

Seattle's Calendar for Architecture and Design

Vol. I, No. 5

July 1981

One Dollar



There should be a nursery near the office building so that kids will know their parents are nearby. If something happened to the child the day care workers could just go get the parents, not call. There should be a restaurant nearby that they can walk to so that the parents don't have to eat in the coffee room.

I think kids should get a special place where kids can sail without the water being toocrowded. And it's too polluted and messy when adults use the water tooso, if kids have a separate place to sail it's going to be cleaner and the water will be healthier. And kids can learn in a clean environment. But we will have adult supervision. This month, ARCADE has published two "soft" alternatives to the Downtown Land Use and Transportation Use, currently in process at Seattle's Office of Policy and Evaluation. These "soft" alternatives were received by the City in June, and will be used to develop the final plan for Downtown. Published here are the "soft" alternatives by some members of Bassetti Norton Metler Architects; and portions of the alternative by the children in the Option Program at Stevens School.

Kids in Action:

Children were given a 12" x 18" piece of paper with a street down the middle. They lined the street with color-coded paper squares representing six land-use categories: public buildings, offices, retail, apartments, residences, open space. Later these were discussed in terms of appropriateness: ("Why did you put the playfield next to the store? What are the advantages and disadvantages of that?)

Students were asked to represent their streetscapes in ways which showed what they'd be like when viewed from the street rather than from the air. They compared their original "birds-eye views" to the "pedestrians-eye view" and made revisions according to the new considerations (views, changes in scale, shadows).

The children took a field trip to the 400 Yesler Building to hear presentations by various City offices (OPE, DCD, Neighborhood Planning). They were introduced to zoning and the reasons behind it: how neighborhoods are designated for particular kinds of uses and buildings. They heard about the current Downtown Plan.

Students invented skylines and then (using their color code) blocked in the kinds of uses that they felt would best fit. Much discussion occurred about different skyline shapes and their uses. After much discussion they voted on a three-part "decentralized" skyline (two smaller pyramids on either side of a central "core" pyramid), which they felt would offer most in terms of ease of transportation to and from the dense areas, where light and air should be (lowrise, open space).

On a Thursday all 90 students went for a visit downtown. They could choose one of five destinations to visit with their group: Pioneer Square, Pike Place Market, Metro Transit Headquarters, Urban Parks and Open Space and Skyscrapers/Office Tower District.

underground Partiang

think More Kids

come

down

Make them like old buildings. If I had one wish to change the parks Downtown I would: Take the bums away. Make the pooper-scooper law be followed. Make more. Make them bigger than they are. Take away the redwood.

Take some away.

Make them look nice.

Take away the redwood. Put in some heated pools and ice

Make only two big buildings.



The space above ground has limits. The space below ground doesn't. There's three ways to get to this building.

Air transportation, subway, and bus or car.

I think kids would come Downtown if they had maps you could read. They would be plastic coated. I would have miniature buildings like at the Seattle Center.

A different

Seattle center

The students made a 16-foot long plan of a street, divided it into parcels of "land" and zoned it for various uses, which were then offered to other students for development. "Developers" submitted design proposals and if they met the general design criteria specifi ' in the zoning, they were approved . A given plywood and paint to construct their building along the 200-foot long "street" in the schoolyard. This "street" will be exhibited at City Fair in July.

One group of students assembled drawings and writings into book form to submit to the City's Office of Policy Planning as a "soft" alternative for the Downtown Transportation and Land Use Plan. In the fall work will continue, developing "hard" alternatives from one or two of the suggestions submitted this June.

Ways to Improve Downtown by the kids at Stevens School: Jennifer Amy Maika Mary John Dylan Mike Kira Jesse Kendra Lisa Katie

more Seattle

Centers

town if there were



French, born this day 1713. He studied in Rome like



Exhibit: "When Getting There Was Half The Fun," takes an historic look at earlier transportation within the Puget Sound region. Museum of History and Industry, 2161 East Hamlin Street, Seattle.

Exhibit: An installation of flat glass panels by Dick Weiss, glass vessels by Sonjia Blomdahl, and fiber art by Carolyn Cooley Browne are featured. Traver/Sutton Gallery.

Exhibit: "Roy Lichtenstein, 1970-1980," includes paintings, drawings, bronze casts and sculpture maquettes by one of America's most POWerful pop artists. It's ZAPpening at the Seattle Art Museum, Volunteer Park. Through September 6.

\$90.00 non-members. Advance registration required. Contact Ed Webber (509) 248-5020; 633 Miller Building, Yakima 98901.

husbands or guests, \$40.00 associates,

\$30.00 students, \$75.00 industry guests,

had a serious attitude towards Roman antiquity and produced an elegant neo-classical style.

others of his generation. He



10th Anniversary of Save the Market is this coming November. For event planning information contact Virginia Fleton, 625-4764.

Exhibit Upcoming: Erica Williams/Anne Jackson Gallery is planning a showing of contemporary architectural drawings by West Coast designers in September. More information will be available in next month's Arcade.

Exhibit: "The Northwest (featuring paintings and sc established Northwest artis Mark Tobey, Guy A Margaret Tomkins as well and lesser known region Whatcom Museum of Histo 121 Prospect Street, B Washington. Through Aug

CityFair Event: City Bungalows. 7:00-7:30 PM, Mercer Forum, Seattle Remodeling. 1:30-2:00 PM,

Center. Workshop: Nino Caruso, Founder and Director of the Centro Internazionale di Ceramica in Rome, demonstrates techniques for creating modules from styrofoam prototypes, traditional procedures of ceramic molding, slip casting, glazing and firing. A part of the "Clay in Architecture" series. 10:00 AM-4:00 PM July 6-10 at the Factory, School of Visual Art, 632-8177.

Robert Adam, English, born this day 1728. Renowned architect, "decorator" and furniture designer in Britain during the late 1700s, designed in a flamboyant neo-classical style.

Exhibit: Barbara Lewis is showing sculptural interpretations of functional objects in soda-fired porcelain and raku ware. Also new photographic works by Dorothy Roberts including gum bichromate prints on cloth. Cicada Gallery.

Exhibit: The Factory, School of Visual Arts presents "Clay in Architecture," featuring 14 regional artists. Through July 17. 632-8177.

Giorgio de Chirico, Italian, born this day 1888. Inspired "Metaphysical" painting, an art movement which enjoyed a period of popularity in Italy between 1916-1921.

Exhibit: The Silver Image Gallery will feature photographs of North American Indians by Edward Curtis. Special evening lectures on Mr. Curtis' work are planned. Call 623-8116 for further information. The exhibit runs July 9-August 15, and the gallery is located at 92 S. Washington St.

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read the vare that times per issues will nonths of combined d will be August.

Alexander Jackson Davis, American, born this day 1803. Davis co-founded the A.I.A. He cornered the market on government architecture by doing the state capitol buildings for North Carolina, Indiana, Illinois, CityFair Workshop: Cost-effective remodeling. 1:30-2:00 PM, Center Stage, Exhibition Hall, Seattle Center. Given again July 8; 6:00-6:30 PM.

JULY



Workshop: Farley Tobin, New York ceramist, demonstrates technical aspects of tile making for interior and exterior spaces as part of the "Clay in Architecture" series. 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, July 13-17 at the Factory, School of Visual Art, 632-8177.

WALKING TOUR: Seattle Art & Architecture is sponsoring this tour of Lake Union Houseboats. The tour will include a discussion of the

Architecture is sponsoring this tour of Lake Union Houseboats. The tour will include a discussion of the history of houseboats and floating lifestyles. Cost is \$6. Tour begins at 1:00 PM. For reservations and information, call 682-4435.

Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, Austrian, born this day 1656. Architect and author of disputedly the first comprehensive historical survey or architecture, Entwurf einer historischen Architektur (1721). Most famous works are the Imperial Library, and the Church of St. Charles Borromaeus. Vienna.

Tour a Solar Remodel: To participate, call 344-7984, ask for tape No. 1000 for week of July 20.

Open House: Demonstrations of glass blowing and stained glass techniques can be seen at the Pilchuck School, Stanwood, WA. 10:00 AM-5:00 PM. Call 621-8422 for specifics and see the June issue of **Arcade** for more information on the Pilchuck Summer 1981 Program.

Walking Tour: Seattle Art and Architecture Tours sponsors "Art Deco Seattle." Cost is \$6. Tour begins at 1:00 PM. For reservations and information, 682-4435.





Sandstone detail from the Interurban Building, corner of Yesler and Occidental. Drawing by Mark Peckham.

Ideas that work for Cities at CityFair, July 3-12

CityFair, Seattle's celebration of good ideas for urban life, is revving up for its run at the Seattle Center July 3-12.

The urban version of the traditional county fair, CityFair features the latest innovations innovations stressing citizen action, low costs, and self-reliance — in the fields of Energy, Housing, Food, Health, and the Environment. Some 50 exhibits from the Puget Sound area and across the country will demonstrate how people have taken matters into their own hands to improve city life. The exhibits incorporate computers, video, informative displays, and art, all designed to involve visitors actively in CityFair.

A new aspect of this year's exposition is the CityFair Trade Fair, a trade fair that marches to the tune of grass roots self-sufficiency. The Trade Fair features commercial products that help people help themselves, reduce the cost of living, and enjoy life more. Trade Fair visitors will see do-it-yourself aircraft, electric cars, toys, tools, kites, kits, boots, and books. In the spirit of the county fair, CityFair offers ten days of fun and entertainment as well.

CityFair is the product of more than 2000 volunteers and 60 community groups working together to stage a civic event. CityFair co-sponsors include: the City of Seattle; Seattle Center; Continuing Education, University of Wshington; Metrocenter YMCA; KING Broadcasting Company; and the People Power Coalition. For more information and Master Schedule of Events call 447-8400. See calendar items for architecturally related events and workshops.



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and Ohio in the 1930s. He also dabbled in collegiate gothic, Greek revival and the cottage style.

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st 30.

Terra cotta detail from the Coleman Building. Original entry to Puget Mill Company. 1915, on Spring Street between First and Post. Drawing by Mark Peckham.



Arcade 1981

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Entrance to underground

Adults Respond:

I do not know how helpful the suggestions that the students made to the City officials were — sketchy at best, I imagine. From my perspective the process was the product. It is important that the City was supportive of our involvement and they heard the students' comments.

Ultimately, it may be less significant what the suggestions were than the fact that they were involved in it. Our project has been a process designed partly to prepare students for dealing with complex issues and decision-making in areas which will eventually demand their consent. Those decisions will best be made by informed individuals who recognize their rights as collective owners of the Pacific Northwest.

Beyond the decision-making skills there remains another goal. We seem already overburdened with careful and articulate decision-makers, many of whom have lost touch with personal and corporate values. Hopefully these students will have had the chance not only to consider criteria, but to weigh it as well, based on a set of values. That testing is the best way to begin to develop a set of personal values.

There is a conviction held by the parents and teachers of this program that the role of the schools must continue to be reshaped into a participatory institution. The classroom must model the kind of involved, active citizenship which makes a true community. This project, and others like it, fulfill commitments of the institution to those needs and expectations. Certainly it is an obligation of all institutions within a community to help protect and improve that shared enyironment, manmade and natural.

In the end, I involved my students in this project because architecture and urban planning interests ME! It took me a while to realize that it is the right and duty of teachers to let their students know what interests them — to see adults participating in and excited about "real life" activities. Besides, everyone enjoyed the whole process: me, the kids, their parents, even the folks down at OPE. What more can you ask?

Harper Welch Teacher The Option Program at Stevens School

A "Soft" Alternative For Downtown Seattle

In order to propose any viable alternative for downtown development planning it seems logical to first identify the major elements of the area. The most distinct features stand out without need for comment: the C.B.D., Denny Regrade, Elliott Bay, "the hills". It is the less apparent, but perhaps more important characteristics that need a close There are districts, neighb or landmarks that almost any resident will recognize and identify as peculiar to Seattle. There are also axes, paths, vistas, and views, familiar to those who frequent downtown and appreciated by those who do not. Finally there are boundaries; streets that establish the perimeter to areas, acting also as the barriers between them. They are described as zones of transition. Our proposal can be expressed in a single word, "linkage". We contend it is not the negative influence by, or emphasis on one particular element of the downtown that is a problem, but rather the separation of the elements from each other. Every district is unique, every landmark and view important to the whole fabric of the downtown. Linkage would be the process of developing the public area between those places. We see it as essential that the city should act to create special development along those streets identified as potential connecThe students from Stevens School made a well organized presentation on a wide range of ideas they feel are important for downtown. Most fascinating is the similarity of their ideas to those of their elders. They think buildings should incorporate solar technology and that new buildings include a mix of residences, shops, restaurants and offices, and most especially, daycare centers. Better public transit options need to be developed because of fuel shortage and pollution. An extension of the monorail and aerial trams between First Hill and Capitol Hill were transportation ideas. The students want recreation places with swimming pools, gyms, bike trails and a zoo. They would like information centers so it would be easy to get around downtown. The students were intrigued with underground buildings, trams and other fanciful visions which, although unusual, might be feasible in some form in Seattle's downtown. We welcomed their enthusiastic participation.

William J. Duchek Office of Policy and Evaluation

My job as an Architect-in-Schools was to help the students at Stevens to learn how a city skyline evolves, recognize a variety of styles of architecture, and develop a sense of how history, economics, topography, and people shape urban areas.

Our work for two weeks included a neighborhood walk, lots of discussions and a short hands-on project to create some "ideal" streetscapes. The kids were given a variety of heights and sizes of public and private buildings (residential and commercial), parks, and services to plan for. Juggling all of this — open space, density, views, noise, and parking — they came up with some great streetscapes and some very practical ideas.

I found that although they might not use the same terms as adults do to describe problems and situations in urban areas, they are very conscious of those same issues. And perhaps most important, they were able to recognize, sort out and come up with creative and logical solutions.

tions. To delineate this network of linking channels serves to connect not only

adjacent districts, but also encourages

travel between more distant elements. In addition it is necessary to identify the

zones of transition, and provide incen-

tives for redevelopment in such a way to

encourage penetration of these barriers.

The distinctive geometry of the downtown is defined by its streets. There

is a strong axis running North-South which is generally parallel to the slope of the hill. A second East-West axis runs

Mike Courtney Architect-in-Schools Seattle Public Schools A liveable urban environment serves the needs of a variety of people, and should also serve to enhance the quality of our lives. A city's liveability is dependent upon equal access and opportunities for children as well as adults. Young people need to learn from positive experiences in order to grow up reasonable and healthy. Consideration for comfort, safety and attractiveness, the types, locations and mixes of activities, and the opportunity to express ourselves will influence the educational potential of the physical environment. Actions which address children's concerns will enhance a city's liveability for everyone.

Craig Hardman Urban Design Consultant Workshop for Community Projects

Building

Children have a very clear vision and an almost unique ability to express themselves directly and simply. The words that jump out from the pages and strike me with their truth are: No bums, lower buildings, too noisy, underground buildings, monorails, wider sidewalks, the need to make a special place for kids emphasized in many drawings, more and larger parks with kidtype features such as ice cream parlors, a subway system, clean up after dogs, make buildings look like older ones, get away from so much glass, maps for children, office buildings close to parks and day care centers. I was also impressed by another recurrent theme about "bums" always identified as male and often linked to drinking. Few adults can imagine children's fears about this. I happen to be convinced that a city that is not a good place for children is usually not a good place for adults either.

A curriculum like this (the one at Stevens School) should be developed for all Seattle children in elementary and secondary schools. Failure to raise a generation that understands about cities and has a vested interest in how they are designed and function could be one of the most serious errors that contemporary planners could make. The demographic map of the USA will force this because of the need for much closer collaboration among the generations, and fast. Some studies of this same kind should be done comparing different ethnic groups in Seattle, especially those that are new.

My mentor, Constantinos Doxiadis often said that the city is the university and the school. I think he is correct and we should learn how to make this come true.

Robert A. Aldrich, M.D.

Former Chairman of Pediatrics at UW; Clinical Professor in Pediatrics at UW; associate of Greek city planner C. A. Doxiadis; specialist and consultant on the impacts of the city on children.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

June 17, 1981

Dear Arcade,

Please don't mistake me for being dense or worse yet architecturally uncool, but I have one small complaint concerning your June issue.

Arcade was sitting on the kitchen table. I'd never seen the magazine before, so while eating breakfast I decided to educate myself about Seattle Architecture & Design.

I got through the first article okay. I knew who Philip Johnson was. I knew were Portland was. I could visualize classical architecture (columns & stuff). Passionate conviction sounded pretty good too.

But then I got to R/UDAT RESPONSE. What is R/UDAT? No where in the whole article is R/UDAT explained.

If Arcade is meant to inform the public (non-architects) about architecture, please take into consideration that not every one is up on the latest in architecture passwords. If, on the other hand, Arcade is meant only for the AIA and the other select few, please put some kind of warning at the top of the paper. "This paper may be hazardous to your non-architect brain."

Sincerely, X

Dear X: We're sorry. You're right. R/UDAT stands for Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team, and is sponsored by the AIA. A team was here in Seattle in May studying "Living Downtown." The "R/UDAT Response" was comments on the R/UDAT's findings. Thanks for pointing out the elitism of our ways; we'll do better next time.





perpendicular to the hill down to the waterfront and beyond. Visual connections continue westward across Elliott Bay, and we feel an emphasis should be placed on this strong contextual link with the water. Creating a visual focus of monumental proportions could help clarify the link between the built environment and the expansive natural environment which is so much a part of Seattle. It is the combined effect of emphasizing linkage and identifying patterns of the downtown which can result in a more vibrant city where the merits of its elements complement each other and establish an atmosphere that is cohesive and yet heterogeneous.

J. Bisbee, A. Black, D. Clancy, N. Finne, C. Kirk, L. Parrett, J. Thompson, D. Tomchak, C. Webster; Bassetti, Norton, Metler, Architects P.S.