On the Silence of a Chapel

by

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Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

approved:

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Salahuddin Choudhury

August, 1988
Blacksburg, Virginia
Dedication

To my mother,
To my father,
To my sister,
To my brother,
To my sister,

To my grandmother,

And to the memory of

and

Home is where one starts from. As we grow older
The world becomes stranger, the pattern more complicated
Of dead and living. Not the intense moment
Isolated, with no before and after,
But a lifetime burning in every moment . . .

T.S. Eliot
"Marcel" by Barbara Richter, oil on canvas, 20"x 30"

On the Silence . . .
Abstract

A chapel is a band of demons transformed into white light.

there is no reason to doubt
so yet none to believe
there is no cause
spurring to gesture the impulse
of form
the content of vision
potent and resting in the silence of truth

the image forges itself
of itself
seeks its kind
and finds its place
sings its place
and plays silence.

of a Chapel
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Bibliography


Note: The intention of this thesis regarding an attempt at the architectural exploration of the concept of a chapel was significantly influenced by the thoughts of Paul Eidelberg as set forth in his book, *On the Silence of the Declaration of Independence*. In the preface, Eidelberg defines his essay as

...more than an "interpretation" of a historical document. It seeks to elucidate, by examining what the document says, what its authors did not and could not say, but what they somehow manifest when engaged in a dialogue intended to reveal the Declaration's "silent teachings."

He adds that

...Transcending (stale) dogmas, the Declaration is and shall always remain a radical document--radical because it goes to the roots of things. And because mankind is ever in need of being reminded of its roots, the Declaration is and shall ever remain a revolutionary document, inexhaustible in its possibilities.

The recognition of the wealth of "silent teachings" embodied in the idea of a chapel is of primary importance to this thesis. To limit this silence, "inexhaustible in its possibilities," has been my task.

...As will soon become obvious, however, this essay makes no reference, nor does it depend upon, any other works on the Declaration. No doubt I shall be roundly condemned by scholars for such unscholarly behavior.

--- Eidelberg

Aknowledgements

I thank

for their support and guidance.
The vita has been removed from the scanned document.
We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

T.S. Eliot
T.S. Eliot
BECOMING
OF THE MAN
AND PERPETUITY
OF THE ROCK

8:00 P.M. COWGILL LOBBY SEPTEMBER 26, 1988