A PERVERSE VIEW OF ARCHITECTURE

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STEPHEN CAIRNS JANE M. JACOBS

Still Life with a Volume of Wither's "Emblemes" (1669), Edward Collier

No. of Street, Street,

COLLECTION EMBLEMES, ANCIENT AND MODERNIE

Man Merrorathionario

By GEORICE WITHER

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Et in Arcadia Ego (1637–1638), Nicolas Poussin

"When the architect has given birth he becomes the mother of the building. Before the architect gives birth, he should dream about his conception, think about it, and turn it over in his mind in many ways for seven to nine months, just as a woman carries

her child in her body from seven to nine months. He should also make various drawings of this conception that he has made with the patron, according to his own desires.

A woman can do nothing without the man, so the architect is the mother to carry this conception. [...] When this birth is accomplished, that is, when he has made, in wood, a small relief design of its final form, measured and proportioned to the finished building, then he shows it to the father. (Filarete 1965, 15-16 [book II, folio 7v1).

L'evalprefente delle colonne auero interfo & neduto pdifegni affai delle gran di & delle piccolo Io nelemofterro ancora indefegnio. Ma ame pare meglio chefeguirianno ilnoftio difegnio della cafa principiana come ispare/usi auero simpo & neduto como no feomparesta laffo inquadresti /o suoi dire parelliliquali fono seconto tronta & como feffanta platto & henose neduto como ilfondamento io lo feomparesto induo menuero nesso qualo uspiaco pis/oquo lla chera una corre o quella chena duo lema & latter messaco ma fem pare fa ildifegnio delluna & delalera & pos lemofterresso al Signiore mio par dee Ce quella che alluí piaceza pús quella fifaro invento interio pare

sedo de abbase messo deriascheduno diquesti parelle ouero quadrem so no dea bracca & questi sono prissimme ogni cosa depunto uorabbono est sporem indiea. Mapche sono cosi piccheli die auslerie sperere sarebbon ssegni adosso luno alalito. Side noi intenderere questi quadren prime al lle bracca sopradene puosti considerene cascheduna diqueste lunce uno b "When the architect has given birth he becomes the mother of the building. Before the architect gives birth, he should dream about his conception, think about it, and turn it over in his mind in many ways for seven to nine months, just as a woman carries

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"You can say that a building does not sicken and die like a man. I say to you that a building does just that, for it sickens when it does not eat, that is, when it is not maintained and begins to fall off little by little exactly as man [does] when he goes without food, and finally falls dead. This is exactly what the building does." (Filarete 1965, 12 [book 1, folio 6r])

"You need to maintain it continually and to guard it from corruption and too much fatigue, because, as man becomes thin and ill from too much fatigue, so [does] the building. Through corruption, the body of the building rots like that of man. Through excess it is ruined and dies like man." (Filarete 1965, 13 [book 1, folio 6r])

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SHEARING LAYERS OF CHANGE. Because of the different rates of change of its components, a building is always tearing itself apart.

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DEERE & COMPANY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER





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