

LOUIS KAHN - SITUATEDNESS & MONUMENTALITY

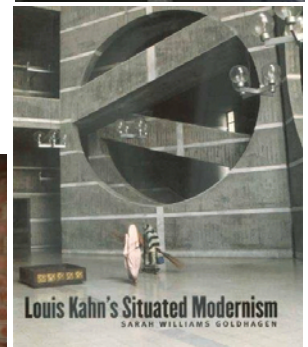
S. Goldhagen, Louis Kahn's Situated Modernisms

Concepts / Ideas / Theory

The need for "Monumentality" in postwar architecture
 "Situating" - in relation to context, place, site, history, culture, users,
 Served vs. Servant space - hierarchy of functions
 Use (and admiration) of History - Parthenon, Pantheon, Sienna, Egypt, etc.
 Light - Play of Light on architecture
 Mass / Materiality - "What does a brick want to be"
 Spatial Structure - structure that articulates space & static loads
 Geometry - symmetry and other proportions
 Articulating the elements of architecture
 Detailing - God is in the details

Chronology

- 1901 Born Itze-Leib Schmuilowsky in Estonia / Russia
- 1904 Burns face, scars for life
- 1905 Emigrates to USA, very poor
- 1924 B.Arch from U.Penn, Beaux-Arts training
- 1928-9 European travel, interest in Carcassonne & Castles
- 1929 Works for Paul Cret (Beaux-Arts, U.Penn Prof., Folger Shakespeare Library, Federal Reserve Bank bldg, etc.)
- 1930 Marries Esther Kahn
- 1932-45 Works with PWA, George Howe, Oscar Stonorov on housing
- 1942-4 Carver Court war housing, Coatesville, PA
- 1945 Begins work with Anne Tyng (Gropius student; interest in geometry & structure; woman in a world of men)
- 1947 Begins teaching at Yale
- * 1951-3 Yale Art Gallery extension, New Haven, CT (p.518)
- 1952-57 Philadelphia City Tower & Traffic Study
- 1952 Stint at American academy in Rome, admires ancient ruins of Greece, Italy, Egypt; light, mass, history
- * 1952-55 Trenton Bath House / JCC, Ewing, NJ
- 1957 Begins teaching at U.Penn (also MIT & Princeton)
- * 1957-65 Richards Medical Labs, U.Penn, Philadelphia, PA (p.519)
- 1958-62 Tribune Review Building, Greensburg, PA (local!)
- * 1959-65 Salk Foundation, La Jolla, CA (p.522-3)
- 1959 First Unitarian Church, Rochester, NY
- 1960 Norman Fisher House, Hatboro, PA
- 1960-65 Erdman Dorms (Bryn Mawr), Kahn, Philadelphia (p.520)
- 1961 Graham Foundation grant to study traffic movement in Philly
- * 1962 Indian Inst. of Management, Ahmedabad, India (p.521)
- 1962-74 National Assembly, Dacca, Bangladesh (p.526-7)
- * 1965-72 Phillips Exeter Library, Exeter, NH (p.520)
- * 1967-72 Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX (p.512,524-5)
- 1969-74 Yale Center for British Art, New Haven
- 1974 Dies at Penn station, anonymous, in debt



Louis Kahn's Situated Modernism
 SARAH WILLIAMS GOLDHAGEN