

OZ

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Contents

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4	Modern Pastoralism and the Middle Landscape	Peter G. Rowe
10	Planning and Elaboration	Royce M. Earnest
12	The Impact of the Car on American Urban Form	Richard Pohlman
18	In Search of the City	Helen Maib
22	The Sacred Garden Verses the City of Man	Stanley Tigerman
24	Form and Content	David Walters
28	The Representation of Making in Urban Form	Murali Ramaswami Llewellyn Seibold
30	Doré After London	Wayne Michael Charney
36	Vacant Lots Proposal	Tod Williams Billie Tsien
38	Four Museums + a Monument	Kansas City Academic Program
40	Madison Square Garden Site Redevelopment	Thomas Phifer
42	Emerald City	Daniel Soloman Susan Haviland
46	The Seaside Story	Robert Davis
48	Design for Sustainability at Seaside	Gary Coates
52	The Window and the Door	Fourth year Architecture Studio
54	Building as an Urban Machine	Vladimir Krstic
56	Adaptive Reuse	Fifth Year Interior Architecture Studio

Prologue

“The city first took form as the home of a god: a place where eternal values were represented. Though the symbols have changed the realities behind them remain ... Without the religious perspectives generated by the city, it is doubtful if more than a small part of man’s capacities for living and learning could have developed.”

Lewis Mumford
The City in History, 1961

The Myths of Metropolis

The drama of history formed and forming — of lives past, promised and denied — is revealed in cities, vital embodiments of human purpose in our civilizations. What can we understand about the city’s complex origins and functions? Has the city been rendered obsolete by the technology it spawned? What are our symbols of urbanism? What myths inform us as we inhabit, participate in and design town, city, metropolis and megalopolis?

J.E.F.