

DIPLOMA THESIS ASSESSMENT

for:

Haruka Kajiura

Academic year:

2022/2023

Topic Title:

Wasteology / Potential for the wasteful space in architecture in the future

Assignment:

Through the rise of digital technologies many countries are developing the concept of Compact and Smart City with integrated AI systems and other new technologies as their vision for the future. These cities and its buildings are efficient, functional, and economical, easy to control in every aspect of its functionality. However, problems of urban health are predicted in terms of citizen well-being. This thesis is testing the potential of Wasteful space (according to work of prof. K. Shinohara and his term Wasteful space established in *Jutaku-Ron: Houses and architectural theory*, 1970) and proposes an experimental architecture with wasteful spaces in different urban conditions.

The proposal must include the following elements:

Discovery/recognition of needs for wasteful behaviour and space in contemporary life and cities (e.g. Japan, Columbia) potential of wasteful space and its evidence, proposal of experimental architecture with wasteful space.

Comment on work procedure and proposed solution:

Haruka Kajiura joined our faculty in the time of Covid-19 in the fall of 2020 and after overcoming all the complications associated with arriving in the Czech Republic, he found himself in the middle of a full lockdown, isolated at the dormitories in an unfamiliar environment, in a foreign culture without the possibility of personal contact with classmates and teachers, and without the possibility of traveling and exploring new territory.

This experience of isolation and estrangement is than indirectly reflected in his choice of assignment for his diploma thesis. It was connected here with his long-lasting interest in the architecture of follies, objects without a clear rational function, objects created outside the technocratic framework of economic logic and practical efficiency. And these also led him to an interest in Wasteology and the exploration of the potential and importance of preserving the non-rational component in architectural design as a necessary condition for the preservation of humanity element and for the healthy development of the human personality.

Staying in Covid-19 isolation and the subsequent euphoria from the possibility of free travel allowed Haruka to gain a distant view and a new perspective on life in Japanese Megapolis, which, like a depersonalized, efficient and rational machine, tightly grip the lives of their inhabitants and, like a well-oiled, fully functional machine, direct them through space in order to fulfill their economic activities. The immense pressure on the human psyche that such an efficiently built environment, deprived of all "unnecessary" irrational parts, has on its inhabitants was fully revealed precisely in the

time of Covid-19. The machine stopped and revealed to its users - residents, who in their daily rush do not have time to fully experience their city, how little space it actually provides for human free time activities, daily social life and community interactions. There is no better metaphor for this transformation of the city into a machine than the one Haruka is showing in his analysis - the historical development of Nagoya's city block, when originally a temple stood in its center, now there is a concrete area of a parking lot.

Haruka's work is fully in line with the spirit of Japanese architecture. Lightness and temporality are in the very DNA of Japanese architecture, and the immateriality, ethericity, modesty and disappearance of architecture that we admire in the early works of Kazuo Sejima, Sou Fujimoto, Akihisa Hirata, Junya Ishigami and other contemporary Japanese architects is fused with the Japanese natural environment, culture and philosophy and is easily distinguishable from other architectural production thanks to its DNA. And it is precisely the element of the irrational, the hidden unnameable essence that causes us to be fascinated by Japanese architecture. And it was probably the architect, the great teacher Kazuo Shinohra and his definition of Wasteful space, which planted ideas about the need for uselessness, uselessness as a potential space for freedom and the birth of the unexpected, in the heads of today's globally recognized architects. His work and ideas still evoke a need for confrontation and interpretation among young Japanese architects.

The fact that this is not a simple task, but perhaps too big a bite, a deep philosophical dive, where it is very easy to lose direction and orientation, Haruka realized very soon after starting his thesis. Wasteology became a Zen Koan to him and for some time it seemed to be indecipherable to him. The answer offered too many elusive solutions, too many paths to take. There was also the danger that he would not be able to continue from this crossroad.

The path that Haruka ultimately took is one of many possible, and by taking it, he excluded testing approaches that someone might find more interesting or beneficial. I have no doubt that in his professional life, Haruka will keep coming back and exploring other roads and that this will lead him to a colorful and creative life. On the path he chose to defend in his diploma thesis, he had to switch from his Covid-set contemplative pace to a proper sprint at the end in order to cross the finish line. Although he may have missed a few details in the final sprint, he delivered an internally consistent, conceptually coherent and comprehensively conceived solution thanks to his sincere concern for the essence of the problem.

Evaluation:

The project is well developed in terms of concept, content and form. The concept is strong, persuasive and clearly presented as well as individual parts of the design and territory. Due to a good communication over the project during the semester, Haruka Kajiura was able to successfully solve most of the problematic parts of the proposal and therefore I can only state that better time management of the project would allow him to achieve more elaborated presentation. Haruka Kajiura thinks very deeply about his projects and his work comes with unexpected poetic elements. His diploma projects show us the need of sensitive contemplative moments in contemporary architecture to keep balance with rational and economically efficient direction of building industry.

The Haruka Kajiura's project meets the requirements for a Diploma Thesis.

The work of another person was not used illegally and intentionally in the project.

I accept the thesis for the title challenge and I suggest the evaluation:

B – excellent minus

In Liberec 15.6.2023

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Thesis supervisor

