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Students' Notebooks

Extractions from notebooks prepared by second year students in the School of Architecture at UW-M.

NCARB

Corrective statements pertaining to the article “50th Annual Convention of NCARB” in the November '71 issue of Wisconsin Architect with regard to architectural examinations.

Helen C. White Hall

A new structure for the University of Wisconsin, Madison, designed by Fitzhugh Scott, Architects/Planners, housing an undergraduate library, library school of science and offices for philosophy and english departments plus parking accommodations and facilities for a pedestrian overpass.

News Notes

News about a lecture series “The Urban Future 1984 and After” at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; The School of Architecture at UW-M; and an Engineering Institute, “Critical Path Method” at the University Extension, The University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Cover Photo: Thomas E. Hall

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Extractions from notebooks prepared by second year students Tom Vonier and Gene Guszkowski in the School of Architecture, UW-M.

PERCEPTION

THE MECHANICS OF SPATIAL PERCEPTION GO FAR BEYOND THE RETINAL IMAGES CREATED BY OUR EYES. THE ACTUAL PERCEPTION OF WHAT THESE IMAGES REPRESENT IS AIDED BY OTHER MEANS.

YOUR SPATIAL PERCEPTION OF A ROOM WITH A CARPET DIFFERS COMPLETELY WITH YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE SAME ROOM WITHOUT A CARPET BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN:

1. ACOUSTICS
2. PRESSURE BENEATH YOUR FEET.

ARCHITECTURE IS:

FEEL
SEEN
SMELLED
HEARD
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN HEARD AND FELT?"
"WOW IT'S DIFFERENT"
PERCEPTION

THE KINESTHETIC SENSE (WHICH CONTROLS THE LOCATION OF OUR LIMBS) AND THE VESTIBULAR SENSE (WHICH CONTROLS RATE OF MOTION AND INCLINATIONS OF THE BODY RELATIVE TO THE VERTICAL) TOGETHER ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN BALANCE.

AS A RESULT, MOST OF ARCHITECTURE CONSISTS OF:

\[ \text{Horizontal planes which allow deviation with a minimum of effort} \]
\[ \text{Vertical reference planes to keep us straight} \]

AND SO....

\[ \text{Squared planes with a dynamic quality and a challenge to human equilibrium} \]

IN ITS SEARCH FOR ORDER AND SIMPLICITY, THE MIND WORKS IN 2 WAYS - EITHER BY REDUCING OR BY BUILDING UP. VISUAL PERCEPTION WORKS IN THE SAME WAY.

PERCEPTION

REDUCTION

WHEN LOOKING AT A COMPLEX FORM, CERTAIN GENERAL LINES OF STRUCTURE ARE REGISTERED BEFORE THE DETAILS.

\[ \text{Complex form} \rightarrow \text{Reduced} \]

COMPLETION

WHEN THERE IS A MINIMUM OF INFORMATION, THE MENTAL ACTIVITY IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND TENDS TOWARD COMPLETION.

\[ \text{Minimal information} \rightarrow \text{Completed} \]
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EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE MASONRY
We received a communication regarding the article on the 50th Annual Convention of NCARB in the November, 1971, issue of this magazine from Samuel T. Balen, AIA, Director of Professional Services of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, with the following corrective statements:

"Regarding the article on the 50th Annual Convention of NCARB that appeared in the November, 1971, issue of the Wisconsin Architect we wish to point out several items which are incorrect.

"We would first like to explain that the author of the article, Mr. Bernard H. Hillyer, is a member of the North Dakota Architectural Registration Board. His title of Chairman reflects that he is Chairman of the local AIA-NCARB Committee. As a member of a State Registration Board, Mr. Hillyer is, by such association, a member of NCARB, however, he does not currently hold any position or title with NCARB.

"The article published was not originally written by Mr. Hillyer for publication. Since he was the only member of the North Dakota Board in attendance at the Convention, he wrote this paper only to advise those members of his Board what took place at the Convention. These comments were taken from his own notes. The article was never intended to be published. But since it has, and has had some considerable distribution, it is vital that comments on the article be published to prevent misinterpretations.

"Regarding the Equivalency Examination; the duration will be two days but the exact number of hours has not been set. It will be between 18 and 20 hours long. As to the number of hours for each of the three parts, this is still fluctuating as is the number of questions in each part. On the second day of the Equivalency Examination, Part II and III will be administered. Part II, entitled 'Architectural Theory,' is a combination of the current History, Theory and Planning Exam and will be 2 to 2½ hours in duration. Part I, 'Construction Theory and Practice' and Part II will be multiple choice, machine graded exams. Part III, 'Design' is a combination of the current Design and Site exams. Part III is a graphic problem and will be graded in the same manner as the current Design and Site Planning exams.

"Regarding the transition from the current examination to the proposed new format, and those individuals who may be caught in the transition, the exact formula has not yet been determined. In general, the concept is those who have passed a substantial part of the current exam would be required to take and pass only those parts of the Equivalency Exam that correspond to the parts of the current exam not yet passed. Having passed this, they would be eligible for State registration or licensing.

"For those who have not passed a substantial part of the current exam, the format is somewhat different. Those with or without the accredited architectural degree will take the entire Equivalency Exam and after passing that, take the entire Professional Exam. What is considered to be a 'substantial' part of the current exam is still uncertain. However, a 'substantial portion' may be considered as passing at least 5 parts of the current exam and three of these five parts must be Design, Structures and History.

"The proposed implementation schedule of the new examination format is to offer the Equivalency Examination for the first time in December, 1972, and once each year thereafter. The first time the Professional Examination will be offered is June, 1973, and once each year thereafter. The last time the current seven part examination will be given is June, 1972. For those States that give the exam only once a year and if it is in December, will have, presumably, given the seven part exam for the last time in December, 1971.

"As to the list of Resolutions contained in Mr. Hillyer's article, item #1 was not adopted but tabled. Item #2, referring to issuance of wallet cards refers only to the wallet cards issued to NCARB Certificate holders. NCARB wallet cards are no longer issued except on specific request.

"Item #3; the 'Senior' examination has not been discontinued. The resolution that was passed established a cut-off date of December 31, 1971, after which no credits will be granted for admission to the 'senior' oral exam for Council Certification. Those who do not fulfill the 10 year practice as a principal or equivalent since initial registration by exemption or 'grandfather' clauses requirement prior to December 31, 1971, must take the standard written examination for Council Certification."
Helen C. White Hall

Perspective Looking North
The Helen C. White Hall of the University of Wisconsin-Madison is located on the shore of Lake Mendota at the end of Park Street, immediately to the west of the Student Union Theater. When the University was searching for a location for a new Undergraduate Library several sites were considered that were more in the mainstream of student traffic. The librarian of the University in particular felt that this was important so as to siphon off the undergraduates (who were many and in search of relatively few books) who were muddling up the main library which was basically a graduate type library with many books and accommodations for few seats.

The site which was eventually selected was not in the mainstream of pedestrian traffic, but perhaps had the most commanding view of all sites on the Madison campus. At the time this site was being considered, windowless libraries were common and it appears now in retrospect that
Continued

the faculty dining (and drinking) facility which was to go on the top floor swayed the final selection of real estate. Interestingly enough, this part of the program was dropped because of liquor laws which prohibit drinking in a university building.

After making countless schemes and spending better than a year arguing the merits and disadvantages of cars on campus, parking in university buildings and pedestrian overpasses, the original program was finally upheld. This program consisted of:

A. College Library —
   84,000 sq. ft. net
   2,500 seats
   180,000 vols. books

B. Parking —
   200 cars on two levels
   70,000 net sq. ft.

C. Library School of Science — 24,000 net sq. ft.

D. Offices for Philosophy and English Departments — 46,000 net sq. ft.

E. Pedestrian Overpass

Total assignable area — 160,960 sq. ft.
Total estimated gross area — 236,800 sq. ft.

Parking facility gross — 90,000 sq. ft.

Building construction cost — $6,000,000. 14.5c per lb. Weight of building (empty) 41,784,834 lbs. (For those who quantify architecture a la Buckminster Fuller.)

The program suggested a building with the library and parking on the lower six levels, the roof of which would form an observation deck on which an office tower would be built topped with the faculty dining rooms.

The topography (as all University of Wisconsin students know) changes Park Street from a fairly flat plain to a steep climb westward up Bascom Hill. This site at the foot of a hill can not suggest a tower type building to the project architect, but rather a horizontal building which would “slop up” the contours. The authors of the program reconsidered this basic idea (and with the elimination of the faculty...
y dining room about this time the decision was easier), and agreed to the concept.

A horizontal scheme lends itself well to parking, libraries and (autonomous) layouts for departments like the English, Philosophy and Library School of Science.

The biggest single problem to be solved was how to engage pedestrian traffic, which basically flowed from the Student Union west and south toward Bascom Hill, and divert it comfortably into the library building. The inclination of all who dealt with the project was to put great emphasis on the lake side of the building, which was certainly understandable. However this approach also tended to work against the idea of bringing students into the building, in that the building would face the lake rather than the campus. Also, the very nature of the open stack library would not permit anything but one or two controlled type entrances which would limit the use of the lake side in any event. A plaza or outside space on the lake has the great disadvantage of the cold winds which are frequent during most of the school year, and the shadow effect of the building walls around it.

The project architect felt that creating a large outdoor space facing the south and at an elevation close to that of Park Street would visually pull the students into the building across a warm sunny plaza, as the librarian had hoped for. Then the building, on the outside, would face the campus, but also would permit a long facade on the north, west and east sides which would open up the best inside views to readers sitting behind the shelter of windows.

To accommodate the students and faculty coming and going via the Bascom Hill route a third level entrance was created. This upper entrance is reached by a third level bridge, which is level and at an elevation one-third of the way up Bascom Hill. This pedestrian bridge cannot be completed.
Helen C. White Hall continued

until Radio Hall is moved to the new Communications Arts Building which is now under construction. Until this pedestrian bridge is completed, the full value of the design cannot be realized.

The nine levels of the building are connected by two elevator systems — one for the college library which must be (for security reasons) separated from the offices.

The choice of reinforced concrete for the structure was quite obvious, because of the heavy floor loads for the library (150 lbs. per square foot), the parking ramps, the excellent soil conditions and the requirement for good sound separation between floors. The bay spacing of 30’ x 30’ was chosen to accommodate a reasonable parking plan under the building (three cars per bay width) and at the same time permit good book stack layouts in the library. (A 27’ x 27’ bay is more ideal for libraries, because of shelving.) However, because this particular library has a low book student ratio as compared to graduate libraries, the librarian felt that a 5’-0” center-to-center for book shelving was quite acceptable rather than the standard modular of 4’-6”, and a 10’ office module which is used throughout the campus.

The overall color of the building is warm gray, matching the limestone on the Student Union to the east. It was felt that this color concept was very important because the only other large building relating directly to the project was the large dominant dark red brick Science Hall. The project architect felt that a third color would weaken the visual effect and the gray colors were easy to achieve with the reinforced concrete shell.

The exterior of the building is primarily architectural concrete, oversized brick and smooth precast concrete to match the architectural concrete. The building has a large amount of bronze glass to permit many views out of the building in all directions.
CONTEMPORARY TRENDS
SPEAKERS WILL LOOK INTO
URBAN FUTURE

MILWAUKEE—"The Urban Future: 1984 and After" will be the theme of this year's Contemporary Trends lecture series at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The lecture-discussion course is open and free to the public. Seniors may take the course for two credits. Lectures will be held Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Lecture Hall. (It is expected the series will be moved to the Union addition when the new section is ready.)

Prof. Richard Peltz, of the Philosophy Department, series coordinator, announced the schedule:

Jan. 18, Discussion with enrolled students.
Feb. 1, John Irwin, Professor of Sociology, San Francisco State College; former inmate of Soledad Prison.
Feb. 8, Howard L. Boorman, Professor of History, Vanderbilt University; specialist on China.
Feb. 15, Jaroslav Pelikan, Professor of Religious Studies, Yale University; author of "From Luther to Kierkegaard," "Obedient Rebels" and many other books.
Feb. 22, Peter C. Goldmark, President, CBS Laboratories; Director, Cities of the Future; Leader in the development of Cable Television, and inventor of the Long-playing Record.
March 7, Ron Herron and Dennis Crompton, Co-partners in Archigram Architects of London.
March 14, James Bennett, environmental physiologist; Director of Environmental Affairs, Schlitz Brewing Company.
March 21, Patricia Sexton, Professor of Sociology and Education, New York University; Author of "Blue Collar and Hard Hats," "The Feminized Male," and "Spanish Harlem."
March 28, Harold Fisch, Rector, Bar-Ilan University, Israel.
April 11, William Harley, President, National Association of Educational Broadcasters.
April 18, Dr. Oliver Byrd, emeritus chairman, Department of Health Education, Stanford University.
April 25, Ihab Hassan, Vilas Professor of English and Comparative Literature at UWM, and author of several books, including "Radical Innocence: Studies in the Contemporay American Novel" and "The Dismemberment of Orpheus: Toward a Postmodern Literature."

Additional sponsors of the program will be the School of Education, School of Nursing, the Center for Twentieth Century Studies, the School of Architecture, and the Institute of World Affairs.

March 18, Discussion with enrolled students.
March 25, Robert Theobald, sociologist, Columbia University, author of "Future Conditional," "Habits and Habits" and co-author of "Teg's 1994."

A $500 gift from Mr. Webster Woodmansee, Milwaukee, to cover one full scholarship for the School of Architecture to be designated "The Daily Reporter Scholarship."

A $95.00 Christmas gift from the employees of John E. Somerville Associates, Inc., Architects-Engineers, Green Bay, to be used in the name of the firm as a scholarship for a worthy and needy student in the School of Architecture.

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

It was learned that the following gifts are to be presented to the Board of Regents on February 11, 1972, for formal acceptance:

A $500 gift from Mr. Webster Woodmansee, Milwaukee, to cover one full scholarship for the School of Architecture to be designated "The Daily Reporter Scholarship."

A $95.00 Christmas gift from the employees of John E. Somerville Associates, Inc., Architects-Engineers, Green Bay, to be used in the name of the firm as a scholarship for a worthy and needy student in the School of Architecture.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

An Engineering Institute, "Critical Path Method" will be held on March 15, 16, and 17, 1972. This institute will provide experience in the use of the critical path method in planning and scheduling projects of all types. It is assumed the student has little or no prior knowledge or CPM.

A network developed by student teams will be used as case studies.

This course is designed to provide people with a good working knowledge of CPM. They should be able to make applications of the technique to actual projects after completing the course.

Your prompt enrollment is encouraged as the enrollment limit is 30 people.

The fee for the three-day institute is $150. Inquiries should be sent to Dr. William C. Dries, Program Director, University of Wisconsin-Extension, 432 North Lake Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Telephone: (608) 262-2061.
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