Graduation Plan

Personal information	
Name	**Dina Dorothea Dönch**
Student number	4307089
Studio	
Name / Theme	**Explore Lab**
Teachers	Robert Nottrot, Patrick Healy, Ype Cuperus
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Explore a topic of personal fascination which is not offered by any other studio (details see below)
Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	**Architectures of Utility – Modernism of two German States**
Goal	

Location: Germany
The posed problem: Public buildings from the 1960ies and 70ies in the devided country of Germany have a specific and controversial architecture. This projects aims to examine it's character and create a new method of dealing with the subject today.
research question: How can the architecture of public buildings from the nineteen sixties and seventies in Germany be understood today? What historical circumstances led to the development of a common concept of architecture in two states? How is the concept of a "technocratic" welfare state critizised? In what way did adaption by users change the character of buildings designed for "the every-day"? Which materials and technologies where typically used and how can we evaluate them today?
design assignment in which these result: How can an architectural period be portrayed using architectural tools? How to design a temporary exhibition space showing characteristics of the architecture including elements from the original planning prosess until today? How can physical and theoretical fragments be used to create a spacial experience of the subject?

Process

Method description

Seven case studies from former East and West Germany will be studied. Based on the information gained from this I can describe the historical circumstances under which public buildings from the 1960ies and 70ies were created and perceived. By use of theoretical and philosophical literature I will develop an interpretation of my findings, which can be communicated by an architectural design.

Literature and general practical preference

Case study buildings are visited and photographed. Plans and other material is gathered from archives, experts from different disciplines consulted for additional information.

Case studies: Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Rathaus Elmshorn, Hauptbahnhof Ludwigshafen, Bahnhof Schönefeld, Kernkraftwerk Lubmin, Fachhochschule Potsdam und Parteischule Erfurt

Most important literature references:

Zeller, Ursula (Hrsg.), 2004. „Zwei deutsche Architekturen 1945-89"

Cache, Bernard, 1995. „Earth Moves - The Furnishing of Terretories"

Marquard, Odo, 1981. „Abschied vom Prinzipiellen"

Necker, Sylvia, 2012. „Konstanty Gutschow – Modernes Denken und
  volksgemeinschaftliche Utopie eines Architekten"

Reflection

Relevance

The architecture of public buildings in divided Germany on one hand expresses the core of modernist theory in general. On the other hand it shows a specific German attitude. Since these buildings are still an important part of our living environment, this research can help improving it. Analyzing architectural history helps to reflect on the current architectural practice. A statement for the power of the human need for the unplanned, the individual, a rebellion against utilitarianism is unconsciously created by interventions contrasting the existing structures. The coexistence of original ideas and interventions can open up a whole range of possibilities in between. By raising awareness people are invited to explore this range and find something to suit there own needs within it. The idea of coexisting alternatives could inspire society development in general.

Time planning

until P1: gather literature and material about case studies, define research goal and design goal, define structure of work

P1 presentation: historical circumstances and direction of theoretical research, material on case studies including models I built

until P2: finalize choice of material, start writing, define position, start designing

P2 presentation (21 january 2014): theoretical position, concept of design, fragments of case studies

until P3: organize workshop with group on Failure and cinematography in architecture, finish writing (research), present first design results

P4: present finished research and design

P5: improve design