Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Architecture as a silent static supporting actor in films

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. present in person (without a written paper)

• Abstract (300 words):
  This paper attempts to understand the role of architecture in a film as an on-screen character or performer to elaborate the narrative instead of only functioning as scenery, stage or backdrop. This study discusses the role of architecture in films as a silent static performing character. The study pivots around the use of architectural design elements to understand how architecture helps the narrative to unfold to the viewer in a film. The directors of the films arrange a scene and pick the particular architectural components stairs, overhangs, entryways, yards, etc. while perceiving it as a storyteller suggesting itself on the films. Beyond its architectural verve, the study will focus on how the scene can be of pivotal nature to the film’s structure and thematic narrative.

  The films were chosen for this study where we try to characterize architecture as an on-screen silent static actor are Andaz (1949), Awaara (1951), Psycho (1960) and Gattaca (1997). The shared conviction these movies offer is the utilization of the stairs as an essential compositional component around which vital part of the story takes place. However, the execution of both film and architecture lies in its direction. The primary
things that are important to them are the kind of staircases being used. In some plots, the
necessity of the account requests a winding staircase though in different scenarios it
changes as per the scene from scale to sort. Considering these movies as a reference,
the importance of architecture can be conceived as a necessity for the plot as the
foundation of the scene. Without this, the director could not have accomplished what
he had envisioned it to be hence he puts a stairwell or a staircase to bring the character
into the narrative supporting the living performer. In these selected films according to
the narrative and the living performers, the character of the stair supports the vision of
the director. That is how the architectural setting in the film spatially compel, a fact
confirmed by watching the film and highlighting points of interest.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

My name is Zain Adil, and I'm an assistant professor at School of Architecture
Beaconhouse National University, Lahore (BNU). I studied animation at National College
of Arts, Lahore and completed B.Arch. from BNU with a National award of the gold
medal. I have worked as an actor, director, producer, makeup artist, cameraman, editor,
writer and an art director for past nine years. My passion for theater, film, and Architecture
lead me to pursue my Master's in Film & Architecture. I've been teaching since 2012 and
have been developing my research on the cross-disciplinary relations of education, film
& architecture.