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Connective Tissues: Ten Essays by University of Virginia Kenan Fellows 2001-2016

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- Narcissus and Echo plot to make Connective Tissues weave heuristic narratives between citizens and strangers expanding upon Jefferson's Academical Village as sets of juxtaposed archaic and contemporary cultural landscapes while radically anchored in-between in the frictional moment itself, as a lingering infected blister if not a scar, as an instrumental discourse on site never a clean slate
- The research of the Kenan Fellows will encourage the expansion of the heretofore latent imaginations of those who value Jefferson's University only as a project of a past era, the Age of Enlightenment
- Rather, it will be advanced with Graham and Guggenheim Foundation support to provoke existentially a debate on eschatological renewal, resilience at the edge of Arcadia in the light of the 08/11/2017 initiated Charlottesville Encounters

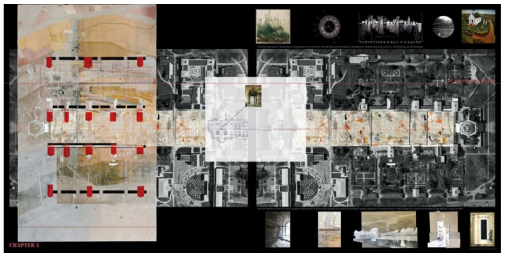
This is not another treatise on the heroic nature of the Jeffersonian imagination. Rather, it offers another reading generated by Joseph Campbell's reluctant hero in *The Hero of A Thousand Faces* as offered by Jeffrey Hildner in his prescient Epilogue Labyrinth R.U.N. It is rather weaving fictions, constructing dialogues, (Rashomon) again and again on Jefferson as boy/man, as adolescent, as dreamer and instrumental explorer of here and there, close at hand and worlds long, long ago and far, far away. This is a collection of meanders, speculations, fog-bound as well as iridescent.

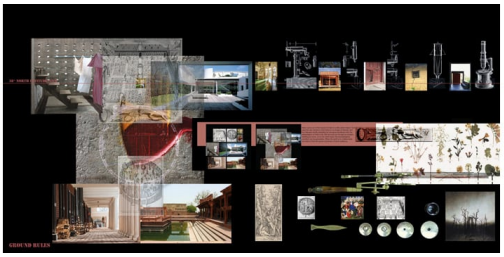
The fact may be that Jefferson was a farmer and politician, but highlighted here was that at thirteen he was an adolescent first, orphaned sooner than later as was common at the edge of the Arcadian Wild, as were Romulus and Remus, but custodian of terrains, knowledge and human energy. He was a Surveyor, Nomad and given his penchant for oculi and mirrors, a certifiable Lunatic.

This is a book on American Pragmaticism and self-evident truths in a new culture of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness rooted in the promise of Eden and the enduring resistance of Jerusalem, articulated by William McClung in *The Literary Legacy of An Architecture of Paradise.* We aligned ourselves with contemporary philosophical debates benchmarked by Andre Gide and Bruno Latour which posit that previously called Ancient if not Archaic belief systems might hold self-evident truths coincidental with contemporary survival systems of sustainability once called common sense, grounded in the recurrent dualities of Architecture.

This is a philosophical work framed on epistemological and ethical questions, sustained by Joseph Campbell in *The Hero of a Thousand Faces.* It also seeks to identify the contemporary vitality of American cultural history and contemporary topographic landscapes.

Peter Waldman is an architect who quarries mica and a long-term educator who implements Spatial Tales of Origin through Specifications for Construction Sites in collaboration with Surveyors, Nomads and Lunatics, and author of *Lessons from the Lawn*, ORO Editions (2019).





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