

Architecture as a Symbol

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Background

Cultures around the world use architecture not only as function-orientated but also as an identification symbol. In this way, the reconstruction of the Stephen's dome in Vienna, defined a new post-war orientation and the destruction of the World trade center in New York boosted a war against terror which redefined permanently world politics. Far from these radical symbols architecture has always served the identity of communities as well as the cult of personality in regimes

Architecture is a product of its political, social, technical, and economical background. The panoply of architectural elements, which convey symbolic substance, is to be seen from the smallest scale to the scale of urban planning.

Even the design of the most banal element as a doorknob, a post box, or even a rubbish bin can trigger identity-linked emotions (in one).

Even the so called industrial-architecture radiates imagery and zeitgeist despite or because of its minimal formal language, through which it gains in pathos as well as in symbolic value. Architecture can not be realised without taking position for or against a specific formal language. The encoding and decoding is not only a basic tool of the spoken and written language but also of architecture.

Schedule

The Workshop will last two weeks and will unfold as following

Day 1 readout of the theme, including a lecture from Honey and Bunny "architecture and Symbol". Followed by the release of the first assignments to the students. This will lead to the individual research of symbolic contents in architecture on the basis of concrete/tangible examples in Bucharest. This example as seen above can reach from a pack of cigarettes to a mega structure

Days 2 & 3 Time for the research, analysis and interpretation of the given examples. Lecture from honey and bunny : "Vienna and its identity"

Day 4

oral presentation by the students at the university of Bucharest of their findings in form of images and/or drawings. Afterwards, presentation of the video project "future urban organism" which deals with architecture as a social heritage. Following a discussion and the release of new assignments: the reconfiguration/ remodeling of the chosen objects leading to the conscious, necessary transformation of its symbolic content.

Day 5 & 6 time for the processing of the works

Day 7 presentation of the ideas of the students at the university, hopefully with guests from the cultural and economical scene of Rumania. Followed by a review and discussion about the future steps of the assignments. Afterwards, a lecture about Tokyo and the existing acquaintances between architecture and the script-graphic symbol in Japan.

Days 8 & 9 time for the processing of the evolving projects
Feedback with honey and bunny

Day 10 presentation and discussion of the works, the focus lies on the artistic means used to convey the content.

Days 11 & 12 further processing of the works

Day 13 final presentation, hopefully with guests from the cultural and economical scene of Rumania

Aim

the workshop should strengthen the focus of the students on the expression of their work and point up architecture as an all-embracing discipline.

On the one hand, Multitudinous discussions and lectures about the theme and on the other, the formulation of the design should serve this purpose