

November 26, 2014

Martin Centre Lecture

Department of Architecture



Social Responsibility in a Postmodern Era: Charles W. Moore and Affordable Housing

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Charles W. Moore was one of the finest designers of residential architecture in the late twentieth century. A little-known but important aspect of Moore's career was his work on housing for low- and moderate-income residents. Moore completed seven affordable housing schemes, in addition to designing numerous such projects that remained un built. In these designs, Moore sought to bring elements of Postmodernism, such as decoration, historical allusion, and lessons from vernacular buildings, to create memorable places for residents of modest means. I evaluate each of the built projects, with a particular emphasis on the most urban of them: Church Street South Housing of 1968 in New Haven, Connecticut. I place Moore's designs for affordable housing in the context of his era and calibrate his commitment to social responsibility. What emerges is a portrait of a socially engaged architect that complicates the ironic and playful figure he has often been seen as.

When : 1:15 - 2:15, November 26, 2014

Where: Lecture Room -1, Department of Architecture,
1-5 Scroope Terrace, Cambridge CB2 1PX



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