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Team's Vision

Architects, planners, designers globally reflect their societies. Today's contemporary societies of a neoliberal world, especially in the developed countries, have lost touch with their tangible and intangible heritage. The developing countries are following suit. There is a lack of value and respect attached to memories, both positive and negative.

Memories which reflect the past of a context, a population or the humanity as a collective, embody both the successes and failures and are a precursor to a sustainable future. Memories whether negative or positive are intangible but are reflected intangible products and processes such as; architecture and urban structures.

To elaborate on the discussion of the value of intangible memories in the design processes the proposed exhibition proposal has chosen to use the case of Belgium to elaborate the tangible global issues of sustainability and the future trends. The two symbols are chosen to show the contradictions, symbiosis and hybridity of memories are the Belgian Lace and the 3 – D Printer Structures.

Lace is a local and global symbol of traditional knowledge, craftsmanship, solidarity, dexterity and mathematical precision. However, the global industrialization trends wiped out such traditional arts and crafts in developed countries, blurring out the values attached to learning from local knowledge which could show a way forward for future design practices.

The 3 – D Printer Structures represent the contemporary and endless possibilities in architecture, urbanism, art and design aided by science and technology. It depicts the values of precision, time efficiency, low-cost designs, waste minimization, optimization of form exploration and structural possibilities. It also becomes a meaningful tool of communication with the clients and multidisciplinary teams. Yet it faces technological, regulatory, psychological and contextual hurdles.

The symbiosis of the two symbols is supposed to reflect that to value the past positive and negative memories is a sustainable way forward. As what is contemporary today will be the memory of tomorrow. The integration of these two symbols although exhibited in the Belgian Pavilion presents an integral and global view on sustainability.

The complexity of the exhibit will be an indication of the complexities of attaining sustainable solutions through understanding new realities and relationships in design making processes of current and future architecture and urbanistic structures. The current and future challenges of; climate change, overpopulation, migrations, shrinking open spaces, overexploitation of raw materials could be dealt with sustainably, by learning from the past and present memories.

Exhibition Interpretation

The proposed grid of the exhibit represents the mathematical interpretation of the Belgian lace, resulting in a; rational, replicable and an easy to organize structure. A salute to the past knowledge and its contemporary interpretation.

The superimposition of the 3-D printer structure, although literal, is a very strong and appealing element to the contemporary eye. The visitor will immediately identify and engage with the symbol.

The hanging ropes transformed into lace screens (partially by the visitor) will result in a landscape of blurred, to clear screens, showing the positive and negative layers of memories and images for a sustainable future.

The exhibition as a lacework that knitted with memories, is experienceable and readable as although dealing with the intangible topic of memories it is structurally tangible, visually strong and resonates and interacts with the visitor.



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