

Concept of Façade With Daylight at Heart

Abstract

Concept of Façade With Daylight at Heart

From an evolutionary perspective, human beings belong to nature, attuned to the sun via the circadian rhythm. We are meant to be exposed to daylight far more extensively than we are nowadays. The present situation, whereby man-kind has more or less consciously decided to spend life inside buildings, is in intense contrast to basic human physiological needs, indeed our very DNA.

It is therefore time to recall our natural basic requirements as human beings. There is a need to rethink the protocol of present building practice in terms of daylight qualities in relation to the act of creation¹ of the *inside* (of housing/ in architecture), and therefore to rethink our building culture in the actual act of sustainable transformation of existing housing, as well as in ‘The Act of Making’ sustainable new housing.

A façade is not a façade – it is the hypothesis of this thesis. But then, what is a ‘façade’, and what is the role of the façade in the creation of contemporary housing – within the concept of architecture? The hypothesis provokes the following research question: how can daylight and daylight phenomena be at heart in the architectural process of creating natural living conditions – in ‘The Act of Making’ the *‘inside’*?

Etymologically the word *façade* is fascinating, connoting the expression in a human face – Façade, the face of a building. And it is exactly when the activity of the façade genuinely relates to human life inside buildings, when the façade reaches into ethical and existential realms, and beyond itself, and when a full awareness of the potential of the façade has been reached, that the concept of façade comes to life. Essentially, architecture is the cultural ‘act of making’ sustainable *‘inside’* space that supports the health and well-being of human beings. Awareness of natural daylight is therefore vital. Consequently, this thesis is theoretically adjoined to both the phenomenological and the ontological tradition.

In search for daylight qualities (wealth), a conceptual take – one at the periphery of the present academic practice in the field of daylight research – is applied for analysis and used as a methodology. In ‘Conceptual Activism’², a concept is built upon knowledge from a personal ‘empirical archive’, infused with new knowledge, meaning, and findings, and the concept is consequently redefined.

This thesis strives to unfold daylight as the “prime matter” in the creation of the *‘inside’* space by using empirical evidence from the periphery of the current domain within architecture. The primarily new infusion into this research project derives from qualitative interviews with three international art photographers, Bert Teunissen (NL), Daniel Blaufuks (PT), and Torben Eskerod (DK), accompanied by a representation of their significant artworks in experiencing and documenting people, daylight qualities, and the *‘inside’* space.

This thesis reaches out for new variations, layers, aspects, and finally understandings in how we address daylight within the concept of façade when creating human-oriented inside space, hence in 'The Act of Making' Space.

This thesis consists of three main chapters:

Chapter 1: The Awareness of Daylight: Before 'The Act of Making' Space. This chapter frames the conceptual ideology and describes how the project is theoretically and methodically based.

Chapter 2: The Potential of Daylight: Towards 'The Act of Making' Space. This chapter analyses qualitative interviews with three international art photographers as the empirical infusion of the conceptual take, reaching out for a new understanding of daylight potentials in architecture.

Chapter 3: Transformation with Daylight: 'The Act of Making' Space. This concluding chapter explores the creation and design of alternative scenarios to the present state.

Abstrakt

Facade som Begreb

Med Dagslys som livets akse

Fra et evolutionært perspektiv tilhører mennesker naturen, tilpasset solen via den cirkadiske rytme. Det er meningen, at vi skal eksponeres for dagslys i langt højere grad, end vi er i dag. Den nuværende situation, hvor menneskeheden mere eller mindre bevidst har besluttet at tilbringe livet indenfor i bygninger, står i en skærende kontrast til de grundlæggende menneskelige fysiologiske behov, tilmed selve vores DNA.

Det er derfor på tide at huske vores naturlige grundlæggende behov som mennesker. Det er således af stor betydning at genoverveje protokollen for den nuværende byggepraksis i forhold til dagslyskvaliteter i relation til 'the act of creation'³ [handlingen i skabelse] af 'the inside' [inde/indenfor] (i boliger/i arkitektur), og dermed genoverveje vores bygningskultur i den egentlige 'act' [handling] i bæredygtig transformation af eksisterende boliger såvel i 'the act' [handlingen] at skabe nye bæredygtige boliger.

En facade er ikke en facade – det er hypotesen i denne afhandling. Men hvad er så en 'facade', og hvad er facadens rolle i skabelsen af kontemporære boliger – inden for begrebet arkitektur? Hypotesen anstiller følgende forskningsspørgsmål: hvordan kan dagslys og dagslysfænomener være 'at heart' [livets akse] i den arkitektoniske proces med at skabe naturlige leveforhold – i 'the act' [handlingen] at skabe 'the inside' [inde/indenfor]?

Etymologisk er ordet facade fascinerende og konnoterer udtrykket i et menneskeligt ansigt – facade, bygningens ansigt. Og det er nøjagtigt, når facadens rolle med ægthed vedrører det menneskelige liv inde i bygninger, når facaden når ud i etiske ekstensielle begrebsverdener og ud over sig selv, og når en fuld bevidsthed om facadens potentiale er nået, at begrebet facade bliver vækket til live. I det væsentlige er arkitektur den kulturelle

'act' [handling] at skabe bæredygtige '*inside*' [inde] 'Space [rum], der understøtter menneskers sundhed og velvære. Bevidsthed om naturligt dagslys er derfor afgørende. Følgelig er denne afhandling teoretisk tilknyttet både den fænomenologiske og den ontologiske tradition.

I søgningen efter dagslyskvaliteter ('wealth' [rigdom/indsigt]) anvendes et konceptuelt greb i periferien af den nuværende praksis til analyse og som metode. I 'Conceptual Activism'⁴ [Konceptuel Aktivism] bygger et koncept på viden fra et peronligt 'empirical archive' [empirisk arkiv], tilført ny viden, relevans og artefakter, hvorefter konceptet redefineres.

Denne afhandling stræber efter at udfolde dagslyset som "prime matter" i skabelsen af '*inside*' [inde] 'Space [rum], ved at bruge empirisk vidnesbyrd i periferien af arkitekturens nuværende domæne. Den nye primære tilførsel i dette forskningsprojekt kommer fra kvalitative interviews med tre internationale kunstfotografer, Bert Teunissen (NL), Daniel Blaufuks (PT) og Torben Eskerod (DK) akkompagneret af en repræsentation af deres bemærkelsesværdige kunstfotografiske skildringer – det at opleve og dokumentere mennesker, dagslyskvaliteter og '*inside*' [inde] 'Space [rum].

Denne afhandling rækker ud efter nye variationer, lag, aspekter og endelig forståelse for, hvordan vi adresserer dagslys i forhold til begrebet facade, når vi skaber 'menneskefokuserede' '*inside*' [inde], dermed i handlingen at skabe 'Space [rum].

Denne afhandling består af tre hovedkapitler:

Kapitel 1: Det at være Bevist om Dagslys: Før Handlingen at Skabe Rum. Dette kapitel indrammer den konceptuelle ideologi og beskriver, hvordan projektet er teoretisk og metodisk funderet.

Kapitel 2: Potentialet i Dagslys: Henimod Handlingen at Skabe Rum. Analytisk og programmatisk, som den empiriske infusion i det konceptuelle greb, analyserer dette kapitel interviews med tre internationale kunstfotografer der rækker ud efter en ny forståelse af dagslysepotentialer i arkitektur.

Kapitel 3: Transformation med Dagslys: Handlingen at Skabe Rum. Dette konkluderende kapitel søger mod skabelse og design af alternative scenarier til den nuværende situation.

- 1 Deleuze, Gilles. "The Act of Creation." Lecture, femis (Fondation Européenne pour les Métiers de l'Image et du Son), Paris, 17 May 1987
- 2 Meier Sørensen, Bent. "The Use of Concepts: Choosing and Unfolding Concepts in PhD Theses." Lecture, Copenhagen Business School (cbs), 1 June 2016
- 3 Deleuze, Gilles. "The Act of Creation." Lecture, femis (Fondation Européenne pour les Métiers de l'Image et du Son), Paris , 17 May 1987
- 4 Meier Sørensen, Bent. "The Use of Concepts: Choosing and Unfolding Concepts in PhD Theses." Lecture, Copenhagen Business School (cbs), 1 June 2016