1-1-1985

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Kent McLaughlin

Brian Tempas

Recommended Citation

Oz

college of architecture & design

kansas state university

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Prologue

Since the beginning of our college careers a barrage of information defining architecture has been filling our heads. Much of the information dealt with the numerous techniques and processes employed in the creation of a solution to the design problem. Initially, this new information seemed absurd and quite unbelievable, and at times even humorous. But as we progressed through each semester and matured in mind and design ability, we began to understand what the information was and how it was to be used; but perhaps more importantly, we saw how this information, and the various design processes it included, could be incorporated into our own design methods.

However, the time to exercise this knowledge is rapidly drawing near, possibly sooner than we realized or hoped for, and many unanswered questions still remain. Many of these may only be answered with time, but some questions seem more pressing. Answers to these appear essential before accepting our first positions as professionals in the architectural world.

As a tool to aid in the journal's organization, and as a vehicle to illustrate our most critical questions (and perhaps provide a forum for answers), we have selected *Thought Processes* as the theme for Volume 7. Our intentions are twofold: one, to bring into discussion the "How do you know what *it* is, and what to do with *it*?" enigma; and two, to provide some stimulus and hopefully a better understanding of the importance of 'information' and the value of the various processes to students, academicians, and professionals. Subsequently, one can develop these ideas for the use in his or her own method of problem solving.

The collection of projects and essays in this volume provide a handful of the many opinions and alternatives to the approach of design. Our intent is not to provide a right or wrong answer — or for that matter any answer at all — but instead to bring what we feel is an important issue to our readers' attention. By addressing this esoteric idea, and presenting it as food for thought, we hope to instill the importance of thought processes in the conscious mind so that it may develop and mature as a positive architectural reference.

Kent McLaughlin
Brian Tempas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Yes, the Barton Myers and Barbara Winslow articles do have the same title . . . but this is a coincidence. Not to worry, stranger things have happened to those who have experienced Oz.