







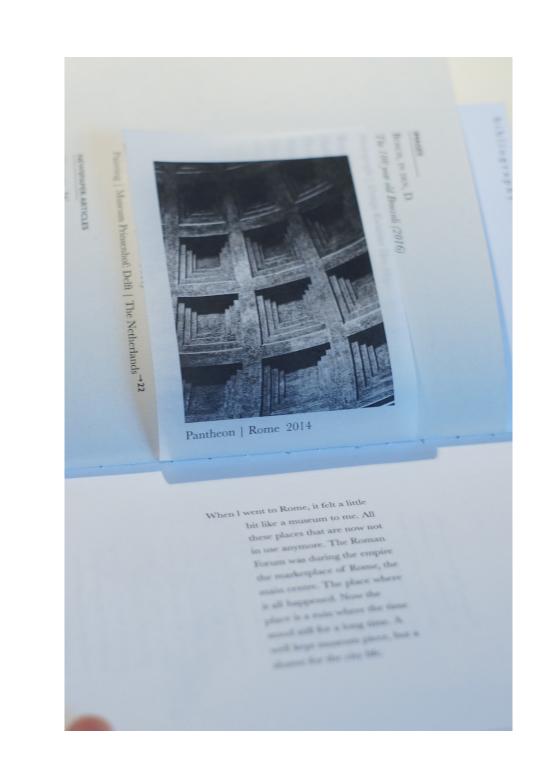
La Francis Princis The Altraction of Destruction Why we need Slow Change History of a Landscape The American of Martality WI SONGHANGH The acc cann























What we see here are wood fibres pressed out of the wooden beams. This process is called salt defibrillation where the wood works as a bundle of straw. In this specific case the soda solution of the soda production is wicking into the wood surface. Later on the water evaporates and salt crystals grow in the wood cells. Over time these crystals are pushing the wood fibres apart of its structure, this is causing its fuzzy appearance. This fuzzy look seems to harm the construction, but on the contrary it saved this building. The soda slowed down the decomposition of the wood by lowering the level of moisture preventing moulds from harming the wooden construction. The soda-factory was built around 1800 as a warehouse and got the function as a soda-factory in 1936. They stopped running in 1976 and after that time the building was never used anymore as a factory or warehouse. $\rightarrow \! 2$





INTRODUCTION

I would like to start my introduction with this quote from Hannah Arendt's book *The Human Condition* (1958).

**In which she speaks about the importance of the permanence of our surroundings. This contrasts with my own approach, the art of ageing together with the process of changing and ending. It is confusing, because I believe that Arendt is correct with her view on the influence of the built environment on human society. The permanency of architecture nowadays is blocking the reality and reliability of the human world. How can we solve this dilemma?

The reason for starting with this quote comes from my previous research project that I did in Chicago. My research was about the elevated loop structure in the middle of downtown Chicago, a raised public transport line finished in 1897. This large iron structure contrasted so sharply with its environment that it raised questions for me. Why was it still there? I realised that this structure brought much identity and reliability to the city and so that is why I used this quote to support my findings. At the same time I realised that this left over structure was not that powerful when its context remained the same. It was the change that caught my interest.

This fascination for change was what I wanted to develop in further research. In architecture people often speak about decay when a change through time occurs. Decay is a negative term, it represents regression, a retrogressive movement. Instead of decay I picked the term ageing, which is neutral and represents time as well as a subject, if also lies close to ourselves and the process includes an ending. With this given fact I started my research and coined my title The Art of Ageing. Since ageing is also an art in itself.

"The reality and reliability of the human world rests primarily on the fact that we are surrounded by things more permanent than the activity by which they were produced"

Hannah Arendt →4

"Unnatural outcomes manipulate our view of the work



Modern Architecture cannot Age well

FILM

4 Years of Pain

ESSAY

The Attraction of Destructio

ESSAY

Why we need Slow Chang

FILM

The Wall

ESSAY

History of a Landscape

ESSAY

The Inevitability of Mortality

CONCLUSION

Conclusion of a Searce

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Index A-Z

EPILOGUE

Acknowledgement

In the following essays, I will describe my thoughts around the theme of ageing and find out why this quote by Arendt is so intriguing to me. I want to adhere to her approach, but I would like to combine it with my own.

As I said in my disclaimer there is no true veracity on this theme, the study of abstract subjects like these will always be a process of refication. To understand and research my thoughts I started to build a database with all kinds of sources that are related to this theme. This helped to structure my research and put it in a contemporary context. After every easay I will show some parts of the database that influenced the particular essay. It will place it in a certain perspective and add more background information. At the moment I am in an in-between phase dealing with a manuscript where I write down the conclusions to my research so far.

The following themes of the five essays are all about the acceptance of ageing, Beginning with Modern Architecture cannot Age well, in which I investigate the relationship between the resistance to change and the change within the way we practise architecture. While in the Attraction of Destruction the fascination of failure is analysed. Why we need Slow Change gives us a closer look at the influence of change and the manner in which change needs to take place. In the History of a Landscape, I will explain the role of a landscape within our civilisation and finally I want to describe the importance of an ending in The InventoRilly of Mortality.

Nowadays the art of ageing is hard to sustain. In a society where we strive for perfection and newness, it is difficult to accept change. Unnatural outcomes manipulate our view of the world. We try to fool ourselves. It is time to take a closer look of this phenomenon.

Trough all these short figments of my imagination I will give a provisional stage of my findings. Am I getting closer to or further away from the right answer that will always be the meetion.

"Unnatural outcomes manipulate our view of the won

ince ageing is also an art in itself"

MODERN ARCHITECTURE CANNOT AGE WELL

An example of these not very aesthetic weathering types are the famous Trespa plates, found in virtually every sociahousing project in the Netherlands. They often come in the colour white, which causes dirt to create a sharp contrast when they are exposed to the outside world.

When I look at the old traditional building styles, they do not have such kinds of problems. They also have dirt, algaand other weathering effects but they deal with them bette. It even makes them more aesthetic.

In modern architecture weathering is more a type of deterioration than a form of enrichment. This is a shame, because weathering can add the finishing touches to the environment. Like said in the quote on the left here above from the book On Waithering by Mohsen Mostafavi. *5

The mass production of building material has changed a lot within the architectural field. The market for possible new materials has exploded. The behaviour of new materials was unpredictable due to lack of experience. This was not the only report.



"Why do we want preserve them?
We never get them back within the same context, atmosphere and degr

MODERN ARCI'TECTURE CANNOT AGE WELL

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environment. Like said from the book On Weat

was unpredictable due to lack of experience. This was not the only reason for deterioration, the possibility to build



Wall | Rotterdam 2017

Everyday you will see traces of weathering on modern buildings. One day I walked past this interesting facade times and a building that looks forgotten as a result.



the attraction of destruction

Modern Architecture cannot age well

on the basis of different propositions changed the view on the traditional facade and behaviour to time. The use of different building parts led to the need for more joints. More joints meant more sealants and they became fragile through structural movement. This resulted in weak spots that were exposed to the elements.

The possibility of prefab building components drastically changed the relationship between the architect and the builder. In the days when the builder was working with traditional material and building methods, both the builder and architect could rely on the results. Now the architect provides insufficient instructions and the builder produces poor workmanship. This is also leading to material deterioration in present-day architecture. The whole process of designing a building for its potential occupancy has also changed. The speed of designing and constructing increased dramatically. With all these 'improvements' in the digital age the option of repetition has become standard. It is ironic because this whole new wave promised greater choice and we ruded un with repercia architecture.

The relationship between a building and its potential site has become different. We can place a 'kit of parts' anywhere, which makes a building site-less.

It is a structural problem within architecture. These buildings will not be removed very easily and there are many of them. Even if they are built with the idea to remain for a short period of time we want to preserve them and keep them clean.

I think functionalist architecture started this problem.
The idea of 'whiteness' was typical of this movement. Le
Corbusier's book The Law of Ripoline a Coat of Whitenouth,
shows the importance of cleanliness and sterile look in this
rule. The white walls would resist the growth and accretion

of 'death things' on the façade. Le Corbusier wanted to create a form of pure memory. A flat façade masked the internal load-bearing structure and emphasises the idea of the objectivity and 'truth'. -5

Buildings like the sanatorium Zonnestraal, by Duiker and the artist's residence, by Van Doesburg, have to be maintained every eight to ten years. They were built as 'throw away' buildings. "78 They are not designed to age well. Why do we want to preserve them? We never get them back within the same context, atmosphere and degree of cleanliness. Only old photographs and films will construct an impression of the original objectivity." A reconstructed version will never achieve this. This style is actually not suitable for long-term architecture. The real life conservation of this particular style shows that the intention behind an architect's idea concerning the life span will not be accepted by future generations. Van Doesburg did not want to burden future generations with his figments. At this moment there are plans to renovate it again. "7

Is it something we have to accept as artists and designers, or can we prevent these kind of situations? And if so, how?

This standard of cleanliness is seen in a lot of modern architecture. The design of most modern architecture with ageing symptoms is quite honestly not showing his best side. There is still the notion of creating a pure form of memory. Nowadays architectural renderings reinforce this utopian image. It is not a sustainable thought and that is a shame, because it can be such a nice design tool for contemporary architecture. It also fits in with the idea of sustainable architecture, because it will force designers to think about life after the finishing of the construction. As quoted by Mohsen Mostafavi at the beginning of this essay, ageing constructs finish.

"Why do we want preserve than?

We never get than back within the same context, atmosphere and degree 0





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CV OF ARTIST RESIDENCE - DOESBURG



ATORIUM ZONINIESTRANI DI IIVER



→5 BOOK

On Weathering: The Life of Buidings in Time (1993)
MOISIN MOSTANNI & DAVID LEXTIRRARROW
English | 140 pages | The MIT Press | England
In this book, Mostafavi and Leatherbarrow explain how
weathering and architecture are inextricably linked. They
illustrate how and why nowadays architecture is wrestling
against this natural force. — 3 See inv. nr. 5.

→7 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Wegoerphuis voor de eeuwigheid (26 February 2016)
PETER VERMAAS
Dutch | 2 pages | NRC Handelsblad | The Netherlands
De Stijl 'theoretician, Theo van Doesburg built an artist
residence in Meudon (Paris) in 1930. This article gives a
context to the time when it was built and the time after its
construction. " See inv. n. 7.

→8 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Lieuer geen nieuw Zonnestraal (11 March 1994)
Wim CROUWEL
Dutch | 2 pages | NRC Handelsblad | The Netherlands

Dutch | 2 pages | NRC Handelsblad | The Netherlands Long read about the Sanatorium Zonnestraal by J.P. Duiker built in 1928. Discussing the argument on how to deal with functionalist architecture that Crouwel wrote for the NRC. → See inv. nr. 8

→9 ARTICLE

The Modern Cult of Monuments: Its Essence and Its Development (1903)
ALOIS RIEGI.

German | 15 pages | Augsberg, Vienna | Austria
Commenting on the quote of Riegl about the imperfection and lack of completeness that is caused by age value.

→ See inv. n. 9

related articles: inv. nr: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 36















STILLS FROM 94 YEARS OF PAIN



94 Years of Paint (2016)

MARIA ROHOF

English | 3.02 min | TU Delft | The Netherlands

I would like to explain why I picked this film project after this first essay. In this project I researched if I could change the context of materiality and how it effects memories. What if I make a clean composition without any traces. Like the law of Ripolin from Le Corbusier. A presentation were the outer look represents a form of pure memory and the inside is the chaos of all the paint layers that were supposed to be on the outside. Like the Zomestnad with the outer facade whiter than white and the inside filled with dirt, mud and plants. Finishes of the building removed from its context, but still within its context.

I was searching for a language to tell this story and for me a film loop suited this subject the best. The loop represents the repetition in how often this situation is repeated in daily architecture. Of how much ageing traces have been removed from buildings. Of how much traces of history have been gone. Also in this case each time the paint falls on the ground the traces become smaller. Each memory will fade eventually, in the end it all will be dust.

This project started in November 2016 after I moved into a two floor apartment originating from 1923 in Rotterdam. The quality of the paintwork in this apartment was very poorly done. I decided to remove all the former layers. For more background information and images \$\rightarrow\$ See inv. nr. 10

For the whole film see vinco.com/215099215





THE ATTRACTI



This is a detail of the old Michigan Theatre in Detroit. A great example of a ruin porn city. The removed only the parts that were necessary to make it a parking garage. The alienation effect is quit big because of this reason. The theatre built in 1926 stood for a glorious time in Detroit as Motown and is downgraded to a parking garage. $^{\rightarrow 12}$

why we need slow change

the attraction of destruction

rollercoaster, etc, helps with the imagination of the abandoned scenery. The alienation within the image results in a shocking effect. It also gives a nostalgic feeling. The image of what has been in the past can easily be formed

It can be aesthetic in a way, but it remains an image. As a bystander you will look from your own little comfort zone. No-one likes to live in such villages or places. That is an important fact. These places do not have useful functions in reality. Or perhaps there are too many to contribute to the comprehension of decline and the physical and socioeconomic impacts. The problem is also that there is no context in photographs. It is only the image and does not show the reasons behind the representation. The reality is just hard and there will be no change even if it continues to be photographed. It is maybe nice to see, but in reality it is.

We should learn from these kind of places. It proves that we have to design differently and look towards the future. Architects should have the responsibility for the end of their buildings. "Designing a building would include designing its end"." ⁻¹³ It is a waste of material and energy if these structures just stay in the landscape. The mortality aspect within architecture has to be visible for the sustainability of architecture, ironic as it may sound. This phase of maintaining the ruin is not helping. The old has to face it is a superior of the sustainability.



"Designing a building would include designing its end".

11, 12, 13, 19, 31

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tis for me a bit of a contradiction. At the same time it can be marked as ruin porn, but on the other hand it is pure functional that these parts of the theatre are still visible. It is cause of the changed conditions that this kind of huge function changes can take place. It was/is just a good place downtown to have a parking garage. Maybe sometimes we have to approve it. *12

1, 12, 13, 19,

"Designing a building would include designing its end".



CHARAL DALLO FOLO



BOOK COVER



MANDONES POLICE

→11 ARTICLE

Et in Arcadia Ego: On the Conception of Transience in Poussin and Watteau. (1963)

ERWIN PANOFSKY

English [31 pages | Philosophy & History | USA In 1963, art historian Erwin Panofisky wrote the article Et In Areadia Ege: Paussin and The Elegiac Tradition named after the famous painting from Nicholas Poussin, The Areadian Shepherds (1647). He discussed this painting and concluded that the image "no longer shows a dramatic encounter with death but a contemplative absorption in the idea of mortality". — See inv. n. 11

→13 BOOK

Buildings must Die. A Perverse View of Architecture (2014)
STEPHEN CARRS & JANE M. JACOBS
English | 298 pages | The MIT Press | England
This quote from Cairns & Jacobs is written in their conclusion.
They argue the movement craftle to craftle. In their opinion we have to reconsider this movement.

See inv. I 3

→19 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

Wie van Charleroi houdt mag de sloophamer niet schuwen(8 September 2016)

IJN SADÉE

Dutch | 2 pages | NRC Handelsblad | The Netherlands Long read about the Belgium city Charleroi that lost a large backhoe factory and 2,200 jobs. How a city like Detroit is helping itself. — See im. nr. 8



elated articles: inv. nr

"It's not a good thing...or a bad thing
I think we need change, change makes stories,
change makes new things, change makes secrets
to be discovered.
Mostly it hurts but change makes
the world interesting" "14





Detail of Model for documentary See Know Love | Chicago 2013

These historic façades on the Michigan Avenue in Chicago were part of the model that I created for my documentary about Chicago's 'L'. Chicago is a city that developed rapidly. Founded in 1833 and the Loop structure finished in 1897 Chicago went through a lot of changes. These façades are from the starting phase of Chicago as architecture city. Not all of them survived the changing city, but the Loop did. Like a witness in the middle of the city. With the model I wanted to show the complete story of the Loop. It was difficult to research this invisible time. This time that is everywhere, but also interesting, because mostly it can be discovered. It is like low, you want to know everything from it, but there will always be a mystry. Something that will keep it interesting. That is why I love our built environment and its changes.

WHY WE NEED SLOW CHANGE

This quote from my Chicago documentary says something about the importance of change and its neutral form.

Regardless if it is good or bad, we learn from it and move on. Change is inevitably linked to time and time is inextricably linked to movement. Exerywhere there is movement, classic as in the clouds moving in the wind and in the sun moving through the sky. Throughout time much has changed in the relation to the speed of time. Nowadays we face the problem that our minds cannot hold on to the speed of present day society. Perception of time has changed and the realisation and attention paid to time in general is fading. This is a shame, because we need the awareness of time to accept change.

We grow up with change. It is fascinating to see our ageing process, because in a way it is predictable. It changes in the right pace which allows us to prepare out minds for whats to come, physically and mentally. The change in the speed of time makes us want to hold on to the past. We tend to search for reliability. This results in resisting change in ourselves and in our environment. We do not seem to be ready for change and try to fight against it through cosmetics or cosmetic surgery. But this does not change the fact of death which we fear nowadays.

This surprises me, because change is a natural phenomenon like the seasons and the change between day and night. It is a fascinating process to see, within ourselves and in our environment. These changes take a relatively slow time. We get used to these changes and they form a natural cycle. This predictability of beginning and ending gives us comfort which we can rely upon, It also enables us to handle unpredictable things in life better.

A great example is a true story about the New College in Oxford. The building has a wooden ceiling with oak beams. A few years ago the beams needed replacement so they asked the woodsman if there were any oak trees in the forest around the

college. It turned out that around 1400 they planted a grove of oak trees to replace the wooden beams of the college if they ever needed replacement. This means that around 1400 they already trusted the cycle. This kind of forward thinking and confidence in the future is not seen in the present-day society. Like Brian Eno said about this situation: "We somehow have to start trying to act as if there is going to be a future". -15 The natural cycle of a building without any intervention, restoration, removals and additions is what Alois Riegl terms as age value. -16 Age value is important for the cycle of a building's life. It marks the passage of time, so it shows the time and the end of a building's lifetime. This passage of time needs to be slow, because we have to get used to it. This slow change in time is important to the understanding and acceptance of change in our environment. It needs to be honest, a true reflection of the building itself. Manipulative architecture is not helping in this aspect. In many situations they take advantage on this natural cycle of a building. They reconstruct to gain a sort of power and reliability. The static form of a building represents a form of eternity. That can be dangerous. Therefore a good mixture of different kinds of buildings is needed. →17

To create a healthy built environment, it is important to accept change. It is all about the quality of our surroundings. Through a human's life the social relationships and environmental qualities need to be maintained. Also the ability to adapt is crucial. We all age in our own pace that is equal in architecture. Even how we deal with ageing can refer back to architecture. The qualities of adapting, ageing well and having social and environmental relationships are what is needed to a successful life of a building. "Il But its acceptance of mortality is also important. "To make something near you have to break down the old" "If toes not mean that we have to throw away the old but we can learn from it and use it for a new cycle. Like evolution.

"We somehow have to start trying to act as if there is going to be a future".

why we need slow chang

→14 DOCUMENTARY

See Know Love (2016,

VIARIA ROHO

English | 10.12 min | TU Delft | USA (Chicago

Research project that lead into a short research documentary about the Loop in Chicago. The elevated line that transport thousands of people every day to the inner city of Chicago. I am questioning its outdated structure in its changing environment.

3 See inv. n. [4]

→15 FILM FRAGMENT

Find van hezit (8 November 2015

THOMAS RAU

English | 48 min | VPRO | The Netherlands

Architect Thomas Rau shows in a dutch television program titled The and of Phosession a short fragment of Brian Eno explaining about forward thinking, referring back to the New College Oxford. An interesting thought on how our view on long term is changed. \$\to\$ See lim. nt. [5]

→16 ARTICLE

The Modern Cult of Monuments: Its Essence and Its Development (1903)

Alois Riegl

German | 15 pages | Augsberg, Vienna | Austria Commenting on the quote of Riegl about the terms Age Value and Historic Value.

→ See inv. nr. 16

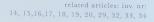
→29 ART

18 Wooden Men, lying down. (1994)

I OM CLAASSEN

Dutch | 18 sculptures | Kröller Müller | The Netherlands Commenting on the work of Tom Claassen which is exposed in the Sculpture garden of the museum. These lying men are designed to slowly dissolve into the forest where they are situated. → See inv. no. 29









Still of film The Wall | Delft 2016

The Wall

I see grey, brown, pink and orange

I see birds picking insects between the bricks
I see a tree that has been cut off trying to grow out of the wall again
I see one brick left alone in the middle of a large gap

I see the young ivy growing over it
I see crumbled mortal trying to hold the bricks together
I see bricks balancing on each other I see the change ,over and over again.

I see a wall that is alive. →20





THE HISTORY OF A LANDSCAPE

Change in the landscape is for humanity nothing special. Almost every change in traditional landscape is created by humans. Change led to the history of the landscape, we create spaces by changing the landscape. These spaces are important in the way explained in the text on the previous page written by Jackson in the book The Necessity for Ruins [1980]. →21 It is an ongoing natural process for mankind environment lays down in the reliability and reality of our

With this given fact I believe it is meaningful to work with the context of a site, the history of a landscape. First I have to know the past and present before I can add my own layer and continue the story of the site. The idea to use the place and history is well described in the article from Alison and Peter Smithson written for The Independent Group (1980). →23 They talk about "the 'as found', where the art is the picking up, turning over and putting with ... and the 'found', where the art is the process and watchful eye...."

Not only the adjacent buildings of the site are important but also "all those marks that constitute remembrancers in a place and that are to be read through finding out how the existing built fabric of the place had come to be as it was" are maybe even more important. It makes it specific-to-place, the uniqueness of place. $^{\rightarrow 23}$

The 'as found' also can re-energise our inventive activity, so the new can re-energise the existing fabric. This process constantly has to be there. For a design project it design where the 'found' is the process after its construction.



For me it is important to add value to the existing fabric and take advantage of its qualities. The use of the material is in this particular situation important. Possibilities of considered. The idea to let the design dissolve into its location, the place from which it was first taken, arises. The genius loci of the place. The question is about how to not bother the site and its urban fabric by enlarging the qualities of the site. Make it personal and site specific. It is valuable to care and to take responsibility as a designer for your



THE HISTORY

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The 'as found' also can re-energise our inventive activity, so the new can re-energise the existing fabric. This process constantly has to be there. For a design project it is important to first research the 'as found' and make the design where the 'found' is the process after its construction. The watchful eye that will continue the story of the place is a factor that is not easy to influence, but it is possible to give

For me it is important to add value to the existing fabric and take advantage of its qualities. The use of the material is in this particular situation important. Possibilities of using material of the location have to be researched and considered. The idea to let the design dissolve into its location, the place from which it was first taken, arises. The genius loci of the place. The question is about how to not bother the site and its urban fabric by enlarging the qualities of the site. Make it personal and site specific. It is valuable to care and to take responsibility as a designer for your

Former Calvé Factory terrain | Delft 2017

This photo shows a landscape that is seen quite often in the Netherlands, a vacant lot what used to be a large industrial terrain. The industry moved outwards other countries and these places remain empty. This terrain was demolished in 2008 en now almost ten years later still vacant. But also for these

places there is a history to be discovered. $\rightarrow 24$







→21 BOOK ESSAY

The Necessity for Ruins and other Topics (2014)

a man-made landscape. Also of how this effects the city of importance of space in relationship with time. → See inv. nr.

→23 ARTICLE

The As Found' and the 'Found' (1980) A. & P. Smithson

English | 2 pages | The MIT Press | England In this brief article, Alison and Peter Smithson examine the way of how we can make architecture more specific-to-place. The uniqueness of place. Written for the Independent Group and part of the exhibition they brought a fresh and rigorous view on modern architecture and its context. -> See inv. nr. 23

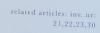
→30 ARCHITECTURE

LINA BO BARDI

Dwelling | Sao Paulo | Brasil

An analysis about the changing context around the glass house of Lina Bo Bardi. This example will show that sometimes architecture is capable to evolve the landscape.

→ See inv. nr. 30



the inevitability of mortality

the inevitability of mortalit

"Without morality, no history, no culture, no humanity" -25

THE INEVITABILITY OF MORTALITY

Bauman shows in this quote the importance of death, without it we would be nowhere. Death is actually the beginning of change. It marks the end of a period of time, but also starts a new one. The realisation and acceptance of death will result in the transience of life. To see ourselves and our surroundings as a moment in time, will help us to form our lives better. The craving and pursuit to immortality throughout history could not exist without mortality. Immortality we can only build by ourselves, as an idea in our minds. It is something that is never achievable.

The impact of mortality in our surroundings and on our lives is huge. Architecture that is destroyed through war is an effective way to hurt humans personally. Like the old ruins of Palmyra in the Syrian war, the whole world watched and was shocked. These stones that are in fact dust have so many impact on our understanding of death. We expect that our surroundings outlive us, but that is dangerous to do. We have to accept the end of things, of everything. Nothing stays for eternity. We come with nothing and end with nothing. It is the same in architecture. In the end it is all just dust. So lets face the end.

"Immortality we can only build by ourselves"





English | 298 pages | The MIT Press | England ZYGMUNT BAUMAN Builings must die which page? → See

→35 BOOK

ROBERT BEVAN English | 240 pages | Reaktion Books London | England

This book quotes Slavenka Drakulic with her explanation about the image of the destroyed Mostar bridge during the Bosnian war in 1993. Her approach gives a nice view on how humans rely on the built environment.

→ See inv. nr. 35

"The reality and reliability of the human world rests primarily on the fact that we are surrounded by things more permanent that the activity by which they were produced, and potentially even more permanent than the lives of their authors. Human life, in so far as it is world-building, is engaged in a constant process of reification, and the degree of worldliness of produced things, which all together from the human artifice, depends upon their greater or lesser permanence in the world itself" -4

The Chicago's Loop Station is a perfect example of evolving architecture. Built on November 8, 1896 this station was closed on September 3, 2017. Now demolished, the station was used for several films and advertisement campaigns. It shows us that every structure we built is a temporary structure.
→26

the conclusion of a search

THE CONCLUSION OF A SEARCH

I started this manuscript with the first words of the quote from Hannah Arendt. I wanted to understand the importance of our built environment. The surroundings that give us the stability that we need in life. I could not disagree with her analysis, but I felt friction within my theme of ageing. My intention is to create clearness in life instead of chaos. I thought that my idea of a changing world was in contrast with Arendr's understanding of the importance of permanent surroundings. In these previous essays I tried to find the coherence between this fact and my idea of the changing world.

The way we built changed through the years. The idea to create a form of pure memory is still todays architectural standard. This idea results in architecture that represents a form of cleanliness, but it is unpredictable in its change. This unpredictability results in an unstable built environment. There is need to change that.

One phenomenon that represents this thought is about 'ruin porn', we want to see the encounter of death, but it is only a temporary way to avoid the reality of death. This view of the image is shocking, but it gives us hope that there is a way to remain. In fact we do not, just like our surroundings. It blocks the cycle of life.

Therefor, we need slow change and predictability of the cycle. The speed of time increased significantly, consequently we want to hold on the past. We seem to be afraid for the future and have a lack of confidence for longterm thinking. We resist change, because we need something to rely on. We control ageing ourselves and our surroundings by creating static buildings and the denial of our own ageing process. It is quite hypocrite to do so, because through resisting change and longterm planning we create an unstable environment for ourselves. This is

a danger to the health of our own society and the built environment. We need a good mixture of buildings of all different ages. We need realisation of change in ourselves and our surroundings to accept ending. In a slow and predictable way we can manage this change and this will help us to deal better with our lives.

Our created history resulted by change can help us to create the right change. The humans needs do not change much, we still eat, sleep, love, procreate, have rituals and traditions and live together as a society. The things we need, we can learn from history. The history is laid down in the landscape, our immediate environment. We have to take responsibility for our own history.

So lets face death, the ending of a period in time. The movement of change in our life. It is not the question if we need change, it is the question of what is the true manner of how to change. The acceptance of mortality is crucial in this case.

When I look back at Arendt's quote there is actually not really a friction. We can still rely on our environment if we recognise the building cycle through time. She is not mentioning change, but speaks of 'more permanent than'. We have to maintain a reliable surrounding for our lives. Not hiding anything, with the acceptance of ageing and death we create a stable situation which is predictable. We need change to prevent us from an untrue reality that we easily create by ourselves. Let us design a true landscape and then rely on our surroundings.



Bo BARDI, L.

Dwelling | Sao Paulo | Brasil →30

ART PROJECTS

Dutch | 18 sculptures | Kröller Müller | The Netherlands →29

MARTENSSON, J.

Swedish | series of six photographs | Sweden →32

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A Letter to Peter Eisenman (1990)

English | 7 pages | Assemblage: MIT Press | USA $^{\rightarrow 36}$

RIEGL, A,

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Development (1903)

German | 15 pages | Augsberg, Vienna | Austria →9, 16

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English | 10:12 min | TU Delft | USA (Chicago) →14

English | 01.28 min | TU Delft | The Netherlands +20

Image only | 03.02 min (loop) | TU Delft | The Netherlands $^{+10}$



IMAGES

BOSCH, IN DEN, D.

Photograph | Design Kwartier Den Haag | The Netherlands →33 **Коно**, М. Forum Romanum (2014) | Rome | Italy -27 Randolph/Wabash Station (2015) | Chicago | USA →26 Detroit's Michigan Theater (2015) | Detroit | USA →12 Detail of Model See Know Love (2015) | Chicago | USA -14 Endless Growing (2016) | Delft | The Netherlands →28 The Soda factory (2016) | Schiedam | The Netherlands -2 Wall (2017) | Rotterdam | The Netherlands →6 Former Calvé Factory terrain (2017) | Delft | The Neterlands -24 Photographs | Rotterdam | The Netherlands

Painting | Museum Prinsenhof: Delft | The Netherlands →22

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the wall
the history of a landscape
the inevitability of mortality

the inevitability of morethe conclusion of a sea

MAGES

Bosch, IN DEN, D.

The 100 year old Broccoli (2)



Pantheon | Rome 2014

ting | Museum Prinsenhof: Delft | The Netherlands 12

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Es, T.

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ERMANS, P.

Westers, 1.
Weguerphus voor de eeuwigheid (2016)
Dutch | 2 pages | NRC Handelsblad | The Netherlands

When I went to Rome, it felt a little

bit like a museum to me. All these places that are now not in use anymore. The Roman Forum was during the empire the marketplace of Rome, the main centre. The place where it all happened. Now the place is a ruin where the time stood still for a long time. A well kept museum piece, but a shame for the city life.

Patience is an interesting trait. difficult to be patient in a world that moves so fast. My first words that I could speak were: "Just a minute". I felt the rush around me and I could not keep up to the speed of life. And also maybe more important I still cannot understand the speed of the time nowadays. To give time seems to be difficult, we expect that everything happens immediately. Impatience is the norm. Also in architecture this patience. With this research I needed to be patient so that it could ripe on its own tempo. Martijn Stellingwerff. That he could bring up this same patience. This booklet may look small, but I hope it will bring discussion.

Roots have a big drift to grow, in a world that is mostly not visible for humans. A world of preparation, to present themselves on the right time.

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