

Focus Work at the Chair of Structural Design (Prof. Dr. Joseph Schwartz) – Proposed Topic***Embodied Structure: Art, Aesthetic, and Perception of Structural design*****Abstract**

Building structures are shaped by both their technical and artistic dimensions. However, in recent years, aesthetic considerations in structural design have been marginalized by architects and structural engineers. Taking structural design as a way of thinking, not just the material operations that uphold the building, structural design fundamentally differs from structural analysis and calculation.

This focus work will base on the notion of “Strong Structures” - structures not only playing the role of load-bearing but also fundamentally shape the characters of architecture. It will explore the (embodied) structural aesthetic expression in different architects or engineer-architects. Unlike a linear design process start from the designer, this focus work will research and examine the structural expression from the observer perspective, attempts to understand why and how those structural expressions could “touch” us.

In this focus work, students can pick an architect who uses structures to express their architectural concepts, for example, *Christian Kerez*, *Smiljan Radic*, *Toyo Ito*, *Cecilia Puga* or even historical examples like *Louis Kahn*. Based on the research and re-reading of these architects, students can choose either to do pure theoretical research or a small design project to exam the research findings.



Mestizo Restaurant, Smiljan Radic, Chile, 2007

Keywords

Structural aesthetic, structural expression, perception, embodiment, tectonic

References

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Empathy, Form, and Space: Problems in German Aesthetics, 1873–1893, trans. and introduced by Harry F. Mallgrave and Eleftherios Ikononou, Santa Monica: Getty Center Publication Programs, 1994.

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