

B L U E P R I N T : f o r A r c h i t e c t u r e

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BLUEPRINT: for Architecture has presented, since 1980:

Bruce Goff	Tyler
Franco Purini	Reggio Calabria
Mario Botta	Ticino
Stanley Saitowitz	Johannesburg
Hal Guida	Philadelphia
Dan Solomon	San Francisco
Anthony Vidler	Princeton
Diana Agrest	New York
Fred Koetter	Boston
Jorge Silvetti	Boston
Robert A. M. Stern	New York
Coy Howard	Los Angeles
Steven Holl	New York

After a year's near-absence, BLUEPRINT is alive, ready to develop an active schedule for 1982-83. We will continue to act as a catalyst, initiating thoughtful and provocative architectural ideas by means of presentations, exhibits and competitions.

Funding continues to be a problem. We have faith that this can be overcome on a periodic basis and invite suggestions for possible corporate sponsors. Our current operation requires four elements:

- volunteers to produce events
- ideas
- \$ \$ \$ \$ (tax deductible)
- an interested audience

With your participation the year to come can be a stimulating one.

Write to us regarding our regular meeting schedule and watch for event announcements in ARCADE or the mail. For specific event information, call BLUEPRINT'S phone number following an announcement.

We, the board of BLUEPRINT: for Architecture, wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to our founder and former director, Larry Rouch. His personal investment of time, money and energy helped to create a credible and reputable organization.

We also want to thank those individuals and groups who have supported BLUEPRINT in the past:

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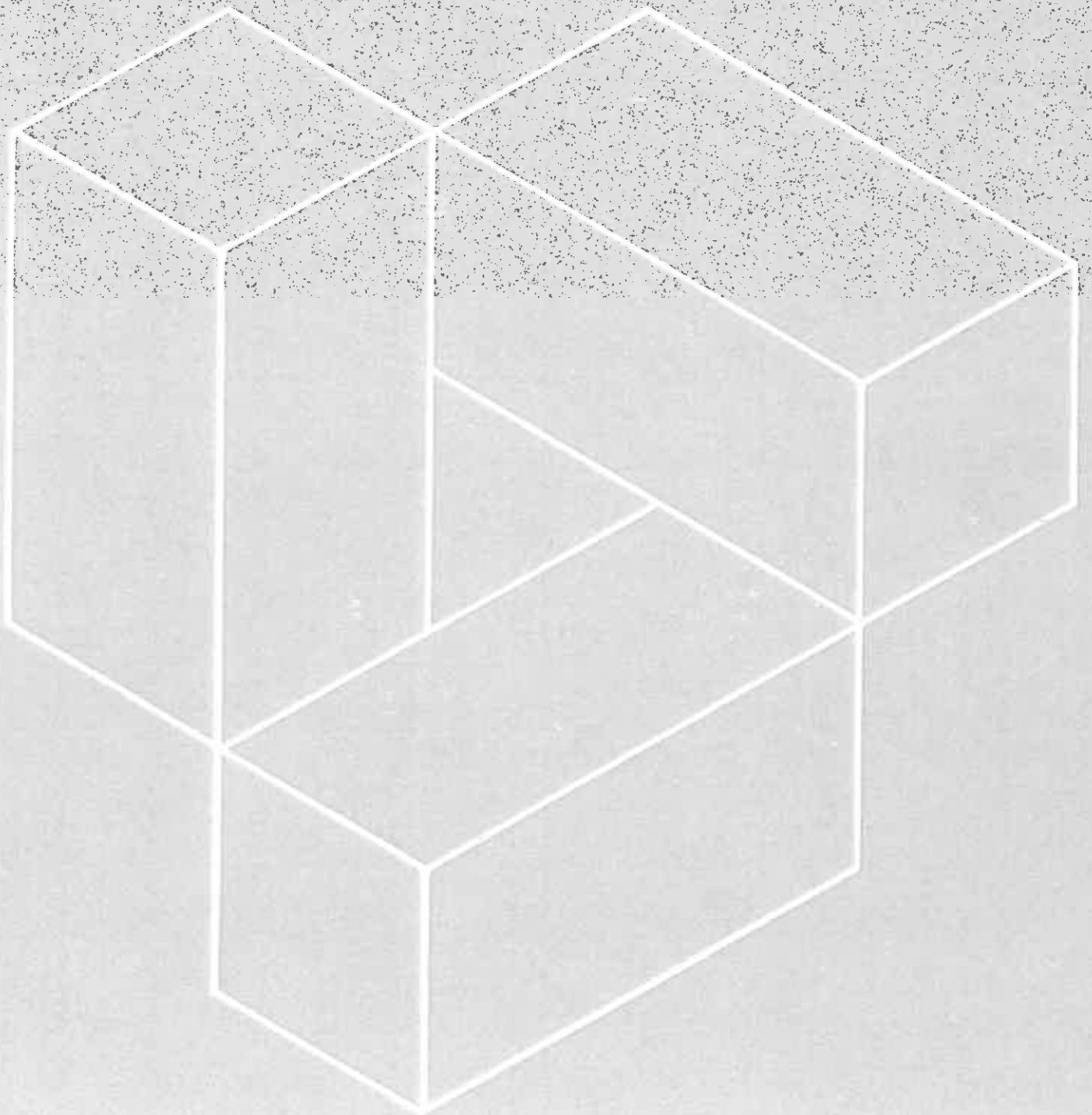
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is a group of individuals with a common purpose.
seeks an enlightened understanding of Architecture.
as a not-for-profit organization, provides a forum for
the dissemination of thoughtful and provocative ideas.

The City:
The Urban Block

A Symposium on Architecture





The City: The Urban Block

A Symposium on Architecture

November 1, 1980
Kane Hall,
University of Washington,
Seattle

Co-sponsored by
Henry Art Gallery
Blueprint : For Architecture

Underwritten by
Howard S. Wright
Construction Co.

What is the architectural future of America's city blocks?

Although the single-use high-rise tower on the plaza can be regarded as the current state-of-the-art in urban architecture, its urbanistic and aesthetic deficiencies have become so apparent that it is necessary to seek a better model for architecture in the city. Today's discussion is devoted to that end. We hope to establish formal and practical criteria which would foster advanced prototypes of urban architecture. The symposium will concentrate on two key aspects of the issue:

1. The relationship of built form to the formal and historical context established by the urban grid;
2. The typological characteristics of urban buildings as they now exist, and as theoretical and practical considerations suggest they ought to be.

The speakers have been provided with documentation of an exemplary block in the Seattle Central Business District which will serve as a focus for discussion and provide a test for the symposium's recommendations. During the evening session, a program for the block will be drafted which will serve as the basis for an international design competition sponsored by the Henry Art Gallery that will invite architects to develop specific proposals which respond to the issues entertained today. Entries will be due in the fall of 1981, when a jury of prominent architects will select and make awards to distinguished entries. These will be exhibited at the Gallery in 1982, at which time a symposium assessing the results of this inquiry into the state of urban architecture will be held. A book documenting the entire project will then be published.

Today's discussion will be divided into three parts with a session devoted to each: first, the historical developments that caused American cities to take their current form; second, theoretical issues and their practical implications for today's buildings and the presentation of appropriate models drawn from the past and present; and third, the delineation of key issues in urbanism in general and a proposal for addressing these issues in a design for a specific block in Seattle. From this working session will emerge the outline of the program for next year's design competition which, it is hoped, will produce advanced prototypes for urban architecture as it ideally could be.

Participants

Diana Agrest

Diana Agrest is a principal in the firm of Agrest and Gandelsonas in New York City, where she also teaches at the Cooper Union. She is a Fellow at the Institute of Architecture and Urban Studies and director of its Advanced Design Workshop in Architecture and Urban Form. In 1976 Agrest/Gandelsonas/Machado/Silveti's entry received second prize in the international competition for the renewal of the La Villette sector in Paris, and Ms. Agrest was a juror for the design competition for Paris's market, Les Halles. Her writings and designs have been published in numerous journals.

George Baird

George Baird has taught at the University of Toronto since 1972 and has designed a number of buildings in the Toronto area over the past decade. His firm was consultant for two of the background studies for the City of Toronto's downtown plan. Baird was co-editor, with Charles Jencks, of *Meaning in Architecture* (1968), author of *Alvar Aalto* (1969) and co-author, with Barton Meyers, of "Vacant Lottery," *Design Quarterly* 108. He is a frequent contributor to architectural journals and editor of the Canadian architectural magazine *TRACE*.

Fred Koetter

Fred Koetter is Professor of Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and principal of Fred Koetter and Associates, architects and urban designers. The firm is currently engaged in urban design studies of certain areas of Boston under the auspices of federal and private grants. Articles and designs by Mr. Koetter have been published in numerous architecture magazines. He was co-author, with Colin Rowe, of *Collage City* (1978).

Larry Rouch

Larry Rouch, symposium coordinator, is project manager of the multi-use Westlake Mall project in downtown Seattle for Joyce Nordfors & Associates. He is the founder and director of Seattle's *Blueprint: For Architecture*, a forum for the discussion of issues in architecture. Rouch has taught at the University of Washington and is Seattle correspondent for the architectural journals *Skyline* and *Archetype*.

Jorge Silveti

Jorge Silveti is an Associate Professor of Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and in practice in Boston with Rodolfo Machado. Machado/Silveti received a Citation from *Progressive Architecture* for their "Fountain House" in 1975 and *Progressive Architecture's* First Award for "The Steps of Providence" (1980), a scheme for reordering the Rhode Island School of Design's urban campus. Silveti's writings have been published widely and his work exhibited in major exhibitions here and abroad.

Daniel Solomon

Daniel Solomon is principal in Daniel Solomon and Associates, San Francisco, and Professor of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. *Change Without Loss*, a residential zoning study produced in 1976 by Solomon, his design class and the San Francisco planning department became the basis for revisions in that city's planning code and has received awards from regional and national chapters of the American Institute of Planners and from *Progressive Architecture*. His designs have been published extensively. His firm is primarily involved in the design of urban housing in San Francisco.

Anthony Vidler

Anthony Vidler is an Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning and Chairman of the European Studies Program at Princeton University, where he teaches the history and theory of architecture. He is a Fellow at the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies in New York and an editor of its journal, *Oppositions*. He has published numerous articles in American and European journals, and his book *Architecture and Society in the Age of Revolution* will be published this year. Mr. Vidler was a moderator of the "Tradition and Identity" architectural symposium held in Seattle during June of 1980.

The Program

Morning Session 130 Kane Hall

8:00 - 9:00 am

Registration

8:45 - 9:00 am

Welcome and introductions

Harvey West, Director, Henry Art Gallery

9:00 - 9:30 am

Symposium Objectives

Larry Rouch

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

The Foundations of American Urbanism

Speakers:

Anthony Vidler

Fred Koetter

Discussion Leaders:

George Baird

Diana Agrest

Lunch 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Afternoon Session 130 Kane Hall

1:30 - 4:30 pm

A Critique of the State of the Urban Art

Using Historic and Contemporary Examples

Speakers:

Jorge Silvetti

Daniel Solomon

Diana Agrest

George Baird

Discussion Leaders:

Fred Koetter

Anthony Vidler

Dinner 4:30 - 8:00 pm

Evening Session 120 Kane Hall

8:00 - 9:30 pm

A Program for Advanced Prototypes of Urban Architecture

A Panel of All Participants

Discussion Leader:

Larry Rouch