In This Issue

In *Surveying, Interpreting, and Designing: The Multiple Essence of a Sixteenth-Century Drawing*, Lucia Nuti examines Uffizi drawing 7950 A, an unfinished representation of Pisa attributed to Giuliano da Sangallo. First addressing problems of authorship and dating, Nuti analyzes the main features and contents of the drawing, which she concludes cannot be labeled a survey or ground plan, and draws insights regarding a more complex issue, the multiple nature of the artifact. This unique sheet, far from being the visual record of a measured urban space, is a personal record that reflects Giuliano’s approach to design as well as the meaning of the process of drawing. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, drawing was developing as a medium for architectural communication, and the borders between surveying, interpreting, and designing were blurred.

The Philadelphia architect and master builder Owen Biddle (1774–1806) contributed to the making of some of the early Republic’s most important buildings and is best known as the author of one of the first American-authored architectural books. During the course of his relatively brief career, Biddle’s achievements in architecture and theory were profoundly shaped by Philadelphia’s distinctive, Quaker-influenced economic and artistic culture. Focusing on two hitherto unknown row houses built by Biddle between 1798 and 1801, Conor Lucey reveals for the first time the business and property interests of this important if enigmatic figure. Viewing Biddle’s work against the socioeconomic backdrop of Federal-era Philadelphia, and drawing on previously unexplored archival material, *Owen Biddle and Philadelphia’s Real Estate Market, 1798–1806* situates Biddle’s real estate ventures within the context of the city’s early nineteenth-century building world. This study of Biddle’s career as builder-developer expands our knowledge of his professional life and our understanding of the formation of his ideas.

In the late nineteenth century, the American system of medical education underwent a complete transformation. Medical colleges shifted from commercial schools where instruction was based almost exclusively on classroom lectures to university-affiliated programs providing hands-on training in both laboratory and clinical work. Medical educators recognized that successfully enacting the new pedagogy required new buildings. By the 1930s, almost every medical college in the United States had rebuilt or significantly renovated its facilities. In *Creating the Modern Physician: The Architecture of American Medical Schools in the Era of Medical Education Reform*, Katherine L. Carroll analyzes the first wave of schools constructed to house the new medical training. She examines the three dominant types of American medical school buildings, which she argues did more than supply spaces for teaching and research—they defined specific conceptions of modern medicine and helped to shape the modern physician.

During the 1970s and 1980s architects in Czechoslovakia grew disaffected with sídlisťe (housing estates) built in the country since the late 1950s. By means of design and discourse they turned to historical typologies and advanced the concept of sídlisťe as meaningful living environments. In *Postmodernism or Socialist Realism? The Architecture of Housing Estates in Late Socialist Czechoslovakia*, Maroš Krivý argues that the historico-phenomenological turn manifested in late socialist housing estates in a revival of the pedestrian street, the urban block (perimeter and superblock), and the communicative façade. He further asserts that this turn drew inspiration and legitimation from both contemporaneous Western architectural postmodernism and domestic socialist realist architecture of the early 1950s. From the 1970s Czechoslovak postmodernists and “neo-socialist realists” credited historicity with ideological importance. But if the historico-phenomenological turn pointed to the reform of architectural industrialization for neo-socialist realists, for postmodernists it was a way of freeing architecture from its strictures.