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

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Between Playing and Reality The Architectural Studio as a “Potential Space"

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• Abstract (300 words):

  In the early 70’s, psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott coined the term “potential space” when he identified an interim region of experience located between fantasy and reality. This area is a “transitional space” that takes place between subjective experiences related to a sense of control over the surroundings and the objective conditions that are forced on it. In similar fashion, the architectural studio functions as a space of this type, residing between internal imagination and external reality in which personal, interpersonal and group processes take place.

  We ask how creative processes can be promoted within the architectural studio based on the comprehension that it functions as a transitional space.

  For over two decades of serving as a supervisor in an architectural studio, I can see how flexible transition between fantasy and reality allows students to handle complex design and planning issues in a creative manner. In the studio, the students are in an exposed,
vulnerable state, mainly due to their emotional involvement in their work and the fact it is under constant criticism. Therefore, surroundings that facilitate playing options, in our studio allows them to appeal basic personal issues of identity and belonging and deal freely with intimate territories. The students lead a rich and intuitive evolutionary process reflecting the dialectics between freedom and control by generating series of “action models” that may also be referred as “transitional objects”. They are required to make decisions, determine strategy and create stipulations when defining spatial characteristics and conditions that are concrete expressions of “transitional phenomena” enabling a dialectic process of unity and separation to be generated and preserved.

Such experiences enable each student to work as a "Homo Ludens" and reinforce his sense of self-confidence to act in an independent and creative manner, leave his familiar surroundings, cope and challenge himself with new issues.

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

Dr Ehud Belferman is an architect an architect teacher and a researcher. For over two decades architect Dr Belferman is an adjunct senior lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning | Technion – Israel Institute of Technology and at the NB Haifa School of Design where he teaches design studios and theoretical seminars. Dr Belfreman research interests are in the interdisciplinary fields between architecture psychoanalysis and education, especially the affinities between architectural spaces and mental states, architecture and anxiety; aesthetics and the phenomena of the beautiful in architecture; education and architecture. His Ph.D. dissertation in architecture named “Architecture and Anxiety- The physical changes in schools as an expression of tendency toward real and symbolized withdrawal and self-defense of society in Israel ” honored as the best research of the 2018 in the faculty of architecture and town planning in the technion and was nominated for the wolf prize earlier in 2017. In his practice architect, Dr Belferman is involved in a wide range of architectural projects, public buildings, schools and privet houses.

Architect Ms. Shulamit Beimel

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS: 2005-Present Adjunct senior lecturer, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion, Haifa, Israel. 2015- Present Coordinator and Supervisor in Architecture design studio courses. Organizing joint initiative collaboration between Architecture students from the Technion and the Technical University of Berlin-TU.

ACADEMIC DEGREES: 2006 M.Sc. in Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, Technion, Haifa, Israel.
RESEARCH INTERESTS: Surfaces of Contemporary Buildings and the Ornament phenomena, the dialog between Architecture and Design Education.
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: 1994-Present Private practice in Tel Aviv. Specialized in Residential project, designing private houses including interior design. Flats and Offices interior design.

In recent years, dedicating my time between teaching and practice.

Shoam Shefy is an architect and architecture teacher at the Faculty of Architecture and Town planning | Technion Israel Institute of Technology. He specialized in the freshmen design and interior design studios.