

ARTEFACT Category

Material map

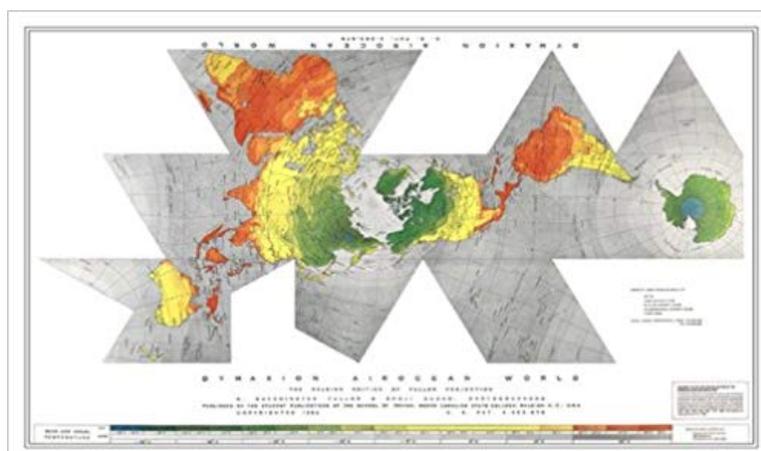
As one form of investigation within the PhD project “The works of the Danish architect Hans Christian Hansen (HCH, 1901-1978): materials, materialization and context”, *material map*, identifies and narrates certain material continuities throughout 19 architecture built works.

The overall PhD project aims at documenting and analyzing the built works by HCH developed under the policies of the Danish Welfare State between the late 1930's and early 1970's as a project leader at the office of the City Architect in Copenhagen. The purpose of the project is to provide knowledge of a little known Danish architect and body of work, which is *material* and *tectonic-wise* extraordinarily rich, and quite unusual in its geographical, historical and cultural context.

Both, due to 1) the lack of biographical data about the architect 2) and the claim that architecture, seen as physical permanence, should be able to reveal its own principles regardless of imposed theories, the project stands for a bottom-up approach. Considering this, the research is structured in the following phases: 1) an account of un-built and built works, 2) location of the built works, 3) recollection of existing data concerning the built works as drawings, photos, articles -if any-, 4) field work by being at the building seen as mere recollection of information with a focus on material/ construction issues, 5) analyses of information based on architecture methods 6) and discussion and conclusions.

Within the analyses phase, 3 different investigations have been set up: materials, materialization and context. Although all architecture built works could be depicted under these 3 fundamental perspectives, however it is considered that HCH's works are specially characteristic and didactic from this 3 approaches. Five materials and one off-the-shelf element are found relevant in HCH's works: *concrete, brick, wood, eternit, metal* and a *window*. In one hand, finding a material thread across works reveals facts and relations about the works themselves, in the other hand, it opens up for connections with other contemporary works to contextualize HCH within a broader architecture panorama through a material variable.

This material investigation is formulated and presented as a *map* unfolded through a number of triangular cards, each corresponding to one material format and building situation illustrated by one close up photo. The idea of the *map* provides with an open interactive framework that can grow and change while it is produced and encourages for participation and discussion even as a “finished” product.



Fuller, B. *Dymaxion Map*, 1954