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PROJECTS: ALICE AYCOCK

"So this was to be the story of the Middle Ages and possibly World War I and you ask me how I got around to Egypt and the desert and I have to tell you I simply don't know...."

Alice Aycock's most recent work will be on view at The Museum of Modern Art from December 19 through February 5, 1978. A large-scale wooden structure called Project Entitled "Studies for a Town," it was conceived especially for the Museum's first-floor "Projects" galleries. Numerous related drawings for unexecuted projects and photographs documenting structures built during the past several years will also be shown.

Project Entitled "Studies for a Town" is an elliptical wooden structure cut on a skew to provide a bird's-eye view of the whole and to reveal its interior components: steps, walls, doorways, windows, ladders, roofs, shafts, and alleys, some of which may be reached by the spectator, others, only seen, remain inaccessible. The piece ranges from 3 feet to 10 feet high and its diameter varies from 11 feet to 12 1/2 feet.

Aycock's work suggests many levels of associations, involving personal experiences and references to past and present architectural structures of all types. Among the allusions which the Museum project incorporates are Medieval walled towns, military bunkers, Egyptian shanty towns and desert citadels, and an 18th century Indian observatory. Aycock's art is also deeply involved with her own autobiographical memories, feelings, and reflections. For example, the underground tunnels and vaults that have figured in so many of her works recall not only catacombs, bunkers, and Pueblo kivas, but also family burial plots and her own dreams (or nightmares) of

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