

AFTEREFFECT

THESIS BOOK

AFTEREFFECT

THE SUBSEQUENT EFFECTS OF EPHEMERAL
ARCHITECTURE IN PHYSICAL, COMMUNAL
AND CULTURAL IMPRINTS

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SOMEŞ DELIVERY PAVILION, KOLOZSVÁR, ROMANIA, 2016

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SUMMARY

Ephemeral architecture results in new uses of a place that are different from its usual function, influencing our image of the place and the memories we have of it. However, I assume that, despite their short-term existence, ephemeral architecture has a longer-term impact. In my dissertation, I explore different aspects of aftereffect, which remains largely secondary in discourses that discuss the eventfulness and spectacularity of ephemeral architecture. The research is based in part on the elaboration of personal experiences, such as the examples of works that are also labelled as masterworks.

Ephemeral architecture is created with a purpose, whether it is to reform or improve space, to express something or to create an atmosphere. It is designed from the outset for a finite period of time, whether it is a short-term intervention of a few days or a long-term intervention of a few years. The defining and inalienable characteristic of this type of architecture is its temporality - it determines the initial idea, the design, the construction and, through this, the experience of the space for the users, and it liberates them from a series of constraints that apply to permanent buildings.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The initial chapter sets forth a theoretical approach, while the subsequent three present the three categories of aftereffects, which are identified as imprints. Within each category, I use the case studies to identify the different impact mechanisms. It should be noted that the system I have set up is not definitive; rather, it can be described as an extensible and modular structure. The text is structured in a way that allows for a variety of readings. It can be read linearly, progressing from chapter to chapter, or it can be read section by section, focusing on the main case studies.

The first chapter examines the principal characteristics of ephemeral architecture, with particular attention to those aspects that point in some way to the 'future'. Ephemeral architecture is attracting interest, pointing to current problems, and, as a model of real life, it is presenting a potential image of the future, while influencing it. In this chapter, I also discuss the phenomenological aspects of temporary architecture and its relation to personal memory. The memory of an ephemeral architectural event is inextricably linked to the existing space, and is recalled even after the event itself has ceased to exist. In the second chapter, I examine the types of impacts that result in a tangible, physical imprint. These include ephemeral architectural works that for some reason have not been dismantled but remain intact, in whole or in part, and installations that can be dismantled and then rebuilt by design, such as the architecture of annual events or festivals. Remaining fragments or re-emerging installation elements serve a similar function to

architectural ruins, evoking a sense of nostalgia and acting as reminders of past events. The third chapter delineates the phenomenon of community imprints: aftereffects that operate at an individual and local level, changing the perception of a place and the community's relationship to it. They are most likely to be generated by bottom-up initiatives in problematic places, where the intervention can present a better alternative. Such impacts are most likely to be generated by bottom-up initiatives in problematic places, where the intervention can present a superior alternative. In the case of ephemeral architecture, previously unused, impersonal spaces are occupied by the community, non-places can become places, and measures are taken to ensure that the site is genuinely transformed and integrated into local life.

In the fourth chapter, an analysis is provided of the third and most complex category of aftereffects, namely the cultural imprints. The ephemeral nature of architectural works enables the generation of a cultural debate that persists beyond the conclusion of the architectural event itself. The cultural imprint is created at the level of the change of meaning of the building materials used, ranging from light festival architecture to the symbolic representation of the traumatic past, in its impact on collective memory, and in the stimulation of disciplinary discourse. This can be achieved directly during the programme by organising debates and lectures, or indirectly by raising awareness of environmental problems or by raising ideological and architectural theoretical questions. Perhaps the most controversial aspect is the imprint of ephemeral architecture through documentation. Online publication also means an entry into an archive that can be accessed at any time, which may give the viewer the false impression of being able to gain knowledge of architectural spaces without having experienced them in reality. This is particularly relevant in the case of ephemeral architecture, where the event may have already ended.

By examining these three types of imprints, it becomes evident that temporary architecture possesses the capacity to establish meaning in space over an extended period, a quality that is frequently obscured by its transient and event-like nature. Indeed, the aftereffect of ephemeral architecture, in and of itself, can be as significant as its role during its existence.

THESES



Thesis 1: INDICATOR

THE DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURE IS ITS UNCONVENTIONAL AND PIONEERING APPROACH. IT IS CAPABLE OF ATTRACTING ATTENTION TO PHENOMENA THAT HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED DUE TO HABITUATION AND OF HIGHLIGHTING CURRENT ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND NEEDS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED. IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO GENERATE A VISION OF THE FUTURE AND THUS EFFECT CHANGE.

The act of physically displacing the viewer allows for a new perspective to be gained, encouraging conscious observation and shedding light on one's surroundings. Furthermore, it offers an immediate response to the issues it raises. As a model of real life, ephemeral architecture presents a potential solution, a future scenario, through experimentation and direct testing, influencing its evolution.



Thesis 2: IMPRINT

THE IMPACT OF EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURE EXTENDS BEYOND ITS PHYSICAL LIFESPAN, ENCOMPASSING A BROADER INTELLECTUAL DOMAIN. ITS IMPACT IS MANIFESTED IN THE SHAPING OF THE MEANING OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING THE MEANING OF PLACES AND THE UTILISATION OF SPACE, AND CAN BE PERCEIVED IN ITS PHYSICAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPRINTS.

In the context of ephemeral architecture, multiple imprints can be created simultaneously, which may overlap or exist independently of each other, forming a matrix-like system. The different mechanisms of action within each category have been identified through case studies.



Thesis 3: EVOCATIVE

PHYSICAL IMPRINTS ARE DIRECT FRAGMENTS OF A PAST STATE. THEY ACT AS A REMINDER, EVOKING A SENSE OF ABSENCE OR A LONGING TO RELIVE THE EXPERIENCE, WHICH SERVES AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR SUBSEQUENT MECHANISM OF ACTION.

In the context of physical aftereffects, two distinct types of imprint can be identified: iterative, that is, recurrent, and remanent. The former refers to structures that return, in part or in whole, to be used on a subsequent occasion, carrying with them the memory of the previous event. A remanent imprint is the structures or parts of structures that remain afterwards. Remnants or re-emerging installation elements function in a similar way to architectural ruins, evoking a nostalgic feeling in the viewer and serving as a reminder of a past event.



Thesis 4: TRANSFORMER

THE COMMUNITY IMPRINT SHOWS THE INFLUENCE OF EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURE IN LINKING EXPERIENCES TO A PARTICULAR PLACE AND IN FOSTERING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO PLACES AND COMMUNITIES. IN THIS WAY IT IS CAPABLE OF TRANSFORMING NON-PLACES INTO PLACES.

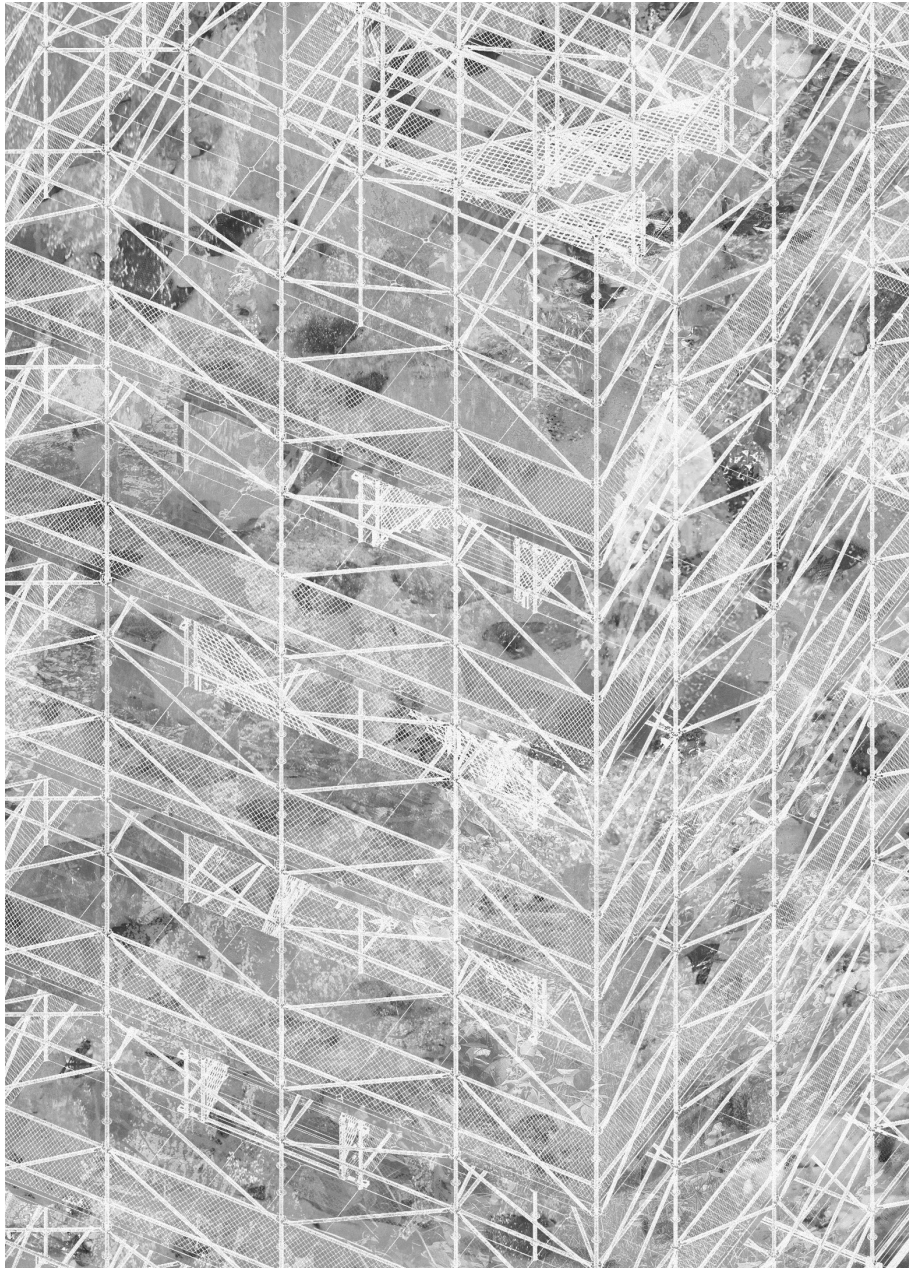
The case studies examined focus on public spaces that have been neglected and underused. Such spaces act as transit zones or are entirely excluded from the city's sphere of movement, to the extent that they can be identified as non-places. Ephemeral architecture has the potential to alter the perception of place and the community's relationship with it. The permanent function that emerges as a result of the intervention serves as evidence of the success of the temporary architecture, indicating that the experiment has achieved its objective and the problematic area is being addressed.



Thesis 5: INTERFERENCES

EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURE CAN OVERRIDE HABITUAL MEANINGS AND MODIFY COLLECTIVE MEMORY. DEPENDING ON THE CREATIVE INTENTION, IT CAN SHAPE AND RESHAPE INGRAINED IDEOLOGIES, INTERACT WITH AND EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY.

The concept of an ephemeral installation may incorporate traumatic historical memories attached to the built environment, with the intention of influencing collective memory. Alternatively, this may result from an ephemeral architectural work that does not have this as its primary purpose, but whose recurring presence affects collective memory.



Thesis 6: REFLECTION

DESPITE ITS PHYSICAL TRANSIENCE, EPHEMERAL ARCHITECTURE HAS THE CAPACITY TO INFLUENCE DISCIPLINARY DISCOURSE THROUGH DOCUMENTATION AND PUBLICATION OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

The ability of ephemeral architecture to convey its message through explicit, visual and spatial means enables it to stimulate disciplinary dialogue. The impact of cultural imprints on architectural discourse can manifest in a number of ways, including public debates in public spaces, architectural design competitions or educationally in building workshops. Its free interpretability makes it an effective source of inspiration for creative processes. Furthermore, it can even lead to the development or alteration of architectural movements through its documentation and wide dissemination.

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