

Title of dissertation:

The architect of the countryside

Dissertation about the rural architecture apropos of Gábor Reischl's works

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Abstract

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Materpiece: Ecological architectural workshop and community toilet in Cambodia and ecological family house in Szentendre
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Rural architecture appears again and again in professional discussions in Hungary, however, in most of the cases these discussions don't try to explore its complexity, the topic is usually only approached from a single point of view. The professional position of the land, the country and the rural architecture hasn't lost its actuality until now, and that's how we can see the importance of Gábor Reischl, who was able to look at the countryside in its complexity, moreover, he could also consequently work for it for decades. In his work, he went back to the basis of the rural architecture that is the farming system and the common logic of these farms. The basis of his architectural style was inspired by these; he designed his structures, his buildings, his spaces according to this rural style which constructions are still continuously being built. He realized that changing and openness are essential elements of the rural architecture and so he created its architectural framework in his works. The constant changing and slow construction give the space to the man of the countryside to be able to get involved in the creation. The fact that he could build essential buildings in completely different environments from the Carpathian Basin to Cambodia also shows the value of his work. These buildings are to be instructive for today's rural architects.

Theses

1

The rural architect should understand the rural life

Rural architecture is closely linked to the land, the landscape, the climate, the farming and the traditions. The architect becomes part of such processes and situations through rural architecture, in which the architecture itself gets into wider context, its boundaries are extended. The vulnerability because of the natural forces, the disadvantageous economical, cultural and social situations that are the countryside's characteristics, all demand certain openness from the architect. If the architect explores the background of the phenomenon that forms the buildings and experiences the consequences of his own architectural work, then his sense of responsibility is also necessarily extended. When the architect deepens in the rural architecture that will influence his designing method and this process creates such connection with which he will become the part of a process beyond architecture.

2

The basic conception of rural buildings is always the thinking with common sense.

Examining rural architecture will lead us to location, constructional, material and designing specialties that are directed by broader contexts. The functional needs' bonding with natural processes, local economic affairs and traditional solutions then understanding and reformulating these all create a special aesthetical appearance. The impacts that influence rural architecture become concrete, rational architectural solutions. These solutions are constantly changing due to the variable, mostly technical possibilities.

In the case of rural architecture, the cyclical nature of time appears in the use of materials that fit into the circulation of nature. Besides, the cyclical nature has impact on the buildings in another way as well, which is the repetition of the climatic changes. Buildings in the countryside have to accommodate to the natural, climatic effects and this accommodation with rational solutions will come together with significant energy savings.

3

Good rural buildings are open structures

The foremost role of an architect in connection with rural architecture is to create such buildings or building complexes, which enable later linkages. This continuity makes it possible to rural buildings to accommodate to the constantly changing context, if necessary. The different circumstances in management, technology, functional needs or financial possibilities may make changes necessary in the building and these are controllable with open structures. The space for this openness of rural architecture is the backyard, which gives a kind of frame for further buildings.

4

Rural architecture is the place for slow architecture

From the openness and continuity of rural architecture comes its slow nature too. Further constructions on rural architecture are not only a structure and form that changes in space, but also a protracted, linear process. The construction, as the most essential element of human activity, is presented in a privileged way in this continuity. Within rural architecture there appears special possibility to enrich the buildings, the place or the people with extra values through the slow building process.