

Fantastic Future City Growth Foreseen By U-M Architect

ANN ARBOR—There is good reason for thinking that a university city—a merging of big metropolitan areas to create a super city—the single integrated global community—will be as different in its architectural makeup from what exists today as the isolated medieval towns of the 13th century.

"As we look toward the future, it is clear that the super city—the single integrated global community—will be as different in its architectural methods as a medieval town was from the isolated medieval town."

Larson states, "A new architecture based on modern industrial production techniques rather than handicrafts should be able to create environments that will be automatically responsive to a great variety of human needs."

"But we must accept the fact that buildings have predetermined life spans of their own. When they become obsolete, they should be as easy to dispose as a piece of Kleenex."

"In a truly organic architecture, the evolution of human life is the lesson of history; it has been heavily underscored by the acceleration of events in recent years."

"On this basis we can expect the earth to have some 18 to 20 billion inhabitants, possibly even more, 100 years hence. If traffic conditions in the urban centers are considered bad today, imagine what they would be like when there are six or seven times more people in the world—to say nothing of the probability that the vast majority will have their own personalized vehicles to run around in."

Says Larson, "The important point is that there is a very short time in the life of a city or any other urban unit. Today is not a bit too early to start planning for what will be needed a hundred years from now."

"A clue to the future form of the expanding city is contained in the fact that with the industrialization of agriculture and the emergence of big metropolitan areas, the old distinction between town and country has become lost. It is no longer possible to tell where one settled community ends and another begins."

As towns merge into one another, a process known as conurbation, farm lands shrink and surplus areas are turned into golf courses or industrial research parks or open spaces for regional recreation. The notion that a city must have some kind of boundary, a political or otherwise, is an outmoded vestige of medievalism," says Larson.

"Imaginative town planners are asking, should conurbation stop with megalopolis? Isn't there a still larger unit of urban growth just ahead, one which takes in the middle of each continent? And if that is to pass, won't the entire earth eventually then become a single integrated urban entity?"

"The goal of a single integrated urban community eventually embracing the entire earth's surface implies a wide range of coordination, a urban "mosaic,"" Larson adds.

"Working contacts must be established with counterparts in other countries, and even other continents, if the urban developments in any single locality are to be planned within a sufficiently broad frame of socio-economic understanding."

"The road to world peace cannot be developed on an international scale without also considering all the other means of transportation—ships, trains, helicopters, jets, hovercraft, and the like," Larson states. "But traffic too cannot be ignored, for the streets and oceans continue to be important channels of commercial activity."

"It is also clear that as the various systems of transportation are coordinated and the motor roads are extended over ever wider areas, agreement will have to be reached between various countries as to how their respective road and rail networks may be used to best mutual advantage," says Larson.

"In an integrated world society, there will no longer be any need for each nation to try to be completely self-sufficient. Some areas are better suited to the production of certain commodities than others, and should specialize according

to the weather and to contact local climates."

Larson states, "A new architecture based on modern industrial production techniques rather than handicrafts should be able to create environments that will be automatically responsive to a great variety of human needs."

"But we must accept the fact that buildings have predetermined life spans of their own. When they become obsolete, they should be as easy to dispose as a piece of Kleenex."

"In a truly organic architecture, the evolution of human life is the lesson of history; it has been heavily underscored by the acceleration of events in recent years."

Elegant 'n' Thrifty Rib Roast!

PLAN TWO LUSCIOUS MEALS FROM ONE JUICY, TENDER CUT

Clip These Valuable Food Fair Coupons for Extra Savings!

35323 Plymouth
at Yelo
Livonia

27428 W. 6 Mile
at Inkster
Livonia

27200 Joy Road
at Inkster
Redford Township

Wonderland
Shopping Center
Livonia

23632 Plymouth
at Telegraph
Redford Township

27415 Schoolcraft
at Inkster
Redford Township

8244 Merriman
near Ann Arbor Trail
Garden City

705 South Main
at Linden
Plymouth