

open architecture

"Nessun progetto di architettura dovrebbe rinunciare a durare, e per ottenere ciò servono gerarchie di senso. [...] Come possiamo avvicinarci a ciò che è eterno?"

Architecture does not respond to a program, it uses it as a working material.

It uses the program as it uses stone, wood, history or theory.

A program is a necessity and a starting point as well as many other influences conditioning a project.

The program is not used as a goal but as a mean.

Architecture seeks permanence.

Its quality includes the ability to be a support, over time, with freedom.

A project does not impose a form of use, it facilitates discovery.

Architecture unites, in its clarity, an idea, a structure, an evident design.

The coherence of an architectural proposal implies a clear choice, a precise thought that before being constructed is already a built matter.

Architecture has no starting rules, it builds itself on its path. The choices made during a project make its logic evolve and by doing so they transform not only its development but also its references, its history.

In every moment a project, in its identity, rewrites the whole process.

The meaning of each project is contained in itself, and its evidence is measured by an intrinsic logic that legitimizes it.

A sense that is inscribed in the physical world, made of matter, construction and systems, or in the cultural world, in history or theory.

What makes a timeless architecture?

Which are the characters that allow the permanence and the use of an architecture in time? Which buildings guarantee various possibilities of use, remaining open to the different appropriations that time brings with it?

Through these questions and thoughts the atelier wants to work on spaces that do not respond to programmatic needs, but that are infrastructures for life, using the program as an excuse and not as a goal.

Infrastructures that resist and open to the widest possibility of use through time.

We chose the city of Napoli. We want to investigate the possibilities of buildings that are able to answer these questions, transforming this landscape, its life and its image with architectures able to adapt and be a support through time...

In this sense, the project becomes a cultural fact. A new centre that creates its genesis, its own references. From its presence it builds its past, free to find its evidence in the future.

"The resistance of a building is its capacity of adapting to multiple functions in space and time.

Architects should reflect on structures, on architectures open to possibilities.

The role of architecture should also ensure the resistance of a building over time."²

¹ Livio Vacchini, Capolavori, Umberto Allemandi e c., Torino 2007

² Manuel Aires Mateus, Aires Mateus per Pionira, 2019, Lisbona, disponibile in URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V_J5S7bAko&t=569s&ab_channel=PIONIRA

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site: naples, italy

project type: individual

first meeting: 22|09|2022 10h00 atelier

travel dates: 29.09.2022 - 02.10.2022

travel itinerary: naples

professors: manuel aires mateus

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