

Mediality of Code

Architectural Design and Coding Practices

Abstract

Digital technologies are increasingly impacting architectural culture and practice. As our world is ever more running on digital hardware and software, code has become entangled in the fabric of the environments in which we operate as architects. Whether hidden behind the interfaces of black-boxed software and hardware or accessible through scripting interfaces, parametric modeling or programming, coding is permeating all digital design media. Coding has become an indispensable design medium for architecture to interface with and make sense of the contemporary world. The focus of this paper is on the mediality of code, how coding as a design medium is influencing architectural design and production processes, but it is framed within the urgency of architecture to engage with coding in a world saturated with digital technologies. The paper frames the mediality of code by discussing why code matters for contemporary architectural practice, traces the multitude of cultures of architects engaging with coding and discusses the digitalisation of design media, in the last section the paper discusses several aspects of the mediality of coding based on a deep engagement of the author in using coding in architectural design processes, both in practice and in teaching.

Keywords

Coding, Digital Design and Production, Mediality, Technology, Teaching