

## **APPROXIMATING STONEHENGE**

*On Specifications for Construction: North Porch, Campbell Hall*

*On the Collaboration of Allied Concrete and A Swarm of Spiders*

*On the Utility and Transformative Qualities of Tilt Slab Construction*

*On Sequential Markings of the Memorable Horizon and the Totemic Vertex*

*On the Strategic Responsibilities of Surveyors, Nomads, and Occasional Lunatics*

Waldman, Peter, *Eric Goodwin Memorial Passage*,  
University of Virginia, 2004

### **Eric Goodwin Memorial Passage at The University of Virginia 2004**

A remarkable architecture student passed away suddenly before graduation; his peers rose up to erect a memorial at *the thickened edge* between architecture and landscape. These outdoor classrooms were a student/faculty design build operation to be used routinely to mark time for seminars and studios and to celebrate the annual Ritual of Commencement.

*Our Site, the North Face of Carr's Hill, might not be easily described as Level Ground. A review of the archive of maps of Carr's Hill since Jefferson's inception reveals*

*numerous fictions as to the location of True North. Thus with Eric's passing and his peers scattering to the winds shortly thereafter, we Citizens of Campbell Hall who remained were not certain where North might be precisely located.*

*We needed to use the strategies of construction to orient ourselves. That summer, we proposed to construct one by one with each New Moon concrete slabs determined by the meter of the structure of Campbell Hall. The first slab became the formwork for the next as one proceeds from east to west. With each sequential pour the previous one was tilted to the sky; then each totem braced. Shadows danced, implying a village of tee-pees.*

***First**, we used both enduring concrete markers as well as ephemeral strings to give measure to this difficult topographic condition.*

***Second**, we used the same fixed points as concrete benchmarks, tables in the broadest sense, together with a system of dynamic approximations to help Citizens and Strangers alike to find true North as the one requirement of Anticipated Graduation.*

The ethical responsibility of Architecture as Orientation is the first and only lesson of this North Porch.

***Third**, Nomads were to project experimental theaters and landscapes for a Tent, a Table or two, and a myriad of commemorative and transformative Tablets at the scales of*

*both bricks as well as civic mirages.*

The spatial setting of the North Porch was to be nothing less than the construction site of the intersecting *lessons of civic literacy* commencing with the ABC's of the Acropolis, onto Bilbao, then the Campidoglio, Š with the Ise Shrine as pivotal, Š and ending, no doubt, in Zurich at the threshold of a tent perched between the Mountain and the Zee.

***Fourth***, Surveyors constructed concrete Markers to measure the Horizon first from Ground to Mountain Ridge.

***Fifth***, Lunatics provide upon these foundation plinths additional pours of progressive dimensions now to give measure to the Hill as they are then tilted Vertically to Frame a Window to the Sky.

***Sixth***, with time, the tilt slab panels will be incised with the names of departed students and faculty, generous donors and legendary caretakers alike as a pre-requisite of citizenship.

***Seventh*** , upon these Window plinths a swarm of spiders insert telescoping poles and cables as stanchions for the eventful tent reliably erected by a band of meandering Nomads in the midst of May.

***Eighth***, it is rumored that another Lunatic in the ruins of an ancient fraternity site has supervised a Deep Casting Pit that is quarried as formwork for incubating Groundhogs to sustain the stress of tent-induced wind loads.

***Ninth**, a Forest of Pylons and Correspondent Water  
Runnels syncopate the Hill.*

***Tenth**, Fires burn.*

***Eleventh**, Columns begin to Dance.*