Coffee House on the Left Bank

Beth Lambeth

Iowa State University

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Recommended Citation

Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol40/iss2/5

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A dark cellar, bongo drums, grotesque shadows cast from small table candles upon an unfinished wall, and the tingling smell of exciting coffee brews—this is the popular Beatnik espresso house.

Members of the Beat Generation lounge in wooden chairs, talking, playing chess and meditating. The men wear sandals and sport thick, heavy beards; the female members wear long black stockings, heavy eye makeup, straggly hair and an expression of sheer distaste for the world surrounding them.

Strange brews and odors mingle in the espresso house. The menu may include such names as Israeli Coffee, Iced Cappuccino, Espresso Béné and Caffe O’Rum. Tea and American coffee are always served. Turkish coffee is made from beans which have been ground into a fine powder and mixed with sugar. Then the mixture is boiled in water three times before serving. Brewing under steam pressure is used to make Italian Espresso, and French coffee is brewed from slightly overburned beans.

According to Kocimski, who spent 11 years in London and has visited Paris coffee houses, the houses provide a non-destructive outlet for young men and women. Here people may listen to “cool” music, to singing, to poetry or to each other endlessly talking. All of these things are certainly more socially acceptable than murder, mugging or thievery, says Kocimski.

"Therefore," he says, "we should provide plenty of coffee houses so that our young men and women may be given the opportunity to diagnose all the ills that beset the world."
"A Coffee House on the Left Bank," designed by Kenneth Tam, is one of four such Architecture 418 professional Institute for Architectural Education. Ceiling projects selected to be entered in competition at the National colored glass surrounds the building.

An interior view displays contemporary design in the popular trend toward coffee houses, which are usually associated with the "Beat Generation." Tam's design features a stage and hexagon-shaped sections.