Vital Systems of Architectural Education in the Post-COVID Age: Confinement and Liberation

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With the digital environment, the capacity to communicate and be connected beyond the narrow economic, political and social dimensions has increased. Paul Virilio (1932-2018) believed the development of technology, namely television and perpetual, instantaneous communication via computers and the internet are disruptive to biological rhythms and historical seasonal patterns of life in human culture, producing fear. Are the conditions of closing universities across the world in 2020 picturing the system of architectural education as confinement or liberation? Searching for answers, we speculate not only the conditions currently emerging in the world, but rather emulate Berthold Brecht’s theater as the stage of life that reveals the conditions which produce the world. Looking through the eyes of Paul Virilio and Berthold Brecht, I discuss new contexts and new paradigms in architectural education during the Post-COVID age. This presentation provides a theoretical insight into how knowledge is used as an approach to online teaching and what effects the changing environment has on the learning outcomes. As the main focus of my research, I will take a series of architectural programmes and workshops from the European universities and across the United States that perform online teaching since the COVID-19 outbreak. I argue that current concerns
with online teaching cannot be articulated in architectural design studio simply by adopting new approaches to the digital interface, logistics, organization and information base, but rather through the relationships in the production and ways of transmitting knowledge between real and virtual spaces. This comprehensive forensic approach will provide new ventures into speculating the spaces of virtualisation, confinement and liberation in the encounter of real and virtual worlds.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):
Katarina Andjelkovic, with a Ph.D., M.Arch.Eng., is a theorist, practicing architect, researcher and a painter. In Spring semester 2021, Katarina is leading the Hand-Drawing Course: The Face[S] of Architecture in New York City. She served as a Visiting Professor, Chair of Creative Architecture, at the University of Oklahoma U.S.A., Institute of Form Theory and History in Oslo, Institute of Urbanism and Landscape in Oslo, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Architecture, and guest-lectured at Master Studies of TU Delft - Faculty of architecture and the built environment, Doctoral studies of AHO - Oslo School of architecture and design and Bachelor studies of ITU - Istanbul Technical University. She lectures internationally at conferences in modern aesthetics of architecture, film-philosophy, new media and the city, drawing research and visual culture in more than 26 countries in Europe, United Kingdom, North America and Canada. Katarina has published her research widely in international journals (Web of Science) and won numerous awards for her architecture design and urban design competitions. She is a full author of the Preliminary Architectural Design, a national project supported by the government of Serbia. She won the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce Award for Best Master Thesis defended at Universities in Serbia in all disciplines.