

Three Students Selected for Poetry Prizes

Winners chosen by the Academy of American Poets; will read on April 19 to benefit AIDS research

Three students who have won prizes from the Academy of American Poets defy the stereotype of young poets as pale, wan, and melancholic.

Kevin Young '92, winner of first place in the 1989 Academy of American Poets College Poetry Awards has started a freshman literary magazine, *Fifth Floor Journal*, and has helped organize a cabaret of original music. Chad Heap '90 and Hannah Joyner '89, who shared the second prize, are politically active, having just returned from the recent pro-choice march in Washington, D.C.

All three winners plan to read their poetry on April 19 in the Adams House dining room at 9 p.m. to benefit AIDS research. All of them also take a poetry seminar with Lucie Brock-Broido, the Briggs Copeland Lecturer on Poetry.

Of Young's poetry, said Brock-Broido, "He's very gifted. He already has a vision and the freedom to express it. There's something urgent about his poems and each is fixed in its idea."

Brock-Broido finds Joyner's poetry "quiet, muscular, finite, and strong," while Heap's work "exhibits enormous control, and leans on simplicity of language. His work has a lot of heart in it as well."

Harvard is filled with talented young poets, said Brock-Broido, and she believes quite a few others will be "up there as prizewinners sometime."

Young, who will live in Adams House next



Chad Heap '90 (l), Kevin Young '92 (c), and Hannah Joyner '89 (r), have received awards from the Academy of American Poets and take a poetry seminar with Lucie Brock-Broido, the Briggs Copeland Lecturer on Poetry.

year, won the \$100 first prize for his poems, "Beauty," "Another Dream," and "Anatomy." He has been writing stories as well as poems for six years. He was encouraged by Tom Averill, an instructor at Washburn University, a small institution outside his hometown, Topeka.

Young has a special love for e.e. cummings' poetry and a newcomer, Rita Dove, a Pulitzer Prize winner who read at Sanders Theatre this week. He plans to concentrate in English.

Heap, of North House, won a second prize for "Freak Shift of Winter." He is concentrating in Russian and Soviet Studies and plans to go to law school.

He did not begin writing seriously until his freshman year in high school and estimates that he has written a couple hundred "somethings, most I wouldn't call

poems." He averages 15 "true poems" a year. He finds Marie Howe, a poet who teaches at Tufts, an inspiring role model.

Heap coedits *Padan Aram*, a twice-yearly literary magazine, and is on the poetry board of the *Harvard Advocate*. He also takes part in the Little Brother program through HAND, a House-based public service program.

Joyner calls herself a late bloomer; she began writing poetry at the end of her sophomore year. She has just completed an honors thesis in history on the life Theodosia Burr Alston, an early feminist and relative of Aaron Burr.

A runnerup in last year's competition, and coeditor of *Padan Aram*, Joyner won a second prize for her poem, "Plaits." She admires the work of W.S. Merwin, Marie Howe, and Emily Dickinson.

Beauty

before the Sixth Annual
Coushatta County
World Fair
& Spectacle

you run
the hotcomb right
through tight,
crowish hair

a smell of lilacs burning
of ripe, half-bitten plums
of waiting by the fire
for the comb to turn colors

once blue
you take the forked iron out
and pull it through until
your roots come straight

or pull out in plugs baked big
as fists, as hands which made
pies from rotting fruit
and ate them while still warm

your hair keeps on
changing to coal
cooling, quiet beneath
your feet

near pig-tailed sisters
who watch and yearn for
the time
they too will burn

in a light this beautiful

Kevin Young '92

This year's entries were judged by Tom Sleigh and Marie Howe, both well-known younger poets and members of the Academy of American Poets.

The Academy is a national organization which offers at Harvard, as at a number of other colleges and universities, the annual \$100 prize for best poem by an undergraduate.

Thinking the Present: Conference Examines Today's Architecture

Graduate School of Design hosts event looking at contributions to postmodernism

America's daring postmodernist architecture reflects an unprecedented attention to geographical setting, according to Professor Rafael Moneo, chairman of the Department of Architecture.

"It would be impossible to speak of 'style' or 'manners' without associating these with a specific geographical location or with a pertinence to a very precise socioeconomic group," Moneo said last Saturday at the opening of the Graduate School of Design's conference, "Thinking the Present: The Last Twelve Years of American Architecture."

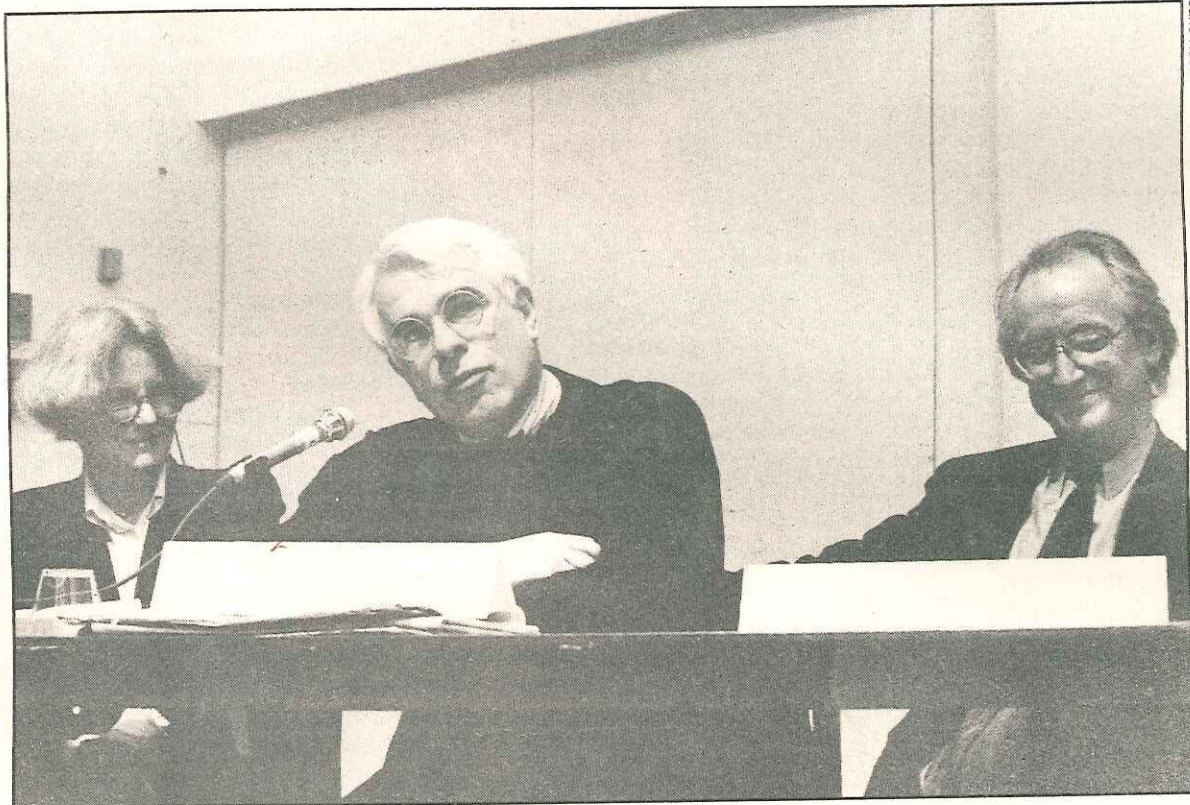
The relationship between setting and project was one of many topics covered at the GSD conference, which aimed to map contemporary architecture and connect the profession with the social and ideological values that have helped shape it.

According to Moneo, the conference also aimed to bring to light the many shifting and complex factors that contribute to the production of architecture.

"I firmly believe that if we want to understand the message that is emerging from today's American architecture, we first need to provide a free view of the panorama," said Moneo. "... We hope to identify the political, economic, technological, and aesthetic factors that interact and affect architecture today."

Unfortunately, said Moneo, theoreticians and historians seem more interested in the recent past rather than in the present.

They "seem to think that they should work on more solid ground than the present



Leaders in contemporary architecture, Denise Scott Brown (l), Peter Eisenman (c), and Michael Graves (r) shared their insights at a GSD conference held last weekend.

affords, and thus the current scene is often ignored. ... But it is of extreme importance to examine contemporary architecture here, in the schools. Schools today ... are laboratories where architectural ideas ... are tested. ... If we neglect this aspect of [students'] education, they will be forced to swim among the uncertain waters of today's architectural media without the necessary knowledge of the depths and whirlpools that move and agitate those waters."

The conference also addressed theoretical and ideological issues that emerged during the mid-'70s and the impact of these

issues on the development of American architecture.

One of the pioneers of postmodernism, Michael Graves, for instance, who had already "proved his talent as an interpreter of modernism through an intelligent use of Cubist principles," opened the door to the most recent American architecture, said Moneo, by reintroducing elements of classical architecture.

Such architects as Philip Johnson and I.M. Pei followed suit and, aside from Johnson, "all the big firms seemed affected by the new trend," said Moneo. "Architecture should be more joyful, richer, more related

to traditional values. ... This new language unconsciously solved many of the problems raised by professional practice ... Developers could find marketable diversity. The beginning of the '80s coincided with a new political mood designed to please everybody."

Moneo also acknowledged the inspirations of Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown. "Their contribution to the formation of recent architectural theory worldwide has been immense, and it is mandatory, in a conference such as this, to consider more specifically their influence on the American

(Continued on page 9)