

Architettura per un ambiente pienamente umano

Architecture for a full human living environment

Il tempo è maturo per ri-condurre l'architettura alla creazione di un ambiente conforme alla vita dell'uomo, capace di celebrarne la sensibilità e la corporeità sia nelle loro implicazioni sociali che individuali. Occorre pensare architettura e ambiente urbano come un'entità fluida dove una parte influisce e muta l'altra. Il vero autore di un edificio dovrebbe pertanto essere un gruppo collaborativo e interdisciplinare. Il disegno, così come tradizionalmente inteso, costituirà solamente una delle parti del processo. Per questo gli studenti di architettura dovrebbero sviluppare un'attitudine collaborativa. Devono essere loro ricordate le qualità umane corporee e sensibili alle quali occorre fundamentalmente indirizzarsi.

The time is ripe to redirect architecture to the production of a human living environment, which celebrates the human sensory and corporeal qualities in both their social and individual expressions. Architecture and the urban environment need to be thought as one fluid entity, where one part influences and changes the other. The real author of a building is expected to be a collaborative interdisciplinary group. Design, as traditionally thought will be just one of the parts of the process. Therefore, students should develop a collaborative attitude. They need to be reminded to the corporal and sensory human qualities, which need to be essentially addressed. LB



Yiorgos Hadjichristou

Yiorgos Hadjichristou is a Professor of the Department of Architecture, University of Nicosia, and a practicing architect in Nicosia. He conducted his studies in Kiev and Kyoto University. He is the recipient of a number of national and international awards including the Golden Prize of the UIA. He has been widely published in local and international publications, and participated in various Biennale and Triennale.

Parole chiave: **Paesaggio; Contesto urbano; Natura umana; Interdisciplinarietà; Pensiero critico.**

Keywords: **Landscape; Urban environment; Human being; Interdisciplinary; Critical thinking.**



What is the most pressing challenge that architecture is asked to resolve today?

Architecture, being in the middle of the explosive global financial, social and environmental crisis inevitably is asked to decisively address these issues. It is probably the most appropriate time for architecture to grasp this crisis phenomenon as a great opportunity and propose the emergence of new, fascinating cultures and cities. It should initiate and trigger the sparking mechanism which will generate innovative and experimental ways and a new approach to dealing with discords of the relationship of the human made and natural environments. The time is ripe to redirect the major role of architecture towards the core of its existence which is the shelter for the human. Human

should regain its primordial position as the central focus of all the activities related to the built and unbuilt environment. The state of the art advancements in technology, which pushes the limits of the development of architecture, needs to be rethought and revisited in a way that human needs become the driving force of its direction. Architecture should lead to the production of a human living environment which celebrates the human sensory and corporeal qualities in both their social and individual expressions. Thus, it is probably the right momentum to allow architecture generated by interdisciplinary group of authors.



With respect to the design of the contemporary city; what is the role of architecture in managing urban phenomena?

Architecture and urban environment need to be thought as one fluid entity, where the one part influences and changes the other. Thus Architecture needs to be conceived as an organic part of the emergent urban phenomena, malleable, flexible and convertible enough in order to manage to accommodate the ever changing needs of the urban realm. Similarly, urban flows, events, public domains should be conceived in synergy with the buildings, able to accommodate and integrate them in their interweaving system. The ever growing notion of blurring boundaries will act as a catalyst to perceive architecture in broader terms responding to the evolution

of the societies. Urban phenomena will be encountered within buildings, even occupying and dissolving the boundaries which define the buildings. With the same understanding, traditional and non-traditional functions of buildings will be met within the conventional deemed urban domain, temporarily and periodically.



Architecture and design have established an exchange that is both operational and perceptive; buildings are conceived as objects and objects are conceived by those who design buildings. Between architecture and design, is it possible to define boundaries or intersections?



Juhani Pallasmaa argues that 'a building is not an end itself; it frames, articulates, restructures, gives significance, relates, separates and unites, facilitates and prohibits. Consequently, elements of an architectural experience seem to have a verb form rather than being nouns'. This poetic observation which should be relevant to the contemporary flux state of the built environment leads us to rethink the definition of the building not as mere object, but rather as constituent element of the urban entity. Apparently, in order to achieve such an approach, there should be a certain restructure of the process of the production of the buildings and the living environments. The authors of the

built environments, including the buildings should be consisted not only by those who traditionally design buildings. The author of the buildings therefore is expected to be a collaborative interdisciplinary group in synergy with various conditions that never cease to change and evolve including the new emergent climatic changes, natures and subnatures, cultures and subcultures. Consequently the design as traditionally thought will be just one of the parts of the process of production of buildings. Similarly the concept of the participatory design leads to a substantial engagement of the public to the process of the production of the built environment.



When giving advice to students, what is the most valuable tool that an architecture or design student ought to acquire during their studies?

Students as the future authors of the built environment need to forge a broad critical thinking. Following the growing notion of the interdisciplinary of architecture they will be participants and not just the sole authors of the built environment and their role will most probably change radically as the current 'star architects' system will be inevitably proved as not pertinent to the ever changing needs of the society. Therefore, it is strongly advised that students develop a collaborative attitude. By doing so, a high level of sensibility, respect and humbleness needs to be nurtured. Students need to realize that the powerful prevailing development of technology is just one of the means yielding the production of

the built environment. Similarly, students need to be conscious of the danger hidden behind the overwhelming digital world we are entering which occasionally monopolizes the process of the design. They need to be reminded that primarily, architecture is related to the corporeal and sensory human qualities, which need to be essentially addressed. Likewise, they need to be aware of the importance of both the material and immaterial aspects of architecture, on the confluence of which we may encounter with our future living environments.