TUM

Architecture & Society

3 ECTS / SS2016

Lehrende: Prof. Dr. Ignacio Farías, Dr. Tomás S. Criado

Description:

This course invites students to reflect on apparently purely 'technical' aspects of architecture from a sociological perspective. However, rather than exploring the 'symbolic' dimension or the 'social' meaning of buildings, we would like to dwell on the practicalities of buildings, trying to provide a series of accounts on Building socialities (the forms of sociality afforded or inscribed by buildings), Building design (a reflection on how buildings are conceived, paying attention to a minute narration of the design process), and Building lives (how buildings come to life, and how the practicalities of their materials and uses affect such processes). These are the kind of questions that we will explore in this course by means of lectures, case studies and audio-visual materials. The aim of the course is enable students to reflect about their own expert practice as architects and provide them with a conceptual repertoire to understand the complex socio-technical issues of the buildings they work on.

Teaching methods:

Teaching methods will include lectures, in-class discussion of case studies and audio-visual materials.

Assessment:

Students (individually or in groups of two) will write max. 2000 words essay (approx. 5 pages) focusing on a case study. The analysis should be based on the analytical perspectives presented in the seminar and be thematically related to at least two sessions of the course.

Programme:

18.4. Introduction: Beyond architecture/society
Yaneva, A. (2012) 'On the boundary between Architecture/Society', in Mapping Controversies in Architecture. Ashgate, pages: 25-38

A. Building Socialities:

25.4. Thresholds
Latour, Bruno. (1988). Mixing humans and nonhumans together: The sociology of a door-closer. Social Problems, 35(3), 298-310.

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9.5. Building Types
Guggenheim, M. (2010). Travelling Types and the Law: Minarets, Caravans and Suicide Hospices. In M. Guggenheim & O. Söderström (Eds.), Re-shaping Cities: How global mobility transforms architecture and urban form (pp. 45–61). London: Routledge.

23.5. Lay-outs
Emmons, P., & Mihalache, A. (2013). Architectural Handbooks and the User Experience. In K. Cupers (Ed.), Use Matters: An Alternative History of Architecture (pp. 35–49). London: Routledge.

B. Building Design

30.5. Architecture without architects
Turnbull, David. (1993). The ad hoc collective work of building Gothic cathedrals with templates, string, and geometry. Science, Technology, and Human Values, 18(3), 315-340.

6.6. Models
Houdart, S. (2008). Copying, Cutting and Pasting Social Spheres: Computer Designers' Participation in Architectural Projects. Science Studies, 21(1), 47–63.

13.6. Clients
Cuff, D. (1992). 'Design Problems in Practice', in Architecture: the story of practice. Cambridge, London: MIT Press, pages 57-108.

C. Building Lives

20.6. Budgets
Georg, Susse, & Tryggestad, Kjell. (2009). On the emergence of roles in construction: the qualculative role of project management. Construction Management and Economics, 27(10), 969-981.

27.6. Materials
Edensor, Tim. (2013). Vital urban materiality and its multiple absences: the building stone of Central Manchester. Cultural Geographies, 20(4), 447-465.

4.7. Use and Maintenance
Henke, C. R. (1999). The mechanics of workplace order: Toward a sociology of repair. Berkeley Journal of Sociology, 44, 55–81.

11.7. Obsolescence
Cairns, S, & Jacobs, J.M. (2014). Obsolescence, in Buildings Must Die: A Perverse View of Architecture. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.