Energy scripts and spaces
Energy for Society
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Reconfiguration of buildings

- We shape our buildings and after that our buildings shape us (Churchill)

- Buildings are halfway between agency and structure (Gieryn)

- Discursive and material reconfigurations
Sociology of architecture

R. Lawrence
Domestic space and society
(based on Cultural Theory, Mary Douglas)
Script approach

• Foucault: “the ‘apparatus’ is a thoroughly heterogeneous ensemble consisting of discourses, institutions, architectural forms, regulatory decisions, laws, administrative measures, scientific statements, philosophical, moral and philanthropic propositions”

• Foucault: Disciplinary system with cultural and physical scripts, based on principles from the military system, and applied to buildings for

  • Working (factories, offices)
  • Dwelling
  • Learning (schools)
  • Caring (hospitals, care-homes)

• Akrich: technology is infused with scripts, based on expectations of and rules for the user, envisaged by designers, which choreograph the use of the artifact (Akrich, 1995)
‘De-scription of architecture’

• ‘The de-scription, usually by the analyst, is the opposite movement of the in-scription by the engineer, inventor, manufacturer of designer’. (Fallan, 2008)

• De-scription can expose societal norms and values that are embedded in buildings and infrastructures (Moore&Karvonen, 2008)
Scripts in buildings: the panopticon

- Disciplinary system (Foucault)

Panopticon, J. Bentham

Koepelgevangenis Breda, The Netherlands
Photo: G. Lanting
Scripts in buildings: class

Hill House, Scotland, designed by Rennie Mackintosh
Scripts in buildings: energy?

• What is energy for?
  – Comfort
  – Heat
  – Appliances

• Energy provision
  – Firewood, turf, coal, gas, electricity

• Energy use
  – Building design
  – Building quality
  – Layout of domestic space

Photo: Willy Horsch
Example: Scripting the kitchen

- Homes without a kitchen
- Kitchen for work
- Kitchen as living-space

Typical Dutch kitchen from the 60s
Photo: W.L. Stuifbergen

Leonard E. Ladd “improvement in dwelling houses”, Philadelphia, 1890

Central kitchen, poster from WW 2

Opening up the kitchen in the 1970s

1. Alleen visueel
2. Gedeeltelijk open
Example: Cool storage

- Ice box
- Icehouse
- Cellar
- Refrigerator
Design for Values

• Design hierarchies:
  – Values
  – Norms
  – Design requirements

(Van de Poel, 2009)
Example: Passive House

- Insulation
- Airtight (with ventilation)
- Use passive energy (solar + appliances)
- Appliances A+ (or higher)
- Missed opportunities for cool storage?
Example: Groundfridge

- The icehouse revisited!
Energy reconfigurations

- Standard house
  - Fossil fuels
  - Thermal leakage

- Passive house

- Prosumers house
  - Solar energy
  - Feed in grid
  - Cool space
Discussion

- Energy-saving by design:
  - Embedding carbon-neutral scripts
- Prosumers’ house
- Revisit built-in appliances?
- Cool storage revitalized
- ’Installation-free’ building
Thank you for your attention

Questions?

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