

The Beginning of a Green Architecture: Otto Koenigsberger at the Department of Tropical Architecture at the Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture, London, UK

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In a brief history of green design, Brian Edwards claims that: *"As a general statement, the spiritual approach to 'green design' is found in the underdeveloped world and the low energy, high material approach in the developed."*¹

In 1973, the rational technology unit at the Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture was constituted in response to the energy crisis precipitated by the Middle Eastern Yom Kippur war. This unit claimed that a significant shift in the western architectural paradigm had taken place which resulted in the end of the "current technocratic, highly wasteful and energy intensive society".² By 1976, the first wave of environmentalism had impacted "western" architectural discourse. In the 1980's and 1990's, the second wave of environmentalism resulted in the paradigmatic redefinition of development to include sustainability, which consequently generated Green Architecture.³ Sustainability is politically subversive,⁴ and in conflict with the interests of global capitalism.

This paper problematizes Edwards' assumption that there exists an impenetrable boundary between the "underdeveloped" and "developed" world in the evolution of Green Architecture. It is argued here that Tropical Architecture was the ideological precursor to Green Architecture. This paper presents the story of the global circulation of Tropical Architecture as the antecedent to Green Architecture, by following the career

trajectory of the émigré architect Otto Koenigsberger (1909–99) (Fig.1) and his contribution to the Department of Tropical Architecture (1954–1971) at the AA School of Architecture, London, UK. Green architecture is incongruent with the interests of capitalism, and yet, existing histories of architecture inextricably link Tropical Architecture with 1950's neo-colonial advancement of global capitalism.

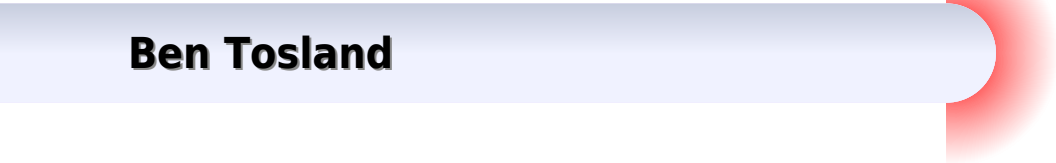


Fig. 1 Otto Koenigsberger in India 1940's (source: Otto Koenigsberger's Private Papers, with permission of Dr. Renate Koenigsberger)

As a colonial construct, the term Tropical Architecture was first used in a RIBA paper presentation in 1869.⁵ In the late 19th and early 20th century Tropical Architecture developed as a body-centric discourse, which was circulated through colonial hygiene

A Prehistory Of Green Architecture Otto Koenigsberger Tropical

Ben Tosland



A Prehistory Of Green Architecture Otto Koenigsberger Tropical:

Who Are Godwin and Hopwood? Ben Tosland, 2024-06-17 First comprehensive monograph about the tropical architecture of Godwin and Hopwood in Nigeria After studying at the Architectural Association in London John Godwin and Gillian Hopwood moved to Nigeria where they significantly shaped the country's architectural landscape for more than sixty years When Nigeria became independent in 1960 following British dominance since the 19th century the couple worked to create architecture that was site specific modern and adapted to the climate relevant to reinforce Nigeria's aspirational political and economic policies In this richly illustrated monograph organised by typology Ben Tosland examines Godwin and Hopwood's form of tropical modernism and illuminates its contemporary meanings concluding with its relevance in times of climate crisis First comprehensive monograph about the architecture of Godwin and Hopwood Image rich publication on one of the most important architectural practices for post colonial independent Nigeria Insightful findings for passive structural cooling techniques Modernism's Magic Hat Ijlal Muzaffar, 2024-07-16 Examines the role of architecture in the history of global development and decolonization

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In some sort of defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their capability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is really awe-inspiring. Enter the realm of "**A Prehistory Of Green Architecture Otto Koenigsberger Tropical**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned by way of a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve to the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound affect the souls of its readers.

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A Prehistory Of Green Architecture Otto Koenigsberger Tropical Introduction

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