

JOHN P. EBERHARD

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WINCHESTER, MASS.

PARKVIEW 9-6398

December 28, '60

Dear Mr. Boyd,

Your letter was a welcome one, both because of your interest and comments and the fact that it was handwritten. I like to believe, as you apparently do, that one is able to transmit more by such a procedure. One of the many things we in our time have sacrificed to technology is the strength of a personal statement in communications.

Your concern with the artist being able to control technology by means such as I suggested in my thesis is shared by most of those, including Walter Gropius but not Buckminster Fuller, who read the thesis. My own belief is one that continues to be an optimistic one that computers (rightly used) may offer the greatest tool for general excellence in the building of buildings yet put at the disposal of architects. We have tended, too much!

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believe, in this century to build our great buildings<sup>for</sup> and devote our efforts to the exception. The exceptional client with "vision"; the exceptional client with money; the exceptional client with a challenging problem. As a result the vast majority of the buildings which cover our own country and your "Australian Ugliness" are not ones which future architectural historians will heed collectively or individually:

In my opinion we cannot blame the clients, nor even ourselves as architects, it is more the fault of the cumbersome system which has grown-up around the process of converting raw materials to buildings. Most importantly the distribution of skill of the highest order has become (or perhaps continues to be) concentrated on a few projects. This may have been acceptable in a monarchy, but can not and should not be so in a Democracy. Our lack of skill seriously hampers solutions to problems in newly awakening nations. If architects of imagination and ability do not find a means to use their skills for the greater good of humanity because

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they would prefer the plaudits of their fellows  
(and the writers of purple prose in the "trade"  
magazines) for individual projects done for the  
exceptional few, then perhaps they will cease to  
serve a useful purpose.

You are more than welcome to keep the thesis  
copy you have. I hope one of these days to take  
the time to go beyond its first thrusts. It may  
interest you to know that I am presently serving  
as the Director of Research for the Sheraton  
Corporation (hotels). This affords me an opportunity  
to continue to explore this area, with the possibility  
of bringing together some of the forces at work  
in the building industry on a major client's problems  
restated in a manner which will make it possible  
to advance the technology of building. I also continue  
to teach at M.I.T. (Political and Sociological history of U.S.)  
in the Industrial Management School, and to practice  
architecture in a modest way.

Sincerely  
John Eberhard

P.S.

Will your book be available in this country?