EPFL

AR-606   **Architecture and design: conditions for actions**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture and Sciences of the City		Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	1
Session	
Exam	Project report
Workload	30h
Hours	**22**
Courses	6
Exercises	16
Number of positions	**15**

Frequency

Only this year

Remark

Postponed to a later date

Summary

The course proposes a research on the aesthetics deriving from the merge of Strategic Choice Approach with architectural design. The PhD candidates will be asked to explore "if" and "how" architectural design tools (drawings, schemes, videos,..) contribute to the construction of knowledge.

Content

The course investigates a qualitative model belonging to the Problem Structuring Methods, the Strategic Choice Approach - SCA (Friend and Hickling, 2005), in its possible interface with architectural design as a way of structuring cyclic processes of conflicts and negotiations.
In SCA, drawings can be used as an exchange object to generate effects and produce consequences in the process, within the group and among the participants. According to this perspective, the interaction between SCA and architectural design can be seen as a way to build a shared problem definition, values and perceptions about the problem situation. In this context, the "problem situation" is understood as a building's or urban renewal; the construction of a new building, the location of urban facilities, etc.
SCA and architectural design process can be both intended as cyclic and "in progress" processes of conflicts and negotiations (Armando et al. 2015) and "running labs" about real-world problems (Latour and Woolgar 1979; Latour 1988; Yaneva 2009). Moreover, even if in architectural design there is not a formal definition of different steps to define a transformation project, SCA modes and phases are similar to the way architects think and draft alternatives, through sketches and drawings (Todella et al., 2018).
In this sense, by using SCA in a merging with architectural design it is possible to recognise a specific aesthetics as a "form of language that can produce its own form of knowledge" (White 2006).
The course proposes to develop a research field by design on this specific aesthetics, linked to the models and the language used in the architectural realm. The PhD candidates will be asked to explore "if" and "how" architectural design tools - drawings, schemes, diagrams, but also video and texts – contribute to the construction of a better shared reality, strictly linked to the possibility of widely understand the real problem thanks to the models' capability of transferring and translate knowledge.

Keywords

Strategic Choice Approach, Design

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

• To apply the Strategic Choice Approach (SCA) in combination with architectural design

Resources

Bibliography

TodellaE., Lami I.M., Armando, 2018, Experimental Use of Strategic Choice Approach (SCA) by Individuals as an Architectural Design Tool,Group Decision and Negotiation 27(5), pp. 811-826

Ressources en bibliothèque

• Experimental Use of Strategic Choice Approach (SCA) by Individuals as an Architectural Design Tool / Todella