

Within a hierarchy of atmospheres: Lorenteggio's New Library

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The architectural role is not only restricted to the simplicity of an answer linked to necessity and time, but to dimensions and proportions, through the relation between knowledge and practice, that are constantly and temporally related to transformations that has, as a crucial tool, the way the body lives, modulates and regulates space.

The present research intends to focus on the understanding of how the body negotiates and impacts space with the approach and study of a specific study case - a competition entry for a new library in Lorenteggio, Milano.

The contrast present in spectator vs user or architect vs individual will be deeply studied through an experimental approach, an internship and competition in Italy, which provided and allowed an exchange of new and different perspectives and forms of knowledge. A reflection on how the potentiality of the different meanings, interpretations and values interfere in the architectural process and how the Human, architect or individual, explores the space and objects that are inherent to him.

The building, presenting itself as a hierarchy of atmospheres in constant metamorphosis and dynamism, is revealed as a landscape in continuous evolution. This line of thought contributes to a perception of how exterior conditions to the body are related or conditioned by it; and it is in this dialogue between body and surroundings, flexibility and fluidity that is founded the heart of this New Library.

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Architectural spaces stimulate a reading and comprehension related to the behavior of man, leading to the fact that these atmospheres can be continuously changing in a physical or even symbolic way, encouraging to a wide and diverse theme related to the condition of dwelling. Architecture as knowledge or discipline must be balanced with creativity and experiences linked to a social world, where the physical reality is transmitted by the relationship made with the buildings and established through the action of dwelling.

The relevance of a space is shaped and can change through different actions and experiences of each person. Admitting that the same space contains in itself innumerable sensations, feelings and meanings, they provoke in its habitants an understanding of this ambience that is related, clearly, to the experiences previously acquired.

The architect, who proposes to establish in these new atmospheres a condition of comfort and familiarity, needs to be challenged in a path towards a new and exclusive position reached during his design process and always taking in consideration a total and full analysis of all the aspects that are rooted to them, in order to create something authentic. It is through this influent and flexible language, in this manifestation of information, that the circumstances of the architect's work are synthesized; a process that is not exhausted in the capacity of drawing but has always present the meanings of knowledge and emotion.

It is understood, therefore, that space arises from the personal values as well as from an attempt of new forms of dwelling, which correspond to the interests of the community where they are rooted. A constant interaction between man and space, that can be redefined as often and necessary and, in which, is always present a comprehension of the way it interacts in public or private, since they are characters with ends that are too distinct but whose purposes are complementary.

In this sense, within a mental process that extends itself from the theoretical notions and concepts, translated into a dialogue between strategies that are continually reflected in new values and meanings, in a context whose reality changes and is unexpected, characterized as a manifest capable to transmit freedom and flexibility into the appropriation of the different atmospheres, that will allow a clear and solid analysis of all the architectural aspects mentioned above, the New Library of Lorenteggio, is presented as a study case.

For the elaboration of this project and in order to reach and understand the quality of the spaces and services the library should propose, it has become as important a careful attention with the local community and its reality. The competition for the Lorenteggio's library is not only restricted to the construction of this building, but to an ample urban project and social requalification of the district of Lorenteggio-Giambellino, in Milan, whose process and analyzes were developed with extreme attention to the problems inherent in the area concerned. This innovative project of intervention and restructuring aims to create new conditions, which now appear to be nonexistent, mainly like, restoring social integration, interfering in public spaces, mobility systems and finally, administration of many properties.

In order to achieve a balance, placing the current and future libraries in counterpoint, a fundamental criteria will be a continuity between the two, through the design concepts, functional and architectural distribution, especially when taking into consideration the difference of scales this building will acquire. Moving to completely different realities of territory, not only in urban terms, but knowing as well that this same library will be more than double its size, it is necessary to analyze carefully the pros and cons of the area and the building's conditions and characteristics.

Therefore, this new library presents itself as a squared device, without any dominant direction, a project full of elements and concepts that affirm a safe reality where it is possible to destroy and reconstruct, redesign or invent new atmospheres;. This spatial structure will be characterized as an experimental environment where its appropriation renders the building, transforming and "gaining its own life" transversally to its actor, who presents himself as an active spectator in a "laboratory of creativity".

A grid modulated as a neutral space ready to be modified, structures the shape of the library, defining and undefining it, but having always both function and flexibility ensured.

Presenting itself as a hierarchy of atmospheres in a constant metamorphosis and dynamism, its revealed as a landscape in continuous evolution. A perception of how external conditions to the body can be related or conditioned by it, a dialogue between body and surroundings, flexibility and fluidity, that all combined found the essence of the Lorenteggio's New Public Library.

A space of reflection and multiple possibilities of usufruct intends to project a social cohesion and integration of the area. An open molded space waiting to be experienced and inhabited that plays a crucial role in the society, offering a new centrality to the cultural activities, activating and consolidating the society and developing a good management and coexistence with the intention of revitalizing the cultural and even economics of the block.

A library whose main importance is to carry out a large number of activities and study, of course, which is able to support the services of existing schools and university libraries. A social place dedicated also to foreign cultures and languages, an inclusion without any kind of restriction.

Thereby, this work is followed, in order to reinforce and translate the entire mental process underlying the library, an understanding and interpretation of the strategy used, not only of the final proposal but also of its process, from the schemes and initial sketches to the detail of its construction. A pertinent attention was paid to the diverse moments of the competition, announcing all the drawings of the two phases of the project. In this way and with a clear and transparent way of thinking, this search for the meaning of the architectural concepts set to the particularity of the determined materials, allowed us to begin to understand the project, that although it was not yet done, began to be a group of sensations that included the perception of the whole, strengthening the final character of the work.

The development of this project and its conceptual evolution underlines, of course, a work carried out in a group, not only of the office on which I worked on, but also an implicit study carried on by the associations that started this contest, because as Álvaro Siza says, *"this mold does not depend, as is evident, of the brain of a single person. The architect is the*

watchful observer of the problems that need to be solved and the discussions that surround these problems arise. Instead of being a function of a sum of opinions, the result of his work will be a synthesis of all the contributions, after scrupulously discussed the correctness of each one."

This allows a new real perception, distinct from the academic approach, by the surrounding, context, regulations, budgets to the particularity of the project itself. A process and analysis that necessarily have a big influence on the design and construction of the project and its possible representations, such as technical drawings, renderings, models, etc., aimed to give a confident and firm space that is determined as ready to build.

In conclusion, assuming that the process of creation is crucial and important in this search for something irreducible as a project, the BAN – Baglivo Begrini Architetti, studio in Rome, corresponded to an experimental approach that promoted an extension of capacities and interests in different contexts and social environments. A first approximation of the real world, developed as a comprehensive articulation between thoughts that were already intuitive or pre-defined, with a whole vast notion of new patterns and symbologies of architectural forms unknown until then.

So, as a student and whose curiosity about this particular architectural knowledge has no limits, I interpret it as a critical skill composed by a crucial education that is completed by a personal and professional development. A constant search for new meanings, forms of knowledge and values acquired through the interaction of new cultures, whose strategies and methods differ, allowing the transmission by both of new perspectives and forms of work process, that reflects on a way of thinking about what is said to be valid in architecture is relative to time and culture.

An experimental period in Italy provided a space for open reflection on the multiple approaches between the way in which new ideas and processes are transmitted, accepting possibilities of transversal and alternative approaches to a response that was initially thought to be only local and isolated.