

## STATEMENT ON ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION

Jan Hochstim

March 17, 1970

It is my belief that architectural student must be introduced to the field of architecture by showing him the overall view of the field without overburdening him with one aspect of the profession. What is needed is a well balanced diet which would allow him to formulate a clear picture of architect's involvement in human problems of environment.

Most important of all, a student must be made to understand that there is no one dogma, no one way to solve human environmental needs. He must be shown the complexities of human environmental problems at every scale. He must be made to realize that complex problems cannot have simplistic solutions, and that different problems often require different means of solving them. He must be shown that the first and most important step in solving any problem is to define it through a thorough analysis; that forces that act have no meaning unless a value based on judgement is attached to them and that judgement is formed based on experience and experimentation.

The student should be made to realize that the true goal of architecture is not just to create a physical environment but to be able to predict human physical and emotional response to it. We know from experience that physically man can adapt himself to most varied environments and that physically he can recuperate in a short time. We know very little about the emotional adaptability and emotional "scars", and it is here that most of our serious problems lie.

While it is relatively easy to predict physical response to environment, the emotional response is the great puzzle of architecture and a great deal of effort should be made to understand the effect of environment on human psyche. This cannot be neglected and we should search for cooperation with psychologists and sociologists.

Architectural student must be made to understand through the study of past and present examples that man creates his environment in situations which are dictated by physical, social, economic, political and philosophical forces; and that in order to create harmonious environment for the future, man must develop an ability to anticipate changes based on current situations.

The greatest accomplishment that a teacher can hope for is to make his students open their minds to all possible ideas and to question any philosophy which claims to have found the answer to human problems.