

## THE "GREEN" OVER THE "GRAY"

### Architecture and Nature: Towards a Pact of Reconciliation

The Greeks' conception of Man's creations as contrastingly distinct and separate entities from Nature has exhausted its intellectual and ethical capital. We must create a philosophical framework wherein architecture is conceived as an integral component of that Man-made Nature we are willingly, as well as unwittingly, creating. The task in front of us is to reconcile our constantly changing man-made Nature with that organic one we have been given.

The Modern Movement in architecture of the 20's and 30's advanced the ideal of urban redemption by proposing "the Building IN the Garden," i.e. the building surrounded by the garden; for example: 60% for one and 40% for the other. However, in such an idea each one remains distinct and separate from the other. The concomitant notion that "the cities are for the buildings and the outskirts are for the parks;" is a mistaken and narrow-minded idea.

We must establish a "pact of reconciliation" whereby we have both, "the Building AND the Garden," i.e. 100% of one and 100% of the other, organically integrated, for in such contract the house "gives back," in the form of communally accessible greenery, all the land it covers. The buildings embodying such pact should be accessible to the whole community, used by the members of the community at large as well as by the corporation members who paid for it.

My work of the last three decades has striven to demonstrate that putting the "green over the gray," or the "soft over the hard," is a very simple, but powerful, way of creating new cities which do not alienate the citizens from the vegetable kingdom, but rather, create an architecture which is inextricably woven into the greenery.

Let us strive for an urban future where one can open the door and walk out directly onto a garden, regardless of how high our office or apartment may be. There is now an ever growing body of buildings exemplifying pragmatically how we can, within a high density city, reconcile our need for building shelters with our emotional requirement for green spaces.

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