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The poetics of light and the glass architecture of the Modern

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SUMMARY

THE POETICS OF LIGHT AND THE GLASS ARCHITECTURE OF THE MODERN

By

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This study uncovers the role and importance of light in the poetics of architecture, referring to the origin and meaning of glass architecture and the glass metaphor and its manifestation as a Modern phenomenon.

The term “poetics” with reference to architecture is clarified. The origin of the term and its appropriation regarding architecture is investigated. “Poetics” in architecture is defined as the wilful, conscious and demanding act of creation in making architecture.

The role of light in the poetics of architecture is explored. Space and its articulation are identified as the primary determinants in the poetics of architecture. It is argued that light allows space to be revealed and is employed to amplify the spatial intentions of the creator. Light as architectural form is defined as the poetic illumination of interior space. Examples of light as architectural form are investigated from Classical antiquity to the advent of the Modern. It is concluded that light is employed, in a poetic sense, in architecture as physical matter but also to transcend reality, encoded with abstract meaning alluding to the metaphysical concerns of a period.

The advent of the Modern is identified as occurring in the mid-eighteenth century. This period is defined as being remarkable in the development of unique ideals informing the production of architectural theory and artefacts for the following two centuries. It is argued that this period is founded on the dimensions of the Newtonian paradigm and informs architecture through the principles of Rationalism. Concepts singular to Modern architecture are identified and elaborated.

Glass architecture is investigated as a Modern phenomenon. The manner in which glass was employed as a tectonic material and an optical medium in articulating form and space is explored and measured against the concepts of Modern architecture. The particular importance of literal and super-sensual transparency, a function of light, is identified and the origins of the crystal (glass) metaphor established. An evaluation, supporting the existence of a poetics of light in Modern architecture, of the expression of light as architectural form during the Modern concludes the argument.

KEY WORDS:

Architecture
Expressionism
Glass architecture
International Style
Light
Modern
Modern Movement
Paradigm
Poetics
Transparency

SAMEVATTING

DIE POËTIKA VAN LIG EN DIE GLASARGITEKTUUR VAN DIE MODERNE

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Die studie ontbloom die rol en waarde van lig in die poëtika van argitektuur met verwysing na die oorsprong en betekenis van glasargitektuur, die glasmetafoor en die manifestasie daarvan as Moderne verskynsel.

Die term "poëtika" met verwysing na argitektuur word verduidelik. Die oorsprong van die term en die toe-eiening daarvan deur argitektuur word ondersoek. "Poëtika" in argitektuur word verklaar as die willekeurige, bewustelike en veeleisende daad van argitektuurskepping.

Die rol van lig in die poëtika van argitektuur word ondersoek. Ruimte en ruimtelike artikulasie in argitektuur word erken as die sleutelemente hiervan. Die argument, dat lig ruimte ontbloom en die ruimtelike begaan van die skepper versterk, word gestel. Lig as argitektuurvorm word gedefinieer as die poëtika van die verligting van binneruimte. Voorbeelde van lig as argitektuurvorm word ondersoek vanaf die Klassieke tot met die aanvang van die Moderne. Die afleiding word gemaak dat lig in argitektuur gebruik word as fisiese materiaal maar terselfdetyd realiteit oorbrug, abstrakte betekenis aanneem en uitdrukking gee aan die metafisiese oorwegings van 'n tydperk.

Die aanvang van die Moderne word vasgestel as die tydperk van die middel-agtiende eeu. Hierdie tydperk word gekenmerk deur die ontstaan van uitsonderlike ideale wat die produksie van argitektuurteorie en artefakte tydens die volgende twee eeue toelig. Die argument, dat die tydperk baseer word op die kenmerke van die Newtoniese paradigma en argitektuur beïnvloed deur middel van die beginsels van Rasionalisme, word afgelei. Unieke konsepte verwysend na Moderne argitektuur word geïdentifiseer en uitgebrei.

Glasargitektuur word ondersoek as Moderne verskynsel. Die wyse waarop glas as tektoniese materiaal en optiese medium gebruik word in die artikulering van vorm en ruimte word ondersoek en gemeet aan die konsepte van Moderne argitektuur. Die belangrikheid van letterlike en supersensuele deursigtigheid, 'n funksie van lig, word geïdentifiseer. Die oorsprong van die glasmetafoor word vasgestel. Die argument word voltrek deur lig as argitektuurvorm in Moderne argitektuur te evalueer om die bestaan van 'n poëtika van lig in die tydperk vas te stel.

SLEUTELTERME:

Argitektuur
Deursigtigheid
Ekspresionisme
Glasargitektuur
Internasionale Styl
Lig
Modern
Moderne Beweging
Paradigma
Poëtika

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