

For immediate release: December 14, 2006

ARCHITECTURE SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON EVOLUTION OF FIRMINY CHURCH

Columbus, OH—Bringing together prominent architectural historians, critics, and architects from the U.S. and Europe, the Wexner Center presents a **daylong symposium** on the Eglise Saint-Pierre in Firminy, France, designed by Le Corbusier in the 1960s and completed in 2006 under the direction of his former protégé, José Oubrière (now on the faculty at The Ohio State University). The symposium, to be held **Friday, January 26** at the Wexner Center, will explore the historical and contemporary implications of this remarkable church. Cosponsored by The Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture, this event is **free; no registration is required**.

The symposium is being held in conjunction with *Architecture Interruptus*, an exhibition on view in the Wexner Center Galleries January 26–April 15 that documents the evolution and completion of the church through drawings, photographs, and a commissioned model.

The *Architecture Interruptus* Symposium schedule:

WELCOME AND REMARKS | 10 AM

Sherri Geldin, director, Wexner Center for the Arts

Megan Cavanaugh Novak, curator of *Architecture Interruptus*

SESSION ONE | 10:30 AM–12:30 PM

Historical Implications of Le Corbusier/Oubrière's Firminy Project

The completion of the Firminy church more than 45 years after its commission asks architects and theorists to grapple with their understanding of a project so long in the making and created by two distinct authors. This session looks back on Le Corbusier's oeuvre through the lens of this final project that he could not complete alone.

Speakers

Barry Bergdoll, professor and chair, Department of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University

Wolf D. Prix, architect, Coop Himmelb(l)au, professor of Architecture, University of Applied Arts, Vienna

Stanislaus von Moos, professor, Department of Art History, University of Zurich

Moderator

Aron Vinegar, assistant professor, OSU's Department of History of Art and Knowlton School of Architecture

SESSION TWO | 2–4 PM

Contemporary Implications of Le Corbusier/Oubrière's Firminy Project

The church in Firminy, despite its midcentury roots, is refreshingly current. This is due not only to its recent completion but also to the revisions and additions to the project by José Oubrière. This session highlights the reverberating effects of the church's completion on a new generation of architects working today.

Speakers

Caroline Bos, architect, UN Studio

Scott Cohen, architect and professor, Department of Architecture, Harvard University

Aaron Betsky, director, Cincinnati Art Museum

Moderator

Jeffrey Kipnis, professor, Knowlton School of Architecture, The Ohio State University

RECEPTION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS | 4–5:30 PM

For more information on attending the symposium, the public can email edweb@wexarts.org. Media contacts for images, interviews, or more information: Erik Pepple, epepple@wexarts.org or 614 688-3261 or Karen Simonian, ksimonian@wexarts.org or 614 292-9923.