

Engaging the City

presents

UTOPIA'S GHOST: POSTMODERNISM RECONSIDERED

It is difficult to get historians, theorists, or architects to agree on a definition of "postmodernism," whether in architecture or elsewhere, except that whatever it is (or was), it has involved the exhaustion of modernist utopias. Many also assume that the postmodern period is now "over." Architecture has had a special role to play in helping to form these impressions, largely due to assertions made by architects and architectural critics during the 1970s. This lecture will revisit some of these claims and the architecture with which they have been associated, in the interest of conjuring utopia's ghost. The implications are twofold: first, to rekindle the utopian spirit (if not specific utopian proposals) with the help of material in which it seems least likely to be found, and second, to counter assertions that in its current, often techno-triumphalist mode, architecture has somehow escaped from the postmodern impasse.

a lecture by

REINHOLD MARTIN

Tuesday, November 28

7:30pm

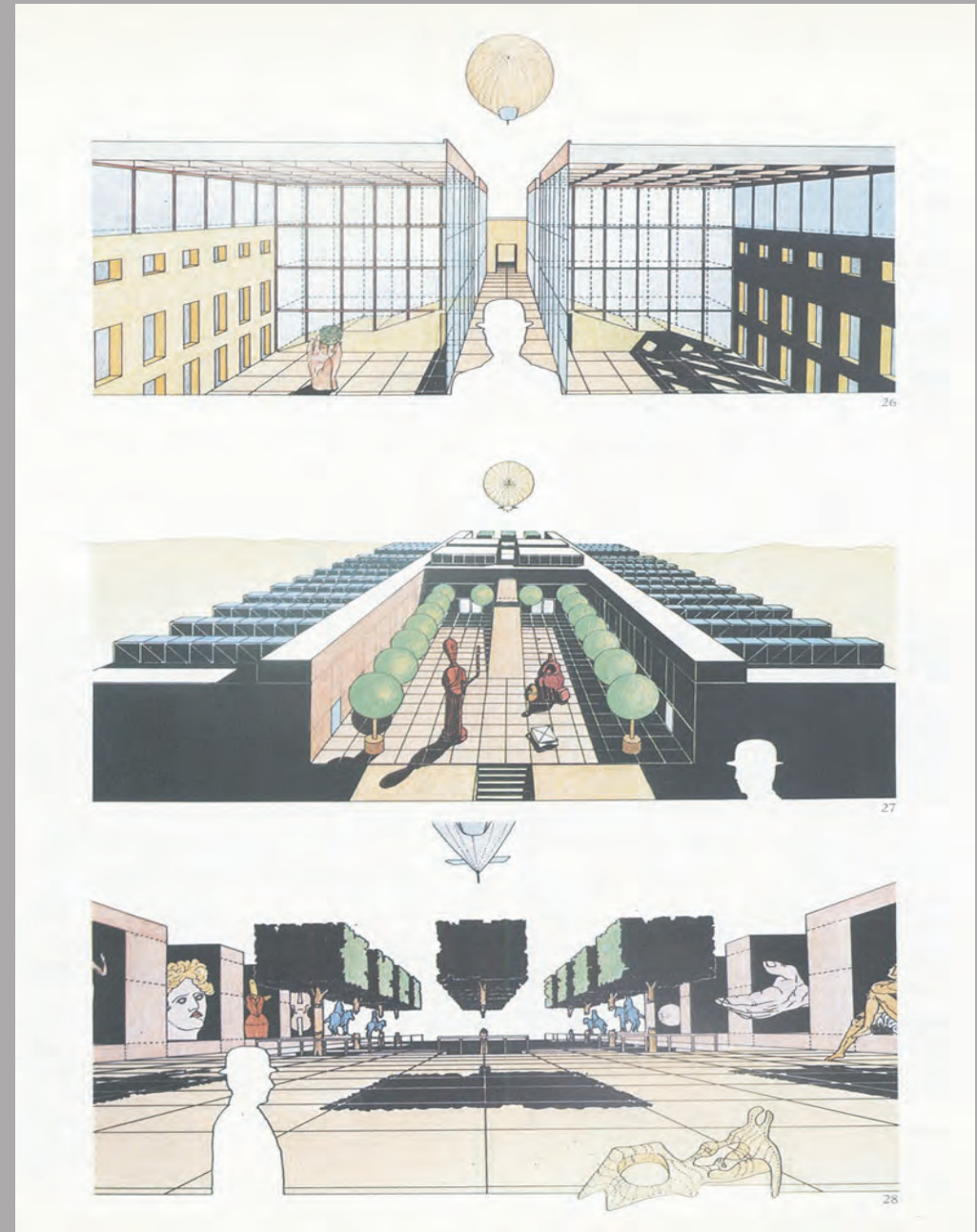
Miguel Abreu Gallery

36 Orchard Street (between Canal & Hester)

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Seating is limited. RSVP dfabricius@earthlink.net

Reinhold Martin teaches in the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University, where he directs the PhD program in Architecture, and the Master of Science program in Advanced Architectural Design. He is a founding co-editor of the journal *Grey Room*, a partner in the firm of Martin/Baxi Architects, and has published widely on the history and theory of modern and contemporary architecture. He is the author of *The Organizational Complex: Architecture, Media, and Corporate Space* (MIT Press, 2003), and the co-author, with Kadambari Baxi, of *Entropia* (Black Dog, 2001) and *Multi-National City: Architectural Itineraries* (ACTAR: forthcoming in 2007). He is currently working on a book that re-theorizes postmodernism.



Oswald Mathias Ungers, Ludwig Museum, Köln, 1975

Engaging the City is an independent monthly lecture series that serves as a venue for individuals in a variety of professions who engage the extraordinary and exciting complexity of contemporary cities in novel ways. Lecturers will be from the fields of architecture, urban planning, and urban design, but also public policy, public art, philosophy, film, and journalism.