DIRECTIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL PROCEDURE INVENTION AND ASSEMBLY

These directions are based on the principles and concepts of procedural architecture as adduced in the text Architectural Body.

Having read through the following eight steps once, spend time studying the accompanying material (VCI) before attempting to invent and assemble an architectural procedure.

STEP ONE

Choosing a stellar purpose for an architectural procedure equals selecting or diving into an area of emphasis that begs for change. So as to discover what most urgently needs to be made to be otherwise, take a long, boldly uncompromising look at what goes on as (an) *organism that persons (human being)*. Directly addressing your own body and keeping it always in the forefront, give some thought as to how, by broadening your know-how or by expanding or reordering what you exist as, you might come to be more in the know.

It would not be possible to go on as an organism that persons if certain prevailing conditions did not obtain. Architectural procedures can and should be used both to investigate and to alter these prevailing conditions.

Do not forget that it is the task of those who would produce architectural procedures to augment the bioscleave, the insufficiently procedural bioscleave, and thereby recast it. Architectural procedures are meant to fill in gaps and to address subtle lacks or glaring or nearly glaring insufficiencies. You may desire to resuscitate an underused X (a property; an attribute; an urge; a tendency; a propensity; an arena of know-how; an overall capacity, an activating condition; a qualitative state; a quality; an ability; a skill; a coordinating skill; a landing site; a landing-site configuration, or whatever) that has over time receded into the background (i.e., tentativeness), or, terrifically, there might arise in you an intimation of an X that might be a tremendous boon. It is never amiss when inventing an architectural procedure to concentrate on landing sites, but landing sites can also be kept in the background to good effect.

To help you get started, here is a list of prevailing conditions that could and should be improved upon, suggested areas of emphasis, stellar purposes, and X's to be pursued.

Finding a purpose for an architectural procedure—x's that an architectural procedure might be able to call forth

12 Interfaces 21/22 (2003)

Identify an X that would seem thus far to be beyond the capacity of an organism that persons.

Think of a currently underplayed X that, if used more fully, could significantly alter what it means to be alive.

* * *

Could there possibly be an X that, once activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how it is that they are able to think?

Could there possibly be an X that, once activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how it is that they are able to have the feelings that they have?

Could there possibly be an X that, when activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how it is that they can come to know what they are thinking?

Could there possibly be an X that when activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how it is that they can realize what it is that they are saying?

Could there possibly be an X that, when activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how it is they are able to be aware of what they are doing?

Could there possibly be an X that, when activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to what makes them able to feel in sympathy with others?

* * *

Could there possibly be an X that, upon being activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how to stop having to be mortal?

Could there possibly be an X that, upon being activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would decrease their ultimate cluelessness as to how to maintain promising attitudinal stances for years on end?

Could there possibly be an X that, upon being activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would help them to get in under and take a stand against their own automaticity?

Could there possibly be an X that, upon being activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would help increase their capacity to know how to take direct action—keeping the end firmly in sight—through a set of indirect actions?

Could there possibly be an X that, upon being activated in or brought somehow into the possession of organisms that person, would make them more adept at being architectural bodies?

Could there possibly be an X that, upon being activated in or brought to be in the possession of organisms that person, would qualify them as judges of when it is best to defer action and when not?

STEP TWO

An improbable event would be that you would find it hard to choose between promising candidates for an X to be sought. If faced with such an eventuality, select the one that will be most likely to stand you in good stead for becoming a transhuman/a posthuman/a bioscleavist, i.e., what will help you most in the engineering of a reversible destiny.

STEP THREE

Designate the hoped-for outcome of your nascent architectural procedure to be the supplementing of the body's repertoire with the X you have come up with. So as better to bring about what you need to effect, proceed to name your nascent procedure for your choice of an X, which is to say, architectural procedures should be named for their hoped-for outcomes (i.e., tentativeness-cradling procedure).

STEP FOUR

Strive throughout your body to imagine sequences of actions (also, if need be, [provisionally] isolated actions) that might lead to or in some way be constitutive of what you seek to put in place, which is to say, assemble a list of bodily actions that could directly get you to your hoped-for outcome even before you have begun to manage the situation architecturally; which is furthermore to say, have at the ready all those actions that could nudge events in the direction of your nascent architectural procedure's hoped-for outcome.

14 Interfaces 21/22 (2003)

STEP FIVE

Think of how to structure into a built surround the capacity to call forth precisely what it is you seek. Devise architectural elements and features, and various juxtapositions of them, that will help call this forth. The hoped-for outcome may simply spring into existence as a result of what has been worked into the architectural surround, but it is more likely that it will only make an appearance *indirectly*, having been brought into existence by called-forth sequences of actions that have led the way to it and which will, in some cases, turn out to be, to various degrees, constitutive of it. What physical circumstances—juxtapositions of which elements and which features—might precipitate the hoped-for outcome?

STEP SIX

Before a nascent architectural procedure can be declared a full-fledged one, it has to prove itself able to be built. Unable to deliver on this score, many nascent architectural procedures will fall by the wayside. If, in the course of an architectural procedure's being invented and assembled, architectural elements and features suited to its purpose readily suggest themselves, or, put another way, if novel ways of structuring an architectural surround to produce the hoped-for outcome tend to turn up on a fairly frequent basis, that should be taken as indication enough of its being a keeper.

STEP SEVEN

This step parades for all to see and use as a copyediting feature or a back-to-the-drawing-board one. Review what you have invented and assembled into (being) an *architectural procedure*, adjusting any item or segment that calls out to be changed. Even go so far as to adjust the X you have chosen to seek so that it matches more closely what currently presents itself, now with more information and an even more incisive purposefulness in play, as the exigency of greatest moment. Add or subtract sequences of actions meant to lead up to the hoped-for outcome. Make ever bolder design decisions, rethink architectural elements and features, piling refinement upon refinement—all for adding a new X to the body's repertoire or for beefing up an underused one. All of these steps would be well worth repeating, but this one, alternately might have been classified **UNNUMBERED STEP**, requires by definition frequent repetition.

STEP EIGHT

Provide written instructions for how best to activate or perform your architectural procedure, how to play it to the hilt. The work of procedural architecture (house or town) that will have your architectural pro-

Arakawa and Gins: Direction for Architectural Procedure Invention and Assembly

15

cedure embedded into it will be delivered to its occupants together with a set of *Directions for Use* in which these instructions for your architectural procedure appear alongside the instructions written for the other architectural procedures it contains.

* * *

Once an architectural procedure has been invented and assembled, still other ways to assemble it will become apparent; in other words, architectural procedures can be assembled in more than one way.

Arakawa and Madeline Gins