A.D.

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This month

AD and guest editor, Roy Landau, are once again considering the basic contextura philosophies of architecture and planning; looking in depth at the complexities of Complexity (in a sequel to the September 1969 issue entitled 'Despite popular demand, AD is thinking about architecture and planning.')

The need for an understanding of complexity is all too evident.

Few current social and political pre-occupations can be understood or solved without an acceptance of an 'holistic' view of systems — a look at the whole picture as against the 'atomistic' view-point of the specialist, who sees the world as a conglomeration of separate items that make up the whole but are not interactive.

Complexity is reflected in many facets of contemporary life — with a shift in such attitudes as the moves from beach cleaning to ecology, from bureaucracy to parti-cipation, from centralisation to frag-mentation, and from closed systems to open systems.

These articles are important for under-standing total systems the potential they imply and their application to real problems the problems of societies, of cities, of resourses and of individuals.