

ARKITEKTONISK KVALITET

2007
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This Ph.D. dissertation concerns architectural quality. While architectural quality is a topic that traditionally has been characterized by escaping introspection and explicitness - thus not being a subject for research – I have been facing a dual task. The primary task has been the actual research on this professional central topic while the simultaneous challenge has been developing the topic of architectural quality for research.

The Ph.D. dissertation takes off with the questions of how to investigate architectural quality in a way that is sufficiently exact in isolating and handling this ephemeral phenomenon in a meaningful manner, but not as rigid and tight as to change the character of the phenomenon? And how is it possible to establish a way of speaking of architectural quality, which does not corrupt the relationships the concepts are pointing at?

In the dissertation, architectural quality is examined from five different perspectives that move from the philosophical through the theoretical and on to the practical dimensions of architectural quality. From a philosophical perspective, some of the core issues regarding architectural quality are distilled, among others, as a part of the especially aesthetics. Here, a point of departure is also established for the dissertation, which transcends the dualism and instead focuses on relations. From these questions are different levels of description identified, levels which together constitutes a theoretical model for an examination of architectural quality transcending the actual level of work. Using the levels of description, a connection between architectural quality and the concept of tension is established, thus further specifying the phenomenon. Finally, architectural quality is explored both in relations to elements in the design praxis of the architectural profession, understood



as architectural hyper-sensibility or tuning, and in relation to the linguistic and communicative praxis, which architectural quality is a part of. The developed theoretical models and connections are an attempt to give architectural quality a theoretical body, functional structure and verbal expression as a contribution to understanding, handling and communicating the phenomenon meaningfully.

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