Our Lot

Brian Christian

Ovid  Now I shall tell you of things that change, new being
Out of old; since you, O Gods, created
Mutable arts and gifts, give me the voice
To tell the shifting story of the world
From its beginning to the present hour.¹

Abbey  Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.²

Phase I

Ostriker  I am by myself, climbing into my car,³

Bukowski  in the center of the action.⁴

Ostriker  The world is flat and happy,
I am in love with asphalt, …
I am in love with acres of automobiles.⁵

Alford  This world of wonders, where our lot is cast!⁶

Bennett  ’Tis true that our lot is but rough:⁷

Kelly & Keil  it is essential to extend.⁸

¹ Ovid, Metamorphoses, translated by Horace Gregory, p. 31.
² Edward Abbey, A Voice Crying in the Wilderness (Vox Clamantis in Deserto): Notes from a Secret Journal, p. 98.
⁵ “Mother in Airport Parking Lot,” p. 23.
⁷ W. C. Bennett, “’Tis True That Our Lot Is but Rough,” Sea Songs.
Phase II

**NAIOP**  The least expensive way to gain more parking is to restripe an existing lot.9

**ADA**  Because restriping is relatively inexpensive, it is readily achievable.10

**Hass**  Where there was only grey, and brownish grey, And greyish brown against the white... Now an uncanny flamelike thing, black and sulphur-yellow.11

**Inada**  The asphalt is wet and shiny from the night before.12

**Wright**  Meanwhile the cars continue[] in a persistent flow13 —

**Wenderoth**  It’s amazing how I recognize the parking lot but do not recognize the parking lot’s power to make customers appear. How is it that this place remains unfulfilled by its sudden natives?14

**Nietzsche**  There is nothing better than what is good! and that is: to have a certain... capacity and to use it.15

**Whitlock**  Given enough space and unimpeded access, it is comparatively easy... These ideal circumstances, however, are seldom reality.16

**NAIOP**  A 100-car parking lot can be converted into a

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9 National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, *Parking for Industrial and Office Parks*, p. 11.
13 C. D. Wright, *Deepstep Come Shining*, p. 3.
15 Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Will to Power*, §75.
16 Edward M. Whitlock, P. E. *Parking for Institutions and Special Events*, p. 41.
1,000-car parking garage.\textsuperscript{17}

In a static development area there might be some question of whether or not the garage would be built, but [here it] is certain the garage will be constructed,\textsuperscript{18}

\textit{ULI} thus furthering the principal objective.\textsuperscript{19}

\textit{NAIOP} Purchasing or leasing of adjoining land can be a viable alternative.\textsuperscript{20}

A building permit has been obtained for this land\textsuperscript{21}

\textit{ULI} which will assure an adequate supply of parking.\textsuperscript{22}

\textit{NAIOP} Future expansion [shall] be horizontal, not vertical.\textsuperscript{23}

\textbf{Phase III}

\textit{Bell} Strange to see people marooned in parking lots.\textsuperscript{24}

\textit{Hass} The horizontal rush of it, for a moment.\textsuperscript{25}

\textit{Robinette} The distracting forms of a great number of parked cars makes it difficult to read directional signs, to locate a specific building, or to find entrances, exits

\textsuperscript{17} Parking for Industrial and Office Parks, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{18} Ibid., p. 2.
\textsuperscript{20} Parking for Industrial and Office Parks, p. 11.
\textsuperscript{21} Ibid., p. 2.
\textsuperscript{22} Parking Requirements for Shopping Centers, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{23} Parking for Industrial and Office Parks, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{24} Marvin Bell, “Ice,” \textit{Iris of Creation}, p. 16.
or highways.\textsuperscript{26}

\textit{Whitlock} As institutions grow in proportion to their service populations, they also must change with prevailing trends in the types of services provided. These changes affect parking space needs and parking facility operations.\textsuperscript{27}

\textit{NAIOP} Parking lot users typically do not like to walk more than 300 to 400 feet from where their cars are parked.\textsuperscript{28}

\textit{Robinette} There are, from a landscape design standpoint, a number of things which can and have been done.\textsuperscript{29}

\textit{ULI} Transit alternatives are being considered... a myriad of options ranging from special bus routes to train lines.\textsuperscript{30}

\textit{ULI} Shoplifting, security, lost children, snow removal in some areas, housekeeping, and special events are all problems demanding attention;\textsuperscript{31}

offices, cinemas, and food services require additional consideration.\textsuperscript{32}

\textit{Whitlock} While function is a consideration with all facilities, it assumes more importance in a parking garage than in most building types. Parking structures and lots have unique functional requirements that must be met if the facility is to fulfill its role. That role is not merely to store vehicles, but also to

\textsuperscript{26} Gary O. Robinette, \textit{Parking Lot Landscape Development}, p. 3.
\textsuperscript{27} Edward M. Whitlock, P. E. \textit{Parking for Institutions and Special Events}, p. 1.
\textsuperscript{28} National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, \textit{Parking for Industrial and Office Parks}, p. 11.
\textsuperscript{29} Gary O. Robinette, \textit{Parking Lot Landscape Development}, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{30} Urban Land Institute, \textit{Parking Requirements for Shopping Centers: Summary Recommendations and Research Study Report}, p. 96.
\textsuperscript{31} Ibid., p. vi.
\textsuperscript{32} Ibid., p. 2.
process them and their passengers.\textsuperscript{33}

Robinette The desire to provide convenience for automobile drivers close to places of dwelling, shopping, work, recreation, education and entertainment causes the design and development of even more space for parking.\textsuperscript{34}

ULI [T]he planning of new centers and expansion of existing centers\textsuperscript{35} could not have been accomplished without the full cooperation of the shopping center industry.\textsuperscript{36}

Nietzsche And now, after we have long been on our way in this manner, we argonauts of the ideal, with more daring perhaps than is prudent, and have suffered shipwreck and damage often enough, but are, to repeat it, healthier than one likes to permit us, dangerously healthy, ever again healthy — it will seem to us as if, as a reward, we now confronted an as yet undiscovered country whose boundaries nobody has yet surveyed, something beyond all the lands and nooks of the ideal so far, a world so overrich in what is beautiful, strange, questionable, terrible, and divine that our curiosity as well as our craving to possess it has got beside itself — ah, now nothing will sate us anymore!\textsuperscript{37}

\textsuperscript{33} Edward M. Whitlock, P.E.  Parking for Institutions and Special Events, p. 41.
\textsuperscript{34} Gary O. Robinette, Parking Lot Landscape Development, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{35} Urban Land Institute, Parking Requirements for Shopping Centers: Summary Recommendations and Research Study Report, p. 2.
\textsuperscript{36} Ibid., p. 1.
\textsuperscript{37} Friedrich Nietzsche, The Will to Power, §382.
Phase IV

NAIOP  A “sea of asphalt.”38

Robinette  There is no way for anyone to know how many parking spaces there are.39

The shopper, worker, tourist and resident face glare, heat[,] confusion[,]40

Hass  — pleasant scent of tar in the spring sun —41

Robinette  fields of gleaming autos, prolific signs, vending machines, phone booths, attendant shelters,42

Miller  crushed metal segments of black cars with chrome[, g]azebos with a glass roof and ringed by43

Hass  a delicate cascade
[0]f new green leaves,44

Miller  minimalist strips of neon lights bisecting the entire site,45

ULI  restaurants and meeting rooms, ... a private tennis club, ... major office complexes, ... hotels, which maintain approximately 95 percent occupancy year round,46

38 National Association of Industrial and Office Parks, Parking for Industrial and Office Parks, Introduction.
40 Ibid., p. 2.
43 Catherine G. Miller, Carscape: A Parking Handbook, p. 89.
46 Urban Land Institute, Parking Requirements for Shopping Centers: Summary Recommendations and Research Study Report, p. 94.

Forrest Gander, “Landscape with a Man Being Killed by a Snake,” Science & Steepleflower, p. 84.


Friedrich Nietzsche, The Will to Power, §416.

Charles Lloyd, Nigæ Canoræ, “SONNET XXXII. TO MISS W—.”
Clark In something as illusory as fate
Persons on earth once could perceive
If not the reasons why things happen
Then the patterns they happen in,
And perceiving these, make do.\textsuperscript{56}

Robinette The relevance and universality of the parking
lot problem, within an unlimited context — \textsuperscript{57}

Nietzsche The process of turning a nature inwards — \textsuperscript{58}

Kelly & Keil It was possible to predict the patterns of
transformations on the basis of structural
properties of ontological knowledge, which is
knowledge of the basic categories of existence.\textsuperscript{59}

Bukowski I walked to my car
got in
started it
thinking,\textsuperscript{60}

Logue just for a moment in the chromium dark,\textsuperscript{61}

Bukowski now what did
you do that for?
that was none of your
business\textsuperscript{62}

Nietzsche People naturally seek the picture of life in
that philosophy which makes them the most
cheerful — that is to say, in that philosophy
which gives the highest sense of freedom to
their strongest instinct. This is probably the
case with me.\textsuperscript{63}

\textsuperscript{56} Tom Clark, \textit{Paradise Resisted}, “In the IBM Parking Lot.”
\textsuperscript{57} Gary O. Robinette, \textit{Parking Lot Landscape Development}, Preface.
\textsuperscript{58} Friedrich Nietzsche, \textit{The Will to Power}, §376.
\textsuperscript{59} Michael H. Kelly and Frank C. Keil, “The More Things Change. . . : Metamorphoses
\textsuperscript{60} Charles Bukowski, “a strange moment,” \textit{War All the Time}.
\textsuperscript{61} Christopher Logue, \textit{Kings}, p. 8.
\textsuperscript{62} Charles Bukowski, “a strange moment,” \textit{War All the Time}.
\textsuperscript{63} Friedrich Nietzsche, \textit{The Will to Power}, §418.
Nietzsche  [T]he eternal lust of creating[,] the eternal compulsion to destroy… seemed to me to be fundamentally associated with pain, however.64

Bukowski  but I was smiling

I had altered a bit of ugliness into something else65

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64 Ibid., §416.
65 Charles Bukowski, “a strange moment,” War All the Time.