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Self-built

*The reincarnation of building materials
around lake Balaton*

DLA theses, abstract

Abstract

This essay deals with a layer of architecture outside the scope of usual academic discourse. We explore, and examine situations, where the users establish a dense, personal relationship with their buildings by taking part in the building process, and by reusing materials that carry emotional surplus from their earlier use. The weekend huts of lake Balaton are the subject of this study, because they carry the abovementioned characteristics. I assume that the free spirit of emancipated way building here, gives these buildings substantial inner beauty.

“Architecture without architects” resides parallel to institutionalized architecture, bringing both harmful, and constructive synergies to life when they collide with each other. Spontaneous architecture produces affordable, feasible, easy-to-maintain buildings from very few resources with a lot of innovation, therefore it deserves the attention, and documentation of academic study. The research of such tinkered buildings has multiple goals: documenting their adaptable, ever-changing experimental structures, studying the creative forces that create them, and transferring the know-how and methodology to professional architectural practice.

1.

Building economic weekend houses between the 1960s and 1980s did not mean efficiency in the engineering sense, it meant more of lowering the standards of inhabitants to a minimally acceptable level to meet realistic possibilities, with the reduction of functional programme.



2.

Small sized type-designed housing, and collective weekend houses were not letting the users express their own identity, and also quickly became functionally unsatisfactory. This tension was the main driving force for self-built interventions.



3.

According to the examined specimens, self-built expansion of weekend houses is a one way street, demolition is very rare to occurs seldomly in spontaneous architecture. Collage compositions are subjects for continuous growth.



4.

Collage character in architecture can be understood in much broader sense than being just an urban phenomenon, it can be used to describe buildings as well, especially when dealing with layers of self-built huts.



5.

Self-made interventions in weekend huts around lake Balaton are constitute a mixed genre between vernacular and institutional architecture.



6.

Aesthetically speaking, the contrasting effect in the grotesque qualities of self-built huts, the lack of tectonics, inaccuracies the emphasize other architectural qualities of the compositions.



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2019.