

*Exams are due at the beginning of discussion section on Monday, October 19. You may consult your class notes and readings, but do not confer with one another. Exams are to be typed/word processed, or written clearly in ink on white 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Be sure to state your name, section discussion leaders, and the date on the first page. Sign honor code.*  
*You need not footnote class lecturers or the texts of Le Corbusier/Venturi/Solnit/Berger. If you make use of additional source material (including the class website readings and material from other classes and sources), footnote your sources (author and title)*

Give yourselves no more than one hour and thirty minutes, a little more than one class period, self-scheduled, in your own place, in standard 8 1/2" x 11" page format to be submitted in your discussion periods approximately six days from now (10/19/09) to your discussion leaders, reviewing and reordering and or revising the Primer criteria stressing specifically **Composition: Center & Edge** as first among equals as a critical and constructive text. Refer to the Academical Village/Case Studies/ Readings and you may make useful diagrams in the margins of your text **However, the major focus is on the Campidoglio & La Tourette** Be critical in positioning your claims and evidence for your argument *on lessons learned* and what in the end is useful about understanding *Architecture as a Covenant with the World, Again? How is Covenant & Composition related?* Some may choose to begin in darkness and end in light. *You* should concentrate on only one conjunctive pair of the analytic criteria; e.g :*Composition: as Center and Edge* linked to *Thresholds & Grounding* rather than reordering all six offered in this course. Perhaps, most importantly you should refer primarily to Michelangelo's *Campidoglio* project in Rome and Le Corbusier's *La Tourette* Project near Lyon.

### **APPRECIATING THE SINGULAR LESSONS OF THE LAWN THROUGH CENTER & EDGE, THRESHOLDS AND GROUNDING The Campidoglio in Rome (1540) & La Tourette near L'Abrase D'Evreux, France (1957)**

#### **METHOD:**

We are returning to Compositional Paradigms as a method by which to grasp an understanding the Lessons of the Lawn as Spatial Primer focusing on this week's most recent pair of case studies.

\* The concept of *Doors linked to Basement/Balcony/and or Belvedere Tower* establishes *Passage or Architectural Promenade* as a device to appreciate *Thresholds & Grounding* understood initially in our analysis as one of the Lessons of the Lawn.

\* There is a difference between the *Ground & Floor*, as well as a *Plinth above & Crypto-porticus beneath*.

\* Doors frame *in plan* the space of passage from outside to inside.

\* Doors define *in section* the Thresholds, the in-between space between inside and outside.

Il Campidoglio attempts to establish a sense of a new civic center for the Renaissance City of Rome made out of new edges and a transposed catalytic equestrian statue.

La Tourette attempts to establish a sense of a new religious community of edge conditions with a residual center of frictional conditions leaving mute the question of authoritative center in the wake of post war Europe .

Both are modern self-conscious projects unique to here and now while simultaneously engaged with the World, Again.

Monticello seems a self-confident center served by a troubled community in shadows at the edges and foundations of its constructed precinct.

Parcel X exploits a rod and a compass to define a dwelling for two ancient nomads and an errant sphinx-like beast.

\* We usually come from an *Edge* of a precinct and find a *Center* or sequence of centers along the way.

When we come out we see the same World *anew*, re-centered often with blurred edges. Often architectural projects take you from the Ground to higher levels and frequently there is offered another route into the bowels of the earth as well.

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

Establish an argument of text with diagrams of your own invention, covering the case studies as evidence of a number of Recurrent Dualities of Center & Edge evident in the Lawn and also based on observations of visceral Thresholds and the ethical commitment to Grounding in the *Campidoglio* and *La Tourette*.

It should be clear by now that we want you to reference the reading assigned, as well as some footnotes perhaps connected to other case studies to make the case for Recurrent Dualities.

External references to the course, and those from your initial spatial tales of origin are more than welcome. These midterm essays are evidence of your own explorations, so let us know what you have discovered as an offering of an extension/extrapolation of these paradigmatic projections of *then and there to here and now*.

#### **GLOSSARY:**

**ARCHITECTURAL PROMENADE:** a framed space for walking, often associated with social interaction and in view of other people

**THRESHOLD:** A place or point of beginning; A piece of wood or stone placed beneath a door; the hard surface for the threshing of grain

**PLINTH:** A block or slab on which a pedestal, column, or statue is placed. In contemporary usage, it implies a fabricated level condition, earthen or otherwise, often but not always supporting a building.

**CRYPTOPORTICUS:** The vaulted east-west passage at the base of the Rotunda; a covered gallery that was a characteristic feature of the ancient Roman palazzo usually designed to provide shade and a cool place for walking.