

SELF-REFLECTION – 16/12/14 Arthur Waisblat

Relationship between research and design

The topic of addiction care imposes a pluri-disciplinary understanding of such a social and medical issue. The research started from a highly holistic perspective, covering domains reaching far beyond the architectural discipline. The Drugs and Addiction problem is as much a political question that is a biological one. Modern Medicine is at a turning point, and the failure of the biopolitics of maintenance medication and genetic engineering will lead to a more compassionate approach to addiction care. Neuroscience is today reevaluating the impact of the environment on brain development, as the power of subjective intentions in shaping self-immune responses, cortical and synaptic plasticity. Pharmacologically induced spiritual practices and meditation of various kind within low-stimuli environments opens up a radically new perspective in the field of addiction care. A shift from biopolitics to noopolitics, from the objective body to the subjective mind, from drugs and DNA to behavioral practices and epigenetic fields.

The architecture of domesticity and spirituality will offer addicts a much more appropriate context that the jails and detox centers they are today offered.

The immersion into such a vast field of knowledge taught me they is yet much more to discover and demonstrate that my research have explored. The field of post-materialist neuroscience and consciousness studies is only opening up, while it echoes ancestral practices. I consider the challenge successful while it leads upon much further research, but only its practical realization will demonstrate its efficiency.

Relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study

The theme of explore-lab perfectly resonates with my own vision of education, medical care and drug policy: to free the student so he can go back to his study ; to free the addict---prisoner so he can go back to his mind study and social integration. Explore lab gave me freedom and time to explore unexpected domains of research within architectural education few other studios could have offered me.

Relationship between the project and the wider social context

If put into practice, the project could have a profound impact on social change, at every level. Current re-evaluation of drug policies and therapies at the United Nations and in many states shows that a new paradigm is just about to see birth. Among with shifting to a preventive and sustainable medical system, reducing criminality will be the big challenge of the 21st century. The project wishes to take part in such an ambitious adventure.

