

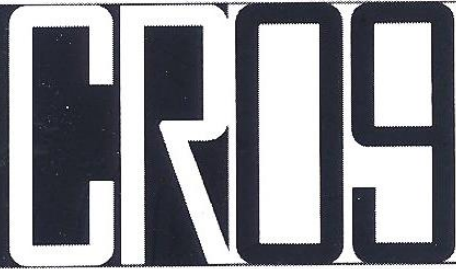
CR09

Noordwijk aan Zee
THE NETHERLANDS
05.10.2009 - 09.10.2009
www.ChangingRoles09.nl

CHANGING ROLES; New Roles, New Challenges

PROCEEDINGS

Editors: Hans Wamelink, Matthijs Prins, Rob Geraedts

The logo consists of the letters 'C', 'R', 'O', and '9' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'C' and 'R' are connected at the top, and the 'O' and '9' are connected at the bottom. The letters are set against a solid black rectangular background.

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EDITORS:

Hans Wamelink
Matthijs Prins
Rob Geraedts

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PERSISTENCE AND CHANGE. XOCHIMILCO: A MAN-MADE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT DIALOGUE

JORGE ANDRADE

Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana Unidad Xochimilco
Calzada del hueso 1100 col. Villa Quietud, C.P 14330 México D.F
jandrade@correo.xoc.uam.mx

Abstract

This paper is about incremental housing in developing societies. This work is being carried out with inhabitants, students and teachers working on education for open architecture.

Since 1950, Mexico City's growth has taken place mainly through peripheral, low- income settlements called colonias populares, and the growth and integration of all traditional towns which have become part of the main city. (Bazant 2001)

As in many other parts of the world, new ways of life and housing production are being over-imposed on the existing ones. Unfortunately this happens most of the time, regardless of the values and relevant elements of the traditional life styles.

Mexico, as many other countries, is in the middle of a process where tradition and innovation are in constant confrontation.

Not only do the new generations of architects have to face these contradictions, but they also have to come up with proposals which are not considered final projects. These projects must be dynamic and incrementally upgraded ones, where changes of all elements: spaces, materials and inhabitants, interrelate and become the main goal.

San Luis Tlaxialtemalco, a small peasant's town founded at the beginning of XVII century and located at the border of Xochimilco lake, has been, since September 2007, our object of study at the Taller de Vivienda Housing Workshop Study in our university. Our main goal is to find a way of preserving this valuable way of life, as well as understanding and improving on it, the changes needed according to our times and technological advances.

Trough a small a scale reconstruction and documentation of dwelling units, transformation along with their inhabitant's dynamic of growth, we try first of all, to understand and sustain a change process. This is in order to define what has to be either preserved or modifies, in the never-ending relationship between architecture and its cultural and natural context.

Keywords: open building, urban growth, dwelling transformation, persistence and change

INTRODUCTION

This document is an advance of a research work which has been developed in the Low-Income Housing Workshop of the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Unidad Xochimilco.

It is through the modular system of teaching and learning of our university, that since 1975 we have been doing both research work and social service.

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