"Läsa insida & utsida"
"Reading inside & outside"

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Examensarbete inom arkitektur, avancerad nivå 30 hp
Degree Project in Architecture, Second Level 30 credits
25 maj 2018
INTRO

READING ARCHITECTURE

Peter Eisenman writes in The End of the Classical: The End of the Beginning, the End of the The End, "that the activity of reading architecture, objects and spaces is an activity of recognizing them as a language. Reading, in this sense, makes a level of indication available rather than a level of meaning or expression. Every object, model and drawing, should be made with the awareness that it can be read similar to a text. In other words the objects must have the capacity to reveal themselves as a reading event. The reader is not presumed to know the nature of truth in the object, the reader should be able to use it as a medium."

OBJECTIVE

The project studies how a method for reading architecture can be used in order to find a spatial strategy that can generate an architectural order. The intention has been to make an architectural project with reading in mind, test this method and evaluate the process of learning and creating.

METHOD

Building as a medium and site as a subject.

Using a certain set of drawings and models the project has read the site Karls staafs Park and buildings surrounding the site in order to find a spatial strategy to generate a structure that mediates the individual relationship between inside and outside. The same set of models and drawings have been used to design and communicate the project. The method tests if a less conventional way of discussing and reading architecture can be used in order to generate spaces and structures that perhaps goes beyond the given answer.

DISCUSSION

The method we use shapes the project. Learning how to use different methods opens up the opportunity to create new unexpected concepts and to be critical. The thesis has shifted focus from the facade by working with a method to create an inside and an outside in terms of use, distance, thresholds and spatial relations. The main theme is the individual experience of architecture and in what structure that plays out rather than a building as a whole. The thesis is not one building. It is a structure that integrates and organizes several paths and perhaps more paths in the future. The tested method made it possible to recognize and emphasize the possibilities with working with a circulation as a structural and spatial strategy in order to frame and discuss the individual experience of a building.
Inside and Outside the urban space 1_3000

ANALYSIS

Birger Jarls Gatan
Regeringsgatan
Johannes kyrkogård
Karl Staafs Park
Eriksbergsparken
Birger Jarls Gatan
Eriksbergsparken
Karl Staafs Park
Johannes kyrkogård
Model Urban space 1-1000
- reading inside the urban space

Model Urban space 1-1000
- reading outside the urban space
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE OUTLINES

To study this relationship I choose to read three individual paths in three different buildings that are surrounding the site. The buildings are not chosen for their special qualities. They are chosen because they are built in different times and are containing different programs. They are not to used as direct references, they are used as subjects in order to study how on can read the relationship between inside and outside:

1. Street to bedroom
2. Street to workspace
3. Street to coffee room

When reading these paths I have focused on reading:

- Distance
- Thresholds as in openings
- Hierarchy/ consequences
- Spatial layers
- Sequences/ section
The individual path

The individual use of a building. Instead of looking at the building as a system the axometry explores the individual experience in relation to the hole building. Being inside the building but outside most of its space, not having a possibility to get an overview by experience. The path visualize the journey from the most public street to the intimate private bedroom. Each step, threshold, space and different direction one takes builds the inside and the outside and reinforces the experienced distance.

Section/Sequences (1:400)

Step
Entrance
Hall
Step
Second Hall
Elevator/ Stair
(turn)
Stairwell
Entrance
Hall
Second hall
Corridor
(turn)
Passage
Bedroom

Reading inside and outside

Thresholds

Different thresholds, frames spaces and gives them an internal hierarchy. Almost each room has its unique thresholds which give the room a special value and reveal or suggest its program. (1:400)

Spatial Layers

Layers of rooms are surrounding the path, every passing is reinforcing the choice of the end destination. The rooms are not just inside the building they are also inside the context of the apartment. On the way one loses the visual contact with outside, the exterior, another outside is created by the rooms which are adjacent outside the path. (1:400)

Plan

The plan is a product of a social structure from a different time. The social spaces are separated from the serving spaces, such as the kitchen. The private and the public space do not mix, there is an inside and an outside in the apartment in they way it is structured. (1:400)

Distance/ Relation

The circulation and distance indicates which rooms that are more public, easy to reach and which rooms that are more private and almost hidden in the apartment. (1:400)
Hierarchy/Consequences

Inside the individual path

Hierarchy/Consequences

Outside the individual path
Supporting functions have fixed thresholds and are treated exactly the same. Open spaces are divided by different internal divisions made by preliminary solutions that serve flexible organisation. (1:400)

Thresholds

Each plan is repeated almost exactly the same. By reading plan 3 one can read the whole building. (1:400)

Spatial layers

Layers of rooms and different programs are surrounding the path. The central main corridor divides the inside in two sides and the corridor can be read as the internal outside between the connecting spaces. (1:400)

Plan

Each plan is repeated almost exactly the same. By reading plan 3 one can read the whole building. (1:400)

Distance / Relation

The circulation has a rational logic; there is almost none hierarchy between the spaces as they are equally easy to reach in terms of how many choices one has to make to get there and what one is passing on the way. The system of spaces causes no unexpected or hidden events, but perhaps because everything looks the same the building might get hard to navigate. (1:400)

The individual path

The individual use of a building, instead of looking at the building as a system the axonometry explores the individual experience in relation to the whole building. Being inside the building but outside most of its spaces, not having a possibility to get an overview by experience, but because the building structure is repetitive and rational in its planning the individual can read the building by reading one fragment that testifies about the whole.

Section / Sequences (1:200)

Hull
Elevator / Stair
Main corridor (turn)
Corridor (turn)
Workspace
Hierarchy/Consequences
Inside the individual path

Hierarchy/Consequences
Outside the individual path
The individual path

The individual use of a building. Instead of looking at the building as a system the axonometry explores the individual experience in relation to the hole building. The Café becomes more an inside of the street than an inside of the building when the individual experienced is so limited. One can not read the Café, visit the Café and read the building as a hole.

Reading inside and outside

The plan separates the different activities. The residents have their own entrance and the Café operates autonomously in the building. The ground floor belongs to the guest from the street and is an outside from the rest of the building. (1:400)

Tresholds

The tresholds to the street are wide and open. The Café affirms the street and invites the outside on the inside. The internal tresholds are used to shut out separating activities and are made for functional purposes. (1:400)

Spatial layers

The spatial layers surrounding the Café do not have a direct impact on the space. Being inside the Café you are still outside the rest of the building. The distinction between the street outside and the Café inside is blurred as they the Café works like an extension of the street life. (1:400)

Section/Sequences (1:200)

Pavement
Rope
Serving
Entrance
Serving
Coffe

Pavement
Rope
Serving
Entrance
Serving
Coffe

Street to Café

Birger Jarlsatan 53, plan 0

Plan

The plan separates the different activities. The residents have their own entrance and the café operates autonomously in the building. The ground floor belongs to the guest from the street and is an outside from the rest of the. (1:400)

Distance/ Relation

The circulation separates different activities. Each activity in the building have their own different independant circulation system. The café is reached directly from the street and has its own relation with the outside. (1:400)
Hierarchy/ Consequences

Inside the individual path

Hierarchy/ Consequences

Outside the individual path
METHOD

Reading inside and outside the outline

Site plan 1-1000
METHOD STRUCTURE

1. INSIDE OUTSIDE
   - 1st STRUCTURE
   - 2nd STRUCTURE
   - 3rd STRUCTURE

2. FRAMING INSIDE OUTLINE AND OUTSIDE SPACES
   - 1st SYSTEM
   - 2nd SYSTEM
   - 3rd SYSTEM

3. A BETWEEN SPACE
   - FRAMING INSIDE OUTLINE AND OUTSIDE SPACES

4. INTERNAL ORDER OF COLLIDING STRUCTURES
   - THE STRUCTURE OF IN BETWEEN

5. Vertical Communication
   - METHOD STRUCTURE

6. A BETWEEN SYSTEM
   - SYSTEM INSIDE OUTLINE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE SYSTEM

7. FRAMING INSIDE OUTSIDE SPACES
The structure of in between

Structure north view

Structure south view
Reading structure with individual paths

The path is used to design the individual relation between outside and inside in the structure. Each step, threshold, space and different direction one takes builds the inside and the outside and reinforces the experienced distance. The paths give further ideas about the whole.

The individual path/axonometry

The paths are designed to give us an idea of the whole and we fill the void with what we can extract from the paths. The axonometry reads each path individual identity in the structure.

Section Sequences

The sequences of spaces reads the path as a linear spatial story. The sequences varies depending on the internal order of the path. The structure in this reading is almost non-existent, it becomes merely a frame as if it had an inherent chronology.

Thresholds

Different thresholds/openings frames spaces and gives them an internal hierarchy. The city surrounding the paths is consciously affirmed or rejected throughout the application of openings, making the city a motif.

Spatial Layers

Layers of spaces are surrounding the path, every passing is reinforcing the choice of the end destination. The rooms are not just inside the building they are also inside a context. On the way one loses the visual contact with outside, the exterior, another outside is created by the rooms which are adjacent outside the path.

Plan

The plan is a product of a social structure. The In Between Structure serves as a meeting space shared by the inhabitants and visitors. It can hold a flexible or a more permanent program but is always public or semi public.

Distance

The circulation and distance indicates which rooms that are more public, easy to reach and which rooms that are more private.

Hierarchy/Consequences

The generated spaces are consequences of an inherent hierarchy set by the relationship between site, structure and the individual paths. The paths read the spatial qualities and characteristics of The Structure of In between, where inside and outside are in collision, both present in the same space. This is expressed in terms of light, visual contact, spatial forms, dominating structural elements and invasive expectations.
PROCESS/PRODUCT: INDIVIDUAL PATHS IN STRUCTURE
B. Street to office

Office in structure north view

Fragment north view

Office in structure south view

Fragment south view
C. Street to home

Home in structure north view

Fragment north view

Home in structure south view

Fragment south view
Spatial layers
section 1 1:100
Spatial layers
section 2 1:200
A. Street to exhibition

Sequenses/ section
1:200

BIRGER JARLSGATAN ENTRANCE MAIN HALL CORRIDOR STAIRWELL CORRIDOR BAR PUBLIC EXHIBITION VIEW BIRJER JARLSGATAN VIEW SKY
B. Street to office
C. Street to home
Sequences/ section
1:200

D. Street to restaurant
Hierarchy/ consequences

Bar exhibition space
Public exhibition space
Entrance south
Heirarchy/ consequences

Entrance Regeringsgatan
Heirarchy/ consequences

Stairway to restaurant
Heirarchy/ consequences

Paus
Heirarchy/ consequences

Entrance Birjer Jarlsgatan
Heirarchy/ consequences

Outside corridor
Main entrance Birjer jarlsgatan

Entrance Regeringsgatan
Second entrance Birger jarlsgatan

Opening framing the city
Background
The city wants to change the usage/program for Karls Staafs Park which is identified as an underutilized park. The new plan for this site is as a part of the densification of Stockholm to meet the high demand on housing and office space. Erikbergs Exploaterings AB has suggested together with the city a mixed used building that should contain 55 housing units and commercial amenities on the ground floor in order to extend Birger Jarlsgatan’s commercial streets. (The city demands a new innovative profile building with high attraction and a creative expression.)

Introduction
Stockholm is growing fast and as a consequence the city wants to densify certain sites. By taking a public site and making it semi private and private one could ask how the relationship between the formal urban exterior space and the intimate informal interior space work? How can they benefit from one another and how this tension can be read and structured. This project will try to shift focus from the facade and exterior volumes as what primarily defines a building in an urban context and study the inside and the outside as a whole. Reading what the inside and outside is made of the project aim to explore the hierarchy in this relationship and what the logic is behind the consequences a space has on the inside and outside. Using a different set of drawings and models the project will try to read conflicts, tensions, theories, experiences, ideas and questions that comes from this relationship and how it can be mediated by architecture.

Objective
The project studies how a method for reading a space can be used in order to find a spatial strategy that can generate a project. Reading a site, a program and a question by investigating a certain relation might produce an idea that could go beyond the given answer. The intention is to make an architectural proposal with reading in mind, test a method and evaluate the process of learning and creating.

Method
Architecture is an art of consequences. The method we use shapes the project. Learning how to use different methods opens up the opportunity to create new unexpected concepts and to be critical.

Relation: inside and outside
The process will focus on reading the relationship between the inside and outside and try to find the parameters that defines and creates them on and around the site. By reading this relationship the project will try to identify spatial orders that can be used in the process for creating the new building.
Reading architecture

Peter Eisenman writes in *The End of the Classical: The End of the Beginning, the End of the End*, that the activity of reading architecture, objects and spaces is an activity of recognizing them as a language. Reading, in this sense, makes a level of indication available rather than a level of meaning or expression. Every object, model and drawing, should be made with the awareness that it can be read similar to a text. In other words the objects must have the capacity to reveal themselves as a reading event. The reader is not presumed to know the nature of truth in the object, the reader should be able to use it as a medium.

Generating architecture

Architects never work directly with the object of our creation, the building. To develop our objects we work with different models, drawings and diagrams, which work as guides to create buildings. Therefore it becomes important to learn how to work with and develop these objects so they become useful in the process of making a building. The drawings and models that interest us the most are maybe the ones that are able to abstract, communicate and read a distinctness to the thing that is represented. Recognition of this distinctness of the things we create seems to give them a type of power beyond representation. A power of it’s own, that can trigger a revaluation of what was thought to be given.

The thesis recognizes that every object, (model, drawing, diagram etc) that are made are mediums that emphasize and filter certain aspects in order to communicate a certain message. Objects are tests and representations and studies trying to explore certain reading and made in an attempt to understand a space further. These objects should each test a certain idea and should be able to trigger further studies.

Project

The thesis project will rewrite a site in Stockholm with a mix used building by reading and studying parameters that are creating the relationship between the exterior and the interior and how this tension can generate a structure. The site, Karl Staafs Park in central Stockholm is chosen for its potential to become densified but also as a subject of being a dense urban space where the tension between the most private inside and the public outside is intense. On this already dense urban site it becomes of interest to understand how one can create a dynamic inside that can reinforce the outside and vice versa. The site is further used as a subject for testing how one can read the relationship between the outside and the inside. The intention is not to find the right way or perhaps the best way, the intention is to explore this perspective.

The thesis project aims to explore the architectural relationship between the inside and the outside by accumulating and evaluating a research through models, drawings and texts in order to make an architectural proposal. The process doing this is in focus since the thesis intention is to explore a method and how it can function in order to generate an architectural idea.

References


