Wednesday 27th

2nd INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURAL PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

Theme: PROBLEMS AND THEORETICAL MODELS IN ARCHITECTURAL PSYCHOLOGY

Carl Axel Acking, Professor
Lund Institute of Technology
Section of Architecture
Department of theoretic and applied Aesthetics
Pock 725, 220 07 Lund, Sweden

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Ladies and gentlemen,

I now declare the Second International Architectural Psychology Conference opened. We have come together because of our common interest in human perception, feeling and behaviour and our need for understanding the factors of importance for creating a better environment.

This is the second international conference of its kind. The first one was held at Kingston Polytechnic, London in 1970, and we remember it as a very well organized and successful conference. Some year before the Kingston Conference Dr. David Canter took initiative to the first British conference in this field. In 1967 I was together with Lennart Holm, now head of the Swedish State Planning Commission, and Anders Härén, who is supposed to be present here today, responsible for arranging the first Swedish conference here in Lund. Since then we have organized a Swedish group working in this field. We have also been able to arrange another conference here in Lund as well as one in Stockholm and one in Gothenburg. The National Swedish Council for Building Research supports this group and also this international conference, and we are very grateful for this.

In the U.S., EDRA, Environmental Design Research Association, was established at about the same time, with a larger program and not restricted only to the architectural and psychological aspects of the environment. It may seem that EDRA has no limitations at all. After that I have been able to contribute at EDRA this year in Blackburg, Virginia, I myself have the feeling
that a more concentrated program and a more limited amount of de-
gregates perhaps would be of advantage. Lately the magazine En-
vironment and Behavior edited by Gary R. Winkel has given us
still more knowledge about the actual field.

However, here we are and I do hope the conference will give re-
result. And with result I mean partly that we will get some of
the answers we need but unfortunately scientific questions are
generally too complex to answer in a few words. So what we can
expect is rather to establish contacts with other people interest-
ted in the same kinds of problems and find ways to solve them
together. Perhaps we can also discuss continued communication.
On Friday I hope to get your opinion about a proposal of select-
ing a small working group for penetrating this matter. We have
been thinking of arranging another conference in 1975 or 1976
e.g. in Switzerland.

When thinking about our program I remember how one of the most
exciting guest-speakers at ERRA in Blacksburg, professor
van Foerster, described our actual situation. He said that in
one of his plays, Weltra, he let a man express his astonished dis-
covery when he suddenly realized that he was talking in prose
—and noticed that he had been doing so during his whole life.
Professor van Foerster went on to point out that in our time,
we are all very astonished when we discover the fact that we
are living in an environment. An environment! And have you
noticed what we are doing with this environment? he asks.

I have the feeling that after having overcome our astonishment
and started all kinds of organizations to protect the nature,
which of course is very important, we must now begin to think
about another problem, the problem of creating a better man-made
environment. This must be done in accordance with nature and with
regard not only to the practical-functional and technical-economic
but also to the human psychological needs as well. I am
sure all of us in this conference will contribute in his or her
field to that goal and I do think that the fact that we have been
able to come together is a good sign for the future of human life
and environment. But like our conference secretary says in a
promemoria from the board: "Let us not forget that research is
not only a lot of questions and results but a way of life for
many of us. Let us therefore have a nice conference."

We have been lucky enough to get response from famous scientist
all over the world to this conference and I will now on behalf
of the board welcome all of you and especially our invited
speakers, professor Donald Appleyard from Berkeley, Doctor
David Canter from Surrey and Doctor Gary R. Winkel from New York.
Unfortunately professor Winkel is ill and will not be able
to deliver his paper. Professor Appleyard has however promised
to appear also on Friday, and we are very grateful to him for this. These guests will be responsible for the invited papers over the themes of the respective days. Today professor Appleyard will speak over PROBLEMS AND THEORETICAL MODELS IN ARCHITECTURAL PSYCHOLOGY, tomorrow Dr Canter will speak about APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF ARCHITECTURAL PSYCHOLOGY and on Friday professor Appleyard will improve over BORDERS AND THE FUTURE PLACE OF THE THEORY OF ARCHITECTURAL PSYCHOLOGY IN TOMORROW'S PLANNING.

Bernard Appleyard is wellknown to us from several aspects. He is professor at the Department of City and Regional Planning and he is chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture at Berkeley University of California. He is also directing the Berkeley Environmental Simulation Laboratory. Among his work I think many of us are familiar with his books, for example the one together with Kevin Lynch: "Aesthetic Criteria for Highway Design" and "The View from the Road". Today we will have the pleasure to hear him talk about: PROFESSIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY.

I know that professor Appleyard wishes to give the professionals more aportion to the roles of facilitator, broker, servant and technician, while their traditional roles of leader, artist and educator are revised. He likes to reevaluate their roles and their products and that is a revolutionary change. However we have seen from about 1930 the evolution in the architect's work being influenced by several things. We can notice that the domination of social-practical and physiological-functional thinking in connection with mechanical-economical aspects obviously almost have killed the artistic fantasy and creativity. At the same time the human psychological need for self-controlled environment was forgotten and the architecture as an art was set aside.

Now when we have started to get deeply interested in cross-research through cooperation between architects and psychologists let us learn from earlier mistakes when we are starting to use our results in the fields of planning and design. How the subjects react to our theoretical model, often based on the existing environment is obviously of great value to know for us so called professionals, which apparently include architects, planners, technicians and decision-makers. From the architect’s point of view this will however, let us face it, make it more difficult to work with programs that are strictly tied to facts.

I myself am both an architect and active in research on architectural psychology and in fact I sometimes worry about what we are doing. I wish for one thing that our results will not be a psychological hindrance to the creative architect’s thinking and working.
Let us hope that the artistic architect and the who to considerable degree bases his work on research both get the opportunity to, side by side, make contributions to the future design of a human environment.  

And now, professor Donald Appleyard, I ask you to take over.