The Architecture of Interpretation

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Acknowledgements

Recycling

Interpretation is all about re-creation, the recycling of history from a fresh point of view. It requires insight - the sight within. Louis Kahn said all creation exists within oneself, as always. He rejected principles of black-box architecture espoused by many of his contemporaries. He found inspiration in light rather than darkness.

For over a year now I have been living with the subject of Louis Kahn and the Trenton Bathhouse, enriched by the diversity of views shared by those whose lives have been touched and irrevocably altered by his work. It seemed a simple beginning. A major discovery along the way was the realization of the incredible complexity and integrity that Kahn imbued in his designs for the Jewish Community Center. And for him this was just the start - his seminal creation.

The structure of this thesis has evolved and matured with the growth in understanding of the implications of Kahn's work and the responsibilities we as architects, preservationists and citizens assume in guiding the interpretation of these landmark buildings for the benefit of communities yet unknown. Louis Kahn never stopped questioning the possible, knowing that the discovery of irrefutable answers was a futile undertaking. With an awareness of that sight within, he energetically encourages us to wonder and to re-create. Let a new cycle begin.