FACETS OF FORENSIC DESIGN STRATEGY

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Within my research, which I am conducting as a PhD candidate and former ADAPT-r fellow at Sint-Lucas in Brussels, I am exploring an inter- and trans-disciplinary design process we (grundstein) call “Forensic Design Strategy” [Origin of forensic: Latin forēns (is) of, belonging to the forum, public (see forum, -ensis) + ic]. The term “forensic” is based on a form of political debate. ”Forensics” is a word rooted in the Western worlds classical experience. The Greeks organized contests for speakers that developed and recognized the abilities their society felt central to democracy. These exercises acquired the title ”forensics”.

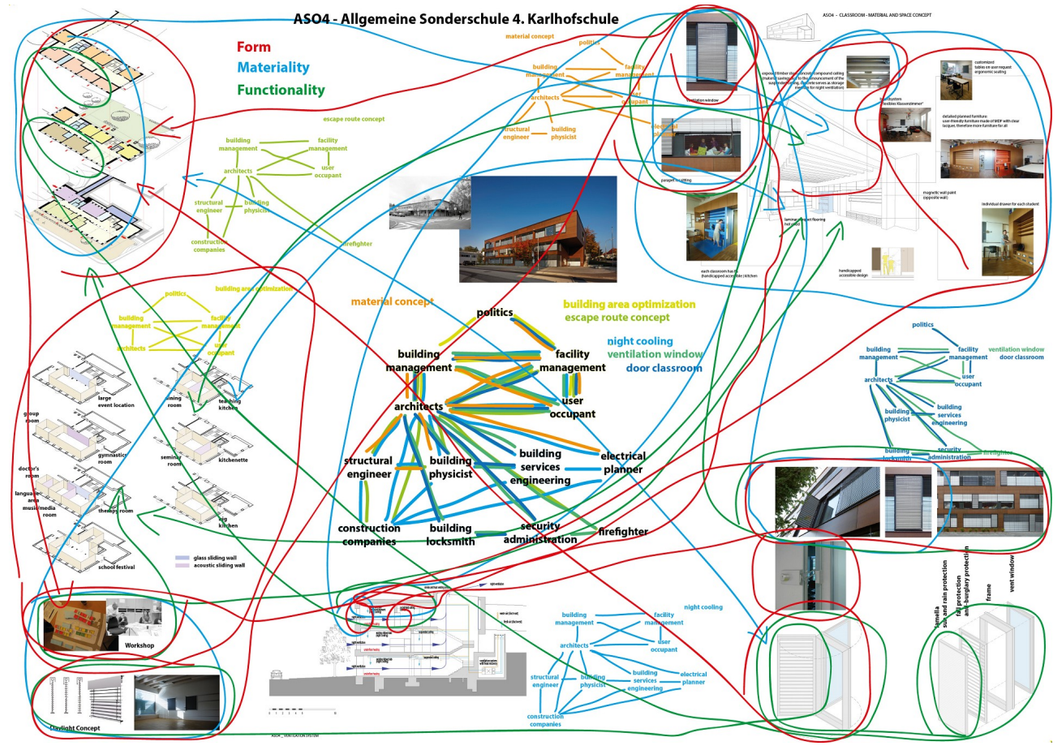
In our practice grundstein we are over and over confronted with the fact that the different technical experts propose solutions which only focus on their own fields. Often these solutions turn out to be counterproductive to solutions which have been suggested by experts of another field. By trying to solve these repeatedly emerging conflicts the whole design becomes more and more complex and expensive.

New technology enables new achievements in design production. These processes are accompanied by an increasing number of specialist planners. It also requires new paths in the design production.

The design processes in architecture are still dominated by very traditional work processes between the individual disciplines. These are characterized by a strict demarcation of the respective work areas with exactly defined boundaries and interfaces. According to common definitions, these design processes are multidisciplinary or pluridisciplinary and results in severe limitations in development new results.

The analysis of these layers in the inter- and trans-disciplinary design processes is visualized on the basis of a selection of our award winning projects.

By interpreting the findings of the research work so far, the next steps are taken and the way of our working is considered in more detail. This requires new ways of decision-making and a different distribution of responsibilities.

Instead of limiting responsibility through borders and interfaces, all knowledge is made accessible to other participants via competence zones.

The limits of responsibility become more flexible and overlap. This results in the need for a common decision making.