Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Why Are We Not Surprised By Everything?
Structures and Patterns

Sigrid Miller Pollin FAIA
Principal Miller Pollin Architecture, Amherst, MA

What happens when someone who has spent much of their life critiquing architecture and design builds a house, when the author of The Perfect $100,000 House confronts imperfect reality? What is the distance between the shelter-book fantasy of home building and what actually transpires on site? Are decades of ruminating about architecture useful in day-to-day dealings with an architect and a contractor?

In The Lives of a Cell, Dr. Lewis Thomas sends out a thought jolt when he says “Perhaps it is not surprising that we do not live more surprised. After all, we are used to unlikelihood.” Miller Pollin will tease out some personal reflections on this question, using her work in architecture and art as a basis for considering the expected and the unexpected in the physical realm.

We ground ourselves when we look at the horizon and we feel a sense of possibility. Outside spaces expand and contract in response to what bounds them. In our work we are always responding to openings, continuities, the sky, the land. Found conditions and borrowed views give definition to all our projects, where we form the topography, plant the canopy, and shape the horizon.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Collective Efforts

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CDR Studio practices what we call collective efforts - mining the possibilities to find the best idea given each set of circumstances. These collectives can take many forms - the way we come together, who participates, and how we create ideas depends on the origins of the project around which they are configured.

This lecture series celebrates the launching of the new Department of Architecture at UMass Amherst.

The series includes women with a wide range of specialties in the design fields. The goal of the Women in Design series is to recognize and celebrate the professional and personal accomplishments of women in the field of architecture and design. Speakers have been selected for their interdisciplinary interests.

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