

The section in mat-buildings

Mara Partida

This article exposes the section's value in mat-building design processes.

It is known that mat-building is usually recognized either by means of its plans or from a bird's eye view, but rarely it is seen or related by its own section.

Sections are the key point to the basis of any mat-building's configuration system. mat-building sections have been a continuous concern in the team 10's work.

This article mainly focuses on Candilis-Josic-Wood's work, from the simplest housing units to bigger and more complex urban structures. The idea is not only to reveal the most characteristic association patterns but also the programme's articulation patterns that the sections allow on this kind of structures.

Through these patterns we will face the main concepts of the basic unit "the house" in both of its variants: the enclosed space and the void. These two variants make the mat-building a porous mesh which constrains the relations between the enclosed space and the void. Topography and spatial boundaries will also be relevant in the processes of mat-building's sections.

The article is a journey that starts at the ATBAT housing units, continues with the "honeycomb" horizontal and vertical housing in Morocco, until it reaches the complex and bigger structures such as the Free University in Frankfurt or Bochum.

There is a clear intention to continue with future publications on this topic. This text represents the seed of an open ending to a mat article.

Stories about Team 10

Aquiles González

In a general context about the phenomena of mat-building the author reflects on the complexity of the group of architects who founded the Team 10 during the last 9th Congress of the CIAM taken place in Duvronik in July 1953.

In the framework of ILAUD (International Laboratory of Architecture and Urban Design), an institution founded by Giancarlo de Carlo in the middle of the 70s, most of the architects involved in the Team 10 continued their reflections on architecture and society. The author, an exceptional eyewitness of many of these meetings tells us a bit about the spirit of the discussions of some concepts that were created and developed during this cohabitation between the architect's personal work and the context of the Laboratory.

Among these concepts the idea of mat-building was widely discussed and reinterpreted in many projects developed inside the laboratory. The Smithson's who participated every year in the meetings disseminated this concept which had a profound influence on the architectural thought mostly in Europe during the last years of the 20th century. At the same time it describes a precise chronological development of the concept noting in the footnotes the main moments in which this concept participates in the genetic code of some architectural projects.

The historical background of mat-building Five examples

Berta Bardí
Carles Martí

The historical perspective that these examples provide, makes it possible to formulate the following hypothesis: the concept of mat-building encloses, precisely, what again places modern architecture in the tradition of urban form, breaking the drastic isolation that the avant-gardes of the beginning of the XXth century had tried to submit the architectural forms.

Everything that characterizes mat-building (continuity, overlapping, proliferation, anonymity, etc.) is also found in the reality of the main historical urban fabric. The idea of mat-building represents therefore, to some extent, the return of the city, after that peculiar crossing of the desert which, for architecture, constituted the experience of the avant-garde.

Therefore, it is not surprising that our comments, in an unpremeditated way, have tended to consider some of the intuitions contained in the book *The architecture of the city*, published by Aldo Rossi in 1966. Because, paradoxically, what people like the Smithsons or the group Candilis-Josic-Woods eagerly pursued amid the rubble of the bombed European cities during the Second World War, was not really very different from what Aldo Rossi found in the depths of the material deposits of the historical city.