

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108

<http://goldstein.design.umn.edu>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eladio Dieste: A Principled Builder

May 25 – August 1, 2011

HGA Gallery Rapson Hall

89 Church St. SE, Minneapolis

Curated by **Stanford Anderson**, Professor of History and Architecture at MIT

Photographs by **Yoshihiro Asada**

“Light as a brick!” Eladio Dieste, Uruguayan engineer, embraced a little known technique, reinforced masonry, inventing appropriate structural types that he exploited with daring. He was a builder. Innovations in construction were integral to his engineering insights. He built prodigiously, mostly humble structures for storing and making. Yet even these works were raised to higher levels: the sheer daring of great spans with impossibly little material was one step. Other qualities emerge: the proportions of the whole, the economy and the elegance of the materials, the detail of the parts, and above all, the knowing use of light. These are the qualities of a fine architect. With a few, all too rare special opportunities, Dieste proved undeniably to be an architect. The churches at Atlántida and Durazno make this evident. Indeed, San Pedro in Durazno is one of the finest architectural works of the late twentieth century, worldwide.

Dieste was committed to scientific theory and to principle in all aspects of life. He would not have realized his brilliant and innovative works had he relied on the conventions of ordinary practice; he rather began from first principles in physics. We learn that such adherence to first principles does not inhibit, but rather enhances, the search for sound forms appropriate to the demands they must meet. It is physically possible to do what is unreasonable, but working from principles one is not led to the unreasonable. With Dieste one enters upon brilliant work by a man of principle, revealing a process of designing and building that is also principled.

Eladio Dieste was born in Artigas, on the Brazilian border of Uruguay, in 1917. He enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering in the capital city of Montevideo, graduating in 1943. In 1946 Dieste realized his first reinforced brick vault while collaborating with the Catalan architect Antoni Boney on the Berlinghieri house in Punta Ballena, Uruguay. In 1954 Dieste and Eugenio Montañez formed a partnership for both design and construction. Dieste continued his work despite a degenerative disease that after 1995 left him confined to his home. Eladio Dieste died on July 29, 2000, in Montevideo.



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General Information

The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports teaching and research in design through exhibitions, publications, programs, and community partnerships. GMD celebrates diverse cultures through its collections and programs by promoting the appreciation and interpretation of design within social, cultural, aesthetic, and historic contexts.

Visitor Info

GMD Gallery is on the second floor of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Gallery Hours

The GMD Gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 10 am–4 pm, Thursday 10 am–8 pm and weekends 1:30–4:30 pm. The Gallery is closed Mondays and all University holidays.

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is free. Parking is in Gortner Ramp at 1395 Gortner Avenue. The ramp and McNeal Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

Route 87 or Campus Connector. For bus information, call (612) 373-3333.

The HGA Gallery at Rapson Hall is located at 89 Church St, Minneapolis, MN.

Admission is free. Parking is in the Church Street Ramp at 80 Church Street SE. Public parking is available at a rate of \$3.00 per hour up to a daily maximum of \$12.00. Sundays parking is free (except for special events). The Ramp and Rapson Hall are both handicapped accessible.



In addition to generous sponsorship for specific exhibitions, all GMD programming is supported in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the Minnesota State Legislature, the Friends of the Goldstein, and the College of Design.

