

The Spasm of Revolutionary Convulsions

ROBERT FLANAGAN and
KELLY SHANNON
University of Colorado

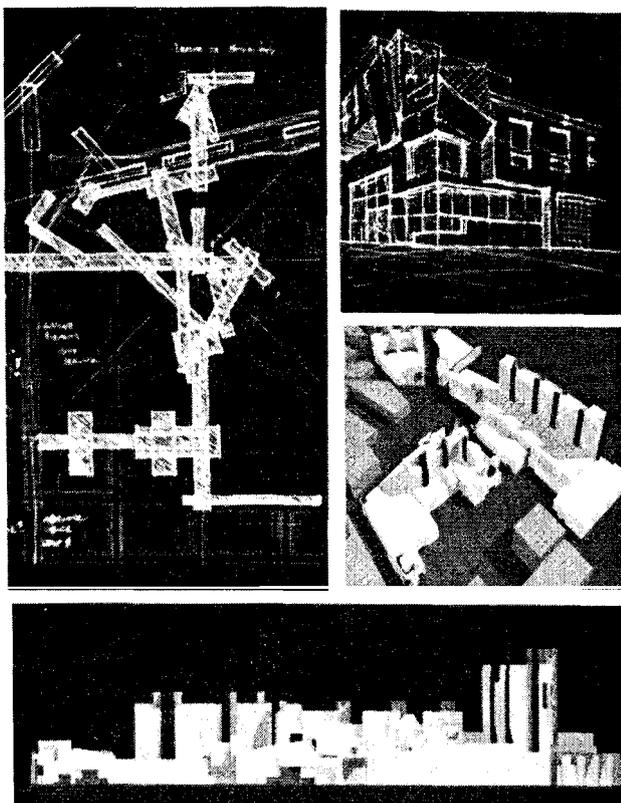


Fig. 1.

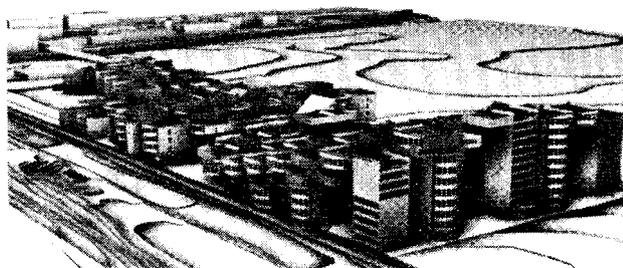


Fig. 2.

The following is a record of a collaborative teaching effort between two architect/educators, each contributing theoretical components necessary to develop urban housing, via an integrated digital effort.

The impetus of the studio was to confront tradition and precedent in architectural design through transformation with digital methodologies. This investigation deliberately avoided creating analogues of traditional pencil and paper methods while attempting to use advantages inherent in the computer to leverage the contribution of the participants. There was no attempt to deny the contribution of the sketch or hand drawing but instead to incorporate the traditional process into a digital focus.

This upper graduate-level experimental studio explored issues of housing for a post— industrial society. Through the prism of information technology, canonical contemporary precedents of housing (from Japan and Europe) were analyzed. Two analytical methods were provided by the instructors to explore the potential to innovate design strategies within the context of precedent and technological advancement.

ANALYSIS METHODOLOGIES – ACA AND LCDD

These interdependent methodologies approach fundamental concerns raised by the creative demands of contemporary urban housing; they address the issues of why and how.

The Architectural Confrontation Analysis (ACA) questions the role of architecture as a mediator between competing interests. The objective is to assess a specific housing project within the particular social, economic, political and market context, as well as the architectural culture of the architect studied. The implicit and explicit values built into the

STUDENTS

Fig. 1. Kevin Marion
Digital sculptural form generation.

Fig. 2. Robin Morrison
Computer as spatial and conceptual generator.

residential fabric are to be distilled- not only from the point of view of their overall image, but also in terms of its basic organization, mode of approach, amenities, etc.

Lowest Common Design Denominator (LCDD) is used to formally, programmatically and structurally reduce the inherent, essential order of precedents, via a process of 2 and 3 dimensional architectural analysis. Its distinction from other analytical methods is the introduction of dynamic links made possible through computer technology. The dynamic link is the capability of the computer to affect changes from one component to all related components simultaneously. Mastery of the dynamic link allows one to re-establish the original design control of the architect; to understand the intention and conception from the tectonic detail to holistic view.

STUDIO FORMAT

1. Analysis of Precedent

ACA and LCDD were employed to analyze canonical urban housing precedents and published in the Culture of Housing booklet.

2. Architectural and Urban Design Solution

Design decision from micro to macro were informed by ACA and implemented with LCDD guidance.

3. Publication of Component One and Two.

The students posted analysis and design on the World Wide Web at: <http://carbon.cudenver.edu/~arc67015/>

NOTES

- 1 Salvador Dali (translated by Haakon M. Chevalier), *The Secret Life of Salvador Dali*; (London: Alkin Books, 1942), p. 360.

Fig. 3. T.J. Carvis, Julian Hillenkamp
Computer in formal manipulation of complex forms.

Fig. 4. Gina Gerber, Greg Smith and Erik Hall
Digital merging of real and imaginary.

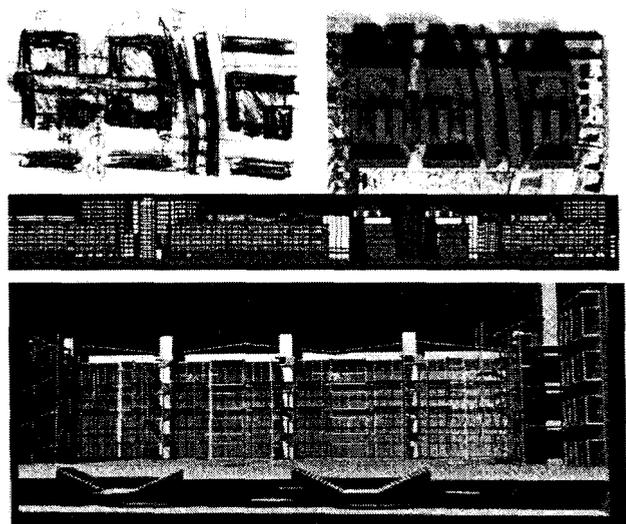


Fig. 3.

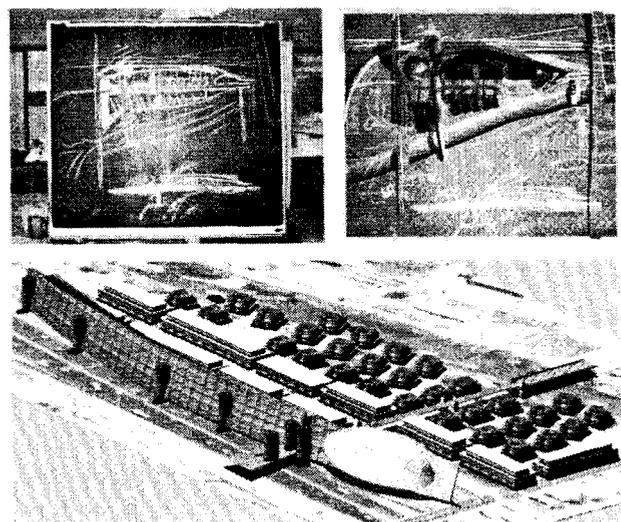


Fig. 4