[Session 8] Challenges in Design Curriculum / Patrick Flynn

The materiality of architecture, however, forms an intangible heritage that becomes an integral part of the tangible heritage. The destruction of Ukrainian cities due to war raises the question of the destruction of collective memory, which in turn encourages reflection on heritage and memory in general.

Considering physical destruction along with the destruction of paradigms caused by war and anticipating the upcoming post-war restoration of Ukrainian cities, a necessity for the rethinking of approaches and focuses in architectural education comes to light. A discussion on the contradictory topic of the multiplicity of the Ukrainian intangible heritage and architecture as one of its forming aspects should take its place in educational programs.

Kharkiv School of Architecture applies critical approaches to its curriculum, reflecting on the war conext and raising questions on how to communicate undesirable heritage. Can the recent past be considered heritage? What is behind de-communisation? Could soviet objects without artistic value be heritage?

The cross-course "Kharkiv Atlas" introduces these questions, engaging students in comprehending the (dis)continuity of the (in)tangible values of the building in the constantly evolving urban environment.

The course is organized into three components: research into the social and cultural contexts of the site formalized as an historical passport of the object; research into the nature of the construction, its tectonics and changes caused by time, political, and technological transformations and drawing an axonometric section of the building to show its overlapping transformations.

Heritage Studies in Architectural Education. Case of Ukraine at Time of War

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