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Tectonics in Building Culture II: Textile Blocks

Erasmus Intensive Program 2009, Ireland, 19th to 30th of August 2009

University of Liechtenstein, Institute for Architecture and Planning, Vaduz (Coordinator)
University College Dublin, School of Architecture, Ireland (Organiser)
Academie van Bouwkunst, Amsterdam
Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art, Trondheim
Royal Academy Copenhagen, School of Architecture, Denmark
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture, Slovenia
Universitat Politécnica de Catalunya, School of Architecture of El Vallès, Barcelona, Spain



LANDSCAPE OF FORGOTTEN TECHNIQUES

The three years of the “Building Anatomy” series had followed a “material path” that winded through a landscape of forgotten techniques and left marks all over Europe: Built within the few days of an Intensive program, a rope bridge in a Slovenia still allows hikers to pass a steep valley, a series of Catalan vaults still casts shadows for pupils on a schoolyard near Barcelona and a wooden longhouse on a Norwegian Island still shelters people’s belongings during winter and serves as a market stand in summer.

TECTONICS IN BUILDING CULTURE

Last year the first workshop of the “Tectonics”-series in Holland opened a new field of research where tectonic aspects in building were materialised in brick. To learn from bricks meant questioning our pretended knowledge about a well-known material. Reflecting while working allowed discovering the properties of the material and finding the according building technique in a process of repeated steps. Without using any tools or mortar a specific craftsmanship had to be established which established an intensive experience that blurred the line between Building and Architecture.

TEXTILE BLOCKS

The Erasmus Intensive Program 2009 will be an opportunity to study the tectonics of dry stone walls. Gravity and adhesion only will guarantee the structures to hold. Reflecting about a material in such a direct and physical way will not only stimulate an immediate learning process but also fuel a working period of almost two weeks. We will live and work on an Island at the West coast of Ireland. By building prototypes and structures, the project will try to animate to experience the essential principles of constructing. Working with stone will raise questions concerning principles of static, the generic character of the material and the possibilities of joining them.

Participants: 4 Architecture students from each University

Fee: Euro 400.00 including travelling and accommodation