

8th Semester. Elective seminar

Tutor: Paweł Grodzicki

Scope: design practice and theory

2023/24

Talking architecture

Pathfinding, discourse and criticism in 21 century architecture

Brief

The Prologue

The title of Peter Zumthor's 1998 book *Thinking Architecture* implies there is a particular mode of thinking - unique to architecture. It involves specific sensitivity, mindset and language. Architects, consciously or not, constantly and tirelessly adopt, transmit and transform those thought and action patterns in their theory (some have one...) and practice.

But... there is no such a thing as a single, true, undisputable, arcane way of making (good) architecture. There are plenty... More likely there is a multiverse of individual methods, strategies, patterns of (architectural) behavior. And they are all different, and most of them are, in their own way, are good, true, and worthy. Some are not: intellectually poor, insignificant or even devastating. And distinguishing one from the other is never obvious...

The Seminar

During the classes we will *work out*: recognizing those various patterns and strategies, understanding their meaning, subjecting them to critical analysis, positioning within the overall landscape of architectural *universum* and finally, referring those findings to our own architectural awareness and identity.

The Purpose

Our objective will be to become more aware, more sensitive and sensible, smart, more progressive, ... in short – better, wiser professionals, capable of bringing more good to the world, society, knowledge.

The Tool

To achieve the goal we will use simplest tools available: we will pick on real world cases (buildings, architects, topics, readings - of your choice) and we will be digging in, chewing, digesting and foremost: *talking architecture* (forgive combining chewing and talking...). And, as in good psychodrama – we'll taste a bit of role-taking game – by actually stepping into our character's shoes, at least in creative sense. Evidence based critical discourse will be our main focus and field of activity.

The Rules

Rule 1: only architecture, architects, topics, trends of architecture of today will be let in. (... but sometimes, if necessary, we'll also reach out to the past – if today's architecture points at / originates from it (reverse history)).

Rule 2: absolute freedom of choice, speech, reasoning, as long as it refers to architecture and supports The Purpose.