FOREWORD
to the Original Edition
by LOUIS I. KAHN

TO SEE THESE MODEST STRUCTURES and see them again in the mind invokes wonder in what inspires the works of man. If I were asked what I now would choose to be, I would say "to be the creator of the new fairy tales." It is from the sense of the incredible that all man's desire to make and establish comes. The simple structures of shelter seem like the markers of a dominating desire to establish a claim out of the vastness of the land, a place from which to dream of anticipated enterprise, full of the promise of a kingdom where the house or the castle is not yet in the mind.

Without historical records the story of America could come from the primitive desires and inspirations, the feeling of joy, which the endless unexplored land can evoke. The spirit of independence, our unique freedom, the feelings of unmeasured generosity and humble hospitality came from the spirit of the unrestricted spaces of the frontier.

The stone and wood, not bought but found, are used true to the rights one dares to take in gratitude for the gifts of nature. These noble and most ancient materials which in all ages inspired numerous and beautiful variations in the expressions of their orders here were used true to their nature with clarity and economy.

Later the Architect appears, admiring the work of the unschooled men, sensing in their work their integrity and psychological validity. They now stand in silence, yet stir the fairy tale and tell of life.

LOUIS I. KAHN, 1968