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| Weberhofer Quintana, Walter (1923-2002) |
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| Walter Weberhofer was born in San Jeronimo de Tunari, in the province of Huancayo, department of Junín, on March 24, 1923. Son of Oswald Weberhofer (forester) and Dolores Quintana Pilts Gurt. Before graduating from Alfonso Ugarte School in 1940, he began his work as a draftsman. Achieving 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 itinerary of an intense search for a clean design and attention to details. |
| Comment: Needs editing  File: WalterWeberhofer  Figure 1 Weberhofer Walter  Source: <http://www.arquitecturaperuana.pe/2013/10/walter-weberhofer-y-el-proyecto-moderno.html>  Weberhofer Walter was born in San Jeronimo de Tunari, in the province of Huancayo, department of Junín, on March 24, 1923. Son of Oswald Weberhofer (forester) and Dolores Quintana Pilts Gurt. Before graduating from Alfonso Ugarte School in 1940, he began his work as a draftsman. Achieving 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 itinerary of an intense search for a clean design and attention to details.  In 1947 he started studying architecture at the National University of Engineering (UNI). In this school he will get to know Mario Bianco[[1]](#footnote-1) and Theodore Cron[[2]](#footnote-2), both european architects which by then were disseminating the lines of modernity in the Faculty of Arts, Architecture and Urbanism of the National University of Engineering[[3]](#footnote-3).  In 1948 he joins the office of Jose Alvarez Calderón. He graduated as an engineer-architect in 1951. In 1953 performed internships in Brazil and, since his return in 1956, he joined National University of Engineering as an assistant professor. In 1956 Walter Weberhofer in association with Jose Alvarez Calderon, built the Atlas Building[[4]](#footnote-4), which was a high-rise building, 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, the commercial use.  File: AtlasBuilding  Figure 2 Atlas Building, 1956  Source: El Arquitecto Peruano Magazine  With this building, its partnership with Jose Alvarez Calderon, ends. A year after that, he starts the association with Remigio Collantes, which would end in 1965. In this span of time he gets 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 [[[5]](#footnote-5)], or clear the aura of Richard Neutra and Paul Rudolph” [[6]](#footnote-6) (Dede, 2011).  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, inserted also on the fast track known as the Expressway or Paseo de la Republica, 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 without building, in Santa Maria del Mar City Council, where he will do a lot of 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 to orthogonality and constant use of movement in inner space. Others approach his work to the Zaha Hadid´s initial work, who engage with acute and obtuse angles. However, the tendency to use non-straight angles, seems to respond to the favorite displaying resource of modern architects: the perspective[[7]](#footnote-7).  Walter Weberhofer had the discipline and obsession to record all his work. The Weberhofer File is one of the most complete archive 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[[8]](#footnote-8) and other links[[9]](#footnote-9) on the vast work of Walter Weberhofer.  File: LercariHouse  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 |
| Further reading:  (Abarca)  (H. Abarca)  (Dede)  (Freire) |

1. Italian architect, who received the responsability for the design of the building that would house the FAUA UNI (1951), the first school of architecture in Peru, founded in 1910 and restructured in 1948 according to the modern approach. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “Theodore Cron was a swiss architect who studied in Zurich and completed his studies at the Hochschule Technnidsche Eidgenossische. In some of his work, one can infer, that he was influenced by Mies Van Der Rohe and Le Corbusier”.

   [“*Teodoro Cron es un arquitecto suizo que estudió en  Zúrich y terminó sus estudios en el Eidgenossische Technnidsche Hochschule. En algunas de sus obras se podría deducir que fue influenciado por Mies Van Der Rohe y Le Corbusier*”]

   <http://introarquitectura2012-01.blogspot.com/2012/06/teodoro-cron.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In 1953 Walter Gropius and Josep Luis Sert worked on the restructuration of the academic content of the FAUA, leaving the classical concept of architectural design. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://habitar-arq.blogspot.com/2011/12/edificio-atlas.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Metabolism was the most important urban, architectural, artistic and philosophical movement produced in Japan in the twentieth century. Its influence went beyond the utopian concepts of a society that experienced rapid economic growth in the decade of the 60s and materialized in specific projects not only in Japan but also beyond its borders”.

   [“*El Metabolismo fue el movimiento urbano, arquitectónico, artístico y filosófico más importante que ha producido Japón en el siglo XX. Su influencia sobrepasó los conceptos utopistas de una sociedad que experimentó un vertiginoso crecimiento económico en la década de los 60s y se materializó en proyectos específicos no sólo en Japón sino más allá de sus fronteras*”].

   <http://moleskinearquitectonico.blogspot.com/2011/10/el-metabolismo-japones.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “*Weberhofer será recordado sobre todo por el trabajo como arquitecto exclusivo de Santa Maria del Mar, aunque sus dotes de proyectista siempre han sido reducidas por el medio que siempre ha buscado etiquetar al arquitecto dentro de alguna escuela internacional, un estilo, un maestro. Porque* Walter Weberhofer tuvo la disciplina y obsesión de registrar todo su trabajo. El archivo Weberhofer, es uno de los más completos de la arquitectura moderna del Perú. Su hijo Heinz Weberhofer, quien reside en Lima, aún lo conserva y el arquitecto peruano Héctor Abarca, residente en Canadá, alimenta constantemente una página de facebook y otros linkssobre la vasta obra de Walter Weberhofer.*si no es de influencia brasileña, su trabajo esta bajo la sombra del metabolismo japonés* [], *o es evidente el aura de Richard Neutra y Paul Rudolph*”. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <http://laformamodernaenlatinoamerica.blogspot.com/2013/01/edificio-seguros-atlas.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.facebook.com/Walter.Weberhofer.Arquitecto> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <http://issuu.com/hector_abarca/docs/expo_2012> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)