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| Weberhofer Quintana, Walter (1923-2002) |
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| Walter Weberhofer was born to Oswald Weberhofer (forester) and Dolores Quintana Pilts Gurt in San Jeronimo de Tunari, in the province of Huancayo, department of Junín, on March 24, 1923. Before graduating from Alfonso Ugarte School in 1940, he began his work as a draftsman, and achieved a position in 1942 at the Ministry of Development and Public Works. In 1946 he entered as a draftsman in the office of the Peruvian architect Enrique Seoane. This first encounter with one of the great modern architects of Peru marked the beginning of his intense search for a clean design and attention to details. |
| File: WalterWeberhofer.jpg  Figure 1 Weberhofer Walter  Source: <http://www.arquitecturaperuana.pe/2013/10/walter-weberhofer-y-el-proyecto-moderno.html>  Weberhofer Walter was born to Oswald Weberhofer (a forester) and Dolores Quintana Pilts Gurt in San Jeronimo de Tunari, in the province of Huancayo, department of Junín, on March 24, 1923. Before graduating from Alfonso Ugarte School in 1940, he began his work as a draftsman, and achieved a position in 1942 at the Ministry of Development and Public Works. In 1946 he entered as a draftsman in the office of the Peruvian architect Enrique Seoane. This first encounter with one of the great modern architects of Peru marked the beginning of his intense search for a clean design and attention to details.  In 1947, Weberhofer started studying architecture at the National University of Engineering (UNI). In this school he would get to know Mario Bianco and Theodore Cron, both European architects who by then were disseminating a modernist preoccupation with clean lines in the Faculty of Arts, Architecture and Urbanism of the National University of Engineering.  In 1948 Weberhofer joined the office of Jose Alvarez Calderón. He graduated as an engineer-architect in 1951, and in 1953 held internships in Brazil. From his return in 1956, he joined the National University of Engineering as an assistant professor. In the same year, and in association with Jose Alvarez Calderon, he built the Atlas Building, a high-rise inserted in the historic center of the city, in response to the guidelines of the Pilot Plan of 1949 for the city of Lima. The building consists of two large office volumes that emerge from the floor to contain in the basement, which is dedicated the commercial use.  File: AtlasBuilding. jpg  Figure 2 Atlas Building, 1956  Source: El Arquitecto Peruano Magazine  With this building, Weberhofer’s partnership with Jose Alvarez Calderon, ended. A year later, he began his association with Remigio Collantes, which last until 1965. During this time he got involved with the resort of Santa Maria del Mar, one of the resorts south of Lima:  Weberhofer will be remembered, above all, for his work as the exclusive architect of Santa  Maria del Mar, although his designing skills have always been reduced, by an environment  that has always looked for the label of some international school, style, or teacher. Because  if it is not Brazilian influence, their work is under the shadow of Japanese metabolism, or  clear the aura of Richard Neutra and Paul Rudolph. (Dede)  In 1970, he won the competition for the headquarters of Petro-Peru in association with Daniel Arana Rivers. This building is one of the most compelling landmarks of modernity, built on the fast track known as the Expressway or Paseo de la Republica, which itself was built in 1967 during the municipal government of Luis Bedoya Reyes.  Between 1973 and 1979, he worked as an inspector of Public Works and Land in Santa Maria del Mar City Council, where he created many works of residential character. After his death, the City Council named the pier after him.  Many contemporary architects compare Weberhofer´s work with modern Brazilian architecture. The reason, evidently founded on his years of pre-professional practice in Brazil, is his apparent renunciation of orthogonality and constant use of movement in inner space. Others relate his work to Zaha Hadid´s initial work, which engages with acute and obtuse angles. However, Weberhofer’s tendency to use non-straight angles, seems more generally simply to correspond to that favourite device of modernist architects: the use of perspective.  Walter Weberhofer had the discipline and obsession to record all his work. The Weberhofer File is one of the most complete archives in the history of modern Peruvian architecture. His son, Heinz Weberhofer, who lives in Lima, still preserves it. Peruvian architect Hector Abarca, resident in Canada, is constantly feeding his Facebook page and other links on the vast work of Walter Weberhofer.  File: LercariHouse.jpg  Figure 3 Lercari House, 1968  Source: Weberhofer File List of Works: 1956 Atlas Insurance Building, Historic Centrer, Lima (with José Álvarez Calderón)  1956 San Jorge School, Miraflores, Lima  1957 Tauro Cinema, Historic Centrer, Lima  1957 Esmeralda Yatch Club, Santa María del Mar, Lima  1957 Lercari House, Santa María del Mar, Lima  1957 Fernandini House, Santa María del Mar, Lima  1957 Las Sirenas Biulding, Santa María del Mar, Lima (with Remigio Collantes)  1958 Alvarez Calderon House, Santa María del Mar, Lima  1960 Pucusana Yatch Club, Pucusana, Lima  1965 Mines Faculty, UNI, Rímac, Lima (with Remigio Collantes)  1968 Pacifico Biulding, Miraflores, Lima (with José Álvarez Calderón)  1970 Weberhofer House, Córpac, Lima  1972 Gran Chimú Coliseum, Trujillo, Lima  1973 Petroperú Headquarters, San Isidro, Lima  1980 San Borja Towers, San Borja, Lima  2000 Bertolero Building, Santa María del Mar, Lima Paratextual material the Atlas Building  <http://habitar-arq.blogspot.com/2011/12/edificio-atlas.html>  EL METABOLISMO JAPONÉS  <http://moleskinearquitectonico.blogspot.com/2011/10/el-metabolismo-japones.html>  Walter Weberhofer’s facebook page  <https://www.facebook.com/Walter.Weberhofer.Arquitecto>  Walter Weberhofer  <http://issuu.com/hector_abarca/docs/expo_2012> |
| Further reading:  (Abarca)  (H. Abarca)  (Dede)  (Freire) |