

Form Revisited? The Criticism of Architectural Postmodernism and the Problem of Form

Abstract

Until today, a relatively widespread criticism of architectural postmodernism fundamentally refers to questions of form and its reflection in architectural theory. While some critics see postmodern designs and theoretical reflections which exhibit a strong interest in form as backwards, depoliticized and occasionally even as reactionary, others feel that the references made to the past and tradition were not going far enough, given the ironic distance, conscious breaks and acknowledgment of present conditions recognizable in many postmodern works.

Based on the diagnosis that views on postmodern forms are often one-sidedly politicized the article focuses on discussing the variety of meaning inherent in the postmodern interest in form. The analysis of discussions on form within architectural postmodernism can thus be taken as a starting point, allowing us to again become aware of the relevance and complexity of form. Furthermore, such an analysis urges us to reincorporate reflections on form in architectural history and theory to a much broader extent.

Keywords

Form, Meaning of Form, Architectural Criticism, Debate on Postmodernism, Criticism of Postmodernism