DIPLOMA PROGRAM FALL 2017

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Institute: Architecture

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Company cooperation:

Title of project: Searching for Stability

Monastery in Andalusia
The movement exists, but as breathing, constant and expected. Essential.
A village in Andalusia
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Thesis

*I think what we demonstrate is the value of staying put. Modern society is so full of people rushing from one place to the next, one job to the next, even one family to the next. But we are able to stay put, and I think there is something that is attractive about that because so many people are rootless.* - Anonymous teacher in the school run by a monastery

The work is searching for stability in the world of movement. Essence of stability has been found in the typology, atmosphere and mood of a monastery, in its devotion and contemplation. The project is exploring different kinds of relationships between stability and the movement.

Program

The necessary program consists of: production garden, spiritual garden, cells and a communal space.

The precise spatial program will come through spatial research and connections based on experiences and rituals of monks and their daily life and the context.

Site

El Caminito del Rey is a walkway, pinned along the steep walls of a narrow gorge in the province of Malaga, Andalusia. The route is linear in one direction, downwards from the north to the south, with beginning at Ardales and end at Alora.
The walkway stretches between two dams, Count of Guadalahorce Reservoir and El Chorro Dam. It was built for workers at the hydroelectric plant at Chorro, Falls and Gaitanejo falls. The walkway was connecting the plants, to provide transport of materials and to help facilitate inspection and maintenance of the channel. The construction began in 1901 and was finished in 1905. The walkway is 1m in width and rises over 100m above the river below. The original path was constructed of concrete and rested on steel rails supported by stanchions (approximately 45 degrees into the rock face). It deteriorated over the years, and there were numerous sections where part or all of the concrete top had collapsed.

Today

After reconstruction in 2015, the path became desirable and available for tourists, not just hikers, for its unique scenery.

Vegetation consists of aleppo pines, stone pines, holm oaks and eucalyptuses make the tree population, with orange and olive trees in the surrounding. On the path one can find scrub, particularly junipers, Sabine junipers, Mediterranean fan palms, brooms and rockroses. Vegetation on
the riverbank comprises rushes, reeds, canes, oleanders and tamarisks, as well as some poplars and willows.

Among the fauna one could find mountain birds such as the Egyptian vulture, griffon vulture golden eagle and honey buzzard. Several species of amphibians and numerous reptiles are to be found here. The mountain goat inhabits the upper reaches, along with foxes, rabbits, dormice, badgers and genets.

Approach

To enter a monastery is to become part of a corporate body, and to share in all aspects of life with that body, acting through it, sharing in all the joys and sorrows of its members, giving and receiving that help, comfort, and strength which comes from mutual counsel. - Gasquet 1896:xii

The theme has been approached through the understanding, experience and conditions found on the chosen site and the relationship between man and the nature.

The aim is to find relationship between the route which has been seen as a ritual of movement and the monastery as ritual that is standing still.

What will be relationship between the monastery and the nature?

How will inspiration from certain conditions found on the site reflect/result on spatial qualities of the monastery?

References

I go back to that landscape because it presents the movement provided by the walkway and the train, while the monastery stays put. I see niches, microclimates, gardens on the path that are pauses in the movement, but without the potential to be permanently inhabited.
Production plan
Site plan 1:1000
Site model 1:500
Plans, sections, elevations 1:200/1:100
Building model 1:100
Details 1:50
Axonometric drawing 1:200
Illustrations/Renderings
Project description
Schedule

/06 & /07 Visiting the site and further development of the thesis
15/08 Start of semester
Reference studies
Spatial explorations
Deciding on the program
21/08 Program delivery
01/09 First review
05/09 Volume studies
20/09 Second review
18/10 Third review
01/11 Models, Renderings, Testing the spaces
14/10 Fourth review
17/11 Delivering changes in program
05/11 - 01/12 Producing plans, sections, elevations, details
05/12 Fifth review
15/12 – Diploma submission
Let us consider man in his first origin without any other help, without other guide, than the natural
instinct of his wants. He wants an abiding place. Near to a gentle stream he perceives a green turf,
the growing verdure of which pleases his eye, its tender down invites him, he approaches, and softly
extended upon this enamelled carpet he thinks of nothing but to enjoy in peace the gifts of nature:
nothing he wants, he desires nothing; but presently the Sun’s heat which scorches him, obliges him to
seek a shade. He perceives a neighbouring wood, which offers to him the coolness of its shades: he
runs to hide himself in its thickets and behold their content. In the meantime a thousand vapours
raised by chance meet one another, and gather themselves together; thick clouds obscure the air, a
frightful rain throws itself down as a torrent upon this delicious forest. The man badly covered by the
shade of these leaves, knows not how to defend himself from this invading moisture that penetrates on
every part. A cave presents itself to his view, he slides into it, and finding himself dry applauds his
discovery. But new defects make him dislike his abode, he sees himself in darkness, he breathes an
unhealthful air; he goes out if it resolved to supply by his industry the inattentions and neglects of
nature. The man is willing to make himself an abode which covers but not buries him. Some
branches broken down in the forest are the proper materials for his design . . .

- Laugier, Essai sur l’architecture (1753)
Context is the universe, eternity and each of us. Nothing. Dust. Garden inside all of us. All of us feel the hunger, the thirst and the emptiness. All of us have to protect from the sun, wind and rain. All of us need them. All of us have the same ground and the same sky above us.

Desire
The absolute and the infinite are desirable because we hope we can achieve them. We hope our spaces will evolve beyond our initial intentions.

Ruin
Ruins are deprived from the needless, they represent statements of basic ideas which are left to the nature.

Between sky and earth
It has been left to the forces of nature, to meet the horizon, the meeting of the two unfathomable volumes.

Silent space
A garden is a new world, a discontinuity in its surrounding. That is the unique space, which is specified by the rest, inactivity or a pause in the heavy activity, the place where we stop and freeze movements, but also has been defined by the circulation, which reveals that it is an alive world, a microclimate. It is a place where time passes by slowly.
A garden is a space that we guard, protect, make it grow and conserve the universal values. That is the place where the collection of the certain values exists and lives and where we have the time and the space to treasure them. The garden belongs to everyone who experiences it. The belief for this idea lies in a collective will in the manner of becoming universal in the sense that everything which is personal and deep enough becomes universal, as something that is basic. The inner world of the garden is protected and held by dint of high and massive walls, which function as a membrane. The outside part of the wall belongs to the surrounding. Inside of it there is the world of the garden, the frozen moment, the frame.
Louis Kahn – Drawings to find out, The Dominican Motherhouse and the patient search for architecture, Michael Merrill

Architecture of the City, Aldo Rossi

On Adam’s house in Paradise, Joseph Rykwert

www.academia.edu - Architecture of stability, Monasteries and the Importance of Place in a World of Non Places, Richard Irvine

http://www.caminitodelrey.info

https://www.quarrabbey.org A day in a life of a Monk

Into Great Silence, Philip Groning

The Monastery of Santa Maria de La Tourette, Le Corbusier

http://ronrolheiser.com/ - Lessons from a monastic cell