

Seminar in Teacher Education

By Anne McCrary Sullivan

Gathered around the table,
we spread blueprints –
shift, sort, wrinkle, pencil in, erase.

Where are the windows?
Where are the doors?
How do we make the hallways connect?

What needs to be set in concrete?
What should float
like a Calder mobile?

Where are the flying buttresses
for invisible support?
When can we take the scaffolding away?

In Gothic France, the cathedral of Beauvais
rose taller, heavier every day —
architects pressured for completion,

dreams converted to rising stone
until one morning citizens awoke
to thunder — collapse.

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We want to be in Chartres.
We want to work with careful tools,
shaping, sensitive

to qualities of stone and glass,
committed to solidity
but also to a shimmering colored light.

Our meeting ends.
We pack our plans, our questions
into canvas bags and leave—

discussing
committed
worried
about collapse.

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