Oswald Mathias Ungers
06.12.1926 - 09.30.2007
First practice - Cologne 1950
Professor -
- Technical University of Berlin '63-'67
- Cornell '69-'75
- Notable student - Rem Koolhaas
- Harvard '73-'78
- UCLA '74-'75
- University of Applied Arts Vienna '79-'80
- Kunstakademie Dusseldorf '86

“The problem is no longer posed as the designing of a completely new environment, but rather the rebuilding of what already exists... There is no need for a new Utopia but rather to create a better reality.” O.M. Ungers
Lotus International

International Bilingual Italian Publication
Circulation - 1963
Reference for
Architectural Debate
International Developments in Architecture
Authoritative Critics
Leading Figures in Contemporary Architecture
Planning Criteria

1. Dialectic Process
   - Confrontation with existing environment
   - Acceptance of specific economic, social and historical conditions
   - Design determined by the specific building task
   - Integration into an existing context

2. Planning and Accident
   - Accidents sometimes turned into an architectural events
   - Primary definition of plan, basic framework
   - Secondary, spontaneous and if necessary temporary
   - Develop a design strategy for every specific solution
   - Individualistic architecture within a fixed set of rules

3. Plurality of Solutions
   - Architectural interpretation of one and the same element
   - Catalogue of alternatives, in contrast to an ideal solution
   - Flexibility vs. fixity, objectivity vs. subjectivity, process vs. object

4. Urban Characteristics of Architecture vs. Architecture as an Object
   - Diminish Object character in favor of an architecture concept
   - Higher degree of quality than only a simple organization of a program
   - Architecture can become an urban element

5. Providing for the User
   - Adaptable enough to respond to human needs and changes
   - Minimal design which allows for maximum flexibility
   - Transformation from an authoritarian act to participation
Planning Criteria

WALLRAF-RICHARTZ MUSEUM
Planning - 1975
Planning Criteria

WALLRAF-RICHARTZ MUSEUM
Cologne, Germany
1996 - 2000
Cities Within the City

Depopulation
- 74% of the population prefer an apartment in the country to an apartment in the city. (Demoscopic Bureau of Allensbach '75)
- Depopulation in NYC during the '70's approx. 800,000
- Two urban design tendencies to be avoided: nostalgia and increased development
- Avoid the prominence of a single principle (small town)

Differentiated Urban Structure
- Convergence of multiple principles produces a climate of functionality
- Cities with populations that outgrow their effectiveness ruin the human environment
- Diminution rather than giantism leads to better quality of life
- Partial demolition of superfluous districts can open redevelopment
- Zones that deserve to be preserved should be

City-Archipelago
- City, federation of single towns with different structures, developed in a deliberately antithetic manner
- High building density to be diminished to create free space
- Each part of the city has an identity of its own that diversifies it
- City within a city is in antithesis to city as single whole
- Individualization while moving away from standardization

Space (Green)
- Islands in the city to be divided from each other by strips of green
- Embrace the motorway to link up to supermarkets, drive-in cinemas, drive-in banks
- Urban villa as residential building because 70% of people prefer detached home to one in a block
- Partial demolition of superfluous districts can open redevelopment
- Zones that deserve to be preserved should be
Cities Within the City
Differentiated Urban Structure
Cities Within the City

Depopulation
- 74% of the population prefer an apartment in the country to an apartment in the city. (Demoscopic Bureau of Allensbach '75)
- Depopulation in NYC during the '70's approx. 800,000
- Two urban design tendencies to be avoided; nostalgia and increased development
- Avoid the prominence of a single principle (small town)

Differentiated Urban Structure
- Convergence of multiple principles produces a climate of functionality
- Cities with populations that outgrow their effectiveness ruin the human environment
- Diminution rather than giantism leads to better quality of life
- Partial demolition of superfluous districts can open redevelopment
- Zones that deserve to be preserved should be

City-Archipelago
- City, federation of single towns with different structures, developed in a deliberately antithetic manner
- High building density to be diminished to create free space
- Each part of the city has an identity of its own that diversifies it
- City within a city is in antithesis to city as single whole
- Individualization while moving away from standardization

Space (Green)
- Islands in the city to be divided from each other by strips of green
- Embrace the motorway to link up to supermarkets, drive-in cinemas, drive-in banks
- Urban villa as residential building because 70% of people prefer detached home to one in a block
- Partial demolition of superfluous districts can open redevelopment
- Zones that deserve to be preserved should be
Cities Within the City
City-Archipelago

Housing Structure  Urban Island  Towns in the Town
Cities Within the City

Depopulation
- 74% of the population prefer an apartment in the country to an apartment in the city. (Demoscopic Bureau of Allensbach ‘75)
- Depopulation in NYC during the ‘70’s approx. 800,000
- Two urban design tendencies to be avoided; nostalgia and increased development
- Avoid the prominence of a single principle (small town)

Differentiated Urban Structure
- Convergence of multiple principles produces a climate of functionality
- Cities with populations that outgrow their effectiveness ruin the human environment
- Diminution rather than giantism leads to better quality of life
- Partial demolition of superfluous districts can open redevelopment
- Zones that deserve to be preserved should be

City-Archipelago
- City, federation of single towns with different structures, developed in a deliberately antithetic manner
- High building density to be diminished to create free space
- Each part of the city has an identity of its own that diversifies it
- City within a city is in antithesis to city as single whole
- Individualization while moving away from standardization

Space (Green)
- Islands in the city to be divided from each other by strips of green
- Embrace the motorway to link up to supermarkets, drive-in cinemas, drive-in banks
- Urban villa as residential building because 70% of people prefer detached home to one in a block
- Partial demolition of superfluous districts can open redevelopment
- Zones that deserve to be preserved should be
Cities Within the City

Space (Green)