Historic Preservation & Sustainability

Symbiotic Relationships

Walter Sedovic FAIA LEED
Principal & CEO • WSA|ModernRuins®
New York City | Hudson Valley | Paterson Falls

US Green Building Council • Missouri Gateway Chapter
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 | 6:30 PM
Sheet Metal Workers Local 36, 2319 Chouteau, Suite 200, St Louis
History’s Green Genes®

American Gothic Courtesy Chicago Art Institute

Walter Sedovic FAIA LEED

ModemRuins
Magic Chef (American Stove): Harris Armstrong 1947
Magic Chef (American Stove): Harris Armstrong 1947
Magic Chef (American Stove): Harris Armstrong 1947
Magic Chef (American Stove): Harris Armstrong 1947
Retained...But Sustained?

Magic Chef (American Stove): Harris Armstrong 1947
EraSing Collective Memory

- Direct Link
- Linear Link
- Spiritual Link
- Visceral Link
- Illusory Link

FORGETFULNESS  DISENGAGEMENT
Direct Link: Hiroshima Japan

Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall
Direct Link: Hiroshima Japan

Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall
Direct Link: Hiroshima Japan

Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall
Direct Link: Hiroshima Japan

Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall
Direct Link: Stories in Perpetuity

Prefectural Commercial Exhibition Hall
Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Survivors Pass Their Stories to a New Generation

By JONATHAN SOBLE  |  AUG. 5, 2015

Hiroshima, Japan — Hiroshi Hasui had been training to make machine gun bullets when the flash from the atomic bomb that destroyed his city lit up the already bright morning sky. Just 14, he had been pulled from school a week before to help Japan’s fanning war effort.

Mr. Hasui, now 84, has often talked proudly of his experiences that day, 70 years ago Thursday, when the first of the only two nuclear weapons ever used in war ultimately killed more than 100,000 people. The victims included hundreds of his classmates, who were still at their school near the blast’s epicenter. The bullet factory, 10 miles out of town, was paradoxically a haven.

Yet the things that Mr. Hasui saw and felt that day are not recounted by him alone. The person who knows his story best, after Mr. Hasui himself, is Rihoiko Kinoshita, a woman 25 years his junior who is serving as his “densho-sha” — the designated transmitter of his memories. It is part of an unusual and highly personal project to preserve and pass on the experiences of atomic bomb survivors, whose numbers are dwindling rapidly.
Linear Link: Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House, Okmulgee, OK
Linear Link: Muscogee (Creek) Nation

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Muscogee (Creek) Nation Council House, Okmulgee, OK
Spiritual Link: Palmyra Syria

Palmyra: Destruction & Digital Restoration
Spiritual Link: Palmyra Syria

Palmyra: Destruction & Digital Restoration
Spiritual Link: Palmyra Syria

Palmyra: Destruction & Digital Restoration
Spiritual Link: Palmyra Syria

Khaled al-Asaad “Mr Palmyra”

Palmyra: Destruction & Digital Restoration
Visceral Link: Djenne Mosque Mali

Djenne Mosque World Heritage Site
Visceral Link: Djenne Mosque Mali

Djenne Mosque World Heritage Site
Visceral Link: Djenne Mosque Mali

Djenne Mosque World Heritage Site
Visceral Link: Djenne Mosque Mali

Djenne Mosque World Heritage Site
Illusory Link: Cuba

Habana Vieja & Valle de los Ingenios World Heritage Sites
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Cars! Cars! Cars!
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Cars! Cars! Cars!
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Castro! Cigars! Cars!
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Deep Rich Cultural Heritage
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Deep Rich Cultural Heritage
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Deep Rich Cultural Heritage
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Deep Rich Cultural Heritage
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Deep Vivid Mixed Palette of Style
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Embracing Modernism as a Gateway to the Future
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Embracing Modernism as a Gateway to the Future
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Embracing Modernism as a Gateway to the Future
Illusory Link: Cuba

Cuba: Embracing Modernism as a Gateway to the Future
Modernism: The *Original* Architecture of Amnesia
Modernism: The Original Architecture of Amnesia

Le Corbusier
“a house is a machine for living in”

Adolf Loos
“only a very small part of architecture belongs to art: the tomb and monument... function is excluded from the domain of art”

Walter Gropius
“If your contribution has been vital there will always be someone to pick up where you left off... that will be your claim to immortality”

Mies van der Rohe
“god is in the details”

Louis Kahn
“sunlight did not know what it was until it hit a wall”
Prophets of Modernism

Louis Sullivan
“form follows function”

Frank Lloyd Wright
“form follows function — that has been misunderstood… form and function should be one, joined in a spiritual union”
Exquisite Expressions w/o Historical Precedent

Eero Saarinen: TWA Terminal JFK 1962
Exquisite Expressions w/o Historical Precedent

Embracing the Future was a Threat to the Past
Embracing the Future was a Threat to the Past

Bunker Hill (1890) | Water & Power (1965)
Embracing the Future was a Threat to the Past

La Ville Radieuse Corbu
Embracing the Future was a Threat to the Past

St Louis: Pruitt Igoe, Leinweber Yamasaki & Hellmuth 1954-1973
Embracing the Future was a Threat to the Past

USA: Resisted Modernism as a Threat to the Past
50 Years & the Birth of a New Oxymoron

“Modernist Heritage”

Orange County Government Center, Paul Rudolf (1967)
Exquisite Oxymoron: Modern Heritage

Orange County Government Center, Paul Rudolf (1967)
Embracing the Past is a Threat to the Present

Orange County Government Center, Paul Rudolf (1967)
What's at Risk?...So Many Moving Parts

1) Timeline: We haven’t gotten far enough away yet to be critically objective
2) Volume: Quantity overshadows quality
3) Aging poorly; botched facelifts; high levels of embodied energy
4) Perception of being beyond repair; not always “built to last”
5) Prescriptive codes onerous & impossible to fulfill
6) Artisans are disappearing
7) Lacking stewardship or succession plan
8) Undervalued property in desirable location
9) Hard to love...cold & abstract; lingering backlash as symbols of what was lost
10) Modernism is antithetical to sustainability; reflects era of cheap oil & materials
11) Preservation tends to focus on icons & monumental buildings...not vernacular, community or infrastructure
12) Relatively little data establishing hierarchy, context & long-term performance
13) Inherent penalty for works of living architects; generally not National Register eligible while architect is still alive
Sustainable Preservation

Qualitative ↔ Quantitative
Sustainable Preservation
My Grandfather’s Axe: Irretrievable Loss

Most Common Configurations of LAG ...
Tempered, Heat Strengthened, and Annealed can be laminated
Typical lite thickness: 1/8” to 1/4”
Sustainable Preservation
Deciphering Heritage Technologies

**Attitudes**

- Metrics
  Measure actual performance

- Authenticity
  Retain original touchstones

- Culture
  Maintain visceral connections

- Passivity
  Embrace passive systems

**Attributes**

- Loose Fit
  Adapts to changing conditions

- Thermal Lag
  Buffers temperature & humidity

- Convection
  Buffers temperature & humidity

- Embodied Energy
  Increased value year over year
Priory at Abbey of St Mary & St Louis

Gyo Obata | HOK 1962
Priory at Abbey of St Mary & St Louis

Gyo Obata | HOK 1962
Ethical Society Meeting House

Harris Armstrong Architect 1964
Ethical Society Meeting House

Photos © Andrew Raimist

Harris Armstrong Architect 1964
Ethiopian Orthodox Church

Harris Armstrong Architect 1960
Citations from Globe-Democrat article:

- Architectural concrete protected by “sprayed plastic”
- Diffuse daylighting, including level changes to increase amount
- Direct-indirect interior lighting with manual dimming
- Infusion of plant materials both interior and exterior to buffer climate
- Convective currents and intended cross ventilation
- Separate infrastructure for heavy (office) and periodic (sanctuary) spaces
- Concealed mechanical equipment to maintain exterior form and line
Either Help…or Do No Harm

'Noguchi Ceiling' restored at U-Haul building by The Hill
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