

Kahn

The Philadelphia Chapter  
American Institute of Architects  
1869/1969

Architects Building  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103  
LOcust 9-3186

October 28, 1969

Commission on Institute Honors  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Attention: Norman Fletcher, Chairman

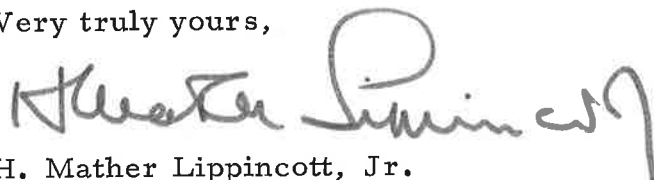
Gentlemen:

Lou Kahn needs no support for his case as a potential recipient of the Institute's Gold Medal - his work, his teachings, and his seminal effect on others here and abroad speak eloquently for his worthiness.

Perhaps you will, however, wish to give weight to the regard in which he is held by those here in Philadelphia, who perhaps know him best as a man. To put it simply, he will, on November 11, 1969 (the one-hundredth anniversary of the Philadelphia Chapter, AIA), be given the Chapter's special Centennial Gold Medal as The Philadelphia Architect.

There could have been no other choice.

Very truly yours,



H. Mather Lippincott, Jr.  
President

P.S. A copy of the language of the Citation to be presented is enclosed.

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THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER / AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS 1869-1969

THE CENTENNIAL GOLD MEDAL TO

LOUIS I. KAHN, FAIA

For teaching, awakening and inspiring young students and elder architects...

For continually reminding us that spirit, wonder, order and inspiration are essential sustenance for man's inmost being while technologies and systems are only very useful tools...

For sharing the philosophy by which he sees the universal and eternal nature of man, of man's institutions and of man's art, the nature of architecture and of works of architecture...

For his integrity and his independence of spirit and the courage that upholds them, characteristics expressed clearly by his works, qualities that restrain his entering the professionalism of the marketplace...

For becoming the best known and most famous of all Philadelphia architects, honored over the whole world...

And above all else, for the abounding imagination and creative powers, shaped by his own nature and vision, by which he composes original vital and beautiful works of architecture.

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**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**  
ARCHITECTS BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19103, LOCUST 9-3186

# BULLETIN

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER / AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

*DEC. '69/JAN. '70*

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

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**THE PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECT**



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At the Centennial Dinner Meeting, the Chapter presented Louis I. Kahn, FAIA, with a special Centennial Gold Medal designating him THE Philadelphia Architect – “that Philadelphian,” according to H. Mather Lippincott, “who epitomizes the most enduring of the values of architecture of the past 100 years, as well as the current values most deserving of preservation in the future.” ■ Louis Kahn, born in Estonia, was educated in this country, receiving his Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania School of Fine Arts. He was Chief of Design for the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Exposition before he began independent practice in 1935. He has taught at Yale University, M.I.T., and the University of Pennsylvania. ■ Among many recent outstanding works are the Alfred Newton Richards Medical Research Building, University of Pennsylvania; the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego, California; the Mill Creek Public Housing Project II, Philadelphia; Eleanor Donnelly Erdman Hall, a dormitory at Bryn Mawr College; and the Second Capital of Pakistan, Dacca, East Pakistan. ■ Louis Kahn is noted for his supremacy in architectural composition. Perhaps these words spoken at the Centennial indicate his philosophy: “Nature does not make Art. She works only by circumstance and law. Only man makes Art. Because man chooses. He invents. He can make doors smaller than people and the skies black in the daytime if he wants to. He assembles. He can bring together the mountain, the serpent, the child.”

**GEE**

... is the Acronym of The Group for Environmental Education, the separate entity which has undertaken the continuation of the ambitious Chapter project in public education, Our Man-Made Environment.



The OMME program, which includes development of curricula, texts, teaching materials, visual aids and teacher training programs, is now being tested in a dozen cities, including Ann Arbor, Michigan; Atlantic City & Camden, New Jersey; Columbus, Ohio; Houston, Texas; Newark, New Jersey; Newark, Delaware, and Trenton, New Jersey; as well as Philadelphia and its suburbs.

Most of the work – and all of the experience – so far, has been with the 7th level program. (7th level, not necessarily 7th Grade – the program has been used as low as 4th and as high as 9th grades). Early Spring should see the completion of materials for levels 8 & 9 which will round out the Junior High School Cycle.

Funding to date has come from a variety of sources outside the Chapter, and totals over \$60,000, with the most recent grant being \$20,000 received from the Fels Foundation in November.



FOR RELEASE: Tuesday, November 11, 1969

ARCHITECTS CENTENNIAL GOLD MEDAL TO LOUIS I. KAHN

The architects of Philadelphia, as represented by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, tonight presented Louis I. Kahn, FAIA, with a special Centennial Gold Medal designating him THE Philadelphia Architect - "that Philadelphian," according to Chapter President H. Mather Lippincott, "who epitomizes the most enduring of the values of architecture of the past 100 years, as well as the current values most deserving of preservation in the future." The ceremony took place at the Chapter's Centennial Dinner, held at the Arch Street Friend's Meeting House and Conference Center, one hundred years to the day after the Chapter's founding in 1869.

Louis Kahn was born February 20, 1901, on the Isle of Osel, Estonia. After coming to this country at an early age, he attended Central High School where he won numerous prizes in drawing and painting, including First Prize every year in a competition of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 1924 he received a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Fine Arts.

(MORE)

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As a practicing architect and teacher, Mr. Kahn has held many distinguished positions. Among them: Chief of Design for the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Exposition of 1925-1926; independent practice, beginning in 1935; Consultant Architect for the Philadelphia City Planning Commission (1946-1952); Professor of Architecture at Yale University (1950-1951); Professor of Architecture and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1956); and Professor of Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania (1957 to present).

Mr. Kahn has received many honors and awards; for instance: Fellowship in The American Institute of Architects (1951); the Philadelphia Art Alliance Medal for Achievement (1962); and the Frank P. Brown Medal from the Franklin Institute (1964). He has received honorary degrees from the Polytechnic Institute of Milan, Italy; The University of North Carolina; Yale University; LaSalle College; and The Maryland Institute College of Art. He was elected a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts (1968) and was awarded The International Silver Medal for distinguished contributions to the Arts by the University of Connecticut (1969). In 1966, he held a one-man retrospective exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art, New York City.

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Among the many recent outstanding works of Louis Kahn are: the Alfred Newton Richards Medical Research Building, University of Pennsylvania (1957-1961); the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, San Diego, California (1959); the Mill Creek Public Housing Project II, Philadelphia (1959-1962); Dormitories at Bryn Mawr College (1960); the Second Capital of Pakistan, Dacca, East Pakistan (1962); the Theatre and Art School Fort Wayne Foundation, Indiana (1969); Kimbell Museum of Art, Fort Worth, Texas (1969); Library and Dining Hall Buildings, and The Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire (1969).

The citation which accompanied the Centennial Gold Medal reads as follows:

THE CENTENNIAL GOLD MEDAL TO LOUIS I. KAHN, FAIA

For teaching, Awakening and inspiring young students and elder architects...

For continually reminding us that spirit, wonder, order and inspiration are essential sustenance for man's inmost being while technologies and systems are only very useful tools...

For sharing the philosophy by which he sees the universal and eternal nature of man, of man's institutions and of man's art, the nature of architecture and of works of architecture...

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(MORE)

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honored over the whole world...

And above all else, for the abounding imagination and creative powers,  
shaped by his own nature and vision, by which he composes original, vital  
and beautiful works of architecture.

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More information :

On medal: William B. Chapman, LO 9-3186

On Mr. Kahn: His secretary, LO 3-9844

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