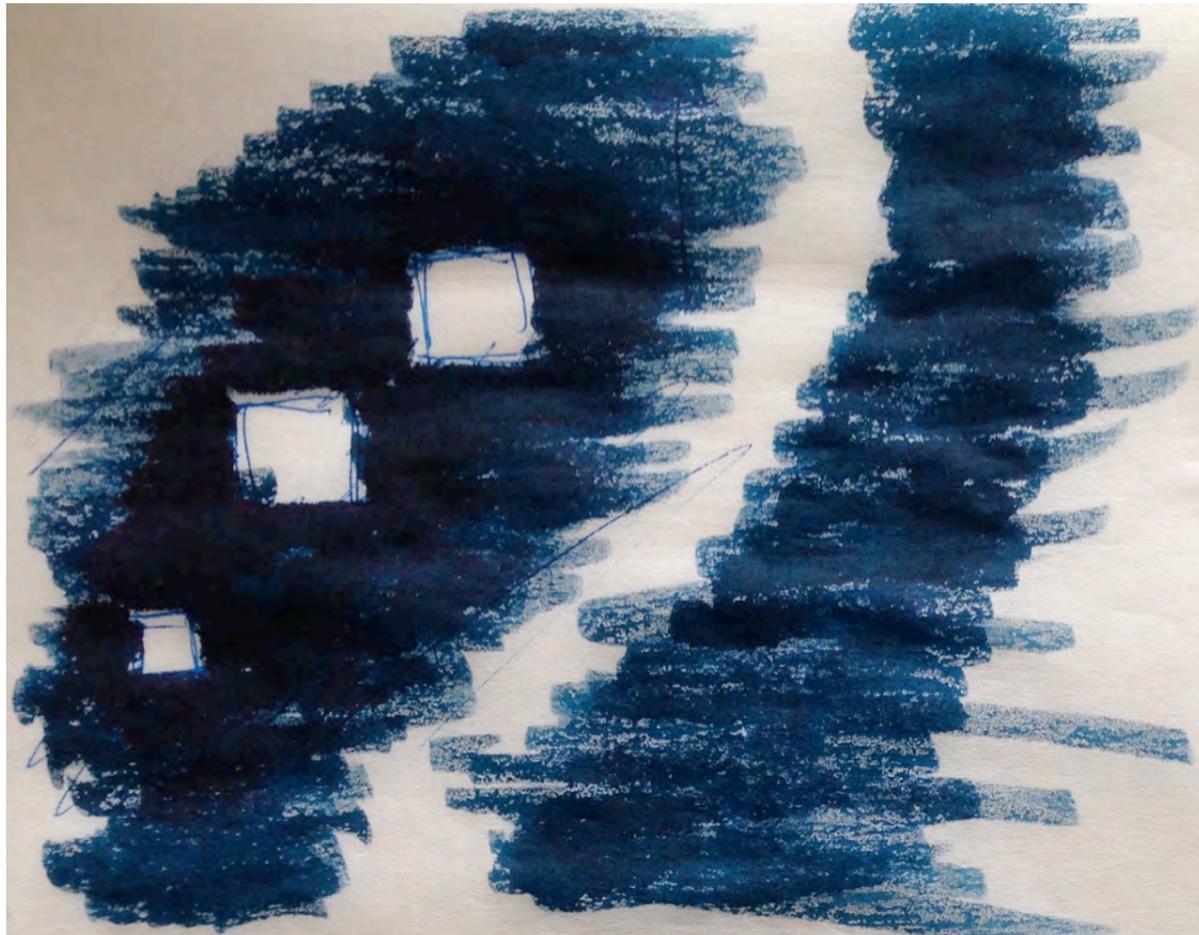


ARCHITECT'S HOUSE A SELF-ANALYSIS

RICARDO SENOS



The relationship between the architect and the client departs, almost always, from distant points of view, despite the common purpose of convergence and approximation. Not so common, although the vast architectural historiography examples, is the production of architecture from and for the architect's own use.

The theme of the architect as author and user of the space he conceived, sets the will and impulse for a research that starts from the most exceptional and sensitive side of the discipline. This means an assumption of an apparently unidirectional relationship, by the annulment of the client, at least in its more traditional form.

It questions if a "home" design project "for" the architect, can generate also a theory of architecture parallel to the discipline in the act of designing.

An understanding of concepts, ideas, motivations and impulses as decision-making, thus constitutes a

premise of this research.

From this universe of more limited and specific central character, the architect's own-house designed by himself, it is intended to reveal other "thinking mechanisms" beyond what seems to be more common in design practice.

Through the analyses of Alvar Aalto's Muuratsalo Experimental House, as a case-study, are tested some of the essential research concepts to, approaching what may be different in the "mechanisms of thinking" of the architect's self design from his professional activity for others, as a problem of architecture to promote reflection.

The purpose of the research is therefore to investigate if there is a change in the design methodology, when removing the figure of the "client". To find out whether the design project is more or less justified and if it seeks to clarify the reasons for the options taken at each stage. Finding out in this process if there are new mental links to be descri-

bed, represented and transmitted to other peers, close the objective of the research, summed in the following questions:

- Does there exist different mechanisms of thinking in the architect's performance when he designs for himself from when he designs for others?
- Which architectural tools may identify, sort, analyse, expand upon and understand these mechanisms of thought?
- Comparatively to the more conventional situations of architectural production, has the design of the architect's own house added reflection to the discipline?