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Teaching Architecture Students to Work with Distributed Design

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ABSTRACT

The subject of distributed design is important in architectural education. Because no single designer can do everything in large projects, work must be partitioned and distributed. This means that all work is essentially partial. Recognizing that each of us does partial work has implications on how and what we teach. For this reason, my studios are constructed to explore this fact. I have developed what I call exercises to make students understand the idea of partial interventions. This paper discusses these issues by showing examples of studio exercises in which distribution of design is explored. The concept of design exercises is also discussed and carefully constrained exercises are suggested as a necessary first step to learning to design under conditions of distributed control.

KEYWORDS: Architectural Education, Distributed Design, Design Exercises, Levels of Intervention

Space and Time to Dwell Santa Ursula through 50 years

Andrade, J.

ABSTRACT

This essay presents the urbanization and dwelling processes of growth of a popular neighborhood in Mexico City by means of plans, photographs and interviews.

The case study, Santa Ursula, initiated its growing process in 1954. In Santa Ursula, the urban and dwelling transformations as well as the social and cultural changes give us an idea about the changes which have taken place performed not just in neighborhoods like this one in Mexico City, but in other cities which have had an accelerated growing process.

The Santa Ursula case study was first documented and studied from 1978 to 1981 as a Master Degree thesis under John Habraken's advisory. Needless to say, the basic principles of Open Building theory and methods were followed and adapted.

25 years later, we came back to the place and we completed part of the information including both interviews to dwellers as well as the use of new technics for documenting information.

KEYWORDS: Urban Development, Incremental Growth Housing, Self Help Production and Transformation