

Architecture and Transvaluation

**Spirituality and Transformative Evolution in Intentional Environments
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Abstract

This paper is based on a dissertation completed in 2015.

Goal in Architecture:

The essential mutual claimedness (Verknüpfung)¹ of one another of architecture and spirituality.

My dissertation questions what it is to 'make' the world in terms of an architectural profession that intends values different from technology of building. What are those? What is the essence that leads to wide agreement that architecture exists, despite an often poor understanding of what it is?

An approach to architectural practice with spiritual practice based in rajayoga and its antecedents allows contextualization of technology in architectural practice, whereby technology is questioned. A disciplined approach can be made to the subject of the symposium. In harmonizing architecture and spirituality through their modes of practice, a conception of 'shifting' the basis of architecture and its values from the matter of building to an essence of architecture can be expressed. What is meant by spirituality is the inherent transformative evolutionary intent of (human) Being in dwelling as aspiration. This has methods which are proven over millennia and the results have driven the world cultures and societies accordingly, often devolving into derivative religions that convert value to power and harness the society according to the shining aspect of what was attained. This paper will propose this 'shift' in terms of the four themes defined for this symposium.

There is no difference in principle between architecture and any other discipline in terms of this issue. Architectural practice provides a unique approach to the topic² having directly to do with dwelling(s). Architecture and building technologies can be likened to universities and its academia which has essentially become technology of learning. How does education dwell? Its methodologies and cultures show that it presences aspiration and serves as a superordinate programme of structures and the built forms of intentional environments. University in all its complexity is an intentional environment. Its futurity will then be researching how education presences the potential of selected modes and means of awareness³ in specific terms of architectural practice and education.

The conclusion is that architectural practice and education are inverted values of the knowledge we now prioritize. This paper proposes, via spiritual practice as rajayoga, that transvaluation of 'knowledge production' and 'efficiency-standards' determines that the terms of architecture as a superordinate programme of the intentional environment already always served this. The widening of the knowledge as we take it now "that strives for continuous evolving perfectibility" "do not

¹ *Verknüpfung*: a connection that is a combinatory linking operation which joins at a nexus.

² I presented a paper allied to this symposium at the conference *Unspoken Issues in Architectural Education*, to be published in *Open House International* v.40 No.3, 2015.

³ See Larson for a description of content-filled awareness and content-less awareness of the *Yogasutras* as a way to approach the inter-linkage between *thinking* and human evolution. What we think and its products are technology in architecture is to "strive for continuous evolving perfectibility ... [while] creative processes involved lie beyond sheer knowledge-accumulation".

necessarily increase or ~~diminish~~ knowledge”⁴. To consider “redesigning of human relations in the world” or the “stretching of the concept of knowledge” and others are contradictory to the aims of the symposium unless it is to support aspiration. 'Academia' would be transformed. The basis of the value for an 'academic' would change and re-emerge from technicist efficiency and production. Aspiration is intuition of which the highest is love for which there is no measurable attributes to verify in scientifically. It can not be bought and sold.

Keywords: architectural practice, rajayoga, building technology, spirituality.

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⁴ Quotes in the abstract are all from *Transvaluation: Making the World Matter. Description of the symposium themes*. Strikethrough by author.

<http://www.chalmers.se/en/departments/arch/research/Conferences/Transvaluation%20Symposium/Pages/default.aspx>