ARCHITECTURAL TRASFORMATIVE POTENTIAL

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Elena Guidetti
Politecnico di Torino
Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129, Turin, Italy, elena.guidetti@polito.it

Abstract

The current adaptive-reuse strategies mostly focus on the untapped potential, even if such potential is not appropriately coded and a proper definition concerning its meaning is still lacking.

Stemming from the roots embedded in other disciplines, the first essay provides a broad definition of the architectural potential, both in a theoretical and operational sense, allowing one to propose a set of behaviours regarding the architectural potential. Such potential acts in a detected force field and it may be positive or negative, it is multiple and not unique, acting as a function or a flow that needs a trigger element in order to be activated.

The research suggests the architectural transformative potential as an open function, connecting the embodied energy untapped in the built matter and the morphological asset related to its structural dimensions. The classification of the existing built environment in structural types -as social ideal-types in Weber- allows to consider dismissed buildings as infrastructures beyond their previous functional purpose, addressing the concept of architecture transformative potential expressed by a predictive function attempting to give weight to the use-options concerning the dismissed architectural spaces. (Figure1)

The architecture transformative potential is an innovative key to evaluate the real starting condition of a dismissed architecture, in order to address further approaches on it, such interventions are finally free from the constrictions of functions -not more relevant nowadays- and capable to analyse all the range of options, even the non-intervention.

Keywords: transformative potential, embodied energy, post-function, trans-use, flexibility

Topic: Enter T1 - Adapted Reuse / Change of Use / Flexibility