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Title:

Why Three Places in Central Florida? [Forum]

Journal Issue:

[Places, 12\(1\)](#)

Author:

[Gindroz, Raymond L AIA](#), American Institute of Architects Committee on Design, Regional and Urban Design Committee, Housing Committee

Publication Date:

1998

Publication Info:

Places

Permalink:

<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/8xf1887x>

Acknowledgements:

This article was originally produced in Places Journal. To subscribe, visit www.places-journal.org. For reprint information, contact places@berkeley.edu.

Keywords:

places, placemaking, architecture, environment, landscape, urban design, public realm, planning, design, central, Florida, Raymond Gindroz, AIA, American, institute, committee, housing

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Why Three Places in Central Florida?

Cross Sections enable us to see relationships among the various parts of our buildings and environments. The Committee on Design is using this theme throughout 1998 to explore the role individual buildings and architects can play in creating public space.

In this first conference we saw three distinctly different ways in which many architects and builders can work together (or against each other) across both time and space to create a large scale-environment. We learned



left: Hyde Park neighborhood, Tampa.

Photo: Committee on Design

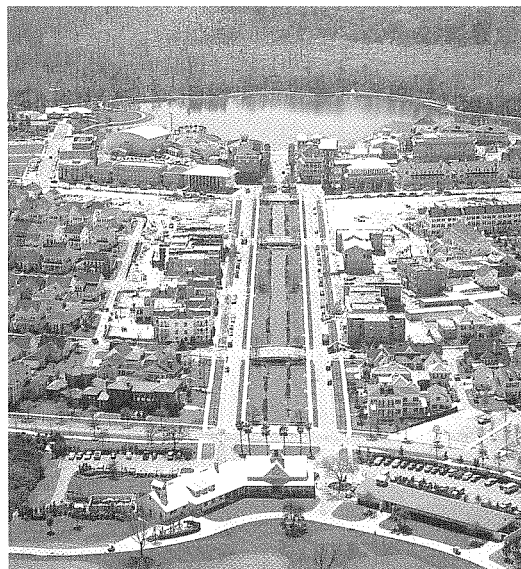
center: Celebration, Florida

Photo: Smith Aerial Photography

right: Florida Southern College, Lakeland.

Photo: Committee on Design

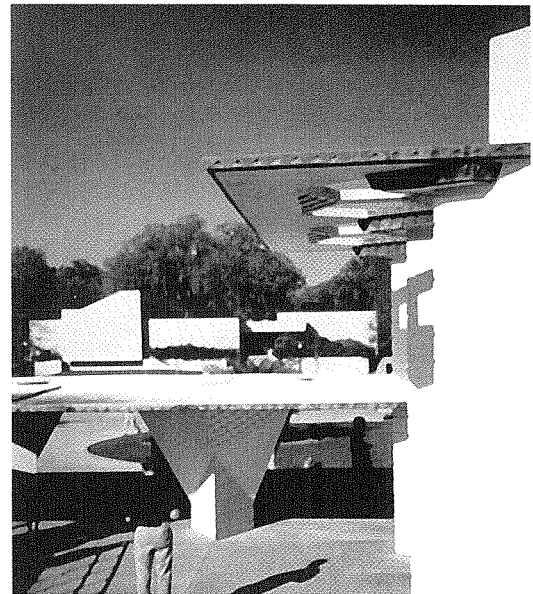
This article, and the two that immediately follow, report on the spring, 1998, forum sponsored by three committees of the American Institute of Architects: the Committee on Design, the Regional and Urban Design Committee, and the Housing Committee. The forum, held February 19-20 in central Florida, was organized by Raymond L. Gindroz, AIA, chair of the Committee on Design; Stephen Quick, AIA, chair of the Regional and Urban Design Committee; and Michael Rosen, AIA, chair of the Housing Committee. Conference chairs included Jan Abell, FAIA, and Joseph Barnes, AIA. For information on future AIA forums, contact AIA at 800-242-3837.



from the contrasts among the design approaches for Celebration, the Florida Southern campus and Tampa's traditional neighborhoods and commercial districts.

In Celebration, many architects, all working within the concept of creating a new home town, designed buildings that create a sequence of streets and public open spaces that have the character and quality of a traditional American town. Required to choose among one of several possible traditional architectural styles, they designed buildings that relate to each other and to the character and design of streetscapes and landscapes. Through collaboration, the design-invention of many architects has created a unified environment.

By contrast, Frank Lloyd Wright created a single, unified vision (and style) for the campus of Florida Southern



College. He called this campus the "Child of the Sun" and produced a rich sequence of spaces within an orange grove, linked by canopies. The singular vision has been less successful in directing the work of other architects than Wright would have hoped.

In the Hyde Park and Ybor City districts of Tampa, committee members saw traditional residential neighborhoods and commercial districts in their natural state, unified by the urban and architectural conventions of their period. These include conventions for the way houses and porches create a neighborhood street space, the way mixed use commercial buildings create a room like street-space, and the architectural elements of buildings.

The Committee on Design was pleased to be joined by the Regional and Urban Design and Housing Committees. The program provided joint sessions to share common information and individual meetings to discuss topics of more specialized interest.

Raymond L. Gindroz, AIA, is managing principal of Urban Design Associates in Pittsburgh.

