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Userscapes

The interior attitude of contemporary space

The research project focuses on the contemporary city, wondering whether the traditional descriptive categories of Architecture, like typology, form or function, are still effective to describe its complexity, generated by phenomena like globalization, multiculturalism and digitalization. The hypothesis of the thesis is that contemporary space can't be described just through the disciplinary lens of Architecture: it seems to need more dynamic categories, aware of the centrality that the user's experience is acquiring in the society. Nowadays the metropolitan landscape shows a growing number of open spatial patterns where many possible activities coexist and interact: hubs, cultural platforms, coworking. Places like these can't be described in typological terms and could be better defined as "*userscapes*". Starting from this consideration, the research aims to identify a set of categories that can support the traditional ones in answering to the complexity of contemporary spaces, expanding the disciplinary boundaries of Architecture. Furthermore, the thesis would like to demonstrate that interior design, with its flexible and human-centered attitude, could be seen as an effective interpreter of the contemporary complexity. It will frame the concept of "*interior attitude*", a peculiar way of reading and designing space that is not related to the condition of being inside, but, rather, to the possibility of experiencing space in a more dynamic and personal way. In order to reach these objectives, the research's methodology is following three actions. An interdisciplinary bibliographic research, the exploration of innovative laboratories held in international universities and a selection of cases studio explaining the interest of each category. These projects, collected in a global geographical context and in the time span that goes from 2000 to 2020, will have to present a processual strategy, an open layout related to a wide possibility of being used, and a mature level of interaction with the dwellers. These rules will determine an apparently heterogeneous set of examples: from public to domestic spaces, from interior to exterior set-up, from objects to territorial strategies. Actually, they will reveal, through schemes and interpretative drawings, a strong common background: the interior attitude. At this point of the research the identified categories are five: "real/virtual", "tran-scalability", "geography of uses", "inclusiveness" and "curatorship". Each of them highlights a specific way of designing and interpreting contemporary space, putting the user's direct relationship with places at the center of the project and expanding to the city what has always been related to the interior personal dimension.