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an account of the making of Structure Is Space: 63-66, a mosaic installation at the Hilliard Apartments

a project developed by Olivia Gude as a Great Cities Institute Faculty Scholar in 2006-2007

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Project sponsors: Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation and the Chicago Public Art Group

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Project supported by Chicago Public Art Group Field Foundation of Illinois Great Cities Institute of the University of Illinois at Chicago Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation Illinois Arts Council, a state arts agency National Endowment for the Arts

In 2005, Jackie Holsten (Vice President of Holsten Real Estate Development), Jon Pounds (Director of Chicago Public Art Group) and Olivia Gude (CPAG Senior Artist and professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago) began planning a community-based public artwork for the newly renovated Hilliard Apartment complex to build connections among the new and newly returned inhabitants.



CENTRE RAYMOND HILLIARD Chicago, Illinois

Deux tours rondes de 16 étages pour la logement d'utroisième âge et deux tours HLM de 18 étages en torme d'arc ; en tout 756 appartements.

Coût : \$ 10 million Réception des traveux : 1966

Le Centre Hillard est un complexe d'habitations pour personnes à bas navenus. Les familles nombreuses vivent dans les deux immeubles élevés courbes tandis que les persuses, des babtent les tours. Le complexe comprend des pelsuses, des termins de jeux et même un thélate en plain air. Ce projet a une portée sociale. Comme l'affirme Goldberg : "en combinant les logements de groupes familiaux et de groupes de personnes âgées noue reconnaiseons qu'ils sont membres de la même société. Et les gens abligés de vivre dans ces blocs ne se sentiront plus punis d'âtre peuvres."

Las daux tours rondes constituant les appartements pour personnes âgées sont des masses compactais de bâton monolitre. Les fanàtes ovales sont étudiées (comme pour un avion) pour répartir les contraines dans l'enveloppe du bâtiment. Le noyau de service (contrainement à la Marina City) n'est pes structuré.

Le bătiment est composé de caliules groupées de maniére égocantrique. Son plan ressemblie à la section très grosse d'une tige de plante. Les annesus de caliules cohisite mainternent le bâtern mant antiérement par eux mêmes. En y a pas de noyau de béten massil qui soutienne une charpente de colonnes et de poutres. Au lieu de cala nous pouvons percevoir "une coque géocentrique sans noyau". La méthode est entiérement basée sur la possibilité d'utilser la construction par coffrage coulesant. Les muns extérieurs sont des coques posteuses surguelles on donne une stabilité accrue par courbure. Comme un tou intériqué la formant une membrane taite une membrane organique. Ils sont autoposteurs, ne nécessitiant pais de noyau lourd et résistent également à la pression du vert.

Dans les tours pour personnes âgées du Centre Hillierd chaque unité cellulaire individuelle naite vaible de l'activité. Ainsi la tour n'apparaît jamais comme une masse écrasante de béton, mais alla conserve une différenciation de ses parties qui s'apparente directement à la dimension humaine. Chaque apparente directai d'unités cellulaires de deux tailles différentes : grands teljours et pétites chambres à coucher. Deux grandais unités sont placées à côté deux pôtites, de taotor à ce que les chambres à coucher solent adjacentes, et adjacente les alignurs.

Lin petit aspace supplémentaire pour un bureau ou une commode est prévu dentière la coque de la tenêtre. L'élargissement des murs vers les feniltres donne l'impression d' un volume plus grand et permet la libre distribution du mobilier ; cella constitue un gain considésable à l'imférieur de cet habitat autrement très étroit. Le volume "cinétique" non figé entre quatre coins et quatre muns paralèles a un effet libérateur sur l'habitant.

Les deux immeubles élevés destinés aux families démontrant que la méthode callulaire n'est en aucune façon limitée aux tours nondes. Une rangée de callules ressentibilint baaucoup à celle des tours se révéle sur laçade amête. Des cours et des terrains de jeux servent de trait d'union entre les appartements et conduisent aux cages d'escallers séparées des biliments.

Les murs extérieurs des tours sont de 25 cm d'éplaiseur. Jusqu'au septièrre àtage les murs sont faits de béton de 2.265 kgs : du teptièrre au seizème de béton à 1.360 kgs.

Ces bátiments constituent un seul projet d'habitat public dans la règion de Chicago qui n'ait jamais eu besoin de la police pour maintenir l'ordre public.

Located at State Street and Cermak Road (22nd Street), Hilliard Apartments, a former Chicago Housing Authority site, has now been redeveloped as mixed-income housing for seniors and families.

RAYMOND HILLIARD CENTER

Chicago, Minois

Two 16-story round towers for elderly housing and two 18-story arcshaped towers for family housing ; total housing 756 dwellings. Cost: \$10 million

Completion : 1966

The Hillerd Center is a housing complex for the poor. The large tamilies live in the peir of corried high-rise blocks, while the elderly inhabit the towers. Lawns, playprounds, and even an open-air theeter are included among the buildings. The project has socialogical implications. As Goldberg states : "by combining housing for both tamly groups and elderly groups, we recognize that they are both members of the same society. People compelled to live in these units will no longer leal puriatead for being poor.

The two round towers of the elderly apertments are highly compact masses of monolithic concrete. The oval windows are designed (like aircraft) to distribute the stresses in the building skin. The service core (unlike Marina City) is not structural.

The building is composed of geocentrically grouped calls, its plan looks like a much enlarged cross section of the stern of a plant. The cohesive rings of cells holp up the building completely on their own. No measive concrete core holps up a harne of columns and gir-ders, instead, we perceive a "geocentric shell without core." The whole method is based on a potential of using sitp-form construc-tion. The outer walls consist of shells that are load bearing and given addied stability through bending. As an interlooking whole they comprise a skin structure like that of an organism. They support themwives, need no heavy core, and are secured against the stresses of wind as well.

Each individual cellular unit in Hillard Center elderly towers remains visible from the outside. Thus, the tower has never seemd an overwhelming mass of concrete, but maintains a differentiation of parts that is directyl related to human scale. Each apartment consists of cellular units of two different sizes ; big living rooms and small bedrooms. Two large units are ast next to two small ones, so that bedrooms are adjacent to bedrooms and living rooms to living ADDRESS.

A little extra room for a desk or dresser is designed within the space behind the window shell. The widening of the walls towards the windows, giving the impression of greater space and allowing a free distribution of furniture, is quite a considerable gain within these otherwise very narrow living quarters. The "kinetic" valume, not frozen by four corners and four parallel walls, has a liberating effect on the inhabitant

The two high-rise blocks for family housing demonstrate that the celular method is by no means limited to round towers. A row of cells much like those of the towers reveals itself along their rear elevation. Courtyards and playgrounds units the individual apartments. and lead on to the freestanding stair towers.

The outer walls of the lower are 25 cm. Up to the seventh floor the wells are built of 5,000 pound concrete ; from the seventh to the skiteenth floor, 3,000 pound concrete.

These buildings are the only public housing project in the Chicago area that have never needed the police to maintain public order.



2. Children use the public areas between the elderly and lendy buildings. The sile plan was designed to provide the participation of the elderly insidents in the addition of the children.

The four buildings of Hilliard were designed by the Bauhaus-educated architect Bertrand Goldberg.



The form of the Hilliard buildings is similar to that of Goldberg's most famous buildings, Marina Towers in downtown Chicago.



 La tour d'habitation pour personnes âgées compte 12 appartements à chaque étage. Chaque appartement est constitué d'un module salontsalle à manger et d'un ensemble chambre à coucher/salle de bains. En toiture se trouve une terrasse pour se détencire, une blanchisserie à la disposition de tout l'immeuble et une pièce de réception commune.
 L'amphithéêtre et la soère en plein air sont utilisés pour des représentations publiques durant les mois d'até.

4. The elderly housing lowers contain 12 apartments on each loor. Each apartment consists of one living/dining module and one bedroom/bethroom module. The rooflop contains a recreational terrace, a laundry room for the common use of the entire building, and a community party room.
5. The open amphibiester and stage used for public performances during the summer months.

I was invited to create a community-based public artwork for the new Hilliard landscape to build connections among the old, new, and newly returned inhabitants.



The project began in January 2007 with a series of workshops for children and for seniors.



The children created collage works that represented places in which they felt relaxed and protected.



Seniors created pieces about significant remembered places.



Throughout the workshop series, we explored the concept of space–remembered, internalized spaces; psychological and social spaces; and the actual spaces in which we live, learn, and work.



In the top collage, Loretta Powell recalls the now demolished ABLA Homes. In those days public housing could be a safe and friendly place in which poor working class people raised families. In the lower collage, a middle school age student celebrates the domain (her room) in which she is Queen Camille.



Prince Laster made a piece that commemorated her many years work as a school bus attendant and classroom assistant for Chicago Public Schools special education programs. Below, an elementary student represents her ideal room.



The top collage is a celebration of the peace of living at Hilliard in retirement. The bottom collages are pictures of the bedrooms of Hilliard youth. (Note the characteristic lozenge-shaped windows and vertical blinds.)



The collage on the right is an urban child's evocation of the "luxuries" of his cousin's suburban house with two floors, a TV on which to play video games in the bedroom, a yard, a dog, and a metal swimming pool.



Jean Boyd's piece began as a memory of the living room of the home she sold to move to Hilliard Apartments. It evolved into a commemoration of the cat and dog that she could not bring to Hilliard because of a no pets policy.





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This senior's piece told the story of being given her first skates and promptly injuring herself. It was very interesting to observe how making art stimulated memory, the processing of emotional affect, and cognitive problem-solving. Art education work with seniors as part of a life review process can be an exciting avenue of future art education research and project development.



The second series of projects dealt with warnings. How do everyday warnings shape the social spaces in which we define ourselves? We considered whether warnings are conventional, useful advice or limiting and inaccurate admonitions that limit our possibilities.













The children discussed the applicability of this grammar advice. How does language shape the spaces in which one can effectively operate?



Florence Lei, a senior who was born in Hong Kong and has now retired from a long career in nursing, made this piece about the messages that she was given as a young woman.



In a final group show we presented our warnings research. Because Hilliard Apartments has a large population of Chinese seniors, we presented the text in Chinese as well as in English. The complicated process of translating the meaning across the languages took place during the open mosaic workshop time. This stimulated many interesting conversations about how world views are contingent upon language and culture.



Warnings can create a pleasant space for soning Warnings can shape healthy during habits. However, we wonder are these warnings always accurate?

WARNINGS

Dou'l sub watermelon while you are pregnant or your baby will come duiter.

NA





chiepidados straight up in v



Don't bang your chooslicks and your bowl together or you will be a hear









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GENDER WARNINGS

Many people remembered being given warnings related to being a "right kind" of worman,

Are these warnings relevant in the 21st century? Why or why not?

Stop acting like a boy. Don't jump on the sofa that's not what ladies do. They should have just made you a man.



Don't lat mon run colonyou

Stop aching like a biny.

Keso your skirt down

Dan't be like mis. Dan't be like your mother Finish school.







I'll keep too only for you to finish school or work, but not to go out and play.

Don't git too crose to a boy onyou'll end up mamying him. Be careful who you date because who you distant who you'll many



我的孩子



Another aspect of our preliminary workshops was developing familiarity with the design and history of this historic modernist site.



Floor plan of a senior building at Hilliard. The seniors laughed when I began calling them "the flower people" because they live in the petals of a flower.



The family apartments were built on the same structural principle as the circular senior buildings, but the forms were opened out to provide more space and privacy for families.



Our most popular site investigation was inviting residents to join us in documenting rabbit sightings on the now peaceful, green Hilliard grounds.



The show introduced more residents to the project and to the on-going tile workshops.

Getting to Know Hilliard 地图





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PLAN TO NAME NEW HOUSING UNIT FOR ADLAI

Randrig Waged



"But, who was Raymond Hilliard?" No one in the Hilliard Apartments office knew anything about him. In researching newspaper archives, we discovered that Hilliard was a former Cook County public aid director who died a few months before the completion of construction. Residents were not pleased to learn that Hilliard was notorious for his confrontations with social worker unions, calling them un-American communists.



Originally, the project developers planned to name Hilliard for the progressive, anti-racist Illinois politician Adlai Stevenson. One senior suggested that we begin a campaign to re-name Hilliard Apartments to its intended namethe Adlai Stevenson International Center.



Another popular panel in the Place Is the Space show was the Making Metaphors display. It is a standard Chicago joke to refer to the towers as corncobs. We solicited other possible metaphors to describe the unusual forms of the buildings and encouraged people to consider how unexamined metaphors shape attitudes toward life.



The show also documented children's and senior's experiments with mosaic tessellation.




It's not too late to join the Mosaic Workshop!











No one ever said,

"I'm sorry I spent time relaxing and making art."

What are we making in the Mosaic Workshop this year?

Other the functions of the state and in the day way would be determine the endow of the state and th

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It's not too late to join the Mosaic Workshop!









CHICAGO PUBLIC ART GROUP Adult Mosaic Workshop

(14 to 104 years old)

Create colorful mosaics for circular seating for Hilliard.

Learn the craft of mosaic making. Add your unique design to the project. Meet your Hilliard neighbors. No art experience necessary.

Begins Monday, July 30, 2007!

Introductory mosaic classes: Mondays 1 to 2:30 and 6:30 to 8 Wednesdays 1 to 2:30 and 6:30 to 8 Fridays 10:30 to 12 Saturdays 10:30 to 12

Where: Family Building 2030 S. State Street Apartment 103

August Mosaic Workshop Working Schedule: Monday 12 to 8 Wednesday 12 to 8 Friday 10 to 6 Saturday 10 to 6 For more information: stop by the Mosaic Workshop or e-mail gude@uic.edu

This project is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Field Foundation of Illinois, the Illinois Arts Council, the Chicago Public Art Group, and Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation.



恭請諸位耆老參加:

"成人瓷磚鑲崁藝術班"

時間:每星期一中午12點到晚上8點
每星期三及五早上10點到下午6點
地點: 2030 S. STATE,家庭房103室
進大門時請按045就會有人開門.
指 蓼老師:州立大學藝術系教授,及五位中國助教,(說廣東話及普通話)
受費,有趣,在上述時間內可自由加入及離去,歡迎諸位光臨 !

Hilliard residents are primarily African-American and Chinese-American. Our outreach was designed to encourage the development of cross-cultural friendships.



Observing older seniors learning the geometry of glass-tile mosaics was useful in thinking about how to engage people with a wide range of ages and abilities in community artmaking.



It was interesting to see that while this work was initially too difficult for some of the elder participants, they would enthusiastically participate in modified tasks. Later, seniors who had initially struggled with precisely placing tiles developed much greater cognitive and technical skill in the medium.



The youth team on this project was an eclectic mix-from 13 to 19 years old-kids from the neighborhood and bilingual Chinese students who had traveled extensively. It was lovely to see these teens interact with each other and to watch them all patiently share their knowledge with seniors.



A nice teaching innovation on this project was the "evolutionary tile sample board." Each time a participant came to the studio, he or she nipped some circles, triangles, and half tile forms. These were then hot-glued to a foam core board. Over the course of a few visits, each participant could see dramatic improvement in her/his work. It also afforded participants the opportunity to focus on the different textures and cutting needs of different colors of tile.



During the spring, summer, and early fall, the workshop was set up in one of the family apartments. We continued children's classes even when the glass-tile studio began because we decided we would miss the younger children too much if we switched to working only with older youth and adults on the mosaic. (Glass tile is not a suitable medium for younger children.)



From working on this project, I gained a new respect for the importance of crafts education in the lives of children. Here middle school age students sincerely admired their newly learned ability to make symmetrical paper cuts. Sadly, in many inner city schools students do not learn to use scissors because they are considered to be dangerous and expensive.



A student is elated because she has been able to create a paper-cut figure like one made by a teenager. Learning precision and planning in craft activities aids students in many areas of personal and academic life.



Some of the seniors were so impressed with the papercutting, they asked to learn the technique also, stating that it would be a good activity to do with grandchildren.



We also had children's visiting hours during the regular mosaic studio. Only a few children were allowed to visit at a time. It gave these children a chance to quietly work alongside an adult, an experience some of them have not had in their lives. Children also enjoyed (!) sweeping and organizing tiles on their special visits with the adult workers.



A major feature on the Hilliard grounds is a amphitheater that was part of the original site design. The space was underutilized by residents. t is a beautiful form, but people do not like to sit on the "ground."



We decided to make a series of seating forms that would "float" in the space. These will function as seating to promote social interaction. During the winter when the surrounding trees are bare, the colorful circles can be seen from three of the four Hilliard site buildings.

Bench_Large 1:20 scale



The forms were cast in brick-colored cement to introduce some of the surrounding red brick color of Chicago into the white and beige site.



Many of the seniors walk around the Hilliard grounds with young grandchildren. We noted that these seating forms would become "destination spots" for these intergenerational ramblings.



Though this project was based on hand tilework, I realized that we could create some very interesting tilework if we had a perfect digitally created pattern of concentric circles. I had a number of these templates printed for use in developing the design of the mosaics.



Each large piece included a border of colorful bands, a text fragment, and a fragment of a historic photograph.



We had planned to create the large, solid color areas in straight lines of tile. Instead, we evolved complicated tilework in the colored grounds in which viewers can find many hidden images.



Ivan Ocampo, a talented mosaic artist who first learned mosaics on my 2004 *Cannas & Corn: a Garden Community* project, shows a senior Hilliard resident how his dragon drawing will be incorporated into the design.



Bertrand Goldberg's writings on the aspirations of modernist architecture led to discussions about the social aspirations of the years in which the Hilliard Homes were built–1963 to 1966.

Goldberg wrote, "We can build whatever we think...." We can create the society we imagine.



Historic images from the 1960s: the March on Washington, the early rocket launches, the creation of Head Start and Medicare, and the signing of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.

It's difficult to imagine the U.S. without civil rights, medical care for seniors or the space program, yet these things would not exist without the belief, hope, and work of people at that time.



We paired an image of the March on Washington with an image of Johnson signing the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. This act abolished the national-origin quotas that had been in place in the United States since the Immigration Act of 1924. This linked national and international civil rights issues.

It was this 1965 act that allowed many of the Chinese residents of Hilliard to immigrate to the U.S.



We developed drawings based on the photographs so that they could be re-created in glass tile. The flow of the tile is similar to traditional smalti mosaics, but the larger tile (3/4) square) creates an interesting tension between naturalism and the regularity of the square tiles.



In preparation for installation, background, and photo-based mosaics are fit together.



Placement was carefully planned because the seating forms are quite heavy and needed to be moved into place with a crane.





Of course, before we got to the finished mosaic, there were many hours of careful installation work.

The tiles are set in cement by professional tile setters with the assistance of artists and volunteers.



Throughout the installation process, we check that tile sections are spaced correctly.



When the cement has set, the plastic adhesive film that has held the tiles in place is gently peeled away so that grout can be rubbed into the space between the tiles. This creates a more finished look and protects the tile installation from moisture.



The installation day was a fun reunion several weeks after the completion of the tile work.



We had planned straight lines of tile. Instead, we evolved a complicated ground in which one can find many hidden images.



It's hard to see with layers of adhesive film still in place, but there is a teddy bear hidden in this blue field.



In the completed mosaic, grout lines "draw" hidden images.



We let the participants choose a wide range of "hidden images." The goal was to include a range of images that would be interesting and surprising to the different generations who live in the Hilliard Apartments.


The installation generated lots of interest and lots of questions.

During work in public, the artist team and volunteers are prepared to answer questions about the meaning and content of the piece. Community members become the interpreters and presenters of the work to others for years to come.





President Johnson signing the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. The Statue of Liberty is a familiar symbol in community murals. Here it is seen from an unusual rear vantage point and at a time that is especially significant in making the promise of the Statue of Liberty a reality.



It was challenging to come up with ways to recreate the impression of photographic imagery in the tile work.



Some of the key text was translated into Chinese. Several of the teen workers on the Hilliard project are Chinese students who worked on previous Chicago Public Art Group mosaic projects.





Note how grout intensifies perception of the underlying structure of the design.



Homage to a beloved Hilliard inhabitant. The verdant open spaces around the Hilliard Apartments have become a habitat for urban wild life.



The mosaics were designed to encourage people to circulate around the forms. There is no one right direction from which to view each piece.

















The statements in the mosaics are taken from Bertrand Goldberg's architectural writings. We were struck by the connections between Goldberg's belief in the potential of modern architecture to shape and improve people's lives and the pervasive sense of social possibility in the early 1960s era. It is a message to remember today.







Special thanks for the support and hard work of

Artist Assistants on the Hilliard Mosaic Project: Julia Sowles, Kelley Leung, Joanne Li, Louis Waller, & Mona Cheng

CPAG administration Brenda Vega & Jon Pounds

Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation Jackie Holsten

Structure Is Space: 63-66 Olivia Gude, 2008

Copy and share freely to promote quality art education, community organizing, space design, or social justice initiatives.