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Urban Matters: Material Engagements with Communities and Borders in Times of Movement

Book of abstracts (panels)

the ecologies of architecture, which he puts forward with his doctoral studies on a genealogy of apartments. Robert is currently a guest teacher and PhD candidate at the Chair of Methods and Analysis, TU Delft.

Athenian Technicities and Urban Black Holes

Stavros Kousoulas

A manipulative account of architecture as an active process of ecological engineering can pave the way towards a particular understanding of architectural practices: architectural technicities and their reticular, affective potentials. Drawing on the theories of Gilbert Simondon, André Leroi-Gourhan, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, I will examine how architecture can be approached as a reticular technicity which evolves by a reciprocal *concretisation* of its technical objects and a *generalisation* of its active practitioners. In this regard, the reticularity of the Athenian architectural technicities will highlight the production of both an architectural subject and an architectural object, effectively surpassing any binary between the two. In its involution, Athens itself attained a moment of concretisation: becoming at once and everywhere, a milieu whose energetic exchanges are regulated by the membranic play of limits that occurs in the urban unit, continuously reversing the relation between its interior and its exterior. Therefore, next to the three dimensional Athenian ecologies of a dense sprawl of housing units, many more emerge: forming a plane that is ndimensional, a plane of desires, of micro and macro-architectures in which anything Athenian wishes its becoming other.

Ever since the emergence of its structures and its operations, the logics of the Athenian involution were individuating in a relative continuity. However, after the turn of the century a profound dephasing would occur, a bifurcation that would reorganize the diagram of the Athenian urban ecologies. The massive and still ongoing influx of refugees from many Asian and Arab countries that started in the beginning of the century would meet a radical change in the Athenian technicities that occurred after the Olympic Games of 2004, producing the germ that would transform the Athenian urban ecologies: an absolute retreat to the private, understood not in financial or market terms but in terms of stratification and rigidification. Examined from that point of view, the urban unrests of 2008 and 2011 can be approached as the gradual formation of a *black hole*: before the formation of infinite micro-fascists, one for every body, for every housing unit, for every loan granted and every debt still owed, for every immigrant and every other, for all the exclusive disjunctions of a binary between *us* and *them*.

What in the case of Athens is conceived as the proliferation of infinite micro-fascist subjectivities, is no other than the emergence of infinite reactive subjects out of the Athenian urban ecologies and their technicities themselves. Precisely for this reason, any attempt to speak of an Athens yet-to-come should not involve the production of yet another narrative (of urban change, social justice or political emancipation) but rather the affirmative production of a futurity through the actual and virtual potentials of an environmental manipulation that occurs *here-and-now* while aiming at a *not-here-and-not-yet*.

Drs. ir. Stavros Kousoulas studied Architecture at the National Technical University of Athens and at TU Delft. Since 2012, as a researcher and lecturer, he is involved in several academic activities at the Theory Section of the Faculty of Architecture of TU Delft. Currently, he is a PhD candidate at IUAV Venice participating in the Villard d' Honnecourt International Research Doctorate. He has published and lectured in Europe and abroad. He is a member of the editorial board of Footprint since 2014. stakousou@yahoo.gr

Ecologies of Migration: Metabolic Borderscapes and Relational Architectures Heidi Sohn [with Ramón Córdova-González, project*]