The word “creative” refers to any development beyond the established order. This may be a reorganization of the order, or consist of elements not included in it.

The creative process begins with an idea that is generated by and brought to a conclusion by the creators. This idea is triggered by the creators’ dissatisfaction with the established order.

The method of the creative process varies with the individual but its cycle appears to have four distinct stages:

1. The preparation stage. This involves many years of training in order to gain a thorough knowledge of the field and the mechanical skills necessary to manipulate the material.

2. The problem stage. This stage appears when an inner conflict occurs within the individual who is hypersensitive to an existing order.

3. The solution stage. This stage has many ramifications and varies with the individual.

4. The verification stage. In this stage all technical and explicit rules of practice are summoned into use and the possible exaggerations and overstatements of the solution stage are checked against external realities.

In teaching architecture, one can only expose the student to the cycle of the creative process and hope that he will have the inner drive to search for basic truths, the perseverance to investigate many ideas, and will be able to evaluate it within its intrinsic worth.