

English Summary

In this fourth issue of 1980, *Arquitectura* emphasizes the architectural project built or unbuilt. The main part of the magazine is devoted to 760 housing units designed for the outskirts of Madrid and a project for a health center in Alicante. The regular section of «fichas» includes six projects by Madrid architects followed by a critique of a small house in Zaragoza.

To round out the theme of projects, an international view is presented with two well known, but important projects by Italian architect Giorgio Grassi.

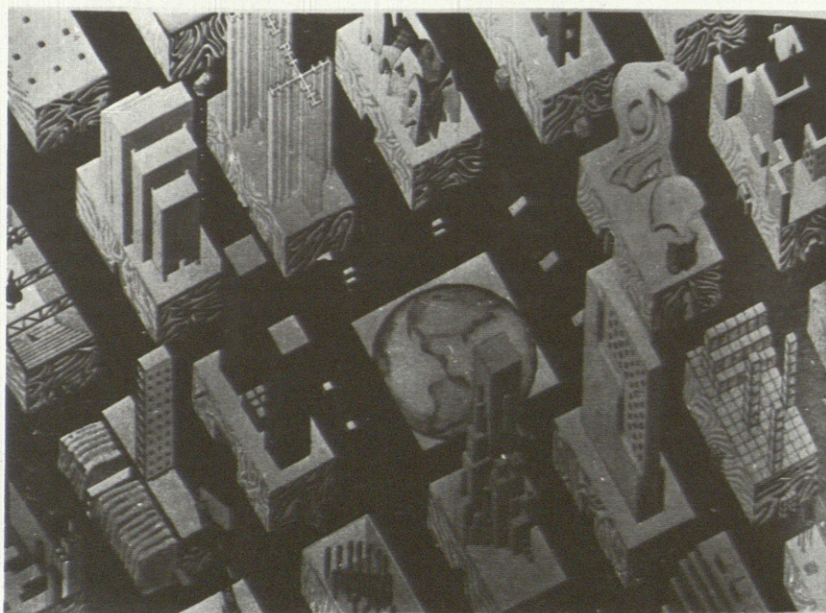
A PERSONAL VIEW OF ARCHITECTURE

Charles W. Moore

American architect Charles Moore outlines some personal thoughts about his methods of architectural design followed by an explanation of some of his recent works.

«It seems to me to be the case that some architects start from a theory of architecture and then develop that theory in ways that are internally consistent and build some buildings. Others start the other way around and build some buildings which they think are right to build and then invent reasons why they did that. I confess that I belong to the latter group, so what passes for theory is really a set of explanations of why I think the things that are important are important, why the buildings that I have made work like that, and why the process of making is the way it is. This has brought me in my professional life into conflicts with people of the other persuasion, people who start from a theory and work out, who generally call themselves rational. They generally announce that some people are rational and some people are irrational, and that the former is good and the latter is bad, and they are the former and I am the latter.

It seems to me to be more useful to take it that the opposite of rational in that sense is sensible; that the architecture that we enjoy, move in with our bodies, and remember with our memories is sense, that is, with all our senses, is architecture with an internal resistance as well and with in fact a kind of structure that makes it possible to figure out how to do and to explain if afterwards.»



POSTMODERN MORALITY AND THE ETHICS OF A NEW FUNCTIONALISM IN URBAN DESIGN

Francisco F. Longoria

Architect-planner Francisco Longoria presents an article which was first written in 1979 for a conference in Seville, but is still relevant today due to its polemic theme of morality in architecture and design.

«The dialectic between progress and history is a constant in current discussions which speak of architecture in relation to its surroundings. Connotations of illusion and disillusion with respect to the system of production are constant contradictions present in discussions of the construction of the city. These discussions view architecture within a framework of the ideal, or as a utopian project. This idealization brings with it value judgements which require the contemplation of new responsibilities of an ethical nature.»

Longoria develops his article touching on points of social propositions and manifestos, negative pragmatism (where he outlines his view that many times the very nature of urban planning is to seek a method of resolution of conflicts that are ideologically irreconcilable), positivist utopias, the rehumanization of functionalist design, the ethics of urban functionalism and anti-historical functionalism.

In his final summary, Longoria criticizes the post modern morality as being too limited in that «Post modernism seems to stem from a conception of *virtual architectural space* of a city which is judged in terms of environmental quality only through its image.»