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## The Museum of Modern Art

cc: UNIVERSITAS PROJECT  
Jim Schwab  
Ann Ristuccia  
Hans van den Houten  
WR  
JS  
EvdD  
circ  
green

To Arthur Drexler  
From John Stringer  
Date January 21, 1972  
Re UNIVERSITAS PROJECT

-----  
Following our telephone conversation, I would like to confirm that the account number earlier specified in your January 4, 1972 memo from Hans van den Houten was incorrect and should be 404.

Ann Ristuccia will be transferring \$11,000.00 from our UNIVERSITAS account 5014 (formerly 941) and is expecting to be supplied by your department with the names of the seven participants against whose expenses the grant is to be applied. Ann will give us both a final accounting when payments have been finalized, at which point the unspent surplus will be transferred back from your account 404 to our number 5014.

JS:lk

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To Members of the Executive Committee of the International Council

From Waldo Rasmussen

Date October 19, 1971

Re INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM:  
Institutions for a Post-Technological Society

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Memo to Members of the Executive Committee  
of the International Council

- 2 -

October 19, 1971

The Council's Program Committee enthusiastically endorsed this proposal as highly consonant with its aims of encouraging exchange of persons in the arts, and especially for identifying the Council with a project with such broad intellectual perspectives.

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## The Museum of Modern Art

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From Waldo Rasmussen

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Institutions for a Post-Technological Society

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October 11, 1971

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Erich Jantsch	670 (Austria)	250	750	1,670
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Tomas Maldonado	606 (Italy)	250	500	1,356
Gillo Dorfles	606 (Italy)	250	750	1,606
Sub Total				\$10,851
Contingency				149
Grand Total				\$11,000

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	IC / IP	I.B.997

## The Museum of Modern Art

To Waldo Rasmussen  
From Emilio Ambasz *EA*  
Date October 11, 1971  
Re Sponsorship of the International Council of the Research Program  
"Institutions for a Post-Technological Society: The Universitas Project"

Dear Waldo:

An International Symposium, dealing with the problems of evaluation and design of the urban environment, will take place at the Museum of Modern Art on January 8-9, 1972.

The Museum of Modern Art and the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies have undertaken this project as a critical and prospective inquiry into the relation of man to the natural and the socio-cultural environment. Entitled "Institutions for a Post-Technological Society--the Universitas Project," it questions the adequacy of prevailing modes of thought and existing institutions to deal with the problems of the man-made milieu, and it examines the idea of an experimental institution in which a broad range of inquiries would be integrated toward modes of thought and action which are better suited to dealing with those problems. This Symposium is part of a study planned to explore the possibility of developing in the United States a new type of institution centered around the task of evaluating and designing the man-made environment.

More than 20 eminent architects, planners, scientists and philosophers from 14 countries are participating in this International Symposium. Among those coming to New York for the occasion are the French sociologists Henri Lefebvre and Alain Touraine, the French philosopher Michel Foucault, the English architectural critic Martin Pawley, the Mexican poet Octavio Paz, the Argentine design theorist and educator Tomas Maldonado, the Italian critic Umberto Eco. Americans participating include, among others, the linguist Roman Jakobson of Harvard and M.I.T., the political scientist Rexford Guy Tugwell, the architect Christopher Alexander, the mathematical biologist and theorist of general systems Anatol Rapoport.\*

The project has been organized into two stages, covering a period of five years. The first stage, concerned with problem definition and the proposal

\*See enclosed complete list of Contributors.

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Waldo Rasmussen

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October 11, 1971

of alternatives to the present situation, culminates with the January Symposium. At this stage the Project seeks, first, to specify objectives which are to be met in the evaluation, design and management of the man-made milieu; secondly, to question whether current modes of thought and existing institutions--especially the universities--satisfy these objectives; and finally to advance views on the new modes of thought and new or re-structured institutions which could be developed to satisfy these objectives. The second, implementative stage of the Project will develop strategies for bringing into existence the solutions proposed in the first stage.

As part of the first stage a small research team has been working for a year with the active participation of an interdisciplinary group of research advisors, preparing a basic working paper which brings into focus several critical issues. This paper has been submitted to the members and participants of the January Symposium, who are contributing essays, each from his own point of view, commenting on the issues raised by the working paper and expanding on them.

These essays will be distributed among the participants before the Symposium takes place. The Symposium, comprised of a two-day series of working sessions, will be open only to specialists to allow for free discussion of the views presented in the essays. The essays will then be published in book form together with the Symposium's proceedings.

As the number and quality of the Contributors indicate, this project is of great interest to the Museum's International Community. We, therefore, request here the International Council's sponsorship of the January Symposium.

In addition to the effect which this Symposium will have in American professional and academic circles, it is our belief that the publication which is to emerge from the Symposium will provide the International Council with an excellent opportunity to reach an extensive international audience.

The Universitas Project has been funded by an initiating grant of \$25,000 from the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts. Additionally, we have received a contribution of \$16,000 from the Brionvega Corporation of Italy, and a fellowship from the Noble Foundation granted to Mr. G. Perez, member of the Research Team. These funds have underwritten the expenses involved in supporting the Research Team which worked for a year in the preparation of the basic working paper (enclosed). The funds remaining from the original amount are enough to pay the fees and travel expenses of 15 Contributors. However, the project has had a very good response from several other potential Contributors whom we would also like to have participate in the January Symposium. This would entail an expenditure of \$11,000 extra, an amount which I respectfully request the International Council to consider contributing as one of the Project's sponsors.

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Waldo Rasmussen

-3-

October 11, 1971

I hope this Project will seem as useful and stimulating to the members of the International Council as it does to the Department of Architecture and Design, and that the Council will be able to offer its support.

Very truly yours,

Emilio Ambasz

EA:nr

encl.

cc: Arthur Drexler  
Mrs. Donald Straus  
John Hightower  
Gifford Phillips

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ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR 7 EXTRA CONTRIBUTORS

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October 11, 1971

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