

TECHNOLOGY AND PLACE

Facilitators: Barbara Allen, Executive Editor, *Journal of Architectural Education* and Steven Moore, University of Texas at Austin

Panelists:

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The February 2001 issue of the *JAE* (54:3) is constituted of articles and photographs by ten authors who have individually investigated the relation between technologies and places. This panel provides the opportunity for the editors and four of the contributors to renovate and extend their written discourse.

Although all of the contributors share the assumption that the emergence of technologies and places is a related phenomenon, the

methodologies employed and conclusions reached by the authors are far from common. Kenneth Frampton and Steven Moore, who jointly edited the issue, agree upon the ethical and pragmatic challenge to architecture posed by ecology. However, they employ very different research methods to examine that challenge and have decidedly different views on the role that Frampton's Critical Regionalism hypothesis might play in constructing an ecological hypothesis for our discipline.

Simon Guy and Graham Farmer, both of the University of Newcastle upon Tyre, employ the research methods of social constructivism to argue that ecological architecture is not one coherent ideology, but comprised of six competing "logics." The conflicting interests and assumptions embodied in each of the logics documented gives rise to both conflict and unexpected opportunities in the project imagined by Frampton and Moore.

Robert Weddle of Drury University and Karla Britton of Columbia University have each investigated the development of concrete technology in France. Weddle documents the case of the Cité de la Muette, constructed just outside Paris in 1930-34, as an example where a technological narrative of liberation was flatly rejected as inappropriate to its place. Britton, on the other hand, finds in the works of Auguste Perret an opportunity to reaffirm a sacrosanct classical building tradition embodied in the "soil of France." Weddle's narrative of technological rejection and Britton's narrative of technological recuperation both rest upon the social construction of the same place.

The tensions between these investigations, and three other contributions in the same *JAE* issue, will make for a lively exchange of ideas on the relation of technologies and places.