Giancarlo De Carlo : a bibliography

A list of writings by John McKean concerning Giancarlo De Carlo


“Giancarlo De Carlo et l’expérience politique de la participation” (2006)

“Giancarlo De Carlo : An Appreciation” written just after his death for The Architects’ Newspaper, New York, June 2005 June 16th
Thanks so much for writing such a beautiful remembrance for your friend. It’s touching! Cathy Lang Ho, Editor, The Architect’s Newspaper
Also on www.spazioarchitettura.net
I read your piece on De Carlo and I thought it was very touching. I wonder if we can publish it in our website www.spazioarchitettura.net.
Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi

“Who was Giancarlo De Carlo?” obituary for The Architects’ Journal, v 221, no 22, 9 June 2005 p. 20 (and fuller on AJPlus.com, their website)

“The notion of neo-realism in architecture as reflected in the work of Giancarlo De Carlo”; Italian Research Seminar, School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, University of Edinburgh, 6 May 2004

“Learning from De Carlo”, talk in debate at Centre Pompidou, Paris, following the opening of the exhibition of Giancarlo De Carlo’s work, 21 April 2004


“Die ablesbare Entwicklung innerhalb der zahlreichen Projekte und auch des Formvokabulars zeichnet ein Portrait De Carlos, das – ähnlich seiner Architektur – verschiedene Schichten übereinanderlagert, ohne den eignen Charakter zu verleiren or zu leugnen.”
Rainer Schützeichel, Der Architekt, 11/12, 2005

“This thoughtful volume provides a history of the architecture, ideas, and teaching of Italian architect Giancarlo De Carlo through a series of essays that describe and analyzed his major projects. McKean begins with a chapter on De Carlo’s life, education, and philosophy against the historical context in which he lived. Essays on the projects follow...”
Art Book News Annual 2005

“Dear John, You went deeply into the story and discover occasions, plights and phases in my work and thinking that nobody saw before. But what I liked the most, besides your scientific inquiry, is that you didn’t make any attempt to organize the various periods of my thinking and acting labelling them with standard definition. Moreover you didn’t disjoin my work and my life. So, the book - due the quality of the texts - is very good, really outstanding. Unfortunately I wouldn’t say the same for the quality of the layout and for the choice of the projects. The layout looks oldish and clumsy: it reminds to me the serious books of the sixties having all the photos of the same size as regularity was a prove of objectivity. The truth is that Mr. Menges lacks imagination and he is also stubborn. He didn’t listen to the many advices and questions and requests we addressed to him all along the preparation of the book and didn’t try to understand the most subtle connections among the various projects. So that, especially close to the end, some projects arrive on the stage with no reason, some other are forgotten, some photos that should have been small are large and the reverse. I didn’t have the opportunity to communicate with him (he didn’t send to me the first copy with a nice letter of welcome: I have some copies because I bought them) and I do not think I will. Better to wait for...
an (improbable) Italian edition in which some changes could be made in the very last part. And better we hope that he will distribute the book anyway.

All this doesn't change that I am enthusiastic of what you did and that I thank you very much for the affectionate effort. All the best and thanks again Giancarlo"

Giancarlo De Carlo, 1 June 2004

"If I had ever practiced architecture seriously, Giancarlo would have been my principle guide. As it is he has always been an influence deepening my understanding of the relationship of people and building - which your magnificent book confirms."

John F. C. Turner, 16 June 2005


Translated from English by Pierre Camus, Paris: Centre Pompidou (with Axel Menges, Stuttgart) 216 pp, paperback

"Une livre parfait qui accompagne cette exposition et permet de le découvrir. […] Des articles très accessibles ouvrent au neophyte les arcanes d'un art que Giancarlo De Carlo, grand intellectuel, ami d'Italo Calvino, voulait humaniste avant tout."


"We never had such a full page dedicated to one of our architectural exhibitions. We are very thankful to Giancarlo De Carlo, but also to you whose book is a real complement, a lasting work, to this joyful show."

Jacqueline Stanic, curator of GDC Exhibition, Centre Pompidou, 11 May 2004

"the translation is excellent",

Giancarlo De Carlo, 1 June 2004


Giancarlo De Carlo in Conversation

This autobiography published in Italian (De Carlo in conversation with F Buncuga) has been translated into English by John McKean with Alessandra Pedron (2003). It remains unpublished.

"Il Magistero: De Carlo’s dialogue with historical forms", Places, (Pratt Institute, California) Vol 16 No 1, 2003, pp 54 – 63 online at: http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2141&context=ced/places or: http://64.233.179.104/scholar?hl=en&lr=&q=cache:QBg-UZuYrnsJ:repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi%3Farticle%3D2141%26context%3Dced/places+john+mckean+or: http://places.designobserver.com/media/pdf/II_Magistero:_1140.pdf or: http://escholarship.org/uc/item/40x7s8v7


Obituary of Spazio e Società, Space and Society, in The Architects’ Journal, 2/9 August 2001, p 46


“Conflict and Participation: De Carlo and Segal” in The Architects’ Journal, 8 February, 1989, p. 94.


Giancarlo De Carlo (1979)


John McKean was first invited by Giancarlo De Carlo to address ILAUD (The International Laboratory of Architecture and Urban Design), Urbino University, Italy, in October 1979 (his paper was published in ILAUD Yearbook 1980).