Architect/Engineer - An Autobiographical Tour

A personal view.
James E. Mitchell, AIA
Manhattan - 1942

- A war on
- no major building for 10 years
- Why?
  - So long without building
    - Relevant today?
  - No tall buildings in middle
  - Empire State just starting to make $ after 10 years.

See last slide for sources
Manhattan - 1952

- WW-II trauma starting to fade
  - A new war in progress
  - My family split by both

- UN Headquarters
  - Why new style?
New Hampshire - 1957

- High School
  - Context was “Georgian”
  - Tradition vital
- Why were we still building this way?
Harvard – 1960-67

- Memorial Hall
  - What made it memorable?
    - Height
    - Interior
    - Color
Transition – 1961+

● Steps to an Engineer
  ◆ Math ->
  ◆ Physics ->
  ◆ English ->
  ◆ Work ->
  ◆ Engineer ->
  ◆ Work ->
  ◆ Architect
  ◆ Work ->
  ◆ Architectural Engineer
Buildings – 1967

- "Green Building" – MIT 1964
  - I.M. Pei
  - Couldn’t open the doors
  - Student modeled it in wind tunnel to understand why

- Do buildings have problems?

- What does “Green” mean?
  - Does it apply to skyscrapers?
Philadelphia – 1969-74

- Architecture School
  - Another war
- What we learned
  - Process
  - Values
  - History
  - Skills
  - Limitations
Helped start National Program
   Gave me chance to visit the only Frank Lloyd Wright “Skyscraper”
Do buildings have a role in education?
Apprentice 1973-1979

- Where I learned my trade
  - Codes
  - Clients
  - Concepts
  - DETAILS
  - $$$
Principal 1979-1988

- Architecture Business
  - Started Own Firm
  - Joined another

- What do Architects actually do.
  - 10%, 40%, 40%, 10%
**Computer – 1979+**

- Computers have changed
  - Design
  - Operation
- Does it affect building form?
Professor 1988+

- Architectural Engineering
  - My mission
    - Better Buildings for the public
      - Engineers who understand architecture
      - The next Calatrava
        - What will his skyscraper be like?
Your Turn

● Write for 5 minutes about something in your life that relates to tall buildings.
● Pose a question in what your write – something you’d like to know.
● Put your name on the paper – legibly
  ◆ Hand it in when you leave.
  ◆ Include your section instructor’s name if you know it – or your section #.
● Exchange papers with some you do NOT know.
  ◆ Read what they wrote
  ◆ Be prepared to summarize their experience and question.
### Sources – Linked

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