Castelvecchio and Hedmarksmusset. The past as a foreign land

Key words: museums, rehabilitation, restoration, Carlo Scarpa, Sverre Fehn, Verona, Hamar.

Many critics and architects, over the years, have found similarities and analogies between the restoration of Castelvecchio (Verona, Italy, 1957-73), by Carlo Scarpa, and the restoration of Hedmarksmusset (Hamar, Norway, 1967-80), by Sverre Fehn, even if the way the two architects approach architecture is clearly very different. Nevertheless, their critical attitude to the theme of the past is the same. The theoretical premise is, for both, the dignity of the contemporary language of architecture, which can be confronted with the old one; the aim is to get such a formal equilibrium that both, the old and the new, may obtain something from the confrontation.

Marco Enia

Dialectics between composition, material and construction in Curro Inza’s architecture

Key words: Inza, project method, material, construction, form, Brutalism, economy of means, Café Gijón, Galería de Arte Sacro.

This article analyses two of Curro Inza’s early architecture Works, with the purpose of approaching the organicist, Madrilian architect’s enigmatic architectural style, and of finding the principles and ideas underlying his vision and style. We take into consideration two different hypotheses: i) the architect follows a strategic and projectual method which is independent of any explicit formal decision, and ii) the architect applies a materic conception of architecture, oriented towards brutalism. Such premises lead to Curro Inza’s discourse, a conception between construction, forma and material which is responsible to a great extent of his project decisions in his later works. This discourse is particularly important in order to understand his architecture, and in order to change the perception his work has had, recognizing on the contrary that his architectural strategies are extremely modern.

Ángel Verdasco

Architecture and hydroelectric industry. The works of Ignacio Alvarez Castelao and Juan José Elorza for Electra de Viesgo in Asturias

Key words: industrial heritage, dam, hydroelectric power station.

The construction of water infrastructures is one of the best known lines of the economic development schedule in Spain since the early fifties. However, in spite of their high number and interest, they have not been appropriately studied from an architectural point of view. This paper is concerned with the waterworks designed by the architect Ingancio Álvarez Castelao and the engineer Juan José Elorza for the Electra del Viesgo SA company in Asturias and Palencia during the fifties and sixties of the twentieth century. All the mentioned cases have in common the fruitful collaboration between different professionals in a multidisciplinary team which included esthetic and artistic aspects.

Javier Molina Sánchez

Latinamericanists discourses in the architectural debates of the 80s. The Latin American Architecture Seminars

Key words: Latin American architecture, conferences, debates, identity, critical regionalism.

This paper explores the discourses generated in the Latino American Architectural Seminars celebrated between 1985 and 1993. For that have been considered the debates on the important notions of identity, modernity and regionalism and its translation by some of the participants in different conferences and publications of architecture in that period. They can be considered in a certain way, as a reaction to the economic crisis started in the 80s and to the lack of interés in the latin american architecture by foreign historians and critics also in the same period. All that was in sharp contrast with the international interest in authors and works of the 40s and 50s, years of optimism and almost unlimited hope in the progress.

María Rosa Zambrano Torres
The regionalist contribution in United States. Bibliographic genesis of a “new philosophy” architectural

Key words: USA, Modern Architecture, regionalism, tradition, San Francisco Bahia school.

After World War II, modern architecture was facing a “crossroads”: architects had to choose between keeping their overall rigid obedience to the ‘functionalist’ architecture or find new means of expression. While Modernism had not failed as such, it seemed clear that he did need some revisions. Also during these years in the US there was a large number of regional –or regionalist- interpretations of the Modern Movement, some of which became genuine great American contributions to modernity. This regionalism questioned the very importance of the International Style. Thus, many European architects were forced to reevaluate their careers and their principles, creating a "new philosophy" of architecture. A decade later, those thoughts were key driver concepts to an author like Robert Venturi.

Raúl Rodríguez García

A historical legacy: Henry-Russell Hitchcock and early Modernism

Key words: Henry-Russell Hitchcock, historiography, Modern Architecture, Modern Movement.


Macarena de la Vega

Hilberseimer: From the Hochhausstadt to the New City

Key words: Ludwig Hilbersimer, Modern planning, Rationalism, Modern housing.

Around 1930, Ludwig Karl Hilbersimer begins a significant stage of review of his first urban models, the Wohnstadt (Residential city, 1923) and the Hochhausstadt (Highrise city, 1924) seeking to adapt to the intense social and political changes experienced by the European society in those days, the final result of which is a new model, more decentralized and integrated into the landscape, the New City (c. 1932). This paper has revised his research during that period, discovering an accurate project methodology based on abstraction and elemental decomposition which perform a detailed transit through the various levels of the modern project: from the room to the metropolis.

José Antonio Sumay Rey


Key words: Architectural theory, machine, metaphor, functionalism, mecanism.

Although the machine metaphor is one of the most genuine expressions of the ideology of the Modern Movement, its raison d’être cannot be understood outside of a broader cultural history whose origin, like so many aspects of modernity, is rooted in the different aesthetic crises of the Enlightenment and the 17th-century querelles. This fact is ignored by the heroic historiography, in which the machine metaphor is considered a find of the 20th-century Zeitgeist, when in fact its genealogy goes back to the mechanistic ideology built under the influence of Cartesianism, and expressed through some concepts which were transferred from philosophy and science to architecture: ‘composition of parts’, ‘system’, ‘calculation’, or ‘function’.

Eduardo Prieto
Via non difficilis. The access roads in Renaissance villas with axial development

Key words: Renaissance villa, terraced axial composition, access road.

Since Alberti’s theoretical proposal in De re aedificatoria (ca. 1450-1485), the access road to the villa is one of its defining components par excellence, very early integrated as part of its overall composition. In relation to this organization element, I study a set of villas which have an axial development -mainly within the terraced type- with access roads of a remarkable length, all belonging to the Renaissance period, from the oldest examples of Quaracchi (ca. 1453) and Castello (ca. 1538-1550), among others in Tuscany, in the area of Rome or Veneto, to some Spanish instances such as La Fresneda (ca. 1562-1569) and El Bosque de Béjar (ca. 1567).

José Muñoz Domínguez

Pictures collection about garden in the Netherlands during the Renaissance and Mannerism

Key words: Dutch garden, landscape, gardening, treatises, Renaissance, Manierism.

This contribution summarizes the main visual records existing in bibliographic sources on the Dutch gardens in the second half of the sixteenth century and in the first half of the seventeenth. The investigation begins with data from the literary references of the time on the garden by prominent Dutch humanist and writers. The selection of images is based largely on the inspection of all major Dutch landscaping treatises, and likewise, of Germans with great impact in the Netherlands, as the case of Joseph Furtenbach, or French like Mollet. Literature sources and archives indicated in the work and in its notes have been followed with regard to engravings and art prints.

Carmen Toribio

Three articles written by Max Bill

Key words: Ulm school, Max Bill, design, form, Gestalt, Bauhaus, Swiss Werkbund.

In this contribution are presented the translations of three articles by Max Bill of great importance on his thinking about design in the years before the creation of the school of Ulm. The first two, written in 1946 and 1949, dealt with some own experiences on design and with the ideas of beauty and function in the design respectively. The second is a lecture given in the Swiss Werkbund in 1948 which debate arose the itinerant exhibition “Die gute Form” (Good Form). The third, though written in 1979, is a critical commentary on the ceiling lamp of the Bauhaus, which later exerted influence on the ones created by him and described in the first article.

Maite Escaño

Architecture and industry. A bibliographical research in the architecture college of the UPM

Key words: factory, exhibition, bibliography, industrial heritage, industrial architecture, ETSAM.

In this short documentary work are collected classified and ordered the main existing library collections in the library of the School of Architecture (ETSAM) of the Polytechnic University of Madrid on the subject of architecture and industrial heritage. The reason that led to this specific search was the exhibition entitled “The Factory: Industrial architecture in the ETSAM funds Library” opened on April 8, 2015. Its purpose is to try that the selection work is not lost after removal of the exhibition and may be available to scholars and interested people. By their nature they are excluded funds relating to public works.

Rafael García