

Architecture 1010: Lessons of the Lawn

Exploration NO. 5

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IN THE CENTER & ON THE EDGE THE PANTHEON IN ROME & THE GUGGENHEIM IN BILBAO

From 118-125 AD Hadrian extended the Roman Empire up to the Northern Isles of England and down to the Khyber Pass leading to the Indian sub-continent. He simultaneously built a large Villa for himself in Tivoli and completed the Pantheon of All of the Deities of the Empire in the lowest site of Rome.

In the last two decades of the 20th century Frank Gehry catapulted himself in one generation from Kiev by way of Montreal to The City of the Angels where he first rocked the architectural world by the de-construction of a modest bungalow, which then led to the explosive project of the new Guggenheim Museum built in revolutionary Bilbao, Spain. His buildings since, in less than a decade, have energized cultural institutions throughout the world.

Mr. Jefferson's simultaneous projects of his youthful Monticello and later life Academical Village had the same global impact of *revolution* and *manifest destiny* as the ancient labors of Hadrian and the recent work of Gehry. All three individuals valued marking the Center as well as inhabiting the Edge.

Write a five-page essay, double spaced with diagrams included in both the center and margins of the text about the compositional, social, and political utility of center and edge.

This time explicitly reference the context or preconditions of the work. For example Marcus Agrippa conceived of this imperial project four decades earlier than Hadrian; Frank Lloyd Wright equally rocked the world in the first Guggenheim Collection in New York City four decades earlier than the Bilbao venture; and John Locke championed the individual and the group four decades before Jefferson's declarations in Philadelphia.

Four decades is about a generation and one of the most ethical Lessons of the Lawn is that we must maintain self-evident truths across generations. Write about these projects first as a stranger coming upon these urban sites, from the depths of the adjacent rivers and from the belvedere of bridges. Then delight in the ever familiarity of the citizen who sees in the singularity of the oculus the multiplicity of this world.