Less is Not More

by Jim Bruni

I may not know much about architecture, but I know what I don’t like, and I don’t like any architecture created, inspired, or even remotely influenced by Mies van der Rohe. Aside from the fact that his buildings are ugly, ugly, ugly, his obsessive interest in formal absolutes has received far too much undeserved praise.

Mies’ buildings have exerted an influence out of proportion to their number and quality because they are all about the same thing: formal absolutes approached by the rectilinear use of industrial materials.

His architecture is seen to be the epitome of reason through the absurd notion that straight lines equal rational thoughts. (Is a meter stick more rational than a French curve?) If an architect copied Mies van der Rohe, he wouldn’t be guilty of unoriginal thought, rather he would be emulating truth. But in actuality, the religion of Mies—that roofs and factory-made curtain walls—is a rationalization for cheapness.

There is no room in Mies’ schemes for the individual however, for, as Mies himself put it, “The individual is losing significance. Now, I am no longer what interests us.” Therefore, Mies’ boxes not only sweep aside any questions of meaning within the buildings themselves, they also totally ignore the social context of their location.

His architecture is devoid of any ideology, hence it could fit into any environment. There is very little difference between Mies’ design for the Reichsbank that he submitted to Hitler in 1933, and the buildings he put up later here in America. In its complete indifference to society, Mies’ work provides the rationale for such social phenomena as Germany’s Stempelarchitektur, rubber stamp building, the homonynmism of Germany’s postwar “economic miracle.” Mies’ obsession with regularity, repetition and the cube tends to appeal to the authoritarian mind.

It is therefore ironic that Mies van der Rohe designed a university campus. (For those who don’t know, he designed the IIT campus.) His philosophy is not in the least bit harmonious with that of a university, for it is in the university where individualism is stressed and variety is encouraged (supposedly). Colleges should be a liberating experience, a place to expand the limits of knowledge and a place to constitute the individual in a rigid, restricted structure.

If there is no life to this campus—and there is not—part of the blame lies on its buildings; by denying nature in its architecture, Mies has denied us, too. We do not belong here in his boxes; we are merely foreign mamer infesting these husks of steel and glass. We were never meant to be part of the plan but only serve to disrupt its “regularity.” It’s no wonder people here try anal-ex-tensive.

And yet Mies’ buildings are already here, so how can we break free of their griping force? Tossing down the building would be as big a waste as putting them up was. What can we do? I say we ignore them and hope they go away. After all, turnabout is fair play.

Campus Improvements Continue

Many students at the university have probably noticed the periodic renovation and improvements going on de campus. Aside from the general maintenance and repair that must be done to a modern university, much new work is being done under the direction of Dr. Mehlenbacher, head of the Department of Physical Resources, to improve the appearance, accessibility and efficiency of the various buildings and grounds.

One of the most obvious examples of this renovation is the recent transformation of the parking lot north of the HUB into an area that blends more closely with the overall atmosphere of the heart of IIT’s campus.

Also, with the elimination of the parking lot, the streets feeding it have been converted into sidewalks accessible to pedestrians only, thus making easier passage between buildings and again adding to the overall aesthetics of the campus.

The design of this new field was conceived by Dr. Alfred Caldwell of the Architectural School. The many varieties of trees were donated by the Morton Foundation, and form a natural space for concerts, picnics, games and other events, and also providing color in both spring and fall.

The work on this area is now more or less complete except for the installation of additional park benches.

Other exterior improvements planned by Dr. Mehlenbacher are the installation of guardrails and lights at the entrances to the various buildings on campus.

These installations are already complete for all buildings on campus except for the Crown Library, Crown Hall and Keating Hall. These will be completed in near future, making more of the campus accessible to handicapped students.

On the inside, much is also being done to improve the various classrooms, lecture halls, labs and offices. In E1 for example, Room 130 has been transformed into several smaller rooms that will house the Pritsker Department of Environmental Engineering for the medical technologies industry. These rooms will provide much needed office, classroom, and lab space.

The plan here is a sharp departure from the usual small rooms of the typical IIT classroom, and in the words of Mehlenbacher provides “the introduction of some color to our facilities.”

This evening IIT’s atmosphere must be acknowledged, but spending steadily. Life Sciences, for example has a redesigned main lobby and state conference room; the Educational Training Center.

Wisconsin Hall is also receiving a facelift for its main lobby with new paint, lighting, drapes and furniture. In addition, Wisconsin’s lecture hall should be fully air-conditioned within a matter of days.

Siegel Hall is also in line for renovation, with extensive work already underway in both the Electrical and Physics areas. In addition, the CE department offices are being moved. Work is also nearing completion on a special band-controlled moisture room, to be used in soil studies. The funds for this project were donated by an IIT alumnus.

Work on other buildings is progressing more slowly. The lecture hall in Periwinkle is to get air conditioning, while in the HUB work is progressing on the rebuilding of the revolving room to accommodate 35mm projectors to be used during the International Film Festival.

In the future, a total renovation of the food service area of the HUB is planned. Also, in connection with IIT’s ongoing energy research projects, the water circulation system on the north side of the HUB is to be replaced by a more efficient system. The area now occupied by the system will be transformed into an outdoor pavilion to accommodate the newly converted parking area mentioned earlier.

Even though the work is progressing and the renovation on campus are often subtle, the overall results are in a more colorful and pleasant campus.

ILIT to Host College Bowl

IIT has been selected to host a College Bowl MINI-WEEK on October 29-31. Schools from all over the country will compete against each other in the “Varsity Sport of the Mind.” The contest will be taped for broadcast on the CBS Radio Network (WBBM). At the host university, IIT will be in over the competing schools.

College Bowl is the Emmy Award-winning question and answer game in which teams of four players each compete against each other by answering true or false questions. To determine who will represent IIT on radio, an intramural College Bowl Tournament will be held on October 10, 11, and 13. The winning team will receive a cash award of $400. The runner-up will get $50 and the third place team, $40. All prizes have been donated by the Alumni Association. In addition, eight intramural players will be named to an All-Star Varsity Team. Five members of the College Bowl Varsity will be selected to match wits in the radio tournament. If IIT defeats three opponents, the team will advance to the National Championship to compete for over $16,000 in scholarship prize money for the Institute.

The College Bowl Mini-week has been made possible through the generous support of the Parents’ Association. This major IIT event features the school’s brightest students and will highlight campus activities through radio, TV, and newspaper coverage.

Registration for intramural teams or individuals will be from August 24 to September 18. For further information contact the Office of Student Activities, 225 Main Building, 567-3316. Graduate students should file in the Graduate Office, 224 Petersen Hall, 567-3620.
The purpose of this editorial is two-fold. First, though many readers of Technology News may not be aware, Jerry Kelly resigned as editor-in-chief at the end of last semester. All of us here at Tech News wish Jerry well in all of his future endeavors and to thank him for the valuable contributions he has made to the paper during the time he was editor.

Technology News is now under the editorial leadership of myself, Robert Arlt and Andrew Press as managing editor.

Though Jerry's career as editor-in-chief will be a difficult one to follow, I feel confident that we, together with the fine staff of writers and production personnel will be able to provide a timely and informative newspaper for all IIT students.

This brings me to my second purpose. Naturally, with this change in editorial personnel certain changes in editorial policy must follow. It is my hope that along with the usual line up of features and articles, we will be able to expand the coverage of the paper to include some general interest articles, news commentary, fiction articles and perhaps poetry and visual artwork.

All of these goals can only come about, however, if we have the enthusiastic participation of you, the student. Currently several openings for writers exist. However, please don't tell that writing for Tech News is a full time job. We only ask that you give us a try. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised. So if you have a desire to write, we will gladly accept people who wish to make a contribution.

Let us know you're out there. Give us a call at X0065 to make an appointment or stop by on any Tuesday or Thursday morning. We're located on the 5th floor of Main Building.

In recent years, there has been a blatant lack of communication between the students of IIT and their newspaper, Technology News. This is an incomprehensible situation as well as unfortunate. However, in another attempt to bridge this gap, the various editors are announcing a new policy. Actually, it's not a new policy at all; we're just reminding you that it's one of our functions as a newspaper.

One way of addressing a problem is through exposure of it by the media, agitate us, so if you have any complaints or questions, or notice some decadent social trends (YES, I am), please write in to us. With the help of your letters, we can aid in the uncovering and solving of hidden or unspoken questions, or the very least, cause some commotion—anything to help. So pick up your pens and write; if you don't, we're all lost.

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For two women for 4-room apartment; partially furnished; newly redecorated; pay for own utilities; visibility of 314 & Security; deposit required. Call: 225-2952.

College rep wanted to distribute "student rate" subscription cards at this campus. Good income, no selling involved. For information, write to: CAMPUS SERVICE/TIME INC., 4337 W. Indian School "C", Phoenix, AZ 85032.

Buy this space for $2.00

PERSONAL

Why do you Americans keep hogging us Canadians, eh? Every time I put Canadian money in your vending machines they jam.

Bob Mackenzie

"Like cause you're using a dime instead of a quarter, eh?"

Doug Mackenzie

Angle lives! And he will be returning soon!

Buy this space for $0.51 per word, up to 25 words!

ATS-Get Involved!

The Association of Tech Students (ATS) is your student government. How do you get involved?

First, ATS meetings are open to all students of IT. Come to a meeting and see how the students work with the school officials. Upcoming meetings are Tuesday, September 15th at 12:30 PM in the ITU Extension.

Second, have 35 students sign a petition and you become an ATS Assemblyman with a right to vote on all matters which come before ATS. Assemblymen also represent ATS on such committees and organizations as Union Board, WOU, FAC, CTA, and Tech News.

Third, have 35 students sign a petition and you can become an office on either an Assemblyman or Class Representative. Elect.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

graduates and undergraduates are eligible to compete. The fee is $16 per team or $4 per person. A meeting of ten captains will be held on September 23rd at 12:15p.m. on the ITU Extension.

If you are interested in the hottest spot on campus, come out and play. Put together a team or come out by yourself. You may also want to get involved in the production, promotion, and technical aspects of the radio tournaments.

Come for more information contact Janice Dawson at X280, or drop by the Dean of Student Life Office.

225-2265

Shroud of Turin

The Physics and Chemistry colloquium program is proud to present Dr. Walter C. McCreath, who will speak on "Scientific Examination of the Shroud of Turin." The lecture will be held on Wednesday, September 2, in the chemistry auditorium from 4:00-5:00 PM. A pre-colloquium social will be held in the south east lounge of the Herman Hub at 3:30 PM. Anyone interested is more than welcome to attend.

ASME Meeting

The first American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2 from 12:10-1:00 PM in room 102 EL. All members are urged to attend—all new members are welcome.

On Thursday, September 3 from 12:10 to 1:00 PM in room 104 EL, Dr. A. David Rossin of Commonwealth Edison will speak on "Nuclear Power Economics and Outlook." On Wednesday, September 9 from 11:30 to 1:30 AM is sponsoring a hot dog sale on the HUB lawn. Any questions about ASME visit 112 EL M-F, 12:10-1:00PM.

Sitar Music

The India Association of IIT, Chicago and the Association of Indian Students in America are happy to welcome and introduce to IIT Vilayat Khan, one of India’s most accomplished and distinguished sitar players. Vilayat Khan and his troupe of accompanists will be giving a lecture demonstration in the HUB auditorium on September 16th from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. So come and begin your weekend with a Friday afternoon of Indian classical music.

Science and Religion

Issues in Science and Religion will resume their discussions each Tuesday of the semester beginning on September 8th at 12:00 noon in room 306 of the HUB. All are invited to join this Student-Faculty forum.

The Biblical Study Group of IIT continues to meet each Thursday Noon in Room 306 of the HUB. Their study topic is currently the Gospel of John.
New Coach is Tops!

Sociology and minor in Physical Education.

Once out of school, Topper coached at the high school level in numerous Midwestern states. Upon resigning his position as Athletic Director of a community college in Minnesota, Topper came to IIT, bringing with him nearly 15 years of coaching experience.

Currently he is coaching the Women’s Tennis Team and at the same time working on a variety of non-coaching projects. Although he will not begin coaching basketball until mid-October, he has already set to work on achieving a fruitful season.

From viewing films of last season’s games, Topper deduced that the Hawks possess the talent necessary to win, and with a few changes and some work, they should be victorious over many of the opponents.

In previous years IIT has played “Shuffle-Off” basketball which concentrated on defense and offense. This year Topper plans to play “Attack” basketball. This requires the players to be more aggressive and to take more shots when the opportunity arises.

The concepts of this strategy are unlike those used previously and therefore, they will not only have to be taught to the new players, but also to returning ones.

Topper stated that, “The gym is the largest classroom in the school,” and he hopes to turn each practice session into a learning experience for all members of the team, seniors as well as newcomers.

In order to allow more time for learning and practicing, a Pre-season conditioning program will begin September 2. This will involve various forms of exercise that each member will do in order to be in better shape for the upcoming season.

Topper also feels that visual changes are important factors that could contribute to his team’s success. For this reason he obtained new uniforms and new practice uniforms. This added to the fact that Topper himself is a new face, should institute a fresh beginning for this year’s upcoming season.

On top of this, Topper would like to see an alteration in the Hawk’s schedule; in particular, one that would enable them to compete against schools of their own academic merit.

He would like to see more tournaments such as the Florida Tournament IIT will be entering later this season. There the Hawks will have an opportunity to play schools with similar academic caliber (MIT, Florida Tech., and New Jersey Tech.).

Another change that Topper hopes to witness is increased attendance at the games. He believes that students who show their support by attending inspire the players to do better, while having “a good time.”

As far as this season is concerned, Topper has set a number of goals he hopes to attain. Besides more spectators at the games, he would like to see the Hawks win more games by Christmas of this year. In addition, he would also like to have at least a 500 season.

Looking forward a hand will be Mark Haines, the assistant basketball coach. Mark is a recent graduate of IIT and has been a key player of the basketball team while actively participating in a variety of other sports.

Ed Glancy has also been helpful and Topper states, “Mr. Glancy has shown a lot of support, and I certainly would never allow my ego to get in the way of going to those as experienced and knowledgeable as he.

Topper also expressed a feeling of optimism in regards to accomplishing his goals. He believes that if an effort is put forth by the team members, the IIT community, and by himself the season will bring more success in more ways than one.

His record indicates that he has the ability to instill in the team all the necessary tools for success. The team of teams to prove true winners and this along with a variety of other factors has prompted him to say, “I believe this is going to be a good year.” Good luck!

Sport Notes

Baseball

There will be a meetig for all those interested in Varsity Baseball on Tuesday, September 1. The meetig will be held at 12:30 in Keating Hall’s Schommer Room. If you are interested and would like further information contact Coach Darragh at extension 3299.

Basketball

The first organizational meeting for the Basketball Team, took place on August 28 in Keating Hall. For those full time students interested in joining the Basketball Team, the squad will begin practice on September 2, under the direction of new Head Coach Bob Topper. These workouts are not mandatory, but would be beneficial to all would-be players. If you have any questions refer them to Coach Topper, 3299. All are invited.

Men’s Tennis

The Men’s Tennis Team will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, September 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the Schommer Room of Keating Hall. For more information contact Coach Meyer at 3296.

Volleyball

Tryouts for all those interested in joining the Men’s Volleyball Team were held at Keating Hall throughout last week.

Returning starters include senior Rhoda Batfield and sophomores, Ann Barksley, Linda O’Connell, and Barb Perchak. Two other returning players will be Sue Scott and Gloria Whitaker.

Eight newcomers have tried out for this year’s team, and the decision will be made by Coach Meyer as to who will play. Meyer hopes to achieve a record better than last year’s 500 (8 wins-8 losses).

The first match will be held on September 15th. Everyone is invited to attend.

Women’s Tennis

The first meeting of the Women’s Tennis Team was held in Keating Hall on August 25. Practice began on the 26th, but Coach Topper welcomes anyone who would like to join. The first match will be held on Friday, September 11th, and if you are interested in playing on the team or would like more information, contact Coach Topper immediately, 3299.

Intramural Info

Team Sports

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<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Touch Football</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Tues., Thurs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Tues., Thurs.</td>
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Individual Sports

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<tr>
<td>Tennis Doubles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Racquetball</td>
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**The deadline to sign-up for all of the above sports is September Jedd.**

Upcoming Matches

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<th>Opponents</th>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
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<td>Kennedy/King/Oakton</td>
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