



Professor László Peter Kollár (1926 – 2000)

See:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laszlo_Peter_Kollar

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

László Peter Kollar (born 1926) was an Architect and Professor in Sydney, in which he had predominantly lectured at the University of New South Wales. Known for his Design Principles, which were influenced by the human condition and spiritual traditions.

Personal life

László Peter Kollar, often known as Peter Kollar was a Professor within the Faculty of the Built Environment (formerly the Faculty of Architecture) at the University of New South Wales (NSW).

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1926, Peter Kollar completed his secondary schooling in Hungary in 1944. The following year he enrolled in the architecture program at the Technical University of Budapest and studied there for the next four years.

In 1949, eight months before completing his degree, Kollar fled Hungary after the communist takeover of his country. He then spent some time in Italy working for the International Refugee Organization, while also travelling to Austria and Germany. He sailed to Australia in September 1950, initially staying at Bonegilla, a migrant reception centre in Victoria, before moving to Villawood migrant reception centre in Sydney in late October 1950.

Kollar's first job in Sydney was as a labourer with the British Australian Lead Manufacturers, but in February 1951 he obtained a position of more personal interest to him — that of architectural draftsman.

Peter Kollar was studying an Associate Diploma (Architecture) part-time when the course was transferred from Sydney Technical College to the New South Wales University of Technology in 1951, thus beginning what was to become a long-term association with this university.

He graduated in 1953 and four years later, in June 1957, Kollar accepted an appointment as a lecturer in Architecture. His 'Principles of Design' lectures were said to have had a profound subject matter which focused on the nature of the human condition informed by a deep understanding of great Spiritual Traditions of the world. Over the years Kollar developed a suite of courses that complemented and elaborated on these principles.

He remained a member of the university's academic community until his death. In that time he served the university as lecturer, senior lecturer, associate professor and, finally, visiting professor.

He was buried at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, Sydney Australia in December 2000.

Key Ideas

Kollar asserts the primacy of intellect over circumstances; the root of beautiful architecture is in not in material reality but in enlightenment philosophy. Much of Kollar's written work is concerned with the duality of Function and Beauty; he argues that there is, hypothetically, an equation wherein Function equals Truth and Truth equals Beauty.

He references architectural history only in the spiritual context:

"Beyond the physical and human plane there is a vast realm that contains man's deeply rooted desire to reach higher than himself... When architectural thought is focussed upon this plane, it unveils some aspect or part of the perennial Truth, recognisable beyond its own time and context with Universal validity. This is the hallmark of architectural masterpieces that thus become endowed with everlasting significance." [1]

Central to Kollar's philosophy is the notion that Architecture has a responsibility to facilitate human delight and spiritual awareness.

"Delightful architecture is a reminder of the wonders of the world, of the joys of life... the wonder of life is not added to but is found within life itself; if it be veiled by our insensibility, by our ignorance or superficiality, one would need to draw 'away' or 'part' the veil, to reveal, to discover what is ever there. Delightful architecture is not concerned with shape, style, colour, materials, simplicity, clarity, fit, order, or whatever else, in the first place its chief concern is only one, to reveal the wondrous texture of life in our magical world so that we may discover, through knowledge, sensitivity and insight, the invisible significance beyond the visible signs." [2]

In his *Patterns of Delightful Architecture* Kollar asserts that this universal delight is only achievable through harmony, lucidity, analogy, ordered geometry and rhythm, a carefully considered relationship between the whole and its many parts, and sensitivity to the various phases or events in the human condition.[3]

Notable Publications:

Mechanics of composite structures (co-authored with George Springer) [4]

On Post-modern Architecture [5]

On the Whole and the Part[6]

Patterns of Delightful Architecture [7]

Symbolism in Hindu Architecture as revealed in the Shri Minakshi Sundareswar (photographs by Alan Croker)

[8]

Notable Projects:

László Peter Kollar's most notable work was the Concept design of the Sydney Opera competition in 1956, in Collaboration with associate and fellow Hungarian Balthazar Korab, who had previously worked as a photographer for Eero Saarinen. They placed fourth in the competition which resulted in the winning design by Jørn Utzon. Kollar's design was ranked the highest out of all Australian entries and was met with high appraisal by judges for its 'skilful planning'. However, Kollar continually championed Utzon's design, even when Utzon omitted himself from the project, recognizing that the Sydney Opera House Utzon had designed was seen as important in a newly-liberated design language.[9] The Opera house design Kollar created are some of the highlights in Kollar's published papers.[10]

Editor of "Building a masterpiece: The Sydney Opera house" Anne Watson commented on the competition entries including that of Kollar's stating:

"Much has been made of the imaginative and daring choice of the four competition judges in January 1957. However, other entries by architects like Harry Seidler, Peter Kollar, and Robert Geddes, commended by the competition judges, provide fascinating insights into the wide range of modernist design responses to the site and the competition brief." [11]

Awards:

The University of New South Wales Faculty of the Built Environment now annually awards a student with the L. Peter Kollar Memorial Prize for "excellent scholarship making a significant contribution to the promotion of human dignity and social and environmental responsibility with respect for the whole human person in a whole world - the tripartite human nature comprising spirit, mind and body in a world with its corresponding spiritual, subtle and physical dimensions." [12]

References:

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2. Kollar, L. Peter, *Patterns of Delightful Architecture*, Kensington, New South Wales: University of New South Wales, School of Architecture, 1985. P12
3. Kollar, L. Peter. *Patterns of Delightful Architecture*. University of New South Wales, School of Architecture, Kensington, New South Wales, 1985, pp78-83
4. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003
5. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003

6. Kensington, New South Wales: University of New South Wales, Faculty of Architecture, c1985
7. Kensington, New South Wales: University of New South Wales, Faculty of Architecture, c1987
8. New Delhi: Aryan Books International, 2001
9. Anne Watson, "Building a masterpiece: The Sydney Opera house, Powerhouse publishing in association with Lund Humphries, 2006, Sydney, p50
10. Katie Bird, "Origins: Newsletter of UNSW Archives No.9", May 2005, viewed on 7/04/2011, <http://www.recordkeeping.unsw.edu.au/documents/Origins9.pdf>
11. Vivien Schweitzer and Matthew Westphal, Photo Journal: Sydney Opera House Marks 50 Years Since Its Design With Exhibition of Competing Architects' Entries, 15 Feb 2007, viewed on 7/04/2011, <http://www.playbillarts.com/news/article/6024-Photo-Journal-Sydney-Opera-House-Marks-50-Years-Since-Its-Design-With-Exhibition-of-Competing-Architects-Entries.html>
12. Kollar, L. Peter. Architecture in Australia: Four Lectures. 1958 October–December, pp78-83

Selected Publications:

Kollár, L.: Statik und Stabilität der Schalenbögen und Schalenbalken [Static and Stability Analyses of Shell-Arches and Beams], Akademiai Kiado, Budapest 1973; German Translation published by Verlag Wilhelm Ernst & Sohn, Berlin

Kollár, L. and Dulacska, E.: Buckling of Shells for Engineers, Wiley, New York (translation of Hejak Horpadasa, Akademiai Kiado, Budapest, in Hungarian) 1984

Kollár, L./Dulacska, E.: Schalenbeulung, Werner-Verlag, Düsseldorf 1975

Kollár, L. P., "Buckling of Generally Anisotropic Shallow Sandwich Shells," Journal of Reinforced Plastics and Composite Materials, Vol. 9, No. 6, 1990, pp. 549– 568.

Veres IA, Kollár LP. Buckling of rectangular orthotropic plates subjected to biaxial loads. J Compos Mater 2001;35(7):625–35.

Kollár LP. Local buckling of fiber reinforced plastic composite structural members with open and closed cross sections. J Struct Eng—ASCE 2003; 129(11):1503–13.

Kollár, L. Peter and Springer, George S., **Mechanics of Composite Structures**, Cambridge University Press, 480 pages. First published 2003, ISBN 978-0521801652.

ABSTRACT: A greater use of composite materials in many areas of engineering has led to a greater demand for engineers versed in the design of structures made from such materials. This text offers students and engineers tools for designing practical composite structures. Among the topics of interest to the designer are stress-strain relationships for a wide range of anisotropic materials; bending, buckling, and vibration of plates; bending, torsion, buckling, and vibration of solid as well as thin-walled beams; shells; hygrothermal stresses and strains; finite element formulation; and failure criteria. More than 300 illustrations, 50 fully worked problems, and material properties data sets are included.