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In This Issue

The Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence has long been considered important due in large part to its proportions. Nevertheless, no one knows what those proportions are or how they were determined. **Matthew A. Cohen** challenges commonly held views on San Lorenzo's proportions and authorship as he revisits these questions based on a comprehensive new survey. In the article "**How Much Brunelleschi? A Late Medieval Proportional System in the Basilica of San Lorenzo in Florence**" Cohen uncovers a proportional system composed of geometrically derived irrational ratios expressed numerically, fractional arithmetic, and Boethian number theory. By correlating these findings with surviving documents, he attributes the proportions and overall design of the basilica, including the Old Sacristy, to church prior Matteo Dolfini and argues that Brunelleschi's contribution amounted to a grand stylistic remodeling of Dolfini's design. In the process, Cohen demonstrates the potential value of the architectural object itself as a primary source of historical evidence.

***Pisé* and the Peasantry: François Cointeraux and the Rhetoric of Rural Housing in Revolutionary Paris** examines a vernacular building method known as *pisé* that gained political prominence during the French Revolution. The method consisted of ramming naked earth into hard, unbaked bricks that were extremely durable, a fact loudly repeated by self-taught provincial architect François Cointeraux, who promoted *pisé* as the means to alleviate rural suffering and poverty. **Paula Young Lee** argues that political support of *pisé* for the peasantry was based on the association of these rammed-earth houses with the "regenerated" soil, social happiness, and wealth of the nation. In Year II (1793/4), agricultural concerns assumed such priority that naturalists proposed the new Muséum d'histoire naturelle in central Paris be turned into a working farm with structures made of *pisé*, demonstrating institutional support

for an ideological platform. Ultimately, however, Revolutionary support for *pisé* remained on the rhetorical plane, never translating into action.

Joseph M. Siry revisits the legend surrounding the technology of an iconic building in **The Architecture of Earthquake Resistance: Julius Kahn's Truscon Company and Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel**. After it survived the great Kantō earthquake of 1923, Wright considered his hotel in Tokyo to be his most important work. This article brings to light the almost unknown contribution of the Truscon Company of Japan, founded in 1910 by Julius Kahn, a brother of Albert Kahn. His company supplied all the reinforcing steel for Wright's structure and, with Wright's consent, redesigned the whole building's system of reinforced concrete. Choosing among alternative theories and practices, Wright approached earthquake resistance differently from the George A. Fuller Company, which built several steel-framed buildings in Tokyo just prior to the Kantō quake. These also survived, but they were more heavily damaged than the Imperial Hotel. This result inspired Wright's later advocacy of reinforced-concrete cantilevered construction.

Social Structures: Gillespie, Kidd & Coia's Halls of Residence at the University of Hull examines the processes of commissioning, financing, designing, and constructing a significant work of university architecture in postwar Britain. **Robert Proctor's** case study of the Lawns, built between 1961 and 1968, shows the impact on architectural form of university and government concepts of student housing and of the economic constraints of university building in the welfare state. Proctor also relates the building to the architectural theories of Team 10 and the New Brutalism, which help explain the building's architectural expression of its social conditions.