

Columbia University

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE PLANNING AND PRESERVATION

400 AVERY HALL

August 1, 2001

Tomas Maldonado
Via Manzoni 14
Milano, Italy 20121

Caro Tomas,

I know that it is inexcusable of me to write to you, out of the blue, after such a long silence. I can only plead extenuating circumstances and now, of course, the emergence of a problem, which I wondered if you would be so kind as to assist me with. I have an uncomfortable feeling that we have been over all this before, but the fact is I am once again looking for material on the Hochschule für Gestaltung, Ulm. This time, the occasion is the decision on the part of the Phaidon publishing house, to publish a collection of my essays, one of which, of course, is "Apropos Ulm" as this once appeared in the magazine *Oppositions*. In this regard, a certain Mari Knutsson of Phaidon will be writing to you in the near future to ask you for a source of a number of illustrations which either you may have in your own archive or which we are hoping you will know where they could be found. I should be very grateful if you would try and help her if you can as much as possible in this regard. The world runs on its fateful course and if anything becomes increasingly chaotic and degenerate. Since we last saw each other, global capitalism would seem to have triumphed and the recently "rigged" American elections have given us a monster of unparalleled cynicism, chauvinistic aggression and raw power. I often think of you, of our Princeton conversations, of the way you influenced me as an aphoristic teacher par excellence.

As you may or may not have heard, I have been coming fairly regularly to Lugano over the last few years, and I will be there again in November. If you send me your telephone number, I will try and call you and come and see you, if I may.

I hope all is well with you and with Inga Feltrinetti. Please give her my regards.

Ciao, *Kenner Kumpfer*

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10027

TEL: 212-854-3414

FAX: 212-864-0410

1172 AMSTERDAM AVENUE

Prof.
Kenneth Frempton
Columbia University
The Graduate School of Architecture
Planning and Preservation
400 Avery Hall
New York
New York 10027
USA

Milano: August 30, 2001

Dear Ken,

It was a great pleasure to hear from you, after such a long time!
Please tell Mari Knutsson to contact me, and I hope to be helpful.
You are completely right: the situation in the world is everything but pleasant –
without any euphemism – I consider it horrible!
The turbo-capitalism of George W. Bush (and Silvio Berlusconi) will have
disastrous consequences.
The globalisation is nothing else than globalisation of poverty and will have very
heavy social clashes all over the world.
I hope to see you during your next trips to Italy.
All the best.

Ciao,

TM.

Kenneth Frampton
Columbia University
The graduate school of architecture
planning and preservation
400 Avery Hall
New York, New York 10027
USA

Milano, 6 September 2006

Dear Kenneth,

First of all I was very glad to receive news from you and I'm happy to see that you're well and active.

I look forward to read your last book, as you know, I always consider you and your work in high esteem.

With this letter I send you my last book. As you will see, my interests are more and more philosophical and sociological, I don't write anymore on architecture and design. By getting older, I become "philosophical".

The current address and telephone numbers of Herbert Ohl are followings:

Prof. Herbert Ohl
Via Al Porto, 62
Camogli (Genova) - Italia
Tel. +39 0185 773863 - +39 0185 770789

Unfortunately, I know that Ohl is, since a long time, seriously ill. Confidentially, I don't believe that he will be able to help your student in his work.

All good wishes and kind regards from Inge.
Your ever,

Tomás

02. 23. 99. 33. 10

Caro Kenneth,

è stato per me un grande piacere ricevere tue notizie e sapere che stai bene e sei sempre attivo.

Sono curioso di ricevere il tuo ultimo libro, come sai, ho sempre avuto per te e per il tuo lavoro una grande stima.

Allego a questa lettera il mio ultimo libro, come vedrai i miei interessi sono sempre più filosofici e sociologici, e molto meno sull'architettura o il design. E' giusto, credo, che dopo una certa età si diventi più "filosofici".

L'indirizzo attuale e i recapiti telefonici di Herbert Ohl sono i seguenti:

Prof. Herbert Ohl

Via Al Porto, 62

Camogli (Genova) – Italia

Tel. +39 0185 773863 - +39 0185 770789

Purtroppo so che, già da molto tempo, Ohl è gravemente malato e ho perciò forti dubbi che possa essere di qualche aiuto al lavoro del tuo studente.

Spero di risentirti presto, cari saluti anche da Inge.

Tuo

Tomás

Prof. Tomás Maldonado
Via Manzoni 14
20121 Milano, Italia
Tel. (02) 76000312
Fax (02) 76004918

Milan, 14 February 2007

Dear Kenneth

Please forgive me for not thanking you immediately for *Labour, Work and Architecture*, but I wanted to take the time to read it carefully, which is what I did over the Christmas holidays. I'd already read some of the essays and it gave me great pleasure to read them again. As you well know, I've always had great admiration for your work and for your stance (to which I fully subscribe) on some of the crucial issues regarding architectural history. I must confess that in recent times I've had increasing doubts as to whether a "discourse" about architecture is still possible. I think it's hard to choose which categories to turn to in order to judge the indiscriminate proliferation of skyscrapers shaped like pineapples, artichokes, cauliflowers, etc., etc., borrowed from the bountiful source of the fruit and vegetable market. Not forgetting those shapes inspired by palaeontology, for example stegosauruses with bony plates on their back – I have in mind the Guggenheim Bilbao and the many copies that have sprung up all over the world!

Kindest regards,

Tomás

Da: kf7@columbia.edu
Inviato il: 15-set-2017 19.02
A: <tomaldo@tin.it>
Cc:
Oggetto:

Caro Tomas,

Here I am writing to you after eons of time have passed, simply to tell you, of late, of how much you mean to me and what a casual muse you were for me in Princeton all those years ago. It was you, after all, that introduced me to Herbert Marcuse's Eros and Civilization, which still surely remains a remarkable work and it was you that left me with the aphorism that "while one cannot make anything without waste, this is distinguishable from an ideology of waste".

And it was you again who introduced me to Kate Singleton whose name and presence I ave never forgotten but who I was foolish enough never to arrange to meet again.

Just recently I have rearranged the elegant three American lectures you have sent me now 25 years ago. All of it now cascades with ever escalating speed as our generation (give a decade or two) evaporates into history. I think of you at 90 years of age in Milano where I am told you have resumed painting, while I for my 'sins of omission' am still teaching, so as to speak, as the world disintegrates around us.

With warmest wishes to you and Inge,

Kenneth

Lettere a Kenneth.docx

Da: kf7@columbia.edu
Inviato il: 15-set-2017 19.02
A: <tomaldo@tin.it>
Cc:
Oggetto:

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With warmest wishes to you and Inge,

Kenneth

Da: tomaldo@tin.it
Inviato il: 27-set-2017 15.23
A: <kf7@columbia.edu>
Cc:
Oggetto: R:

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your letter, which made me very happy. As you well know, I have always had a great interest in you and in your work. It has been a long time since we were together, first in London, then Ulm, Milan and Princeton. I remember well how we would always renew our agreement on topics relating to architecture. Topics that we, during those years, saw as being tied to major innovations and the changes in the nature of social relationships. One has to admit that things, in my opinion, did not go in the direction that we had anticipated. Quite the opposite. I say this with relative detachment and without any sort of nostalgia. There is not much sense in continuing to weep over the "good old days". The truth is that there is no "reasonable reason" that today allows us to celebrate (or condemn) en masse our proposals of those years. However, I want to make it equally clear that despite my 95 years of age I still have not resigned myself to definitely giving up on the convictions that gave meaning to my existence.

Inge and I always remember you with great affection, we hope to see you soon,

Tomás

Prof. Tomás Maldonado
Via Manzoni 14
20121 Milano
Italia
Tel: 0039 02 76000312
Fax: 0039 02 76004918
E-mail: tomaldo@tin.it

—Messaggio originale—

Da: kf7@columbia.edu
Data: 15-set-2017 19.02
A: <tomaldo@tin.it>
Ogg:

Caro Tomas,

Here I am writing to you after eons of time have passed, simply to tell you, of late, of how much you mean to me and what a casual muse you were for me in Princeton all those years ago. It was you, after all, that introduced me to Herbert Marcuse's Eros and Civilization, which still surely remains a remarkable work and it was you that left me with the aphorism that "while one cannot make anything without waste, this is distinguishable from an ideology of waste".

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With warmest wishes to you and Inge,

Kenneth

Da: kf7@columbla.edu
Inviato il: 6-ago-2018 20.55
A: "tomaldo@tin.it"<tomaldo@tin.it>
Cc:
Oggetto: Re: Lifetime Achievement Award

Caro Tomás,

Thank you so much for your kind congratulations for my Leone d'Oro!
Of course I did receive it in Venice and somehow it was a very moving occasion. I am, of course, sorry you were not there and even more unhappy to learn that you are not feeling well. It is nearly 50 years since you published *Design, Nature and Revolution* and now revolution is more remote than ever. The auto-destructive mania of *homo sapiens* is increasingly hard to take and often I think of that aphorism of yours which echoes in my mind "Although one cannot make anything without waste, this is distinguishable from an Ideology of waste".

Consumerism, tourism, there are the nightmare scenarios of our time.

When I think of you I think of your father who I recall was a scientist and your mother who if I recall correctly was not allowed to discourse with you in her mother-tongue, so it is said.

And also I think (in case you should find me unappreciative) of Kate Singleton, who was once an assistant of yours. And I often think of her and how wise you were and how stupid I was.

That is how it all passes, does it not, at the speed of light? It is small comfort to recall T. S. Elliot's lines "What has been and what might have been point to the same end which is always present."

Keep well,

Love to Ingo, as always,

Kenneth

On Wed, May 2, 2018 at 11:52 AM, tomaldo@tin.it <tomaldo@tin.it> wrote:

Dear Kenneth,

congratulations for the "Leone di Venezia" prize, I am very happy for you!

Are you going to receive it in Venice?

I would like to come too, but alas I don't feel well enough in this moment to travel.

I wonder if you could pass at Milano?

Good wishes, yours ever

Tomás

Prof. Tomás Maldonado
[via Manzoni 14](#)
20121 Milano
Italia
Tel: 0039 02 76000312
Fax: 0039 02 76004918
e-mail: tomaldo@tin.it