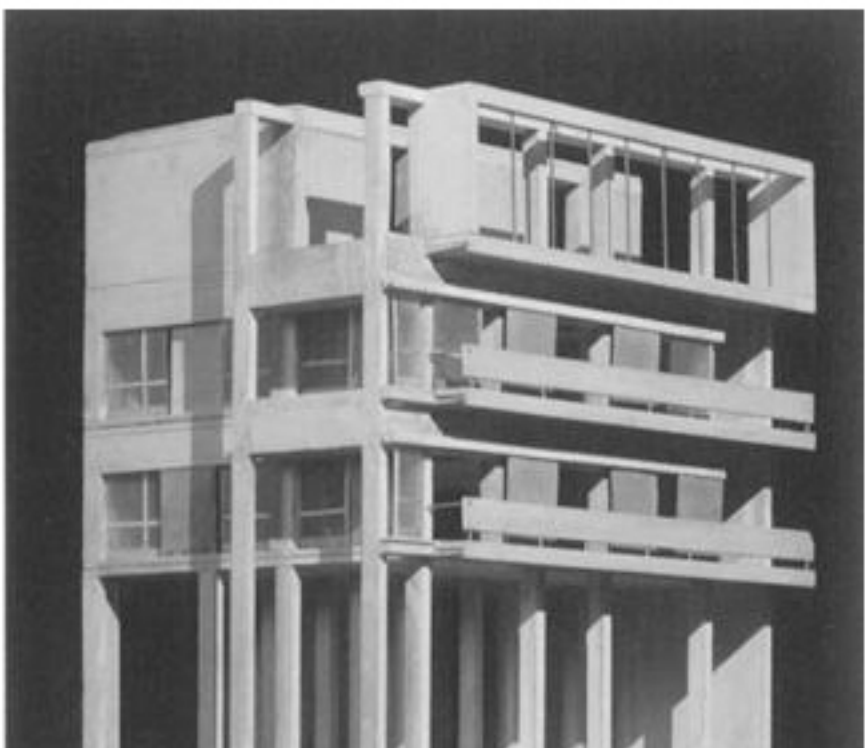


PER TOM SCHUMACHER, 1941-2009



CESARE CATTANEO, CASA A CERNOBBIO, MODELLO, 1938

Elisabetta Terragni and Matthew J. Bell remember Tom Schumacher, architect and educator

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posted by.anna.foppiano

As a foreigner you constantly struggle with words and phrases. What makes trouble for you does have an advantage, it easily amuses your friends.

I must say that Tom Schumacher's Italian was perfect, if possible even more than perfect. He was able to imitate local dialects and confuse a native speaker. This made me even more hesitant to speak to him in English.

Among all the words I can misspell, and occasionally amuse my friends with my weird pronunciation, there is one that made Tom and Patty laugh helplessly.

On a beautiful day last May we were sitting in a shady garden after a lecture and discussion at the University of Maryland where Tom taught. On this occasion, the conversation turned on Cesare Cattaneo's House in Cernobbio on the Lake of Como. Tom had come back to school after a severe illness. He felt passionate about the subject, one of his favorites, and pleased about the interest of the audience. But the occasion also drained his energy and he began to feel exhausted. He didn't want to return home but sought a comfortable spot to enjoy the conversation with friends. He had made an enormous effort to participate in the event and he wasn't ready to leave.

We lingered as he lingered and our conversation occasionally lapsed into silence. There was no avoiding the fact that Tom was tired but also determined not to let go of the occasion that proved to be one of the last. All of a sudden Patty asked me to say "devil" once more in my own way. I did [and it always comes out sounding like devil] and I made them laugh. If you can laugh at the devil, I think, you have little to fear.

Elisabetta Terragni
Como, August 2009



Obituary
by Matthew J. Bell

Thomas L. Schumacher, Architect and Educator, Dies at 68.
Thomas L. Schumacher, professor of architecture at the University of Maryland and fellow of the American Academy in Rome died in the early morning hours of July 15, 2009 after a short battle with brain cancer.
Schumacher joined the Maryland faculty in 1984, taught architectural design studios, history and theory courses, and served on the University Senate faculty affairs committee. Schumacher also originated the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation's Rome Program and published numerous books and articles on Italian modern architecture of the 1930's, in particular on the architect Giuseppe Terragni. Schumacher's studies of the Terragni built and unbuilt work focused upon the formal aspects of the work and its relationship to programmatic imperatives, often illustrating the historical foundations of the compositional and typological strategies inherent in the work. Schumacher also published a study of Terragni's Danteum project, a building designed by the architect based upon an interpretation of Dante's Divine Comedy. His major work on Terragni entitled, "Surface and Symbol: Giuseppe Terragni and the Architecture of Italian Rationalism" was published by Princeton Architectural Press in 1991 and has enjoyed wide distribution and translation into Italian and German editions.

A registered architect, Schumacher was also an authority on the architectural facade and pioneered architectural theory focused upon the composition of the vertical surface. To illustrate his theories and teach students about form, technique and program when designing the facade of a building, he used studies based upon works by Renaissance and Baroque architects as well as the Modern masters. His writings have appeared in Architectural Design, The Architectural Review, Oppositions, Journal of Architectural Education, Casabella, Parametro, The Cornell Journal of Architecture, Harvard Design Magazine, Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome, Oz, and The Harvard Architecture Review.

Thomas L. Schumacher was born in New York City on November 7, 1941, the son of Marcia and Joseph G. Schumacher. Raised in the Bronx, Schumacher earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University. After a period of professional practice, Schumacher returned to Cornell to pursue a Master of Architecture, studying under Colin Rowe and forming part of the "contextualism" school of thought which was critical of modern urban design. Widely influential, "contextualism" initially attempted to reconcile modern building types with urban forms based on the traditional city. Schumacher's Master of Architecture thesis, done under Rowe's direction, was widely cited as one of the first projects to illustrate the possibilities synthesizing these two aspects of design theory. In 1967 Schumacher was awarded the Rome Prize for architecture and spent 1967-69 at the American Academy in Rome. He has held academic appointments at Princeton University, the University of Virginia, the University IUAV of Venice (Italy), Catholic University, Syracuse University and lectured widely throughout the United States, Europe, Canada and the United Kingdom. In 1992-93, Schumacher was named "Distinguished Professor" by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and in 1991 Schumacher returned to Rome as resident architect at the American Academy.

Schumacher was also a member of the United States Golf Association.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Sachs of Washington, DC, a brother, Richard Schumacher of Los Angeles, CA, many cousins, nephews and nieces and generations of students and colleagues who learned so much from him.

Matthew J. Bell
University of Maryland
July 2009

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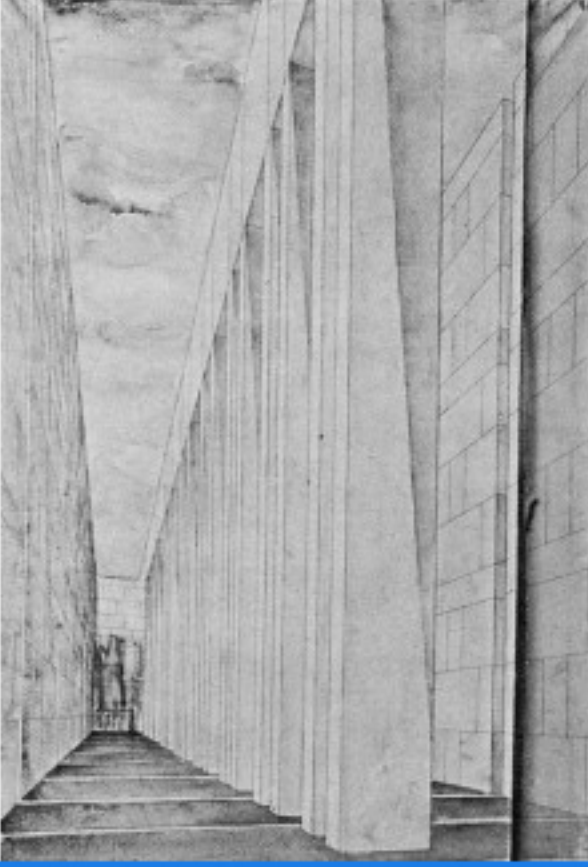
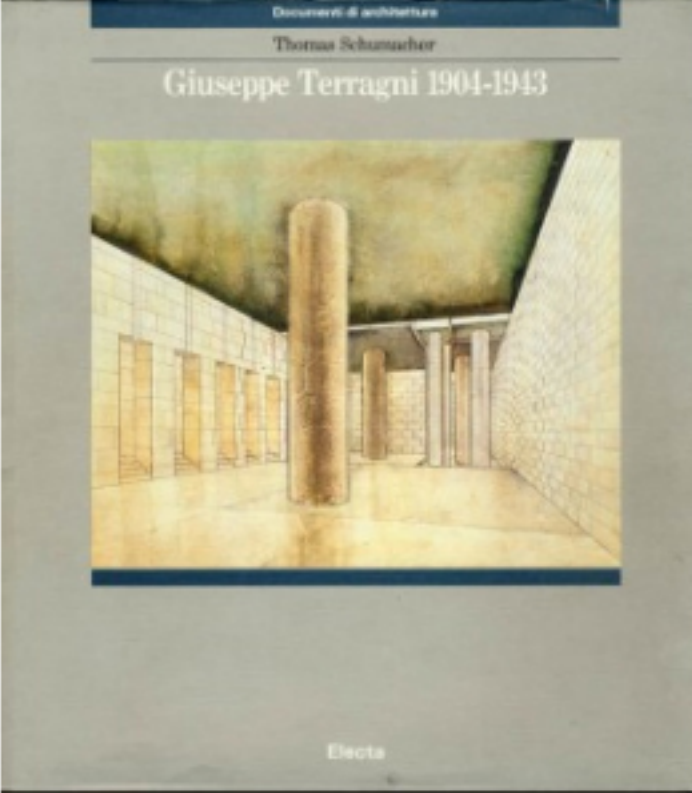
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