

Swiss Tectonics

spring semester

Introduction

Swiss German Architecture in the second half of the twentieth century has its roots in a poetic rationalism developed during the *Neues Bauen* in the 1930s, which gradually abandoned the architectural iconography to focus on the system of relationships between the parts and the whole, under the influence of structuralism.

The parameter that had the least symbolic associations and, at the same time, was intrinsically architectural was Construction, conceived as a means at the service of the project's conceptual guidelines. An Idea of Tectonics became its common denominator, giving materiality the fundamental character in the compositional development of a grammar.

Recent Swiss German architecture is a paradigm of the process of conceptual displacement from classical order towards materiality, which we will trace during the course through a critical revision of the relations between space and the material basis of form, together with some of the most influential architects of the last decades.

Lessons

23. February 2024

Gion Caminada vs. Peter Zumthor

How to design with history I. Materiality as the fundamental basis of the form. Towards a massive neoplasticism. Hybridisation of construction systems: Jürg Conzett influence.

- Caminada, G.A. (2021). *Gion A. Caminada, 1995-2021: identity, autonomy and resonance*. El Croquis
- Zumthor, P., Heikkinen, M. (2008). *Zumthor: Spirit of Nature Wood Architecture Award 2006*. Rakennustieto Publishing
- Conzett, J., Mostafavi, M. (2006). *Structure as space: engineering and architecture in the works of Jürg Conzett and his partners*. AA Publications

8. March 2024

Peter Märkli

How to design with history II. Classical order as the fundamental basis of form. Intervention on pre-existing structural systems. Atmosphere as a posteriori value.

- Märkli, P., Johnston, P., Beigel, F. (2017). *Everything one invents is true: the architecture of Peter Märkli*. Quart Verlag
- Märkli, P., Mostafavi, M. (2002). *Approximations the architecture of Peter Märkli*. AA Publications

22. March 2024

Peter Zumthor

How to design with history III. The secret behind the mass. Monolithic architecture that builds a place on earth. Atmosphere as an a priori value.

- Zumthor, P., Durisch, T. (2014). *Peter Zumthor 1985–2013. Buildings and Projects*. Scheidegger & Spiess
- Zumthor, P. (2008). *Atmospheres: environnements architecturaux, ce qui m'entoure*. Birkhäuser

12. April 2024

Burkhalter Sumi

How to design with history IV. On continuity with the *Neues Bauen* of the 30's. The construction as a non-symbolic language. Filigree architecture as a dialogue.

- Lucan, J., Pogacnik, M. (2016). *Burkhalter Sumi Architekten Monograph*. Electa
- Helfenstein, H. (1995). *Die Holzbauten. Burkhalter Sumi*. ETHZ gta

3. May 2024

New trends on Swiss German Architecture

The trends of recent Swiss-German architecture in continuity with architectural history: Esch Sintzel beyond postmodernism, Armando Ruinelli and Lukas Imhof beyond neorealism, Lütjens Padmanabhan and Loeliger Strub beyond pop culture, and so on.

- Heinz, W. (2012). *Armando Ruinelli + Partner*. Quart Verlag
- Sik, M., Imhof, L. (2019). *Analogue Oldnew Architecture*. Quart Verlag

17. May 2024

Coursework review

14 June 2024

Ordinary test: presentation of course work

5 July 2024

Extraordinary test: presentation of course work

Evaluation

To fulfil the requirements of the course students must develop one of this alternative options:

- Word essay of 3.500 to 5.000 on a related topic to be agreed with the teacher
- Group study model of a related work of architecture to be agreed with the teacher

Attendance is compulsory except in cases of justified reasons.

Bibliography

De Solá-Morales i Rubio, M. (1981). Critical Discipline. *Oppositions*, nr.23, p.146.

Deplazes, A. (2018). *Constructing architecture : Materials, processes, structures: A handbook*. Basel: Birkhäuser.

Ford, E. (1990-96). *The details of modern architecture*, Vol. 1-2. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.

Frampton, K., & Cava, J. (1995). *Studies in tectonic culture: The poetics of construction in nineteenth and twentieth century architecture*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press.

Grassi, G. (1980). Avant Garde and Continuity. *Oppositions*, nr. 21, pp.25-32.

Matiere d'art: Architecture contemporaine en Suisse = A matter of art: Contemporary architecture in Switzerland: Centre culturel suisse, Paris. (2001). Basel: Birkhäuser.

Sekler, E. (1965). Structure, Construction and Tectonics. In Kepes, G. *Structure in Art and in Science*. New York: Braziller, pp.89-95.