



KTH School of Architecture

Abstract:

In this dissertation it is argued that urban planning and design became subject to architectural knowledge in the 20th century to a degree not encountered in earlier centuries. Further, that this not is an innocent occurrence in that, following the proposition of Bill Hillier, what characterises architecture and distinguishes it from building in general is that it is the product of considerations on the configurative level of built form, and that it is this configurative level that primarily influences the functionality of built form. In the theses of the theses of the dissertation this is taken as grounds for suggesting, firstly, that on a most fundamental level there are certain preferences of form within architectural knowledge, due to the generative emphasis inherent in such knowledge, as opposed to the derivative emphasis found in building in general. More precisely it is proposed that these preferences are characterised by a high degree of both specificity and actuality, as opposed to generality and potentiality. Secondly, this also implies certain particularities when it comes to the functional performance of such form, where it is suggested that the character of this functionality is of a reproductive kind, as opposed to a productive kind, due to these formal preferences.

Thus, the over-all argument in the theses is constituted by two relations; the first between what is called architectural knowledge and certain preferences in form, the second between these particular forms and certain functional performances. The investigations in this dissertation focus on the second of these relations, that between form and function, while the first, that between knowledge and form, is more generally hinted at by references. The methodological approach aimed at is a morphological one. In short it means that the argument is built on findings in analyses of built form, further supported by reading of texts. In connection to this, the methods and theories developed within space syntax are widely quoted and used.

Keywords: *architecture; knowledge, urban form; function; morphology; configuration; space syntax; action theory; premises; capacity; social and economic productivity/reproductivity*

Doktorsavhandling/Doctoral Dissertation
TRITA-ARK-Akademisk Avhandling 2000:2
ISSN 1402-7461
ISRN KTH/ARK/AA-00:2-SE
ISBN 91-7170-506-6
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