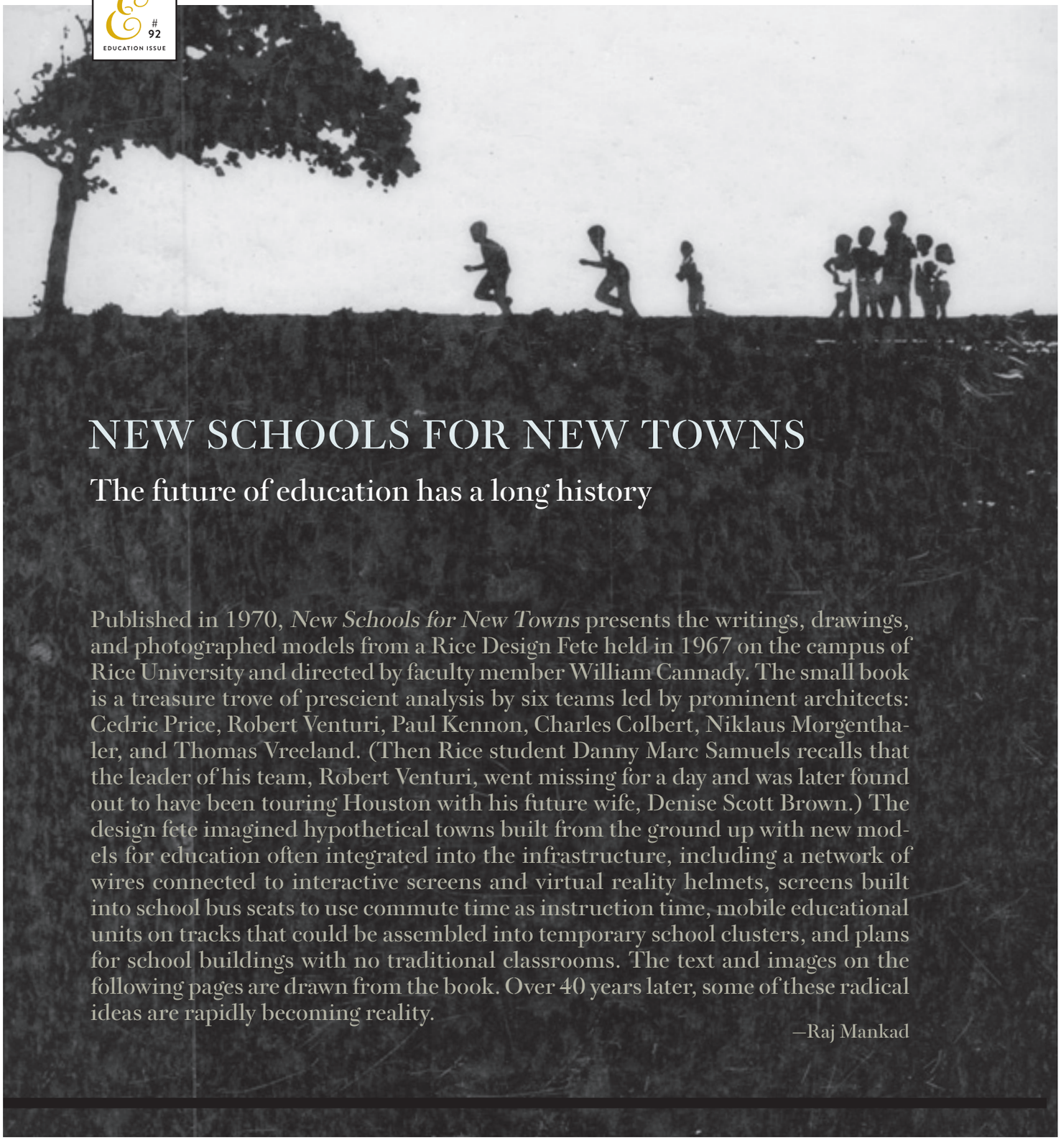


NEW SCHOOLS FOR NEW TOWNS

The future of education has a long history

Published in 1970, *New Schools for New Towns* presents the writings, drawings, and photographed models from a Rice Design Fete held in 1967 on the campus of Rice University and directed by faculty member William Cannady. The small book is a treasure trove of prescient analysis by six teams led by prominent architects: Cedric Price, Robert Venturi, Paul Kennon, Charles Colbert, Niklaus Morgenthaler, and Thomas Vreeland. (Then Rice student Danny Marc Samuels recalls that the leader of his team, Robert Venturi, went missing for a day and was later found out to have been touring Houston with his future wife, Denise Scott Brown.) The design fete imagined hypothetical towns built from the ground up with new models for education often integrated into the infrastructure, including a network of wires connected to interactive screens and virtual reality helmets, screens built into school bus seats to use commute time as instruction time, mobile educational units on tracks that could be assembled into temporary school clusters, and plans for school buildings with no traditional classrooms. The text and images on the following pages are drawn from the book. Over 40 years later, some of these radical ideas are rapidly becoming reality.

—Raj Mankad

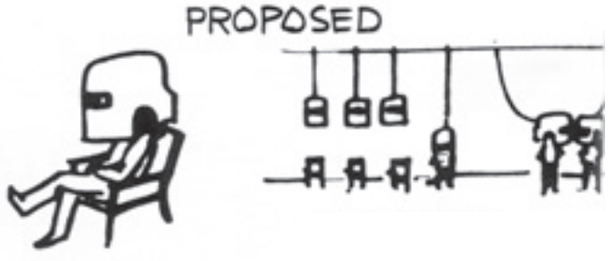
IMAGE FROM COVER OF NEW SCHOOLS FOR NEW TOWNS.

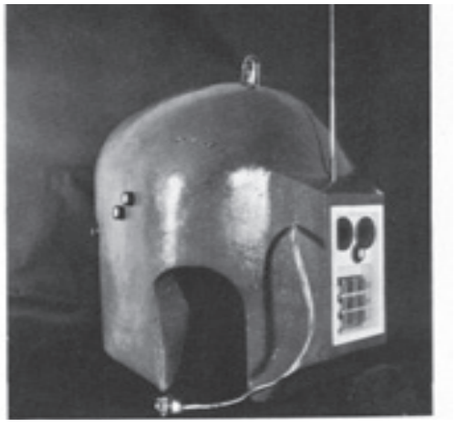
PROPOSED

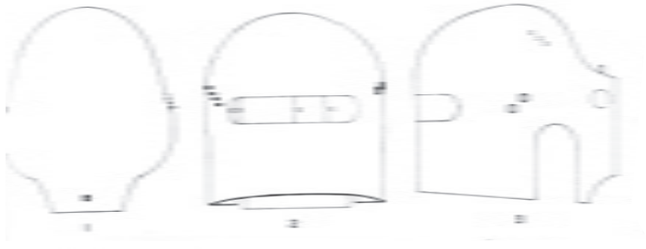
THE SHOULDER CARREL

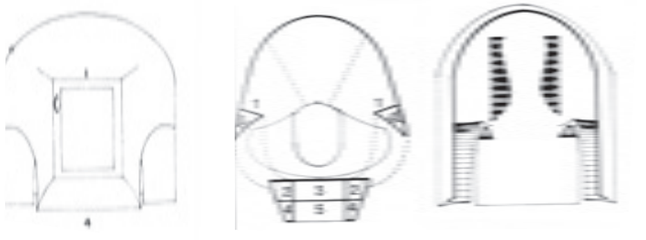
BY CHARLES COLBERT / 1967

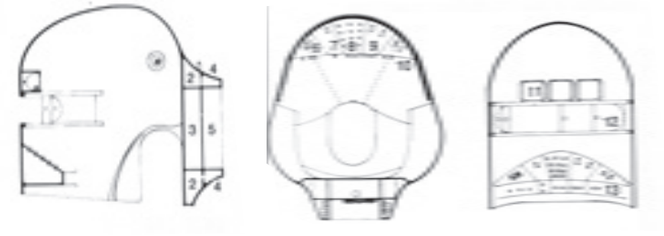
EXCERPT: In this proposed view of education in a new town, residents assemble for individualized study in a group setting, wearing their shoulder carrels plugged into outlets incorporated in the structure of the schoolroom. The shoulder carrel is a private, air conditioned, electronically controlled booth mounted on the student's shoulders, and designed for use either at home or in school...











EXCERPT

The shoulder carrel brings to the student a vast library of data, electronically retrieved. With its individual instruction, the carrel is in direct competition and contrast with person-to-person teaching. The carrel weighs about 20 pounds, and incorporates such instructional media as UHF-VHF TV, tapes, records, computer connections, two-way radio, telephone, slide projectors, and screens.

PROPOSED

THE OPEN HAND

BY THOMAS VREELAND / 1967

EXCERPT A giant "brain" is proposed to feed information to residents of the depressed area. Through the central tower information is fed to the public via transistor radios, telephone-booth type learning units, closed circuit television in classrooms, and closed-circuit screens in traveling school buses which take learning to the neighborhoods ... The school system maintains a convoy of roving, electronically equipped and programmed buses, similar to the Volkswagen bus.

EXCERPT

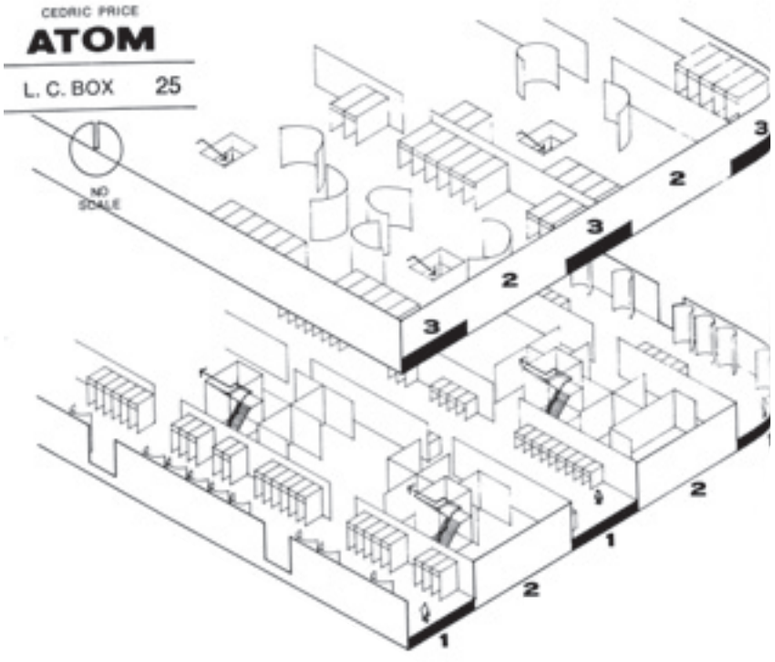
... [Vreeland's suggestion] for the rehabilitation of a depressed area within a large city ... involves the use of a familiar, easily identifiable symbol (in this case, the "Open Hand,") to identify even to the illiterate every component of the system ...

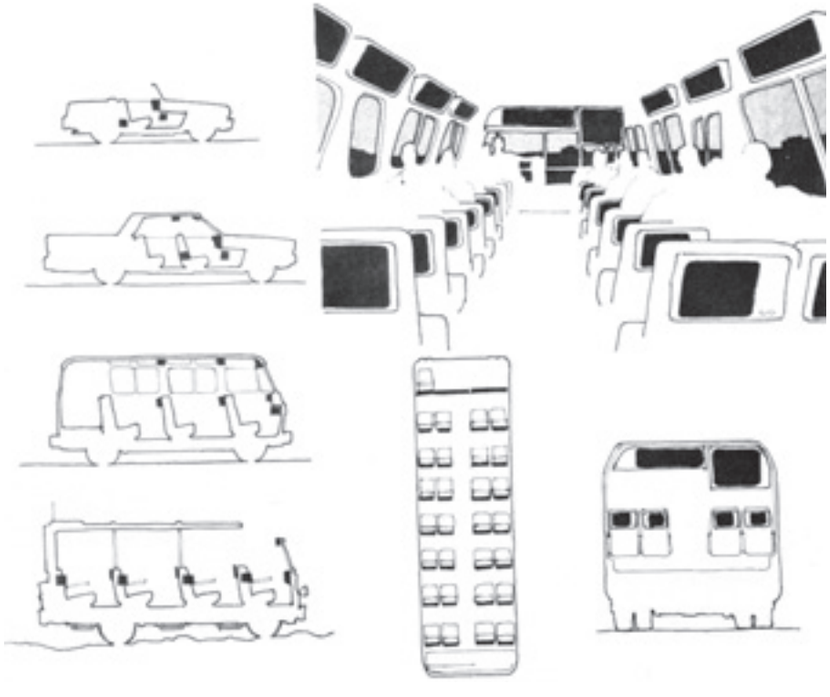
PROPOSED

KIT OF PARTS

BY CEDRIC PRICE / 1967

EXCERPT Architect Cedric Price placed maximum emphasis on electronic technology as he amassed a Kit of Parts for a decentralized education system ... for a projected new town which will be feasible by the year 1990. The parts form a complex network of facilities for education, most of which are non-structural, and are incorporated into existing facets of urban areas.





EXCERPT

The light load volumes contained between the "learning-trusses" have a large capacity for rapid volumetric variation ... Backs of seats become miniature carrels for study aboard vehicles, so that the commuting time of the student is not wasted ...