

MASTER SERIES

Spirit in the Architecture of Louis Kahn

April
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John Lobell

Professor Pratt Institute

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Education

- 1967 (Enrolled for a Ph.D. in philosophy at The New School for Social Research. Did not complete. Professors included Paul Goodman and Hans Jonas. Faculty advisor was Aron Gurvitch.)
- M. Arch., 1966 University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Fine Arts Degree for independent studies and thesis in architectural and cultural theory under Dean G. Holmes Perkins
- M. Arch., 1965 University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Fine Arts Design critics and instructors included Denise Scott Brown, Robert Geddes, Romaldo Giurgola, Stanislaw Nowicki, G. Holmes Perkins,

Robert Venturi. Audited courses with Edmund Bacon, Ian McHarg, Louis Kahn, Lewis Mumford..

B.A., 1963 University of Pennsylvania, honors major in architecture

Continuing Studies

1970-present Courses, lectures, and workshops at the AIA, Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, the New York Open Center, the New School for Social Research, NYU, Pratt, Parsons, the School of Visual Arts, etc. Subjects include the arts; design; computer science, graphics and applications; and culture.

Nanotechnology with Eric Drexler and Ralph Merkle.
 Computer science with Herb Tesser.
 Mythology with Joseph Campbell (founding board member, Joseph Campbell Foundation).
 Buddhism with the Dali Lama, Robert Thurman, Lobsang Sampton, Chogyam Trungpa, and Lama Tsultrim Allione.
 Shamanism with Michael Harner.
 Tai Chi with Professor Cheng Man-Ch'ing.

Recent Conference Attendance

2002-present I have attended numerous conferences on nanotechnology (Foresight Institute), futurism (Accelerating Change), architecture and computation, building technology (NY AIA), digital industry (GE's Minds and Machines) cryopreservation, consciousness, computer gaming

Teaching

Pratt Institute, School of Architecture, Since 1969

Full Professor with tenure since September 1980

Teaching

Teaching has included design, history of architecture (survey courses, Non Western architecture, contemporary architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright, Kahn and Venturi), architectural theory, transportation and communication, city planning, impact of technology, computers and society, creativity.

Administration

Coordinator for history/theory, 1980-92. Acting Director (Dean), Summer 1973. Chair for Curriculum,

Spring 1973. Chair for Faculty, Fall 1973.

Committees

Chair, School of Architecture Curriculum Committee, 2015-2020. School of Architecture Technology Committee, 2015. Provost Search Committee, 1998. Faculty Handbook Committee, 1998. Institute Strategic Planning Committee, 1995-97. President, School of Architecture faculty, 1995-97. Board of Trustees, Education Committee, 1995-96. Academic Senate, 1991-2005. Board of Trustees, Development Committee, 1992-93. Faculty Council (Institute), intermittently, 1986-91. Coordinator's Council 1990-92. Educational Planning Council 1992-1998. Principle writer, NAAB accreditation report, 1996, 91, 86. Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee, 1988. Board of Trustees, Buildings and Grounds Committee, 1984. Task Force for a Just Community, 1991-93. Student Faculty Council, 1969-72. Various other committees.

Build Academy

2016. Online courses on Frank Lloyd Wright and modern architecture.

Hunter College

Visiting instructor, 1979-80. Course on modern architecture.

School of Visual Arts

Visiting instructor, 1969-71. Course on environmental art.

Current and Recent Consulting and Positions**Visionaries**, 2016-present

Talk and interview podcast on PRN.fm, back shows on Visionaries.Podbean.com.

Timeship, 2000-present

Director of Research and Education. A complex for the storage of cryogenically preserved organs and people traveling to the future. The Architect for the project is Stephen Valentine.

Milgo-Bufkin, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1970-88, 1996-2005

Architectural consultant; supervising of fabrication of large-scale sculptures for major artists; corporate planning. Involved in product development for AlgoRhythms, complex curved metal based on the higher mathematics of surfaces, created by the architect/morphologist Haresh Lalvani.

Architectural Offices**Ulrich Franzen and Associates, Architects**, New York, 1967-69

Research for New Forms of the Evolving City, urban design in Manhattan, under a \$250,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. Job captain on three housing projects.

Abraham W. Geller, Architect, New York, 1966-67

Designer. Projects included housing, synagogue, mall, interiors.

Harrison and Abramovitz, Architects, New York, 1966

Empire State Plaza.

Internet / Technology Experience**Websites**, 1993-present

Designed and managed websites and BBS systems for various corporate clients.

TelZero, 2000-2001

Research Analyst. Telecom offering free long distance service and telephone portal features.

NetNames USA, 1996-1998

International internet domain name registration and services. Cofounder, director, and officer.

Websites I Created and Maintain Include:

Note: These contain numerous articles.

About me: <https://johnlobell.com>

About my book, "Visionary Creativity:" <https://visionarycreativity.com>

About digital industrial design: <https://generativegenomics.com>

About Myths and Movies: <https://cinemadiscourse.com> (with John David Ebert)

About my late wife, Mimi Lobell who was a Pratt Professor: <https://mimilobell.com>

Other Experience**New York Open Center**, 1989-91

Editorial director, New York Open Center/Prentice Hall Books.

Arts Magazine, 1968-70

Architectural Contributor

Joseph Campbell Foundation

Founding Advisory Board Member, 1990-1996

Other roles included presentations, newsletter, publications, management, etc.

Publications: Books

Louis Kahn: Architecture as Philosophy, Monacelli Press, June 2020.

Architecture and Structures of Consciousness, JXJ Publications, 2020

Movies, Myths, and Archetypes, JXJ Publications, 2020

Visionary Creativity: How New Worlds are Born, JXJ Publications, 2015

Joseph Campbell: The Man & His Ideas, Joseph Campbell Foundation, 1993.

The Little Green Book: A Guide to Self-Reliant Living in the '80s. Shambhala Publications, 1981.

Between Silence and Light: Spirit in the Architecture of Louis I. Kahn, Shambhala Publications, 1979, reissued with a new introduction, 2009.

The Philadelphia School: 1955 to 1965. Coauthor. Not published.

Publications: Contributions to Books

Growing up in Ridgewood, Queens, by Griselda Holzinger Lobell. 2019. Introduction.

Of Things the Used to Be, by Nathan D. Lobell. 2014. Introduction.

Timeship: The Architecture of Immortality, by Stephen Valentine. 2009. Contribution to writing.

"The Philadelphia School: An Architectural Philosophy," with Mimi Lobell in

Louis I. Kahn, l'uomo, il maestro, Alessandra Latour, ed., 1986.

Master Builders, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1985. Entry on Louis Kahn.

The American Academic Encyclopedia, entry on Louis Kahn. This encyclopedia has been published on various electronic services (CompuServe, Protegy, etc.), and on CD.

Publications: Articles

"Quantum Theoretical Issues in Architecture: It's a Lot Stranger Than We Think." *Tarp*, Issue 2, Spring 2004.

"Campbell on Freud and Jung." *Joseph Campbell Foundation Newsletter*, No. 1, Fall 1993.

"A Primer on Joseph Campbell." *Whole Earth Review*, Summer 1988.

"Architecture and Structures of Consciousness," *Pratt Journal of Architecture*, Vol II, Spring 1988.

"An Interview with John Hejduk," with Mimi Lobell. *Pratt Journal of Architecture*, Vol I, Fall 1985

"Myth in Architecture: The Work of Alice Aycock." *Skyline*, Apr. 1980.

"Doric, Ionic, & Labyrinthian: Classical Architecture in America." *Skyline*, Feb. 1980.

"A Lucid Mystic." *Smithsonian*, Jul. 1979. Article on Louis Kahn.

"Kahn and Venturi: An Architecture of Being-in-Context." *Artforum*, Feb. 1978.

"American Women Architects." *Artforum*, Summer 1977.

"The Beaux-Arts: A Reconsideration of Meaning in Architecture." *AIA Journal*, Nov. 1975.

"Towards A Zero Energy Architecture." *On Site On Energy*, Fall 1974. Article on architecture and information theory.

Publications: Book Reviews (by title and author of book reviewed)

Journal of Architectural Education:

The Act of Creation and the Spirit of a Place, Nili Portugali, Nov. 2008

AIA Journal:

Le Corbusier, von Moos, Mar. 1980.

Borromini, Blunt, Jan. 1980.

The Drawings of Louis Henry Sullivan, Sprague, Jul. 1979.

Louis I. Kahn, Ronner, Jul. 1978.

Dimensions, Moore, Jun. 1977.

Greene and Greene, Makinson, Oct. 1977.

Boulle and Visionary Architecture, Rosenau, Feb. 1977.

Louis I. Kahn, Giurgola; 18 Years With Architect Louis I. Kahn, Komendant, Jul. 1976.

Architecture & Utopia, Tafuri, Oct. 1976.

Quadrant:

Inner Reaches of Outer Space, Campbell, 1988.

Skyline:

The Timeless Way of Building, A Pattern Language, The Oregon Experiment, Alexander, Feb. 1980.

White Towers, Hirshorn & Izenouer, Sept. 1979.

Smithsonian:

My Works and Days, Louis Mumford, Sept. 1979.

Progressive Architecture:

Multistory Housing, Schnitt; *High Density Living*, Jensen, Jan. 1967.

Highways and Our Environment, Robinson; *Autokind vs. Mankind*, Schneider; *Beyond the Automobile*, Stone, Sept. 1971.

Arts Magazine:

Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture, Venturi, Feb. 68.

Matrix of Man, Moholy-Nagy, Dec./Jan. 1969.

Beyond Modern Sculpture, Burnham, Nov. 1968.

Conferences and Papers

"Genomic Fabrication," presented to Humanity+, New York, 2011.

"Genomic Fabrication," conference and presentation at Pratt. 2010.

"Envisioning a Zero Energy Future" presented at the Oxford Round Table, Oxford, August 2008.

"Quantum Issues in Architecture" presented at Universal Machines, Pratt, February 2005.

(Co-organizer of the conference. Stephen Wolfram was keynote speaker.)

"Art and the Malleability of Merleau-Ponty's Body Subject" presented at Merleau-Ponty symposium, Pratt, Spring 2005.

"How Culture Reveals Structures of Consciousness" Toward a Science of Consciousness 2004, Center for Consciousness Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, April 2004.

Presentations at "A Parliament of the World's Religions," Chicago, August-September, 1993.

Presentations at "A Mythological Toolbox," a program presented by the Joseph Campbell Foundation at Esalen Institute, CA. March, 1993, 94, 95.

Presentation at "Passing the Torch," a program presented by the Joseph Campbell Foundation at

The

Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. January, 1993.

Participated in a conference, "Building a Free Media in the CIS," Sochi, Russia. American and Russian journalists, publishers, politicians, and academics. Spring 1992.

"Design and the Powerful Logics of the Mind's Deep Structures." *DMG-DRS Journal, Design Research*

and

Methods, Vol. 9, No. 3, Jul.-Sept. 1975.

"A Unified Theory of Transportation and Communication." The International Symposium on Urban Housing and Transportation, Wayne State Univ. Spring 1975.

Lectures

150+ lectures on YouTube with 200,000+ views.

2021 H+, online Pratt Institute online, University College Dublin online

2020 Waterside Plaza, NY, Pratt Institute, NY, Build Academy, online.

2019 Waterside Plaza

2019, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14 ArtIs, Naples FL.

2017 Kansas City Baroque Consortium, Kansas City, MO.

2016 Pratt, NY

2014 Cruise ship lectures, Aegean cruise

- 2010 Cryopreservation focus group, Dearfield Beach, FL.
- 2009 Urban Center. Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.
- 2008 Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, New York. AIA.
- 2006 Philharmonic, Naples FL. CIMA NY.
- 2005 CIMA, NY. Pratt Institute, Brooklyn N.Y.
- 2004 Judson College, Illinois. Pratt Institute, Brooklyn.
- 1998 Beaux Arts Society. Brooklyn Museum Architectural Film Festival.
- 1994 Hampton University, Virginia.
- 1993 Louisiana Tech, Ruston. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. Texas Tech, Lubbock.
- 1989-92 Various lectures at the New York Open Center.
- 1992 Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston. Hammons School of Architecture, Drury College, Springfield Missouri. University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- 1991 University of Detroit Mercy. University of Manitoba. Long Island Chapter AIA.
- 1987 Syracuse University, Regional ACSA.
- 1986 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Steelcase, N.Y.
- 1985 Washington University, St. Louis (Regional ACSA conference). University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City.
- 1984 The Catholic University of America, Washington D. C. A.I.R. Gallery, NY.

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Lectures *(continued)*

- 1982 Assumption College, Worcester, Mass. Pratt Institute, Brooklyn N.Y.
- 1982 Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio
- 1980 UC Berkeley. UC Los Angeles. USC Los Angeles. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Esalen Institute. University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. HLW, NY.
- 1979 University of Detroit. The Graham Foundation.
- 1978 Association of Architectural Librarians, New York. EDRA 9, University of Arizona. Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, Michigan.
- 1977 New York University. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. Kent State University, Ohio. University of Idaho
- 1976 The Architectural League of New York.
- 1974 Energy and Evolution Conference, University of Texas at Austin, organized by Wolf Hilbertz. Design Methods Conference, Berkeley.
- 1968 The School of Visual Arts. Columbia University.
- 1967 The Architectural League of New York.

Exhibitions

- 2004 Timeship: The Architecture of Immortality by Stephen Valentine. Contributions to the text for the exhibit. Municipal Art Society, NYC.
- 1971 The Architecture of Speed: Form, Function and the Racing Motorcycle. With Jonathan Morse. Scheduled showing at the New York Cultural Center. Show was not realized.
- 1970 Words, a collaborative media, by Bud Wirschafter, Loeb Student Center, NYU
- 1967 Environment IV, Corridors, The Architectural League of New York. Trophies, Tombstones and Monuments, The Museum of Contemporary Crafts, entry with Michael Steiner in group show

Grants and Awards

- 1998 to 2021 Pratt Institute Faculty Development Grant several times
- 1985-86 Title III grants through Pratt Institute for computer studies
- 1980 Graham Foundation grant
- 1968 Grant awarded from the J. Clawson Mills Award of the Architectural League for the funding of the 1968-69 lecture series
- 1967 Grants awarded for financing Environment IV, Corridors at The Architectural League from the J. Clawson Mills Fund of the League, the Kaplan Fund, and the

American Federation of Arts. New York State Scholar Incentive Award.

Professional/Academic Organizations

The Architectural League of New York, 1967-present

1973-74, Member of the Board. 1970-73, member scholarships and awards committee. 1973, Chair of Scholarship and Awards Committee. 1968-70: Chair of Current Works Committee. 1969, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Shows curated as Chair of the Current Works Committee:

Bruce Goff Show, first major show of Goff's work, January 1970

Dial-a-Poem, Winter 1969

Hyperspaces by Raimund Abraham, February 1969

Street Works, October 1969

Urban Design New York, May 1969

James Lee Byars participatory events of communal clothing, Sept. 1968

College Art Association, intermittently since 1997

Modern Language Association, intermittently since 1993