
Obituaries: Myer Wolfe, 70, UW urban expert

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socialnemu delu; sistemska organizacija načrtovalskega procesa se je umaknila prosvetljenim improvizacijam v polju razvoja skupnosti oz. izgradnje selišč. Zaznavna analiza z geometrično konceptualizacijo urbanega okolja je bila obogatena s semantiko in semiologijo urbane arhitekture ob krepkem izposojanju iz sodobnega dogajanja v strukturalnem jezikoslovju.

Z vsem tem je morda arhitektura spet enkrat sposobna pokazati moč svoje posebne notranje logike. Introvertiranje zavzetosti za ekspresivno oblikovanje je skladno z zmanjšanim merilom fizičnih posegov v človeški habitat. Pri tem imamo v mislih posege v obliki velikih projektov, ki so izzvali večji del nemira in nelagodja, tako pri oblikovalcih samih kakor tudi pri njihovih naročnikih ...

Modernizem je bil tako močno gibanje, da ga je lahko nasledil le zelo šibak koncept, tj. neki "post-" ..., in je tudi tako močan pojav, da znotraj postmodernizma ali "poznega modernizma" še cvetejo pomembni izrastki izvornih zasnov, npr. "high-tech", neoracionalizem z oživiljanjem Le Corbusiera in Loosa in podobno. Vendar pa je bil prelom nujen, saj je prispeval k:

- novi potrditvi omejitev, ki obstajajo v okolju in v človeku,
- večji občutljivosti za različno, posebno, da celo za nenavadno v ljudeh,

- novemu poudarku umetniške individualnosti,

- diverzifikaciji orožarne oblik, ki naj jih uporablja oblikovanje.

Verovanja arhitektov in urbanistov ni pretresla le kriza tehnološko pogojenega progresizma, tu je še kriza socializma, tako utopičnega kakor tudi "realnega", kajti arhitekturni in urbanistični modernizem je stal in padel s socializmom.

In spet, zdi se, da je bil socializem tako močna zamisel, da je ne zmore zlahka zamenjati neka šibkejša zasnova. Morda še ne moremo videti, kaj se je medtem zgodilo v sistemih, ki so bili tradicionalno opredeljeni kot nasprotje socializmu na področju družbenih odnosov.

Zdaj nas mora skrbeti to, da:

- mladi ljudje negujejo cinizem,
- revni ljudje nimajo večjih obetov,
- rasteta misticizem in metafizika,
- gradijo palače za nekatere, namesto domov za mnoge ...

(Vse te misli so morda le fragmenti iz nekega nenapisanega pisma, odgovora na zadnjo značilno beležko s skico, ki je prispela zgodaj v letošnjem januarju od Mika Wolfa, mojega daljnega, vedno toplega in veselega prijatelja ...).

Wednesday, June 28, 1989 The Seattle Times H 3

Obituaries

Myer Wolfe, 70, UW urban expert

by Joanne Plank
Times staff reporter

Myer Wolfe, a University of Washington professor emeritus and founding dean of the university's department of urban planning, died Sunday in Seattle after a long illness.

He was 70.

An internationally recognized expert on urban development, Wolfe traveled widely as a consultant and lecturer.

"He was always careful to maintain the practical side to his work," said Chuck Wolfe, one of his sons.

Myer Wolfe worked on projects in Scandinavia, Australia, Myanma (formerly Burma), South Korea, Turkey, Yugoslavia and throughout the U.S.

During World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps in the Burma-China-India theater.

Wolfe joined the UW faculty in 1949 and was the founding chairman of the department of urban planning — a post he held from 1962 until 1967.

His colleagues said he was instrumental in establishing the UW's programs in urban design and planning.

Wolfe was the dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning from 1979 until 1982.

He retired from the university in 1983 but in 1986 served as acting dean of architecture and urban design at Arizona State University.

Both his sons followed similar professions. Chuck Wolfe, of Massachusetts, is a land-use attorney; Michael Wolfe, of Portland, is an architect.