

The detail is dead – long live the detail!

Symposium about the ethics of industrialized architecture and its making.



In collaboration with Velux Visiting Professor **Ulrich Knaack** from **TU Delft, Façade Group** – CINARK invites you to a symposium about the ethics of industrialised architecture and its making – with a focus on the architectural detail.

Everything has to be new always – when dealing with technology!

New waves of Industrial Revolutions come and go – entitled 2.0, 4.0, 5.0 etc...

But, what is the state of architectural making today? Are we in a situation of post craftsmanship, post 'industry', post financial crises, post sustainability, post waste, post product and post factual – only guided by an orientation towards parametric driven performance and design?

In architecture details prove the level of knowledge and skill of both the architect, the manufacturer and the craftsman – and they are REAL! Details are determined by the material qualities and by the technical as well as cultural understanding of their purpose and meaning. Details determine the essence, durability and vitality of the building in present situations and over time. Details supply new perceptions and findings long after the idiomatic treatment of the building has been exhausted.

Looking at how architecture has become determined by industrialisation and how new manufacturing processes change the architectural design process raises a number of fundamental ethical questions:

What is the role (importance) of detailing in today's building practises?

Has the need for well-developed and refined details linked to the specific project disappeared?

Is the situation now that everything is digital, globally available and delivered in no time – so we only have to combine simplified ready-mades and products that are detached from local cultures?

Or are we facing a digital driven redevelopment of craftsmanship that will reinvent custom made architectural details? And then do the details of today serve the needs of tomorrow – who defines the properties and longevity of the good solutions?

This symposium seeks to frame a critical discussion - and looks at how the architectural practice, building industry and research address the challenges when linking ethics and social responsibility with the current means of industrialized manufacturing, construction and making.

PROGRAM 13.00 – 18.00

The program is divided into 3 main parts. First an introduction lecture and then two sessions where 8 speakers are invited to discuss the specific themes of each of the sessions.

Welcome

INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM AND AIM OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Anne Beim, Professor / PhD Head of CINARK, IBT, KADK

Ulrich Knaack, Professor/ PhD, TU Delft, TU Darmstadt – Presently Velux Visiting Professor at KADK

Introduction Lecture - REFLECTIONS ON THE GRAVITY OF DETAILS

Steen Nepper Larsen, Philosopher, Associate Professor, Aarhus University

The lecture seeks to frame questions of morality and ethics in the world today. How can we in a world where things are getting more abstract and digitalised embed meaning in the way we construct and perceive our physical surroundings? Architecture is a result of a complex process of selecting and developing “the proper details” for a certain context and situation. When speaking about “the proper detail” we are arguing out of experience – but are we able to entirely judge the ethical dimensions today – because the complexity within construction and the world in general is too big?

1. Session NO MONEY NO DETAIL!

When designing the Kunsthal in Rotterdam 25 years ago OMA proclaimed their focus on architecture as storytelling by the famous quote “No money – No detail!”. In the recent work by the office their attitude towards the value of the detail has changed. Is this a common tendency within architecture? Is there a shift from the focus on architecture as storytelling to the focus of the making of the buildings?

We have invited 4 speakers from different positions within the field to discuss how they see the value of detailing in their own practices and in the field of construction in general.

Short presentations (20 minutes) followed by a panel discussion.

Invited speakers:

- Vincent Karsten, Architect, Associate, OMA, Netherlands
- Kim Dalgaard, Architect, Project Leader, Tegnestuen Vandkunsten A/S
- Horst Günther, Engineer, Technical Director, Scandibyg A/S
- Pil Thielst, Architect, Project Leader, Lundgaard & Tranberg Architects

2. Session DIGITAL VS. PHYSICAL?

What happens when we move architectural details from an abstract digital world to a concrete physical reality? Is this always a smooth transfer or is the shift of logics more complex? The digital world asks for exactitude due to data exchange based on numerical logics, but how does this affect the dimensions linked to the knowledge of the hand and the craftsman?

We have invited 4 speakers from different positions within the field to discuss how they see this transfer of knowledge from the digital to the physical world from their perspective.

Short presentations (20 minutes) followed by a panel discussion.

Invited speakers:

- Marcel Bilow, Dr. Associate Professor, The Bucky Lab, TU Delft
- Stig Mikkelsen / Architect, Founding partner, Mikkelsen Architects
- Odilo Schoch, Dr. Professor, Architecture & Building Process, ETH Zurich
- Vibeke Grube Larsen, Architect, Head of Sustainability, NCC Building