...
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AIA Indiana
SKETCHES
WINTER 2000

VIEWPOINT
JOURNEY TO NEPAL
Do you know the way to Kathmandu?
by Jackson Faber, AIA

I knew I had made my last mistake in October when I started teaching architecture at Ball State University. I told my wife over a toast that I was going to teach a short course on Anzac Day and lecture on computer use in design. After thinking about it, discussing it with my wife, and receiving financial aid from both universities, I decided that I had nothing to lose. When the plane left, I drove down the road to travel to an exotic location? So, I packed my bags and left on a 27-hour plane ride to the highest mountain in the lower forty-eight.

Before going too far, I should give some background information on Nepal. Nepal is located between India and Tibet and is approximately the size of Maine. Kathmandu is the capital and has an approximate population of 200,000. It also has an extremely varying climate, from the subtropical jungle at the border of India to the sub-zero temperatures at the top of Everest. Kathmandu is located within a valley and is bordered to the north by the Himalaya Mountains, which can be seen from many of the city’s holy sites and roof tops.

As I flew into Kathmandu, I could see the city spread out towards the edges of the valley. The roofed buildings were glowing in the afternoon sunlight in different shades of orange, red, and gray. I could see very little vegetation in the city, and I also noticed that all the buildings were approximately the same height. I discovered that the similar heights were due to the lack of construction methods. Older buildings were untied, hand-saving, but newer construction was built with a concrete skeleton with brick in fill. These methods became prevalent because brick is very expensive and is used for decorative purposes. The buildings were all approximately three to four stories in height, with only one very low six-story building.

The reason for this is that the Himalaya Mountain range is continually growing taller due to the fact that India is sliding under the Asian continent. This creates numerous earthquakes throughout the country and is thought to be given to devastating the structures in the brick buildings. Another reason for the relatively low buildings is that there are too many corners or rivers for getting building materials to a high elevation. To to an example I saw some men working on a building, and they suspended woven baskets from their heads, which rested on the bricks; they then had the baskets loaded with bricks or cement. After being filled, they would carry them up loaders to the floor where the work was being done. The workers would unload their baskets, climb down, and then do it all over again. This work was going on as it was only approximately 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

After finally landing in Kathmandu, I felt the plane, turned towards customs, got my baggage, and made my way to the out doors of the airport. I was advised that I should know exactly where I wanted to go before I left the airport because I was going to be mobbed by people wanting me to take their hotel or use their train. Even though I was told that, I was not prepared for the actual experience. I reached the next door, looked out, and saw three busloads of people crowded up against barriers that the police put up across the international travelers would be able to get out of the airport. Seeing this, I proceeded to get my bags, then ventured between five closed police officers and into the bushes. Before I made it out of the door, three people were on both sides of me asking if I needed a hotel or a taxi. I couldn’t figure how they got behind the barricades. I was trying to locate the truck with a sign to it that had my name on it because the hotel that said they would send someone to pick me up. At this point, I had probably moved only six feet from the door, and most people were coming in my direction. I suddenly saw my name, but how I was able to see it—no idea. There was a young Nepalese kid with a sign that had my name on it, but I strongly tried to call it out because it must have been only 5” x 7” and written with what looked like a pencil. I pointed at the kid, and he pointed to the end of the barricade.

When the guys who were trying to get me crowded up to see or hear from me the first thing I found is that I was looking for, some of them left to assist more vacationers from the plane. The people that stayed with me were new friends who now wanted to help me with my bags. They tried to take my bag off my shoulder, they tried to pull my luggage for me, and they first ran out of things to do or it was walked away from the airport. As I finally made it to the car, my luggage and I pulled myself in while trying not to smash one of the children’s arms when I shut the door. I got down, relaxed, and closed my eyes. I then fell little hands reaching in from the windows tapping me and pulling on my collar. “Would you have tea?” the children were all saying. I was too tired to say, “No.” But I was here for because I was filthy with no shoes on and spilled alchohol. They didn’t stop talking until I could see down for a foot that they had to take their own cats out of the window.

After all that, my nerves were on edge. It was the first time for my first experience with how they drive in Kathmandu. They drive on the left, like England, but that was the only similarity. They have a white line that runs down the middle of the road, but nobody pays any attention to it. Even cars will pass each other straight on coming traffic, it was total madness, and I was probably half an hour that we didn’t work before we made it to the hotel. We needed it safely, I was shown to my room, I sat down, and said to myself, “What in the hell did I get myself into?”

This main mode of transportation in Kathmandu is the motorcycle. I would see entire families on one motorcycle. The largest family that I saw was one motorcycle, two children. The father was driving, the mother was riding side-saddle on the back, between the passenger was a young child under 10 years old, and finally between the father’s legs was a small child roughly 5 years old or younger. All had helments on, but they also were wearing masks for breathing due to the very bad pollution of the city. Since there is relatively no grass or green areas in the city and the street is everywhere. The main public transportation is by bus or three-wheeled canvas-covered cars called “Tembors.” Both of these black block smoke and give out the air. I would see rows of them riding motorcycles, and bicycles, and even walking down the street. Nepaleses people use bicycles for transportation, and in my opinion, it was the best for getting around the narrow medieval streets of the city.

The city is a conglomerate of very few large main streets and a massive web of small meandering roads and paths, all woven together, was quite unusual. There is no way that one could walk around to find a residence.

The architecture of the city is amazing. It is absolutely incredible. It is obvious that we have no现金 in America. What struck me first was the amount of brick structures that are located within the city. It appears as if everything is brick. I discovered that the reason for proliferation of brick construction is because the wood is so expensive to find, it is the easiest and most durable material to use. It was easy to see how much city the soil has in it when I was taken to Tibet. While we were driving through the mountainous roads, I could see the trees were growing on the bright orange color of the soil. In fact, the trees were stained orange from the soil bare or luxor to the trunks. As the tree grew, the soil stained the trunk, and it didn’t wash off as it became taller. It was a weak and tree-like thing to see dark orange tree trunks.

In Kathmandu, the residential buildings were very interesting. But what really stood out was the numerous temples located throughout the city. Religion is such an important part of Nepali society that one can not go very far without coming across some religious structure, which is almost as if you couldn’t be there without it. One thing that I really enjoyed finding to try and find one of these religious sites, which was very difficult because there are no straight roads or street signs, and the maps of the city do not distinguish between paths and dirt roads. As I approached the site, I felt no idea that it was close. The narrow street was crowded with people, wildlife, and chickens, and at one time point even an elephant. After passing through the streets, the major part of people that seemed to move without an explanation or direct south, to see dark orange tree trunks. In Kathmandu, the residential buildings were very interesting. But what really stood out was the numerous temples located throughout the city. Religion is such an important part of Nepali society that one can not go very far without coming across some religious structure, which is almost as if you couldn’t be there without it. One thing that I really enjoyed finding to try and find one of these religious sites, which was very difficult because there are no straight roads or street signs, and the maps of the city do not distinguish between paths and dirt roads. As I approached the site, I felt no idea that it was close. The narrow street was crowded with people, wildlife, and chickens, and at one time point even an elephant. After passing through the streets, the major part of people that seemed to move without an explanation or direct south, to see dark orange tree trunks. In Kathmandu, the residential buildings were very interesting. But what really stood out was the numerous temples located throughout the city. Religion is such an important part of Nepali society that one can not go very far without coming across some religious structure, which is almost as if you couldn’t be there without it. One thing that I really enjoyed finding to try and find one of these religious sites, which was very difficult because there are no straight roads or street signs, and the maps of the city do not distinguish between paths and dirt roads. As I approached the site, I felt no idea that it was close. The narrow street was crowded with people, wildlife, and chickens, and at one time point even an elephant. After passing through the streets, the major part of people that seemed to move without an explanation or direct south, to see dark orange tree trunks.
The profession of architecture, and architectural education, are by no means immune to the world's current current reorientation. In the midst of the chaos of the modern milieu, we find ourselves in many ways sitting front and center of the transformation. We are not merely engaged in trying to avoid the conflict, our profession, indeed, needs to jump directly into it. The education of architects seeks as a primary goal the development and application of an intellectual thinking that balances rich and problem-solving abilities. In stark contrast to the current scientific method, problem solving by architects involves and invokes a symbiosis between the cyclic exchange of comprehensive analysis and creative synthesis. Many of today's problems simply cannot be solved using myopic and linear approaches. Architecture, as discipline, depends on its capacity to synthesize and ecnhe, intuition and reason, art and science, in a specific and the general. Not surprisingly, many disciplines outside of architecture, from teaching to management, look to us closely at our design processes and the pedagogy of the studies.

The Mission of the Department of Architecture, Ball State University

Provide an environment that will enable a diverse student body to develop successful practice of Architecture.

2 Develop in students the capacity for interdisciplinary and critical thinking, visual and intellectual skill.

3 Argue for re-definition of the fields and by no means immune to the world's current reorientation. In the midst of the chaos of the modern milieu, we find ourselves in many ways sitting front and center of the transformation. We are not merely engaged in trying to avoid the conflict, our profession, indeed, needs to jump directly into it. The education of architects seeks as a primary goal the development and application of an intellectual thinking that balances rich and problem-solving abilities. In stark contrast to the current scientific method, problem solving by architects involves and invokes a symbiosis between the cyclic exchange of comprehensive analysis and creative synthesis. Many of today's problems simply cannot be solved using myopic and linear approaches. Architecture, as discipline, depends on its capacity to synthesize and ecnhe, intuition and reason, art and science, in a specific and the general. Not surprisingly, many disciplines outside of architecture, from teaching to management, look to us closely at our design processes and the pedagogy of the studies.

Suffice to state that I believe our profession is well poised to provide real value, and demonstrate great leadership. I argue that this is the moment for the new millennium. I see in students of architecture much promise and potential to confront tomorrow's complex problems—not merely devising potent solutions in a technical sense but more critically as pertains to social, cultural, and civic issues. Our modern world, with its plethora of crises, dilemmas and challenges, needs professionals who can combine this rich knowledge and wisdom. The interdisciplinarity, foundation of architects, coupled with a unique and potent approach to tackling difficult ‘wicked’ problems, places us in a very fortunate and special position. Opportunity knocks.
TAKING AN EVEN LONGER VIEW

Also in Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art presents At the End of the Century: One Hundred Years of Architecture, on view through February 27, 2000. The retrospective offers a look at the century’s visions and achievements in architecture and urban design. Organized in 21 sections, the exhibition presents a dynamic sequence of episodes, movements, and thematic developments, such as the defining role of tradition and innovation in the century's architecture; the crucial significance of technology in the making of buildings; and the contrast between large-scale urban settings and the intimate environment of the domestic sphere. The exhibit includes landmarks, such as Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, Le Corbusier’s Ronchamp and the Sears Tower, among others.

SEEKING NOTEWORTHY SCHEMES

The Palos Verdes Art Center is now accepting entries to its International Architectural Design Competition. The Center is seeking to create, on its current site, an expanded campus that includes a renovation and expansion of the current site, an expanded campus that includes the best competition entry. Your work will be judged by critics, architects, and architectural critics, whose bios are posted on the website: www.pvartcenter.org, along with additional competition information. Cash prizes will total $10,000, which includes $1,000 for best student entry. Competition materials are available through February 15, and entries are due July 1. For more information, contact the Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 West Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275; phone, 301.541.2479; fax, 310.541.9520.

SEEKING ATTENDEES

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will host a day-long forum entitled Housing Solutions: Low Income Housing Options for the Elderly and Disabilities. The forum is being designed to address the needs and challenges of housing for special needs populations by focusing on effective projects, lessons from problem projects, and available resources. The forum will be held February 10 at Primo Banquet Hall North, 5649 Lee Road. For more information, visit the web site www.hud.gov or contact Terri Porter at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Indiana State Office, Field Policy and Management, 151 North Delaware Street, Suite 1200, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2256; phone, 317.226.6303; fax, 317.226.6317.

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

Coproduced by AIA Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, the exhibit Chicago Architecture: The Art of the Long View, on view at the CAF Atrium Gallery through February 28, 2000, provides a snapshot of new projects that will affect the built environment of the Chicago area in the 21st century. Designed by more than 80 firms are included in the exhibit. Various related events, including lectures and tours, have been organized in conjunction with the exhibition. For more information, visit the AIA Chicago web site at www.aiachicago.org, or call 312.922.3412.

Morrison Katman Menze Louis Motte Block

Works by architects and planners identified with Chicago are also included, such as Daniel Burnham, Louis Sullivan, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, Bertrand Goldberg, Helmut Jahn, and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. For information on the exhibition, accompanying catalogue and ancillary events, visit the MCA web site at www.mca-chicago.org, or call 312.397.4040, or write to 220 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60611-2604.

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