



*"To have architecture that lasts means that you really got hold of the essence of things, otherwise it is transitory, it is fashion."*

*- I. M. Pei*

## The Fruits of Creative Insight

"In a rare forthcoming moment, the architect Pei shared his inner thoughts on the balanced realms, the yins and yangs, that enriched his full life...East and West, old and new:

"When you think about the history of human feelings, which is what the history of architecture is, you will notice that the most fruitfully imaginative developments almost always take place when two or more very contrasting lines of thought or feeling come together. They may be rooted in very contrasting cultural soils, but if they do come together...then an unexpectedly rich relationship can emerge. Perhaps the developments that I've had a hand in building over the years are not as new and useful and inspiring as the developments that I have felt in these ways as the contrasts of my life gradually attained a kind of complementarity. It is similar to sowing and reaping, the cycling of the seasons and sentiments, the movement of light and insights. You never quite know when something that you have planted is going to be harvested. The yield may be once or recurrent. You may forget that something was planted—an experience, a perception, a relationship to a person or to a philosophy or to a tradition. And then there is suddenly this bloom, called up by circumstances that are completely different. Such blooms can breach walls and whole epochs."

*(Continued on page 3)*

Theme for 2010: Pioneers of World Culture

Aim 3. To honour through appropriate observance the contributions of men and women of all ages to world culture — Declaration of Interdependence

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Learning from Light: The Vision of I.M. Pei

**Film: Saturday, June 5, 2010**

**7:00 pm**

**Concord House**

**1407 Chapala Street**

**Santa Barbara, CA**

**Moderator: Kirk Gradin**

Culture, Nature and Light: These elements provide the structure for the one-hour documentary film that explores the most recent work of one of the world's master architects, Chinese-American I.M. Pei: the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar. Produced by award winning directors Bo Landin and Sterling Van Wagenen the film visits the classics of Islamic architecture from Spain to Cairo, to uncover the traditional inspiration behind Pei's contemporary design.

For program information, please call (805) 967-1055, or visit the IWC's website, [www.worldculture.org](http://www.worldculture.org).

## Architects of World Culture: Modernism or Traditionalism?

**Seminar:**

**Saturday, June 12th**

**2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Concord House**

**1407 Chapala St.**

**Santa Barbara**

**Speaker: Kirk Gradin**

This seminar will examine the life and seminal works of I. M. Pei whose masterly use of geometry, space and light gave us what the 1983 Pritzker Prize jury called "the most beautiful interior spaces and exterior forms" of the 20th century. Pei's brilliant eye for essentials, transcendent sculptural forms and awe inspiring public spaces span more than 50 years of work. While best known for the controversial high-tech, glass pyramid entrance he placed in the middle of the Louvre courtyard, Pei was honored with commissions as diverse as a chapel in Taiwan, a high-rise for the Bank of China, a symphony hall and a Rock and Roll museum in the U.S. as well as art museums in Luxembourg, Japan and elsewhere.

Pei's work will also be contrasted with that of the Egyptian architect, Hassan Fathy. The lesser known Fathy was a trilingual professor-architect-author, who sought an authentic and sustainable traditionalism by reviving ancient mud-brick building techniques that he believed would serve the material and cultural needs for both the wealthy and the poorest of the poor within his native Egypt. For more information, call 967-1055.

## The Fruits of Creative Insight

The Confucian philosopher Mencius once said, "The great man is the man who hasn't lost the heart he had when he was a little child." A former associate stepped from his office one evening and spotted the Pei dashing as nimbly as teenagers across Fifty-seventh Street, that great axis of art and power leading to their Sutton Place home. "I. M. is ageless," said Kellogg Wong. "His bearing. His posture. His energy. His manner. His charm. The twinkle in his eye. It's all still there."

According to Lao-tzu (whose *Tao Te Ching* Pei referred to as the writings which most effected his design work) a deep serenity comes to those who are attuned to the intangible forces astir in the natural world. Pei has largely ceded the Kantonah house (in Japan) to his children and grandchildren, but he returns periodically to walk its wooded grounds. What he undertakes there is not gardening so much as an enlightened form of landscaping, the benefits of which will outlive him. The Pei children laughed among themselves one spring weekend as their father began clearing a patch of

undergrowth. "We all thought: What is Dad doing?" said his daughter, Liane, "but his labor revealed a stand of beautiful trees in a sunlit glade. It was a revelation. It made perfect sense, but he was the only one who had seen it."

Contributed by Kirk Gradin, selected from:

Cannell, Michael  
*I. M. Pei: Mandarin of Modernism*  
 New York: Carol Southern Books, 1995 pp. 302, 303

### In June

#### Anniversaries

5th	John Maynard Keynes, British economist b. 1883
6th	Thomas Mann, German novelist, social critic, Nobel laureate b. 1875
6th	Alexander Pushkin, Russian author, poet b. 1799
6th	Johann Müller (Regiomontanus), German mathematician, astronomer, astrologer b. 1436
7th	Paul Gauguin, French Post-Impressionist painter b. 1848
8th	Thomas Paine, British pamphleteer, revolutionary, inventor, Founding Father of the U.S. d. 1809
8th	Frank Lloyd Wright, American architect, writer, educator b. 1867
9th	Bertha von Suttner, Austrian novelist, pacifist, Nobel laureate b. 1843
10th	Sir Edwin Arnold, English poet, journalist b. 1832
11th	John Constable, English Romantic painter b. 1776
17th	William Crookes, English chemist, physicist b. 1832
19th	Blaise Pascal, French mathematician, physicist, religious philosopher b. 1623
23rd	Giambattista Vico, Italian philosopher, rhetorician, historian, jurist b. 1668
23rd	Alan M. Turing, British computer scientist, mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst b. 1912
24th	John of the Cross, Spanish mystic, Carmelite friar, Catholic reformer b. 1542
26th	Lord Kelvin, Irish-born mathematical physicist, engineer b. 1824
26th	Pearl S. Buck, American scholar and novelist of China, Nobel laureate b. 1892
27th	Helen Keller, American author, political activist, lecturer b. 1880
28th	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Swiss philosopher, writer b. 1712

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## Suggestions for a New Book Circle or Study Group?

Summer months offer a little more leisure for discussion of a book or topic of current interest. Do you have a suggestion? Send them to Carolyn Dorrance whose email is [carolyn@worldculture.org](mailto:carolyn@worldculture.org) or leave a message at 967-1055. Times, day and frequency of meetings will be determined by interested participants.



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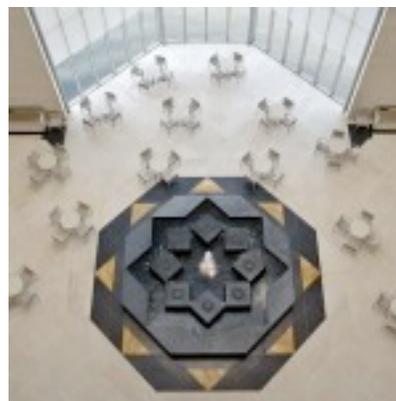
PRISM Online Community  
Calendar: PRISM lists member-recommended community events of interest on the IWC website.  
Please e-mail suggestions to [donna@worldculture.org](mailto:donna@worldculture.org).

For inquiries about the newsletter, contact [gerry@worldculture.org](mailto:gerry@worldculture.org).

### In June

#### Observances and Acknowledgements

- 2nd Ascent of Mt. Everest by Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay announced in 1953
- 5th World Environment Day established by the U. N. in 1972
- 15th Magna Carta signed in 1215, one of the world's most significant legal documents, leading to the rule of constitutional law in the English speaking world
- 16th International Day of the African Child sponsored by UNICEF
- 16th International Court of Justice (World Court) established by the U.N. in The Hague, Netherlands in 1945
- 16th Soviet Cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman in space in 1963
- 20th Great Seal of the United States adopted in 1782
- 20th (2010) Fathers' Day celebrated in many countries
- 21st (2010) Summer Solstice (11:28 a.m. UTC; 7:28 a.m. EDT)
- 24th Inti Raymi Incan Sun Festival celebrated in Peru
- 26th United Nations (U.N.) formally founded in 1945
- 30th Special Theory of Relativity propounded in 1905 by Albert Einstein



I.M Pei's Museum of Islamic Art