

Summary

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Summary

Povl Ernst Hoff, and Bennet Windinge, Copenhagen

Linear Centre on a Footway Collective city, Vaerebro Park

(Pages 308-312)

The residential city is organised around a market place where many footways come together. The market place includes everything necessary for the inhabitants. There is a welcoming hall, an agency for household help, a pastry shop, a restaurant, a post office, etc. At Vaerebro Park all of these services are concentrated along the footway which is itself an integral part of the centre. In addition to these facilities financed by the inhabitants themselves, there are other services such as banks, supermarkets, shops, clinics; all of which confer a high degree of independence upon the collective city.

The 1327 living units are relatively deep and constructed of prefabricated parts. Common to all flats is a kitchen unit built into the living room.

Jacob Schilling, Zurich

Centre for 10 000 inhabitants Community Centre of Geroldswil

(Pages 313-315)

The community of Geroldswil, situated close to Zurich, has grown enormously in population over the last few decades. Being far-sighted its municipal administration has reserved sufficient space for erecting a large urban centre. Connections with Zurich are very good due to the Berne-Zurich Motorway and the new north-circular drive towards Kloten and the Gotthard. A general plan was made by architect George Schmid under the direction of the municipality under its president Theo Quinter and his advisor, architect Fritz Wagner. Under the auspices of an organisation called "Society for the Interests of the Geroldswil Centre" a competition was organised. This competition was won by architects Walter Moser and Jacob Schilling, whose plan was further worked out and has now been accepted by the municipal authorities. The plan encompasses the complete centre in which 2 000 inhabitants will live in an area 150 m from the village square. Properly speaking, the centre (13 000 m²) is composed of a central square surrounded with buildings whose entrances open onto the square. This central square is raised up one storey and is opposite the western entrance street. All pedestrian ways have access onto this square so that the 6 000 inhabitants living nearby are never more than six minutes away by foot. The square can be covered with a shell construction and thus, together with the surrounding facades, transformed into a huge hall for festivals or expositions.

J. A. Langford
Affleck, Desbarats, Dimakopolous,
Lebensold, Sise, Montreal

A National Centre in a Large City: The Cultural Arts Centre, Ottawa

(Pages 316-319)

The new cultural centre of the Canadian capital is situated near the Mackenzie-King Bridge in an old, triangular public park. In the design of the building it has been important to preserve the character of its situation. The building, consisting of a series of terraced levels enjoys a satisfying view over the old part of the town.

The main body of the building is a hexagonal form which is set upon a module in the shape of an equilateral triangle. The complex consists of an opera house

seating 2 300, a theatre seating 800, and an experimental theatre, together with restaurants, shops and offices.

The largest hall of the National Arts Centre, the opera house, can also be used for concerts, ballet, and pop-music programs. The theatre is modelled after the Shakespeare Festival Theatre in Stratford, but the semi-circular seating plan is arranged so that it may be divided up to form a conventional theatre. The experimental theatre is a hexagonal hall with seats all around, and it may be arranged so that any part of the hall can be used either for staging or seating. The theatres are joined by a chain of halls and rooms which circulate like an interior street. At one point the hall widens into a large room which can either be used as a green room or else for small chamber concerts and receptions. The whole structure is of poured concrete covered both inside and outside with prefabricated concrete slabs.

Peter Celsing, Stockholm

Cultural Centre in a Large Town as an Open Flexible Structure Cultural Centre, Stockholm

(Pages 320-323)

The buildings being constructed in Stockholm on the Sergels Torg are the result of an open competition in 1970. They include the cultural centre, two theatres, and the Swedish National Bank. The Cultural Centre surrounds the square like an open loge.

Since the city authorities preferred one large auditorium to the original design which included two, there was a great problem created in the need for space. To remedy this situation, the city of Stockholm has proposed that the theatre and part of the other facilities be used for ten years as a parliament house. The entire project is to be completed by 1974, but the building to be used by parliament is to be completed by early 1971. Since the time is so short, the building has been planned so that its construction will proceed very quickly. The building will have a steel superstructure, and the ceiling and exterior will be constructed of prefabricated cement slabs. One distinct advantage of the steel frame is that it will permit possible alterations after ten years. When the parliament quits the building, for instance, the auditorium will have to be converted into a theatre for 1 100 people.

The cultural centre is intended to change the conception of the city of Stockholm. It is conceived as a sort of "city living-room", including libraries, youth centres, night-clubs, expositions, etc. which will permit the 100 000 people who pass by every day to engage in the political and cultural life of the city.

An Autonomous Youth Centre

P. Wegmüller, Bern

Youth Centre, Berne

(Page 324)

It is now exactly two years ago that four young people joined together in an action committee with the purpose of creating a youth centre for Berne. They wanted a place where young people could come together for free and open discussion. The authorities, enthusiastic about this idea, proposed that such a centre be located in a part of the abandoned buildings which once housed a gas factory. The collaboration between the old and young generations was very fruitful. A competition was organised between the architectural apprentices of the technical school and young graduate architects working together in groups. By June 4, 1969 the winning group had been chosen, their plan accepted, and the work on the building begun. If all goes well, the new youth centre will be inaugurated by the end of this autumn.

Willi Ramstein, Milan

Plan for a Mechanised Shopping Centre

(Pages 325-327)

The shopping centres of today suffer from numerous faults; distant parking-lots in which it is difficult to orient oneself, insufficient entrances and exits, open and unprotected pedestrian walks, waste of space, and finally the difficulty of transporting merchandise to automobiles. Where parking or automatic systems of purchasing are present, there is a lack of coordination between them. The same holds for self-service facilities which, in addition, are often poorly located in the cities.

In the present project these problems are resolved all together through a study of the complex arrangements necessary in coordinating men, automobiles and merchandise. The study is based on theoretical data gathered by Victor Gruen and includes sixty individual shops (25 000 m²), two large department stores (20 000 m²), as well as collective establishments. In planning the centre the following factors were determinative;

- The shops have been organised in a very flexible manner. Delivery takes place in the basement separated from normal traffic.
- The transport of merchandise to automobiles is mechanised to encourage unlimited purchasing.
- A street of automatic systems for purchasing is planned to complement normal sales.
- A drive-in system is proposed for banking and postal transactions.

In summary, the purpose of the new centre is to mechanise and coordinate as many commercial transactions as possible.

Urban Centre for 150 000 inhabitants

Gunnar Lindman, Lolle Lundquist
AB Vattenbyggnadsbyran (VBB)

Täby Centre, Stockholm

(Pages 328-332)

Situated only 12 km from the centre of Stockholm, the complex is easily accessible by motorway and railroad. The centre is designed to serve not only Täby, but also an enlarged region which in 1970 will include 110 000 inhabitants and by 1990, 150 000.

In contrast to the generally isolated American shopping centres, Täby Centre is in direct contact with residential areas, offices, schools and all other urban facilities. Motor traffic circulates about the periphery so that all internal roads and accesses are reserved for pedestrians.

The large department stores and shops are grouped around a covered hall with which they are in direct contact. This hall serves the inhabitants as a place of meeting where bazars, fashion shows, cultural programs, and concerts can be held.

To reduce the ground area covered by the centre, the shopping areas are located on two floors which take advantage of the sloping terrain so that each of the floors serves a part of the residential complex and none of the fifty shops is in a disadvantageous location. The department stores are located on both floors. The shopping centre is complete with bank, cinema, restaurant, parking for 2 000 cars, as well as a complete arrangement of elevators and stairways.

Justus Dahinden, Zurich

St. Anthony Ecclesiastical Centre

(Pages 341-345)

The Centre is to be situated at the top of a hill in the midst of dispersed

houses among which the most notable is the old castle of Wildegg. The congregation will group themselves around the choir which is to be on the same level as the rest of the church. The altar is a simple movable wooden table. The baptismal font, with running water, will be located within view of the congregation. The only differentiated features will be a lateral chapel covering a glass tabernacle and the confessional niches.

The congregation will enter the church through an enclosed stair passage which leads under the bell-tower into a small entry hall enclosed on three sides. From here the way into the chancel leads in a half circle around the altar. This unique character of the church is heightened by the lighting effects obtained by three skylights set into the ceiling. The atmosphere of the interior is created through the use of certain building materials: deep red, Dutch bricks and tiles and a shell-shaped facing of rough pine. The exterior walls are covered with a facing of copper.

The entrance way defines the form of the building as a succession of spatial events: the portal under the bell-tower, the interior court, and the concentrated space of the sanctuary. According to Dahinden this architectural conception was originated in the early Twenties by Hugo Häring; the movement of those who use the building is a fundamental principle in the determination of the buildings form.

The movement in the ground-plan is carried out by the arrangement of masses and spaces. It seems to me both justified and necessary to make several criticisms on this point. It would seem that too many parts are on the bias, overhanging portions, perforations, etc, and this seems to destroy the relatedness of the interior space to the exterior form.

J. Naef, E. Sturder, G. Studer; Zurich
Collaborator: D. Senn

Saint Joseph's Church, Buttikon

(Pages 346-348)

In planning a Catholic church, one must first take into account the principal functions of a church (the holy communion, the preaching, and the prayer). At the same time, however, one must take into account the necessity of other parish activities.

The necessary functions in a church are the following:

- The altar, place of the mass, is situated in the middle of the congregation.
- The pulpit, the place of the word, is situated before the congregation.
- The tabernacle, place of the eucharist, is situated in its own bay.

The use of simple non-fixed chairs permits arrangement on one hand, for special rites, and on the other, for church concerts and lectures. This idea is executed by a central space accessible by three entrances located in three towers. The principal lighting comes from a central skylight. The motion of the sun illuminates the church through freely-ordered side windows. It remains to be seen how such thoughts and possibilities expressed in the conception of the building will be able to enhance the life of the church.

Both inside and outside, the material used in the building is framed concrete. The roof has a conventional multi-layer structure constructed of heavy concrete. Radiant heating is imbedded in the concrete floor. The principal lighting is indirect and provided by means of large standard lamps and supplemented by spot lights which may be directed upon the area of principal activity. The liturgical objects have been designed by R. Lienhard. The lateral windows have been designed according to the models of R. Flachsman.