In a related development, the state of New York agreed to transfer the traditional tribal wampum belts of the Iroquois League, some representing important treaty agreements dating to the colonial period when the Iroquois controlled much of the upper Hudson Valley and western New York. Some of the 12 belts had been stored underground in a vault of the State Education Building in Albany since the 1880s. Included with the collection was the important Hiawatha Belt made of strands of woven purple and white whelk shells, which commemorated the formation of the Iroquois Confederacy in the 15th century. Following a similar return of wampum to Canadian Iroquois by the Museum of the American Indian in New York City the year before, the transfer marked a significant shift in museum policy to include the return not only of ancestral human remains but also of important religious and spiritual objects of significance to Native American peoples today.

Archaeologists from the University of Oklahoma announced the excavation of what might be the earliest evidence for the presence of man in North America. Don Wycoff of the University of Oklahoma reported the recovery from an as yet undisclosed site in Oklahoma of two stone tools and flakes from tool manufacture, found in association with bison bones in apparently undisturbed sediments of a buried and filled-in ancient stream channel. Radiocarbon tests of charcoal and snail shells found with the remains yielded age estimates of 30,000 to 40,000 years before the present. If confirmed through additional research at the site, the finds would rekindle the heated debate over the antiquity of early man in North America. The initial radiocarbon age determinations predate by tens of thousands of years the scientifically accepted age of 11,000 to 11,500 years before the present for the fluted points of the Clovis cultures, taken by most archaeologists as the earliest accepted artificial evidence for the appearance of early man in the New World.

The year was also highlighted by the announcement of Florence's Piazza della Signoria is torn up and closed off to visitors during an excavation by a team of Italian archaeologists. During the dig the archaeologists unearthed portions of a medieval city as well as artifacts dating as far back as the Bronze Age.
An antiquities inspector cleans a figure of Iunet, a goddess of ancient Egypt, which was uncovered at the temple at Luxor. An investigation of the effect of seepage from the Nile River and from Luxor's sewage system led to the discovery of a cache of ancient figures that included King Amenhotep III, who built the courtyard where the statues were found as well as the main portion of the temple.

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significant new findings and insights into the origins and demise of Mayan civilization. In a major announcement, Richard Hansen of the Institute of Archaeology at the University of California at Los Angeles presented the initial excavation results at what might be the earliest Mayan centre yet discovered. Guided by air photo coverage dating to the 1930s, and following an initial survey of the site by Ian Graham of the University of Pennsylvania in 1962, the archaeological team cut their way through the jungles of northern Guatemala to the site, where they recorded the presence of a large stone pyramid and other temples, as well as an elaborately carved limestone slab. The slab depicted two "kings" in royal costume facing one another, with one of them pointing upward toward a deity. Known as Nakbe, the centre was radiocarbon dated to between 400 and 600 BC; and pottery found during the excavation paralleled ceramic styles known to date to 600 BC elsewhere in Mexico.

Dating to the middle Pre-Classic period in Mesoamerican archaeology, the centre was several hundred years earlier than El Mirador some 16 km (10 mi) away, previously thought to be the earliest Maya centre. The presence of temples and ceremonial structures at this early date indicates that planned urban centres and centralized political systems had emerged at a period when archaeologists thought the early Mayan settlements were limited to small village communities with low stone platforms for houses. The antiquity and sophistication of architecture at Nakbe provided strong evidence that Mayan society emerged earlier than previously thought and more in parallel with cultural developments elsewhere in Mexico, such as those at the Olmec centres in Veracruz and Oaxaca.

Following six years of fieldwork in the Petén, archaeologists under the direction of Arthur A. Demarest of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., came forward with new evidence relative to the collapse of Classic Mayan society. From one Late Classic site dating to after AD 900, the previously known centre of Dos Pilas, the Vanderbilt team found the remains of plain pottery and common house sites surrounded by defensive walls, apparently built in haste; these contrasted with the more elaborate urban architecture that characterized the earlier Classic Period phases at the same site. The team's data were fortified by the discovery of a second site, which remained unnamed, to keep it safe from looters, belonging to the slightly earlier Classic Period and dating to c. AD 800. This second centre was built with extensive fortifications consisting of a defensive line of concentrically placed water-filled moats and backed by a massive stone wall on the inner perimeter. In a major reevaluation of traditional characterizations of Mayan society and the causes for its demise, Demarest used these two lines of evidence to argue that the end of the Mayans' social and economic power, and their political collapse, came about as a result of internal conflicts and internecine warfare rather than outside threats and attacks.

The jungles of Guatemala were the focus of archaeological concern because of the threat of intensive oil exploration in and around key archaeological sites in the heavily forested northern Petén. The confrontation over national patrimony versus economic development was particularly acute in this case. The exploration company, a subsidiary of Exxon, which had spent $21.4 million on initial tests, projected that the new wells would have made Guatemala completely self-sufficient in oil. Nevertheless, pressure from archaeologists and preservationists, who in some cases physically barred the drilling and survey crews from the ruins, brought a halt to the exploration. In August Exxon announced that it was abandoning plans for further drilling in this area of archaeological sensitivity.

Further south, in the Andean region of South America, scientists reported some of the earliest traces of ceramic technology yet discovered in the New World. Using evidence of changing Pacific shorelines and sea level fluctuations, Jonathan Damp, formerly of the University of Calgary (Alta.), followed a hunch that if the coast is now more than a mile inland from former shoreline settlements with early pottery, even earlier sites might be discovered farther inland. Joint Ecuadorian and Chilean field teams excavated at the site of Alto Mayo, over 35 m (115 ft) above sea level and more than 4 km (2.5 mi) inland from the present shoreline. In the lowest levels of the excavation, they recovered several small burned clay objects.
deeply buried below the levels containing Valdivia pottery, previously thought to represent the earliest evidence of ceramic technology along western South America. The ceramic pieces, which appeared to be both fired and molded, were radiocarbon dated to 6,000 years before the present. They appeared to represent the initial stages of New World ceramic development and added credence to the argument that this technology emerged locally in South America and not from Asia or Japan as a result of transpacific exchange.

( Joel W. Grossman)

Architecture

In Britain architecture was frequently front-page news in 1989. This interest resulted from widespread publicity given since the mid-1980s to the various pronouncements of the Prince of Wales on architectural subjects. Architecture thus became a vibrant and important focus for debate, raising not only aesthetic but also social issues.

Prince Charles's encouragement of public debate on architecture began in 1984 when he spoke at the 150th anniversary celebration of the Royal Institute of British Architects at Hampton Court near London. He took that opportunity to attack specific projects then under discussion, including the proposed National Gallery extension in Trafalgar Square, which he likened in a famous simile to "a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend." This speech provoked a dramatic public reaction, and eventually the proposals were scrapped. The prince also in that speech criticized the plan for the No. 1 Poultry site in the City of London, which at that time proposed an office tower block designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

Following the abandonment of the National Gallery proposals, the prince grew in confidence and enthusiasm for his subject and became more closely involved with current schemes. In September 1989 his book, A Vision of Britain, received a mixed reception from the public and the architectural profession. The prince set out therein ten principles that he believed should govern design. The lavishly illustrated book revealed that the prince's deep concern and sophisticated grasp of the subject was greater than some architects had realized. The book was launched in conjunction with an exhibition, also called "A Vision of Britain," at the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington.

The ten principles set out by the prince included the requirements that buildings blend with their landscape and their size be in relation to their importance. Buildings should respond to human scale and be in tune with their neighbours, and a greater use of local materials was needed. The prince opined that modern buildings that lack decoration give "neither pleasure nor delight." Not all critics concurred with this view, but few would argue with the prince's view that the users of buildings should be more closely consulted by the designers.

A survey commissioned by the Architects' Journal showed that British architects did not uniformly agree with the prince. There was criticism of the prince's powerful influence on public opinion and local planning authorities. Some 41% of the architects surveyed believed that the prince was taking unfair advantage of his influence by expressing his views so publicly, though many others believed that he should continue to speak out about architecture, though not intervene in a manner that might influence planning.

There was wide disagreement with the prince's aesthetic views. The prince is well known to favour a classical revival, while most modern architects prefer the "Modern.

Commercial Buildings. Prince Charles's outspoken remarks about architecture coincided with a major development boom in London, particularly in the Docklands area to the east of the City of London. Many U.S. architectural firms were involved, and they may have been more accustomed than their British counterparts to developments on the scale being proposed and executed in the late 1980s. A number of buildings were for U.S. banking and multinational clients, and several of the major U.S. architectural firms set up London branches to serve them. The lead U.S. designer of office development in Britain was Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, whose best-known commission was the master plan of the Canary Wharf Development. Other U.S. designers involved in that project were Karl E. Pelli, Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, and I.M. Pei & Partners. The development would eventually contain approximately 1.1 million sq m (12 million sq ft) of offices. The design for the overall scheme featured three towers, shorter than other office buildings in the area, was criticized by some as being unexciting. Prince Charles, speaking in a television documentary that he wrote and narrated, said of the proposed Cesar Pelli Canary Wharf tower, "I personally would go mad if I had to work in a place like this."

Stylistic debate was not confined to Britain. In January 1989 the U.S. magazine Progressive Architecture reported that diversity was the common thread in contemporary American architecture. Modernism had not died, but postmodernism had taken over as the dominant style, and its critics predicted. Diversity of opinion characterized debates on architectural form and, in particular, the degree to which architectural design should reflect historic form and detail or, by contrast, create new form and detail based on the technological and sociological concepts unique to the late 20th century. Only buildings of the highest quality (regardless of style and form) merited universal praise by architectural competition juries. Some architects still worked in opposing philosophies, displaying aspects of both modernism and postmodernism at the same time drawing together superficially unrelated strands of design and philosophy. Most critics and architects, however, did agree that sensitive response to the environment was essential, only rarely to be subordinated to origin-

Rockefeller Plaza West by Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates was a notable New York City high-rise project situated on Seventh Avenue near the existing Rockefeller Center. The 57-story skyscraper featured vertical limestone stripes, stainless steel and glass, and a stepped-back north structure topped by a modernistic penthouse area. The bulk of the tower was broken by a glass 10-story-high addition at its southeastern corner. The building was praised for conforming with the spirit of the environment without showing imagination in its use of the stepped-back section within an eroded core. Inside, the building had colonnaded free space and was technologically advanced while at the same time echoing the skyscrapers of the 1920s.

A design competition in Columbus, Ohio, for the North Columbus Convention Center was won by Trotter/Elman, which had earlier been successful in a project for the Ohio State University Visual Arts Center. The winning design consisted of a series of narrow, twisting volu-