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# Sustainable Cities

lecture by **Lucien Kroll**

**3rd October 2005 - 6:30 pm**  
**Walchand Hirachand Hall**  
Indian Merchants' Chamber Building, Churchgate, Mumbai

The old modern certainties collapsed. They said: "Still more methods, techniques, calculations, obedience's, and everything will be all right..."

Let's reverse: let's go now bottom up. What urban design will be produced by subsidiarity (the root of democracy) when those who are knowing will serve those who are asking? Participation is still to be invented by trial and errors. No method exists, no rationality: the unconscious, the naïve, the atavist, the dreamer, the exogen, the ecologic (all universal quali-ties) may help to construct a prattice. It will be analysed later: too late to be killed. We have to be intelligent: it means to tie together all the things: alone then they fertilise themselves. And even sometimes, they succeed...

Lucien Kroll was born in Brussel, Belgium in 1927. After graduating from the Ecole Natinal Superieure de la Cambre, Brussels with an architecture degree, he studied city planning at the Institut Superieur de la Cambre and at the Institut Superieur International d'Urbanisme in Brussels. He worked in partnership with Charles Vandehove in Brussels from 1951 to 1957 after which he established his own practice. In 1970 he established Atelier Kroll.

From the outset of his career Kroll aspired to a vernacular style which showed no sign of "progressiveness" but which involved a constrained use of simple forms and materials. He mixed materials in a seemingly random fashion and favored weathered materials that harbor vegetation and look as which give the building an eternal air. He created buildings that related to both the landscape and to the people using them. Kroll favors group participation in his projects. He negates his "authority-as-expert"



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