From Literary Device to Architectural Procedure
Arakawa + Gins and the Becoming-Architecture of Literary Method
WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO DIE.

ARAKAWA/GINS
Literary  Architecture
FROM LITERARY DEVICE TO...

Literary Effect
Literary Device
Literary Method
Literary's Limit
Extra-Literary Device
Architectural Device

ARCHITECTURAL PROCEDURE

Procedural Architecture
Reversible Destiny
EFFECT
Thing

○
Visual
Auditory
Tactile
Kinaesthetic

Conception

Perception
Poetry is work created "artistically" so that its perception is impeded and the greatest possible effect is produced through the slowness of the perception.

V. Schlovsky
P → C

more real
more free
more alive

+ -
increasing automaticity
DEVICE
Literariness should be defined in terms of cognitive events triggered in minds/brains by linguistic stimuli....characterized in terms of a distinctive kind of mental process involving extensive entries, which results in marginally increased salience of a wide range of assumptions.

...complex thoughts communicated as a wide range of weak implicatures.

Adrian Pilkington, Poetic Effects, 2001
A closed text is one in which all the elements of the work are directed toward a single reading of it. Each element confirms that reading and delivers the text from any lurking ambiguity. In the open text, meanwhile, all the elements of the work are maximally excited; here it is because ideas and things exceed (without deserting) argument, that they have been taken into the dimension of the text.

Lyn Hejinian, "The Rejection of Closure", 1984
...although the synchronic is obviously a temporal concept, it projects a spatial figure - one could say a landscape - "a moment of time that has gotten into position"...

Hejinian on Stein, "Grammar and Landscape"
METHOD
Can form make the primary chaos ... articulate without depriving it of its capacious vitality, its generative power?

Hejinian
Every language is a vast pattern system, different from others, in which are culturally ordained the forms and categories by which the personality not only communicates, but also analyses nature, notices or neglects types of relationship and phenomena, challenges his reasoning, and builds the house of his consciousness.

Benjamin Whorf
LIMIT
Language generates sentences, which taken as forms of frontal grammar, are the verbal planes from which consciousness constructs that of which it is conscious. That is, one realizes consciousness by positioning sentences in the landscape of consciousness.

Hejinian
"Man is a curious body whose center of gravity is not in himself" (Ponge). Instead it seems to be located in language, by virtue of which we negotiate our mentalities and the world; off-balance, heavy at the mouth, we are pulled forward.

Hejinian
language ... the constant, ready, everyday, and natural medium for discovering, defining, and asserting reality - making use of it, expressing it, and perhaps creating it.

Hejinian
Architecture is the simplest means of articulating time and space, of modulating reality, of engendering dreams. It is a matter not only of plastic articulation and expressing an ephemeral beauty, but of a modulation producing influences in accordance with the eternal spectrum of human desires and the progress in realizing them.

Chtchevlov, "Formulary for a New Urbanism", 1952
EXTRA-LITERARY DEVICE
2. Localization and Transference

The following words and figures attempt to locate the area of meaning (perhaps to pinpoint) and to explore the mobility of the configuration which suggests itself. In this case, please do not think of the content only of the container.

If possible look at that.
If possible look at this.
Put this that in its appropriate place.

13. Logic of Meaning

Viewing logic as the order and/or context in which any meaning occurs, to study its function as a structuring element (points of application to something) and suggest alternatives.

Make this line more abstract.

What's the point?
ARCHITECTURAL DEVICE
Every neighborhood will include a group of communal houses in a park setting. The parks will, in effect, be reversible destiny villages, glimpses of what comes next, visitations from the future.

Parks will be, as usual, places where people go to unwind, but they will also be places to go for studying the body and its actions.

Within the parks, residents will pursue reversible destiny, the study of how not to die, the reversal of the human destiny to be mortal.
MUSEUM OF LIVING BODIES WILL BE A LABORATORY, A PROVING GROUND, A FIELD STATION, AND A SUPER-DUPER NURSERY.

THE PANCASONIC-MATSUSHITA "INTELLIGENT ROOM"
This futuristic, technological wonderwork has structured into it the ability to give physical check-ups, note physiological anomalies, and diagnose bodily ills.

UNIVERSITY OF INCISIVE LAUGHTER AND VITAL COORDINATING SKILLS

ARCHITECTURE/INVENTION SCHOOL

A rooftop garden, open to residents and visitors alike, sits atop the fully enclosed main arcade (for presentation purposes only, a portion of this is shown as a cut-away).

BASIC-GENERATIVE UNIT
As a result of a succession of 90° rotations (in a clockwise direction), the basic-generative unit winds up standing at a distinctly different orientation in each of its placements.

No matter its orientation, no matter how it has come to land, the basic-generative unit continues, but of course, to offer up the same set of shapes and proportions. Even so, because it never appears in the same orientation twice, it "generates" variously angled interiors, each with its own subjective feel.

Stretching out in a series of three successive expansions, the basic-generative unit ends up, in its fullest expansion, measuring twice its original length.

THE SYMBOLIZING CREATURE'S LIFESPAN-INCREASING PRACTICE AREA

FOCUSBING/IMAGING PARTNERSHIP

Incised into the courtyard's hilly terrain: A LABYRINTH

The endpoints of the labyrinth give rise to an arcade that in its turn generates the building's main arcade to which the rotations of the basic-generative units attach.

LABORATORY LUNCHEONETTE
Customers will receive print-outs detailing chemical composition and nutritional benefits of menu items.

GIFT SHOP

BY PLAYING OFF OF AND JOINING FORCES WITH A SEQUENCE OF CALIBRATED ARCHITECTURAL VOLUMES, LIVING BODIES WILL COME TO KNOW ALL THAT THEY CAN BE.

ARAKAWA + GINS

MUSEUM OF LIVING BODIES
PROCEDURALITY
Disperse to Contrast Procedure
Disperse to Contrast Procedure
Heuristic
WALL-CONFIGURATIONS (INTERSECTING AND SYMMETRICALLY PAIRED):

NOT SIMPLY ABUTTING AT THEIR ENDPOINTS BUT INTERSECTING ONE ANOTHER AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG THEIR LENGTHS, WALL-CONFIGURATIONS HAVE THE SAME SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CHARACTER IN THE BUILT WORK THAT THEY HAVE IN PLAN.

COMPLETE SET OF SHAPE-DEFINING ELEMENTS

BIOSCLEFTVE HOUSE / GALLMANN RESIDENCE 1999-2003
Comfort is no longer a factor. That it might take several hours to go from one room to another in a reversible destiny house is of no importance as long as the sensibility of the person traversing the room flowers and catches on itself in transit.

Madeline Gins
Reversible destiny houses consist primarily of entrances. One entry having been achieved, another situation of entering commences. The sensorium enters its own signals.

Madeline Gins
Tentativeness Cradling Procedure
Tentativeness Cradling Procedure
Transformational
No simple resolving of human skills can happen within this house. Focal areas of attention (landing sites) can be rallied to an unusual degree. Perceptual landing sites. Imaging landing sites. Architectural landing sites.
PROCEDURAL ARCHITECTURE
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

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

Gins & Arakawa "Directions for Architectural Procedure Invention and Assembly"
ARCHITECTURAL BODY
SITED AWARENESS
LANDING SITE THEORY
Perceptual, Imaging, Dimensionalizing
BIOTOPOLOGICAL DIAGRAMMING
The body moves through a tactically posed town puzzling itself out of focus and then back into it, now with a wider yet sharper focus.
REVERSIBLE DESTINY
Making Dying Illegal

Think of what it would mean to elementary school children to be greeted thus by their new teacher at the beginning of the school year:

Children, I can fairly well promise you that if you study hard and always strive to know the full range of the body's capabilities, you will in all probability not have to die.

Madeline Gins and Arakawa
THANK YOU
for NOT DYING