

Dear All,

We should consider the possibility of asking the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley to host us sometime. I have quite a few contacts there and would be happy to help. I am currently on a PhD committee there. (I did master planning and programming for the Library that Lou Kahn designed and which was ultimately carried out by Joe Esherick and Richard Peters).

They do have adequate meeting facilities for groups like ours and the place is quite peaceful despite its adjacency to Cal Berkeley. They also have rooms for students in the affiliated seminaries but I am not sure whether it is possible to book them in sufficient numbers or at specific times of the year.

The GTU has a number of affiliated seminary groups from various religions. Its scholars are diverse and it has a graduate program in the Arts (of which some people call me "the father" largely because I initiated an ecumenical graduate seminar for seminarians and graduate Cal-Berkeley architecture students in the late-sixties). A number of architecture graduates from the Berkeley College of Environmental Design have since pursued second degrees there. Some have even become architect-priests.

Some years ago Jane Daggitt (who did such interesting analyses of Andy Warhol's "Last Supper") and the late John Dillenberger hosted an international gathering of scholars at the GTU to discuss monasticism, collegiality and the arts. It was a remarkable gathering w hich included sculptor Erling Hope (now president of the Society for Arts Religion and Contemporary Culture) Mary James Murray from Nottingham, people from ACE in England and others from as far away as Perth and a Bangalore ashram.

Alejandro Garcia-Rivera, author of "The Community of the Beautiful" teaches there as does Mia Mochizuki among others.

Thus it has a scholarly base which not only entertains but advances discussions of the sacred in art and promotes exhibitions, dance workshops, etc.

The memorial service for the late Doug Adams, who directed the graduate Center for Arts in Religious Education at the GTU, included dancing in the streets in a most joyous celebration of his recognition of the sacredness and wonder of the arts. How many deans or chairs do you know who would elicit such happy acknowledgement of their work on the sacred role of contemporary art?

I was inspired by the openness at the Mount Angel meeting, especially in the smaller, unscheduled happenings like the one on Michael Benedikt's Theopraxy.

Let us not expect great things to arise from our euphoria but get on with the work and get together again to discuss it. Good things rub off, send ripples, touch those who never expected it, etc. Great things might come but we cannot force them.

Patrick

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Bender <tbender@NEHALEMTEL.NET>

To: AM-CARC-ACS-L@LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU

Sent: Mon, 6 Apr 2009 12:32 pm

Subject: MORE REFLECTIONS

Hi All,

Two thoughts came to mind this am:

1. Selling architecture schools on the sacred dimension of architecture might be eased by demonstrating that there is a significant number of well-regarded practicing architects and writers that have focused on this for many years. It also would give credit where it is due, rather than appropriating the intellectual property of those folks as the biophilic architecture folks did by not researching and crediting what had been done by others. Some examples – there are more:

- o Athena Steen – Houses That Sing
- o Balakirshna Doshi – India
- o Carol Venolia –Building w/Nature
- o Chris Alexander –
- o Chris Day – Places of the Soul
- o David Friedel – Maya traditions
- o David Rousseau –
- o Dennis Winters – Landscape
- o Denise Linn – Feng Shui
- o Gail Lindsey – AIA
- o Helen Berliner –Enlightened by Design
- o Henry McLean – Timeless Architecture
- o Jim Postell – U. Cinci professor
- o Joseph Rael – Pueblo traditions
- o Kathy Kremer /other Steiner folks
- o Kay Whitefield – Sacred Geometry
- o Keith Critchlow – Geometry
- o Kelly Lerner –
- o Michael Borden – Vaastu
- o Michael Rice – Ireland
- o Michelle Small Wright – Co-creation
- o Malidoma Somé? – African traditions
- o Nader Ardalan – A Sense of Unity
- o Rina Swentzell – Pueblo traditions
- o Ross Chapin – Whidbey Institute
- o Sarah Susanka – (the books that Taunton wouldn't publish)
- o Stephen Hyuler – Village India traditions
- o Tom Bender –
- o Vishu Magee –
- o V. Ganapati Sthapati – Vaastu
- o Anthony Lawler – A Home for the Soul
- o Caroline Humphrey – Sacred Architecture
- o David Peterson – Earth to Spirit
- o Louis Sullivan
- o Louis Kahn

2. As a location option for a “discussion gathering”, although it wouldn't be in the middle or east part of the country, I could probably arrange for use of a half-dozen vacation homes I've designed here – a couple of which could give

meeting space for a group the size at Mt. Angel.

Tom

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