

## Reflections on Starchitecture and what comes next...

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I was trained in the offices of Rem Koolhaas and Herzog & de Meuron between 2010-2019. I was exposed to ideas, processes, methods and attitudes. Architecture, in its expanded field, was constituted through masterplans, buildings, installations, strategies, research and the day to day grind of production.

At a certain point, having devoted the best part of a decade to these two practices, I had given all I could and taken all I wanted. I left and entered academia.

If selected, my contribution to this symposium will explore 'transfers between professional practice and teaching'. I feel I can shine some light on this issue and the complexities it unravels. Most recently, I have confronted the following questions – what does one transfer from the professional world and what does one leave behind? What was truly useful in practice and relevant to the new age we are embarking upon?

I have a memory and an experience of practice that (probably) still resonates in the way I think and practice architecture today. Consciously or unconsciously, my practice is suspended between two modes of thinking. These are best summarised by the following quotes:

*'Architecture is the art of facts. We shouldn't have a moralistic standpoint'*

### **Jacques Herzog**

"I think one of the important evolutions is that we no longer feel compulsively the need to argue, or to justify things on a kind of rational level. We are much more willing to admit that certain things are completely instinctive and others are really intellectual."

### **Rem Koolhaas**

One wonders which approach is the most urgent for a new generation of up and coming architects.

Furthermore, one wonders if such approaches should be rejected altogether. This is what I'd like to develop with you at the next annual conference.

