<u>Is Architecture the *Other* of the I?</u>

If we agree that architecture is the *other* of the *I*, in essence merely a projection of the *I* onto matter, then is it possible to, in the same way, suggest that architecture itself is the *I* and geography is the *other*? We see here the built environment not exclusive of the natural environment, but one that is embedded in the other. But will it be argued that this theory is disguised as an unlimited sequence of concentric domains rather than an analog of a singular concept, or can we actually suggest that architecture and geography are the same, or at the least congruent and interrelated? The notion is not new within other fields. In *The Morphology of Landscape* by Carl O. Sauer (1925) landscape, as he defines it, is "an area made up of a distinct association of forms, both physical and cultural." If we substitute the term *building* for *landscape* we see an immediate implication that satisfies the suggestion that both disciplines are concerned with similar characteristics. However, here we are not concerned with designed landscape but with the natural, cultural and psychological landscapes of the human experience. We are concerned here with phenomena, and as Sauer goes on to say, culture is the agent, the natural landscape is the medium, and the cultural landscape is the result. It is out of the natural landscape that man builds his culture, or as Ellen C. Semple states it is the environment itself that determines the culture (cite). This circular thinking closes the loop on bio-environmental determinism. This circular container creates a boundary, a threshold between cultural landscape topography and conceptual space, what is inside and what is outside. If the threshold is between what is fit, or most fit, and that which is unfit we can begin to see the manifestation of form in all its brilliance. As man adapts to make himself more fit, to cross the threshold into fitness, his adaptations are for general good of the environmental economy, and ultimately are the seeds for

a culture landscape. In *Design with Nature*, Ian McHarg suggests that even the forms of cities

"are derived in largest part from an understanding and response to natural processes".