

Yale Center for British Art Launches Book of Louis I. Kahn Interviews

(NEW HAVEN) – The recently published *Louis I. Kahn in Conversation: Interviews with John W. Cook and Heinrich Klotz, 1969–70* provides fresh insights into the philosophy and genius of one of America’s greatest twentieth-century architects. Transcribed from audio recordings of candid conversations that have never before been published in their entirety, these interviews with Kahn (1901–1974) were conducted by Heinrich Klotz, a young German architectural historian who was then a visiting professor at Yale University, and John W. Cook, who was teaching architecture at Yale Divinity School. The volume has been edited by Jules David Prown, Paul Mellon Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at Yale University and Senior Research Fellow at the Yale Center for British Art, and Karen E. Denavit, Information Analyst at the Center.

On Tuesday, April 7, at 5:30 pm, the Center invites the public to a conversation and book signing hosted at the Yale School of Architecture (Rudolph Hall, 180 York Street). Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen, Associate Professor, Yale School of Architecture, will introduce Jules David Prown and Alexander Purves, Professor Emeritus, Yale School of Architecture; they will talk about the publication and Kahn’s philosophy of architecture.

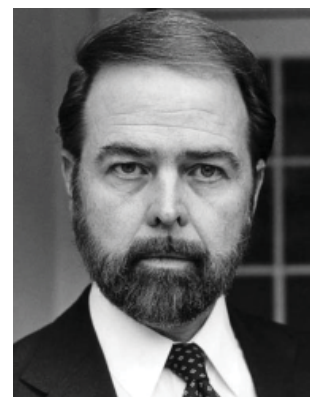
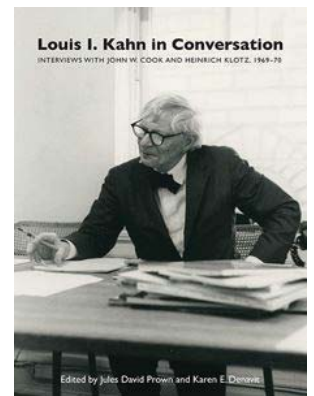
During the course of the interviews, Kahn discusses many of his iconic works, including the unbuilt City Tower Project for Philadelphia, the Yale University Art Gallery, the First Unitarian Church in Rochester, and several international projects then under construction, as well as the Yale Center for British Art. The Center was Kahn’s final building, and he was designing it at this time.

Illustrated with dozens of plans, drawings, and photographs, the book features an introduction by Prown, who was also the first director of the Center and recommended Kahn as an architect. According to Prown, the interviews provide an understanding of Kahn’s complex but insightful thought processes, applicable not only to architecture but also to life.

“Having worked with Kahn, for years afterwards and still today, there are things I think Kahn would say that are just rules to live by—the same rules to build by are sometimes the rules to live by.” said Prown. “So, there is a lot of wisdom embodied in the book.”

“I’ve been told by others what Kahn was like and have read his writings, but editing this book has given me more insight into his personal nature, the human side,” said Denavit.

(Book jacket, *Louis I. Kahn in Conversation: Interviews with John W. Cook and Heinrich Klotz, 1969–70*, edited by Jules David Prown and Karen E. Denavit; John W. Cook, Yale Institute of Sacred Music, photograph by Rodney Smith; Heinrich Klotz, photograph by Digne Meller Marcovicz; from Heinrich Klotz with Charles Jencks, “In the Steps of Vasari,” *Architectural Design*, vol. 55, no. 3/4 (1985): 9)



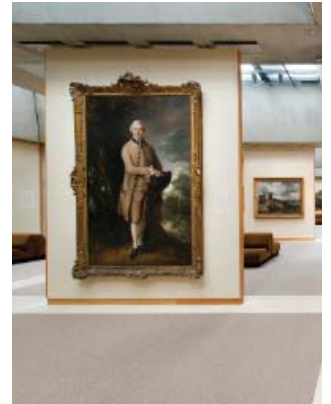
What: Conversation and Book Signing
Louis I. Kahn in Conversation: Interviews with John W. Cook and Heinrich Klotz, 1969–70, published by the Yale Center for British Art in association with Manuscripts and Archives, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University; the Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania; and distributed by the Yale University Press



Who: Jules David Prown (Paul Mellon Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at Yale University) and Alexander Purves (Professor Emeritus, Yale School of Architecture)

When: Tuesday, April 7, 5:30 pm

Where: Yale University School of Architecture, Rudolph Hall (basement level) 180 York Street



The book will be available to purchase at a 20 percent discount during the event.

#

YALE CENTER FOR BRITISH ART

The Yale Center for British Art houses the largest and most comprehensive collection of British art outside the United Kingdom. Presented to the university by Paul Mellon (Yale College, Class of 1929), the collection reflects the development of British art and culture from the Elizabethan period onward. Visit the institution online at britishart.yale.edu.

PRESS CONTACTS

Betsy Kim: +1 203 432 2853 | betsy.kim@yale.edu

Julienne Richardson: +1 203 436 3429 | julienne.richardson@yale.edu

#

