

# DEAR READER

EDITORIAL BY GUEST-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JEAN BERNARD KOEMAN

Is History a series of events or is History the description of these events? A complex theoretical issue. However we look at it, it's worthwhile to rediscover specific historical events or attainments from a new or personal level. For a long time I have found myself immersed in the utopians and architectural achievements of the 1950's and the modernist era. When the HTV de IJsborg-editors were so kind to engage me, I decided to research how other artists also derive from these sources. A curatorial publication that has turned in a very full but clearly categorised databank. A collection of common sources. Somehow we managed to give it a fifties feel altogether. A former era of Hope, like we hopefully have now.

Why I particularly addressed to these artists is quite clear to me; they have all made wonderful works in the past and I was convinced that this content and modernism plays a role in their work or at least an important role in the sources of and the thinking about that work. I asked the artists to show two or three sources, and a work of their own that relates to these notions.

So here we are; a newspaper around the subject of '*Mental Architecture / Former Utopian building*'. To me, this latter title is a sub-subject within the notion of 'Mental Architecture'. This term brings together a collection of thoughts about sculpture, building, bricolage, installation and architecture that I have used and thought about for many years. All my work is based on these thoughts. It is a definition of how I look at art, landscape and the world. It is shaped with the legacy of modernism, ideology and the avant-garde. It's also shaped by a critical position concerning these achievements and the failures of these ideologies. And sometimes it just started with the wondering and astonishment about the creative lunacy and genius of the men and women who produced these shapes and forms and thoughts. To me, the capacity for veneration is one of the cardinal human virtues. Whether it derives from envy or love, it is a force that engenders pure energy.

On the front page I made a drawing where I try to map out the direct surrounding subjects of this Mental Architecture. I feel this comes into being if language is attached to the urban scenography we live in, or when we look at the world from a creative level. Mental Architecture is the building in ourselves.

I decided to put my own contributions in this side-section. The so-called *Faits Divers*, where we try to bring up as many connotations, pictures and small ideas as it can bear to trigger ourselves and the reader.

It is important to state that for this issue and subject of HTV I have only asked Artists (and a few writers) to react to these questions of architecture; I wanted to see loads of pictures and read personal statements why these buildings or structures are important or funny or fantastic.

In addition there are a few contributions by the HTV-editors crew. We did not try to establish ourselves as specialists or to compete within the extensive field of theory about architecture. But I do think artists may also (re)claim the discourse about these fields in a creative and literary manor.

Warm greetings and thanks a lot,  
*Jean Bernard Koeman*

## SOME SOURCES

Buckminster Fuller (and his World Game)  
Thom Mayne / Morphosis  
Mitchell / Corn Palace  
Piranesi  
Cedric Price  
MIT Rad Lab  
Marvin Minsky  
Norbert Weiner  
J.C.R. Licklider  
Edward James / Mexico  
Ron Herron / Walking cities  
Robert Garcet / Fort Eben Emael  
Superstudio  
Expo 58  
Kurt Schwitters / Merzbau  
Odori Park / Sapporo  
Thomas Shannon / Airborne Islands  
James Thurrel / Roden Crater  
Paolo Soleri  
Robert Smithson  
(The obvious) Le Corbu / Bauhaus / van der Rohe / Johnson / Louis Kahn / Neutra / International  
Style bunch  
Biospherics / John Allen  
Henry Ford / Walt Disney (both have wanted to construct a new city) and even Neverland...  
Taut & Finsterlin  
Dome-ism  
Jaipur Dornach / Shovel House  
Julius Schulman / Case Study House

**MODERNISM REVISITED!**