

The Museum of Modern Art

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FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION RICARDO BOFILL and LEON KRIER: ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM, and HISTORY

DATES June 27 - September 3, 1985

ORGANIZATION Arthur Drexler, Director of the Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art

SPONSORSHIP Gerald D. Hines Interests Architecture Program at The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENTS This is the first in a series of five exhibitions that will examine current developments in the field of architecture. It will feature work by the contemporary Spanish architect, Ricardo Bofill (b. 1939), and the London-based architect, Leon Krier (b. 1946). Bofill and Krier are equally accomplished architects who work in distinctly different styles, but who have both rejected Modernism. They have both reasserted the importance of western architectural traditions to the renewal of our cities. While similar in their assumptions, their attitudes and careers differ greatly.

PUBLICATION The work of each architect will be exhibited in a separate gallery. Ricardo Bofill's buildings will be presented primarily through large-scale color photographs, including aerial views. Krier's ideas will be presented in his original ink and watercolor drawings, as well as by a model. Both Bofill and Krier have developed projects that will be presented for the first time in this exhibition and its accompanying catalog. Leon Krier has corrected and improved Washington, D.C., and Ricardo Bofill has designed a classical tower for residential use and an Arch of Triumph for office use in New York City.

SYMPOSIUM

THE ARCHITECTS Ricardo Bofill was born in 1939 in Barcelona, Spain, where he studied at The French Institute until 1955. In 1962 he founded the Taller De Arquitectura, a multi-disciplinary group concerned with "proposals and solutions for physical design problems." The Taller explores the relationships between social reality and urban and architectural forms. It is also devoted to the preservation and revival of urban centers, specifically to creating a "new typology of urban tissue based on the ambience

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of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque examples of street, square, and open space." Bofill skillfully uses modern construction techniques, particularly precast concrete. He rejects vernacular forms, old or new, to reinstate the kind of classical grandeur once associated with the Court and the Church. Bofill has created some of the most humane and beautiful large-scale public housing of the century, succeeding dramatically where Modernism has so often failed. Although Bofill has built his most important work in France, he remains based in his native city of Barcelona.

Leon Krier was born in Luxembourg in 1946, and since 1974 he has lived in London. Unlike Bofill, Krier designs but does not build. He has repudiated modern technology in favor of an architecture that is small in scale and craft-intensive. He has produced images that are among the most compelling alternatives yet seen to modern and postmodern architecture. His buildings range from what seems like a timeless vernacular to what seems like a rediscovered Roman classicism. He conceives projects that are highly personal in style, and that also suggest the kind of society that would be necessary to bring them into being. Krier re-evaluates the complete urban fabric as a medium for change. His ideas are unified by a concern with urban form and its social meaning.

PUBLICATION Ricardo Bofill and Leon Krier: Architecture, Urbanism, and History is being published by The Museum of Modern Art to complement the exhibition. The 24-page volume includes black-and-white and color illustrations. Text by Ricardo Bofill, Leon Krier, and Arthur Drexler. Additional details to be announced.

SYMPOSIUM On June 27 Arthur Drexler will moderate a symposium in the Titus Theater I at 8:00 p.m. Ricardo Bofill, Leon Krier, Robert Stern, and Colin Rowe will participate.

PRESS PREVIEW Wednesday, June 26, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.