

## president's column

*David Epstein, AIA, LEED AP  
2005 President AIAVT*

I thought this month I would bring folks up to speed with local and regional AIA activities this fall. We have a great line-up of events that you may enjoy. Our website calendar also has an extensive list of building-related activities throughout the state. You can find it at <http://www.aiavt.org/events.php>.

aiaVT



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### September 9, 2005

#### ENTRY DEADLINE FOR CONSTRUCTION

1st Annual AIA Vermont Design/Build Competition, November 4 (see the listing) build all afternoon and evening. Judging of entries the following day. See the Call for entries at <http://www.aiavt.org/events.php>

### September 12, 2005

#### AIA VERMONT 2005 DESIGN AWARDS COMPETITION REGISTRATION

Forms and fees due at the Chapter Office. Download the Call for Entries at <http://www.aiavt.org/events.php>

### September 15, 2005

#### TOUR AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Historic Debevoise Hall at Vermont Law School. 6pm hors d'oeuvres & cash bar 7pm building tours, 8pm panel presentation, aiaVT and Efficiency Vermont. Panel guests include Randy Foose & John Delemarre of Vermont Law School, Rolf Kielman & Steve Rooney of Truex Cullins & Partners Architects, Dan Lewis, Joe Kohler & Roy Swain of Kohler & Lewis, Mike Hulbert & Leet Ware of H.P. Cummings, Marc Rosenbaum of Energysmiths, Arun Veda of Efficiency Vermont & Lyssa Papazian. 2 hsw credits available for aia members, rsvp [aiavt@madrivert.com](mailto:aiavt@madrivert.com) by sept 7th.

### September 30, 2005

#### AIA NEW ENGLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

September 30–October 2, Concord, Massachusetts. See <http://www.aiavt.org/events.php> for more information.

cont.

excerpt from:

"Summary of Impromptu Remarks 58 min 41 sec"  
from **ANYONE**,  
ed. Cynthia Davidson, 1991, p. 39-45  
<http://www.hydra.umn.edu/derrida/sum.html>

(The following remarks were presented in an improvised translation. They have since been transcribed, edited, reedited, and so forth. Therefore, caveat lector.)

We do not have much time, so I will limit myself to some points. I will make some points, as you say in the language that remains foreign to me and to which I remain foreign. But, in any case, how can one make a point? And as I try to say something on the subject of the point and the point of the subject, I must also ask something of the stranger and the foreigner. What do strange and foreign mean? What, from the point of view of architecture, are a stranger and a foreigner? The first point: At this conference, the point is the subject. Traditionally, the point is very determined, marking the one, the unity, the identity, the singularity. At the same time, however, the point is the least determined unity, identity, or singularity, that one can represent. One can present a point of view. There is as well a point of departure - a point of departure for a line, which is also the point of departure for

cont.

# 9.05:1



**November 4, 2005**

**AIAVT CANSTRUCTION**

AIA VT's Canstruction® combines the competitive spirit of a design/build competition with a unique way to help feed hungry people. Competing teams, led by architects and members of the design field showcase their talents by designing giant sculptures made entirely out of canned foods. At the close of the exhibition all the food used in the structures is donated to the Vermont Food Bank. AIA VT will host the first annual Vermont Canstruction November 4–6, 2005 at One Main Street Landing in Burlington VT. More information. See also the Call for entries.

**November 4, 2005**

**ARTGATE DESIGN COMPETITION GALLERY OPENING**

Firehouse Gallery, Burlington. Panel discussions will focus on creative architectural design, architecture as art and the future of architecture in Vermont. All Artgate Entries will continue on display for the month of November. While the show is up, there will be two evening events, open to the public.

**November 9, 2005**

**ARTGATE PANEL DISCUSSION**

Firehouse Gallery, open to the Public. Panel to include the four prize winners.

**November 16, 2005**

**ARTGATE PANEL DISCUSSION**

Firehouse Gallery, open to the Public. Panel to include city officials and planners.

**November 15-17, 2005**

**BUILD BOSTON**

Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. Annual convention and tradeshow for design, building and management professionals. See [www.buildboston.com](http://www.buildboston.com).

**December 7, 2005**

2005 AIA VERMONT ANNUAL MEETING AND DESIGN AWARDS PRESENTATIONS  
6:00 p.m. at College Hall on The Vermont College Campus in Montpelier. Cash bar and fantastic buffet by the New England Culinary Institute.

This list includes only AIA events. The website calendar has many more events related to the building industry. If you or your organization would like an event posted, please email Steve Clark at [sclarkj@adelphia.net](mailto:sclarkj@adelphia.net).

a surface, for a volume, and ultimately for time - time being the truth of space for Hegel. Whether in the language of Hegel or Klee the derivation point, line, plane, volume, time is the normal form of derivation and of the construction of space and within space. Not much rhetorical effort is required to argue that the question of points links all the questions of architecture to the question of the subject, the self, the identity, the one of anyone. In this sense, the point is very determined. At the same time, the point is so undetermined, so anonymous, so unnameable, that it lends itself immediately to substitution - even sacrificial substitution. A point - en vaut un autre, I would say in French - is equivalent to another, is exchangeable for another, and is worth another. Likewise, the subject, the self, the signature, and man, to the extent that they are representable by

*cont.*

**9.05:2**

## call for design competition entries- better buildings by design conference returns to vermont

*AIA continues its partnership with Efficiency Vermont to present the region's top conference on building energy efficiency and high performance. The Better Buildings By Design Conference returns to the Sheraton Burlington on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006. As in past years, a highlight of the event will be the display of submissions for the annual Better Buildings By Design awards for the year's top high performance commercial structures.*

*Conference organizers invite design professionals to submit poster entries for new construction and renovation projects substantially completed since January 2001. All submissions will be on display throughout the conference. The two-day gathering is expected to draw more than 1000 participants, including design professionals and skilled building tradespeople from throughout the region.*

*Planning for the Better Buildings By Design 2006 Conference is underway. This year's gathering will offer valuable sessions about design and construction approaches and technologies that are being used to create today's high performance buildings. Workshops, presented by leaders in the industry, will feature four simultaneous tracks on envelope, mechanical, lighting, and innovations/high performance. AIA and Efficiency Vermont will provide more information about the conference as planning continues.*

*For design competition information, contact Efficiency Vermont Project Manager Arun Veda at [aveda@veic.org](mailto:aveda@veic.org) or, toll-free, at 1-888-921-5990, Ext 1134.*



points, are at one and the same time calculable and replaceable, determined and undetermined. As such, each defines a necessary, though not sufficient, condition of the access of the individual (the individual as indivisible resembles a point) to law, to rights, to equality, to electoral democracy, to parliametary regimes, to individual property, and, therefore, to capitalism. Il faut du point - one must have a point, the point is necessary. The indivisible point is indispensable to the maintenance of all these institutions, to their holding up or standing together. This determination of the point has two serious implications. First, that the point is indivisible and, therefore, does not relate to itself, the relation to self (without which there is no self) supposing internal difference - fold, reflection, division - even if it is notself-consciousness. This implies, then, that a point can be one but on the condition of not being a self (selfsame). Second, to the extent that it remains absolutely undetermined in its determination, the point has no singularity, no simple unicity. It is replaceable; it cannot constitute a signature, even less a work or an event. It cannot have a proper name. And what is true of the point is true of a multiplicity of points, of ones as points. Kojin Katarani has mentioned the cogito. One of the characteristics of that cogito - as well as the tradition of the law, the theories of rights, and the architecture that presupposes this cogito - is that this cogito essentially requires a god (a god as creator, rather than as demiurge architect) in order to assure the certitude of the relation to self. This is a god of continuous creation, since without him there could be no account of a world, of a time, of a history made up of instants, of points. None of these singular points could derive from another without the intervention of the great theological Subject. One must never forget that the cogito is an instantaneist and punctualist theology. And that Cartesianism, with

*cont.*

# 9.05:3

## new directory of vermont wood products for architects and builders

### new website offers architects information on metal roofs and walls used in commercial construction

*The new web site of The Metal Initiative - a coalition of manufacturers, individuals and associations in the metal industry - offers a broad range of information for architects on the features and benefits of metal materials used in commercial construction. The URL is [www.themetalinitiative.com](http://www.themetalinitiative.com).*

*The site is intended to be an information source to architects and building owners, says Steven J. Collins, Marketing Director of The Metal Initiative.*

*The site addresses the key benefits of roofing and wall systems made of steel, aluminum, copper and zinc, including green and cool roof design, life-cycle costing, durability, design flexibility and sustainability.*

*Also featured is a section for case studies and photo galleries of installations involving low-slope and architectural steep-slope roofs; and pre-formed, insulated, metal composite and custom natural metal wall panels.*

*Other site components include an "Ask the Expert" section, a news room with stories such as the Ducker life-cycle cost analysis of low-slope roofs, and industry, contact and search links.*

**Montpelier, VT.** – The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and the Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association are pleased to announce the publication of the Vermont Wood Products Resource Manual.

The first phase of this unique guide highlights Vermont furniture manufacturers that sell or are capable of selling to institutional or large volume buyers. The guide introduces a range of Vermont companies to facility owners, architects, and project managers seeking high quality Vermont wood products including those manufactured and certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Future updates of the manual will describe additional products including millwork, flooring, plywood and others.

Mary Jeanne Packer, Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association Executive Director said, "Many of Vermont's furniture manufacturers are capable of meeting the needs of institutional furnishings and large volume buyers. This new publication will provide a way for these skilled wood workers to link up with the specifiers and supply the high quality, locally produced furniture that is in demand today."

"Many building owners are joining the green building movement," said Edward Delhagen, managing director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. "To do so, an increasing number of designers, architects and building owners are looking for high quality, locally produced wood products including those that come from FSC-certified forests. This guide makes it easier to find the kinds of products they are seeking from Vermont."

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its abundant architectural metaphors (Descartes speaks very often of foundation, fundaments, roofs, cities - these are classical topoi for professional philosophers), that this important stage in the constitution of the modern subject is accompanied by a philosophy, which is also a theology, of the individual point, of the instant, and of time as a series of instants. To go quickly, too quickly: What is true of Descartes will remain true of all modern philosophies of the subject, including its dialectical Hegelian and neo-Hegelian forms. The positive consequences and the limits of this could also be drawn for politics, for a certain concept of democracy and law - and for architecture. What is rather curious is that, although architectural metaphors proliferate in these architectonics or these systems of the subject (architectonics is the art of the system for Kant), although it is a

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# 9.05:4



John Ostrum, Project Engineer and Architect for the Vermont Department of Buildings and General Services calls the manual "a terrific resource showcasing some of the best of Vermont's wood crafts people. I highly recommend this guide to all design professionals. I especially appreciate the inclusion of the certified wood specification."

"The collaboration between the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and the Vermont Wood Manufacturers Association has yielded an invaluable guide," said Michelle Smith Mullarkey from Capital Planning and Management at the University of Vermont. "Their mutual efforts have provided an essential link between the institutional facility owners and hometown, high-quality Vermont wood products manufacturers. The availability of certified wood products will also contribute to the University's commitment to green building and aid in achieving LEED™ certification on campus."

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metaphor, a model, a pedagogy, and a rhetoric, architecture is not essentially a place of habitation, a habitat. Whereas when Heidegger attempts to deconstructs this epoch of the subject (that is, the interpretation of Dasein as subject, consciousness, but also as present thing - vorhanden - dominated by the privilege of the instant and the present), he will recall the co-essentiality of Dasein, dwelling, building, thinking, wohnen, bauen, denken. And he does so in a space, in a context in which the values of reappropriation, authenticity, the opposition between heimlich and unheimlich, and a certain nostalgia or homesickness reappear in the definition, in the description of Dasein. Now, if I were forced to stop here and to say what the architecture of the next millenium should be, I would say: in its type, it should be neither an architecture of the subject nor an architecture of Dasein. But then, perhaps, it will have to give up its name of architecture, which has been linked to these different, but somehow continuous ways of thinking. Indeed, perhaps it is already losing its name, perhaps architecture is already becoming foreign to its name.

*cont.*

**9.05:5**

## vermont defies orthodox economics

*(This is Part 3 of a series of articles that was published in Le Devoir, Montreal on March 6, 2005 and translated from the original story by reporter Louis-Gilles Francoeur.)*

*Le Devoir closes its series on energy efficiency in Vermont by giving a list of the elements of the formula that our neighbor to the south is in the process of perfecting. A second part (which will appear in next month's aiaVT newsletter) shows the areas that Vermonters are exploring in anticipation of the end of their contract with Hydro-Québec, which comes to term in six years.*

**Burlington** – Vermont's surprising performance in energy efficiency can be explained by three factors that are found together nowhere else in the deregulated U.S. market.

The organization responsible for energy efficiency in the state, Efficiency Vermont (EVT) is totally independent of the owners of the 22 electric utilities, to the point of becoming, in some senses, a competitor in the electric market.

Second, EVT is connected to the state of Vermont by a "performance contract" which requires it to respect its commitments under threat of a heavy financial penalty. And third, instead of acting as an efficiency missionary, selling it to people who don't need it, EVT adapts itself to the needs of each clientele, intervening technically and financially only when needed and only at the place and at the moment when decisions are being made.

Frederick Weston was a member of the Vermont Public Service Board (PSB), the equivalent of Québec's "Régie de l'énergie," in 1999 when that organization proposed taking the mandate for energy efficiency programs away from electric utilities. The PSB decided to give this responsibility to an independent organization which would become an active player on the energy market by assuming the

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Second point: I must say a word about what is like me (or for someone like me) foreign and a foreigner, whether that is with regard to the country, the language, or architecture - the strangeness within the one. Here I need to make two or three subpoints.

When I tried to translate anyone into French and into some other languages with which I am less familiar, the difficulties I encountered seemed to me very interesting from two points of view. First, the grammatical and semantic differences between anyone and everyone are so subtle that one cannot simply restate or restore the difference in another language. Consider the difference in French between n'importe qui and chacun, tout un chacun. N'importe qui draws toward the indeterminate and anonymous - toward a levelling-off, Heidegger would say, toward the one as on, das Man, and as they.

*cont.*

debevoise hall at vermont law school/photography by greg bruce hubbard





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policy role that the government wanted to assign it. Until then, says "Rick" Weston, currently an energy consultant, "the electric utilities were in a permanent conflict of interest that no one dared put an end to: they were being asked to put in place energy saving programs whose success would lower their own sales. So it was not very surprising that, despite the goals that were imposed on them, they never achieved the desired results. After having been the object of criticism for years, the utility owners were relieved by our proposal to remove a responsibility from them that seemed contrary to their basic objectives, that is to expand their market and make profits."

The Vermont legislators, following the PSB blueprint, created a private non-profit organization, totally dedicated to reducing the demand for electricity in this little state of 600,000 inhabitants. Vermont is able to function with 1000 MW of peak winter demand, 3.5 times less per inhabitant than Québec. EVT is tied to the PSB by a performance contract that was awarded by a solicitation process that allowed the regulatory body to choose the best possible contractor. The first request for proposals, issued in 1999, was awarded to Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC), a dynamic non-profit environmental organization which beat out several big American energy consulting firms and "negawatt" hunters. The state was defying, in a very Vermont way, the normal laws of the market. EVT has, in fact, a double mandate: to fill up on negawatts, in other words the megawatts saved by competing on the open market, and, as much as possible, to lower the price of electricity.

In Québec, we tend to believe that energy efficiency is always a function of raising prices, profits and dividends paid to the Ministry of Finances. "Our double mandate," explains Blair Hamilton, director of Efficiency Vermont and co-founder of VEIC, "contradicts orthodox economics which says that only price increases will induce utility customers to reduce their consumption. We think, on the contrary, that efficiency strategies and a great freedom to maneuver in the market allow a truly

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Whereas chacun - everyone, each one - would more easily welcome the right of every singularity. But neither captures the movements of anyone. If I have mentioned that I am a foreigner here, it is not in order to underline a signature but to put the emphasis on two schematic issues. First, this series of conferences, which will take us into the next millenium, is dominated in its program, if there is one, its title (a lexical and syntactic problem, 10 times any-, which is not purely formal), its hosts, guests, means, and so forth by one language and two nation-states. I do not want to exploit here the political arguments which are well-known and easy, though not simpl worthless. These conferences, and this will be true for the future of architecture as well, will not be dominated by just anyone. We know that. Anyone is not just anyone.

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**9.05:7**

independent and unencumbered player to stimulate substantial reductions in consumption and, at the same time, to push prices down to help consumers.” The results achieved by EVT in four years confirm this model that reconciles the market and policy objectives.

### **Reduce the Demand**

EVT is financed by an environmental “fee” of 2% added to all electric bills in Vermont. This creates an annual budget of \$15 to 16 million that EVT can use as it wants.

With this budget, EVT was able to reach its efficiency goals during its first three-year contract which was renewed for another three years. The objective of “saving” 120,000 MWh was exceeded by 31,000 MWh in three years, thus reducing demand by about 1% each year. VEIC is preparing for the next contract renewal by targeting an overall 10% reduction in demand in the state by 2010. To motivate EVT’s managers to exceed their objectives, the PSB puts aside \$1 million over three years which is paid “only if the goals are achieved or exceeded: a powerful motivation indeed toward efficiency,” acknowledges Blair Hamilton, with a wry smile.

EVT has thus in a sense become a competitor for supply to the electric utilities by giving back 2.9 cents for each kilowatt that they would have to pay 6 cents for on the wholesale market. Each kilowatt conserved translates into a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in New England since only thermal power plants can respond rapidly to an increase in demand. They currently provide one-third of the electricity in Vermont, the other two-thirds being provided about equally by Hydro-Québec and Vermont’s lone nuclear plant. For EVT, the pool of kilowatts to conserve will only be exhausted when the cost of conservation rises to the market cost of electricity.

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I do not believe that one can think about the future of architecture without taking into consideration not only the phenomenon of linguistic and capitalist hegemony in their classical forms but also and especially in the new forms, predictable or not, that these hegemonies will take precisely from an architectural point of view in the relationships between nations and states the mobility of the new trajectories of capital, and the evolution of international law. We have seen this in the terrible and as yet unfinished experience which is called the Persian Gulf War. That event demonstrates, among other things, that so-called international law - whatever its value may be -

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**9.05:8**



## aiaVT welcomes

erin bonson, *associate aia, waterbury*  
constance brigham, *professional affiliate, south burlington*  
susan personette, *aia, middlebury*  
beverly skelton, *aia, brandon*

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AIA Vermont reserves the right to edit articles for available space and determine appropriate content prior to inclusion. Submissions must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication.

The high prices per kilowatt-hour that have prevailed for two decades have never been sufficient by themselves to push consumers to take action, explains Ron McGarvey, head of residential services at VEIC. This is also the case in neighboring states where no organization similar to EVT exists.

"Homeowners and developers," he says, "will often think in the short-term, focus on immediate savings for themselves rather than on future savings for buyers or tenants. By offering technical assistance to developers, a service that they might not be willing to pay for themselves, by showing them the reality of long-term economic advantages that they might not be able to calculate, by looking – both with them and for them – for more efficient solutions and offering to share the extra cost with them of a better rather than a traditional approach, we are in the process over just a few years, of changing the market, normal practices, and traditional investment strategies."

### Intervene at the Right Place and The Right Time

But strategies will vary quite a bit depending on the clientele, explains Blair Hamilton. EVT realized, for example, that it is useless to try to convince a business owner to replace machines that are still functioning well or to entice consumers to replace a working refrigerator. "It costs a lot less," he says, "and the results are a lot better if we find the right place and the right time, just when decisions are being made because someone, often quickly and even urgently, has to replace an appliance or a machine."

So EVT offers its services to businesses and developers who only call when they have to replace a motor, a pump, or a refrigerator. EVT employees are constantly trying to anticipate the needs of certain sectors through their contacts with specialized business and development consultants such as architects and engineers who will alert them when a need arises.

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remains an interstatic, interstate law dominated by Western powers and concepts. This "international" law waits for and calls for decisive improvements. At the same time, I hesitate to elaborate upon these rough indications as if they could be simply located under the general category of politics. On the one hand, we should not forget the classical problems - economic, juridical, ethical, and political - in their stable or evolved forms. One must remind architects of them as well as all those who negotiate decisions that bear upon space, ecology, demography, justice, and so forth. Such responsibilities remain and become even more acute in the third world than in the richer, industrial capitals.

*cont.*

# 9.05:9

The approach to the retail market operates on the same principles. EVT targets, for example, the market for lighting and electrical appliances by agreements and advertising campaigns coordinated with suppliers, manufacturers and distributors. They try to reach the consumer precisely at the moment when he or she is ready to make a purchase, in other words, at the store. EVT offers "instant rebates" of \$3-5, honored at the cash register, on compact fluorescent bulbs and lamps that are Energy Star certified. These use four times less electricity than traditional incandescent equivalents. Mail-in rebates of \$50 are available for certified appliances, like washers, dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners, etc. EVT often coordinates its rebates with advertising campaigns and manufacturers' discounts, an approach that makes it even more attractive to consumers. Almost all the distributors of household appliances in Vermont now offer Energy Star appliances and a chain of hardware stores offers its customers the possibility of in-store computer ordering, with the same discounts, of products that are not available on the shelves, thus giving a little edge to small businesses.

### Spectacular Results

The community initiatives organized around the Change a Light program have also produced amazing results and a raising of consciousness that is just as spectacular. In schools, the EVT representatives arrive with a bicycle hooked up to incandescent and fluorescent bulbs. By pedaling to light them up, the students learn very quickly that the fluorescent bulbs require much less energy.

In 2003, in the little town of Poultney – 4000 inhabitants and 1200 houses – EVT launched a project with secondary school students in conjunction with a local hardware store and a manufacturer: one weekend, they offered one free compact



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**cont.**

One should not be content with inventing new, sophisticated forms, a la pointe, on the cutting edge of the avant-garde, while abandoning the terrain, to anyone, to any economic or political power, under the pretext that this is the "old" space, the old limits of architecture or urbanism in the premodern or modern form. One cannot be satisfied, for instance, with the Heideggerian argument that, if there is today a housing shortage (he was talking about the conditions before and after the war), it is rooted in a metaphysical essential, in the sense of dwelling and not of habitation. Whatever value we grant this argument, we cannot be satisfied with it. On the other hand (and we remain still at the level of watchwords), the necessity of recalling and exercising the traditional responsibilities of political philosophy and architecture should not authorize a critique of inventive, adventurous, more or less solitary experimentation and research. The assault of the so-called "individual signature", with all its accusations of narcissism, elitism, solipsism, and so on, under the pretext of the "good political conscience," seems to me disastrous. Not only

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**9.05:10**

fluorescent bulb per household. After having received the 1500 free bulbs, the citizens of the town then bought 3000 more so that in 48 hours, the majority of lightbulbs in a whole small town were converted and the total energy bill considerably reduced.

In Middlebury, last year, a group of college students along with the local state representative, Steven Maier – the legislator who is currently sponsoring a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Vermont – launched another Change a Light project over 72 hours with the help of EVT, the manufacturer of Maxlite products and Middlebury College. The students distributed 7000 invitations in the town's 4000 houses, dorms, businesses and institutions. They got the participation of hardware stores, pharmacies and local cooperatives. With the EVT discount coupon and a manufacturer's discount, they were able to offer \$5 lightbulbs for only 28 cents! They sold out all of the 7450 available lightbulbs in 48 hours. This will save an average of \$50 per year for each family and will mean a long-term savings of \$350,000 for this small community.

EVT doesn't just serve the wider public by means of instant rebates or community initiatives. The organization also offers several free services to households to evaluate the efficiency of their homes, including a CD that guides you through a self-evaluation process and lets budding young mathematicians present their parents with a complete efficiency renovation plan. They also offer a service to analyze over-consumption when there are unusually high electric bills. EVT also lends specialized equipment to analyze the functioning of possibly defective electrical appliances, encouraging their timely replacement when necessary. And these are only a few examples of the many programs available through an organization that is limited only by its employees' imaginations and by its own financial constraints.

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because one does not make good politics with bad architecture, or without architectural research and experimentation, but because, it seems to me, every new architectural writing is already motivated by a thought of the political. Architectural writing tries either to displace the given political categories or to anticipate or follow the evolution and deep mutations of the political. We should not forget that all of the different categories of political philosophy, classical or modern, have been built around the concept of the unity of the one, around the units called polis, city, state, and so forth. And to the extent that what is happening at this fin de siecle (and especially in cities like Los Angeles) is a passage to what has been called the post-city age, a transition that is also a transition toward great mutations in the relations among states, nations, civil societies, and so forth, architectural theory and praxis cannot look for their prescriptions in what is still called the political - the thinking of the polis or the city - or in a democracy which would still be measured by these concepts of the political. These concepts as well as the opposition between public

*cont.*

**9.05:11**

and private are in the process of being deconstructed.

This does not mean that one must simply abandon the political terrain and democracy. Rather, one must negotiate between democracy in its given model, the familiar, demographic model founded on the one as a calculable subject, and the democracy to come. This negotiation, which is a double bind, must divide the one who is architect, and there is as a rule no program for handling such division. And the traces of this division, and even the division of its self, constitute the signature, the paradoxical event of a signature which is never one, never one with itself. If I recall that I am here a stranger, remember that it is not to underline a signature but to recall two themes. I have just touched on the first. The other one let us call language, tongue, discourse, theory, philosophy, everything that apparently requires words. On a few occasions I have been lucky enough to have worked with architects in relationships which were both aleatory and necessary. In all these collaborations I have apparently been on the side of non-architecture, and consequently was provoked to analyze better the relation between architectural construction and, let's say, language, tongue, discourse, or non-architectural events. It is a very complicated story, of course, but, as a very brief summary of my thoughts of these experiences, I would say that the displacement that is occurring today and that I believe will be confirmed more and more in coming years, consists in overdetermining, against all the hierarchies and even against the concept of art, not to speak of such concepts as spirit and expression, the complications between the non-architectural arts - music, literature, history, and philosophy, for example - and the architectural arts. As a result, new writings of memory and utopia will intervene in architectural works, the signature of which will be more and more singular, or, more precisely, more and more singularly collective. Now here we have to be very simplistic. We are presented with the problem of determining what "building" will mean in these new works. I remember recently hearing Daniel Libeskind say, "Architecture for me does not consist in building. I have not built many things so far, and what I do - writing, drawing, publishing projects - is what interests me. Perhaps I am not an architect. I have no architectural license; I am not very interested in architecture." This is very interesting. It shows that today many arts and practices are not so much integrated as inscribed. Even if Libeskind or Peter Eisenman or other architects never built, nevertheless what they publish is legitimized as architectural, as belonging to architecture, as implying the possibility of building. It is this possibility that today we have to analyze. What does this possibility mean? In this space or place which is not simply an indeterminate dream, even if it is not built, research will concern the modality of this possibility. Here, the signature is a divided one, a divided One. In these experimentations and productions of the divided signature, all of the aesthetic, economic, and political problems are at stake. A final point. A word

about this perspective of the event we call the work and the signature of the architect. For the sake of economy, I will make this point by evoking the name Ulysses and his return trip home, his suffering from homesickness. His round trip describes the very circle of the oikonomia, the law of the house, the return home. Evoking the name Ulysses, I would insist on that which distinguishes singularity from individuality, and from the totalizing circle. An event, whether it be a work, a trace, or a signature - or the work as signature - an event must always be singular, be one. But the one of the event is not necessarily, I would say, especially not, individual and indivisible. The singularity of the event does not consist in a unity of a recollection or gathering with itself, but in the sealed mark of division, of the double bind that we have already mentioned in terms of political responsibility. One cannot be responsible as such without experiencing contradictions, contradictory duties. Confronting a problem free of contradiction or undecidability requires no responsibility. The sealed mark of the division, the double bind, is the double obligation requiring the most inventive architects to proceed, to attempt the impossible while at the same time not abandoning the terrain of their traditional responsibilities - the city, demography, homelessness, and so forth - to people who are not just anyone, who "know how to handle the problem", to people who are therefore without responsibility. This double bind must be sealed in the signature. I would say it is precisely this sealed double bind that holds together in the singular, nonpunctual, unstable strife of the work or the signature. This tension within the signature leaves its mark on the dominant forms of many works today which, though different from one another, nevertheless have something in common: a dislocation, a disassociation which tries to hold together things that do not easily hold together. As I consider these questions, why do I name Ulysses, the proper name, Ulysses? Ulysses means two things: first, regarding the one - here I am following the Anyone program - Ulysses means the circle of return, nostalgia, dwelling, the oikonomia. From this perspective, I would say that the architect of the next millenium - and of today already - will not be a Ulysses, even if he or she must take into account and inscribe the political and economic dimensions of dwelling in his or her work. But Ulysses means something else. Recall the passage in the Odyssey when he encounters the Cyclops Polyphemos. Trying to disguise himself, to hide himself, Ulysses calls himself Outis - nobody, no man, personne. Here, in a strategy of simple erasure, the Subject masks his singularity behind no one, das Man (here in a sense that does not depend on the Heideggerian distinction between the authentic Dasein and the inauthentic das Man). In French, Outis is translated as personne, meaning no one, no particular subject. I think the architects of tomorrow will not be personne; they will not be anonymous, the singular signature will not be erased. The proper name, that which cannot be reappropriated, is here simply the seal of the singularity of the event that cannot gather

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itself into itself as itself. Singularity does not mean an identity with oneself. It is another experience of the name, other than the one which has dominated Western philosophy as well as Western architecture, and it does not mean the simple indivisibility of the identity of the work with itself. Here, the signature may continue to mean unique as Heidegger said: the unique is not the identical, not the same. It is difference. We must distinguish here among one, self, same, unique, singular, individual, and so on. The one is the difference. We can accent the one so that it does not mean identity with itself but rather the difference that holds together the singularity and its difference. Thus, the anyone will have to decide, to hesitate, to choose between the negative indeterminacy, the calculable structure of the anonymous, the indivisible and encircled individual, circled in its monumental specularly on the one hand and, on the other, the anyone who, beyond authenticity and inauthenticity, beyond a certain ethics, beyond das Man and man, would sign the experience of the impossible, of the double bind that makes a possible ruin of every architecture and an originary signature of every ruin. At that moment, architecture will have perhaps lost its name, its unity; it will perhaps become a stranger to itself, foreign to itself. And that will be good. Perhaps this has already begun today. Perhaps architecture will, as I have tried to do today by treating these points otherwise, move from anyone to anything.