Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:

“Another paradox in Danish professionalism: the rise and the shortage of Danish-trained architects under Neo-Liberal Welfare State”

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• Abstract (300 words):

The relationship between architectural profession, the economic system and pedagogy is widely investigated in the “Architecture and Labor” field. However, the focus has not yet been on the Danish case.

This paper is part of an ongoing Ph.D. research that focuses on this niche to unveil contemporary modes of architectural production in Denmark, considering how some changes in its Welfare State have played a role on the architectural profession. Here in particular it considers those policies that have led to a neo-liberal turn; shaping the ways in which architects work and questioning how they are educated.

Specifically, here the paradigmatic documents will be a number of semi-structured interviews I made to Danish practitioners and those policies recently implemented by the government, that resulted in a risky gambling for architectural education: as, the bill that cut both economic resources and enrollment allowance for architectural schools; or that on residence requirements that affected the mobility of individuals in a country that is sharing the European free circulation of services and people (Maastricht, 1993).
The argument is that particular conditions has shaped the Danish architectural profession and their influences on the architectural production have been manyfold. However, Schools of Architecture have only recently started to consider the economic framework in relation to teaching and learning. Moreover, while this body of administrative bills has led to positive figures in the sector, the most striking in relation to export; the education has been affected negatively and risk not to supply the increasing demands of the sector.

In conclusion, this paper aims to show how specific dynamics have been able to shape the architectural profession, which mechanisms have been deployed by the practices and how now there is a need of bridging the gap between how architecture is practised and how it is taught.

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

Angela Gigliotti is an architect, educator and researcher. Currently she is PhD Fellow at the Aarhus School of Architecture and External Lecturer at DIS Copenhagen, Denmark. With her ongoing doctoral research “The Labourification of Work: The contemporary modes of architectural production under the Danish Welfare State” she has been granted Visiting PhD Candidate at the Architectural Association under the tutelage of Pier Vittorio Aureli (Spring 2018). Moreover, her research has been presented internationally at: ArkDes Stockholm, SE, 2018; Aalto University, Helsinki, Fi, 2018; Architectural Association, London, UK 2018; CA2RE Conference, Aarhus, DK 2018; Taubman College of Architecture, Ann Arbor, USA 2018; EAHN Conference, TU Delft, NL 2017; The Changing Shape of Practice, Aarhus, DK 2017. Along her papers, her research has been exhibited at "Capitalism is over", Milano Design Week 2017, IT; "BIG DATA", Aarhus School of Architecture 2017, DK; “FORSKI!”, Godsbanen, DK; “REMIX”, Polytechnic University of Milan, IT 2018. Beyond academia, she co-founded OFFICE U67, a Danish research-based practice, listed in the "Architects' Directory 2017" as the Danish standard-bearer for emerging architectural practice by Wallpaper* magazine, whose works have been awarded, published and exhibited in international venues.