

ARTISTS SPACE

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FROM HERE TO ETERNITY: FACT AND FICTION IN RECENT ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS

May 24 - June 29, 1986

Opening: Saturday, May 24, 5-7pm

Curator's Talk with Valerie Smith, Saturday June 7, 4-5 PM

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 6pm



FROM HERE TO ETERNITY is a group exhibition of the work of ten architects, three of whom have worked on a collaborative project for the show. The architects are Douglas Darden, Elizabeth Diller, Donna Goodman, Laurie Hawkinson, Michael Kalil, Kenneth Kaplan, Ted Krueger, Christopher Scholz, Michael Webb, and Mark West. The exhibition will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue with an essay by Beatriz Colomina, an architect and a freelance architectural historian and critic, who teaches at Columbia University.

The exhibition will consist mainly of drawings and models. These projects were not conceived for commercial purposes, rather they incorporate non-architectural fields such as art history, science, mathematics, film, technology, literature, and linguistics into the total architectural design and construction of the concept.

There is no single comprehensive idea informing the work of all these architects that would enable the viewer to interpret the work in terms of a convenient stylistic movement. The variety of concerns and intersection of different disciplines represented are indicative of the current situation in art as well as architecture. The work maps out a direction in architecture that goes beyond a free appropriation of architecture's historical vocabulary towards a more analytic approach to space and time, shaping the reality of contemporary human needs and desires. The focus is to change the individual's perception and therefore, relationship to architecture. This change is an attempt to make a mark in the "here" of the present which will affect a change in the intellectual, if not practical quality of life in the future, a future which is "eternally" destroyed and rebuilt.

DOUGLAS DARDEN's work consists of drawings and models of two projects, Museum for Impostors and A Clinic for Sleep Disorders. Museum and Clinic are not topological studies rather, their programs operate as psychological narratives. The Japanese novelist, Kobo Abe and the novels of Franz Kafka have been Darden's inspiration. In his own words, Darden "exploits the physical qualities of actual sites...to depict the ambiguous and unsettling relationships between the promise and betrayal of American ideology." Darden, formally trained as an architect, is currently Adjunct Professor of Architecture at Barnard College, NY.

ELIZABETH DILLER will show preliminary drawings of theatrical set for a performance at the Philadelphia Museum of Art scheduled for the winter of 1986-87. The set consists of a notational system derived from elements of Marcel Duchamp's Large Glass. She will also exhibit drawings for The Balance a collaborative project with Ricardo Scofidio. Inspired by Kafka's Bed for the Condemned Man, The Balance is a counterweight system, which suspends the body in space, stable in any position it assumes. Diller is an architect in private practice with Ricardo Scofidio. They both teach at the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture at Cooper Union, N.Y.

DONNA GOODMAN's work consists of several large diagrams based on her idea of a future city. Goodman has broken down the future city into several specialized areas. For instance, one diagram concentrates on the design and function of the educational system as a kind of shopping market for the mind. Another diagram deals with a Post-Industrial Information Center. Throughout the diagrams, new technological innovations are manipulated to map out an open frontier. Goodman has her own practice in New York and she is also a visiting associate professor at the Rhode Island School of Design and City College, C.U.N.Y.

LAURIE HAWKINSON's Cinetrain project consists of a model and drawings of a cinématique on a train. The model is comprised of eight parts that function in a variety of ways: for filming, editing, and viewing. Participants board the train to view a film about an analysis of the painting Las Meninas by Velasquez. The spectators are caught between the projection and the screen, becoming the new subject of the painting. The train informs the viewer about the filmmaking process, and also analyzes Las Meninas' relationship to cinema. Hawkinson was trained as an artist as well as an architect. She is a partner with Hawkinson and Smith-Miller architects in New York.

MICHAEL KALIL is designing a series of analytical studies on proportional harmonic themes in collaboration with Michael Kriegh. These series of pencil drawings are designs for a habitation module for a space station sponsored by the National Aeronautic and Space Administration. Kalil teaches at Parsons School of Design and has his own practice in New York.

KENNETH KAPLAN, THEODORE KRUEGER, and CHRIS SCHOLZ have designed a multi-functional crib unit entitled, Crib-Batic. This invention responds to the child's "pre-linguistic period" in three basic operations. The first two consist of an adjustable crib/changing table. The third is a "pre-linguistic" tool cart. These "tools" refer to simple mechanics and elemental materiality, and are designed to intellectually stimulate the child. Crib-Batic is intended to strengthen sensory and cognitive development. Kaplan is editor of Pamphlet Architecture, Ltd., and a private contractor with Bond Ryder James, Architects. Krueger is a partner with Norman-Krueger Architectural Design, N.Y. All three architects are partners in Kaplan, Krueger, Scholz, N.Y.

MICHAEL WEBB has made a series of drawings in pencil, ink, watercolor, graphics, and photomontage that are complex and autobiographical. In his Temple Island Project, the images drawn are of recollections of a childhood place on an islet near Henley-on-Thames in England. In a surreal arrangement of different objects and fragments, Webb creates a disorienting sense of time woven out of memory flashbacks and desire for a mysterious subject which resides at the center of the "temple". The program of his project takes the viewer from one point in the telescope of a submarine in the river to a vanishing point at the temple. Webb, is an Associate Professor of Architecture at New Jersey Institute of Technology and Architecture. He was a member of the British architectural group, Archigram.

MARK WEST's theoretical drawings entitled Surviving Logic radically alters space to result in a disorienting implosion of planes. This series encompasses a sequence of Blackout drawings: graphite with photocollage, using World War II pictures or other images of our material culture. West alters the photographic image by demolishing the perspectival space. Surviving Logic is an attempt to find an architectural process appropriate for our post-nuclear, post-industrial world. West, is an Assistant Professor of Architectural Design at the College of Architecture, University of Kentucky.

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