

1. Introduction, Theory and History in the 20th Century

The course presents and explains the most important constituent facts, selected from the innumerable different intellectual reflections of the twenty century and the second millennium, as a rich and simultaneous interplay of parallel stories, either promoting, or opposing each other. It doesn't interpret history as a homogeneously evolving story, emerging from the past, but at the same time, it doesn't deny the importance of creating histories. Instead of a simple chronological presentation of well known historical facts, or a collection of fashionable notions, topics and themes, it rather concentrates on exploring their synchronic functional relationships, and promoting the students to find creative and relevant conclusions of their own.

1. Theory

„To engage in theoria in Classical Greek meant to leave one's familiar surroundings and undertake a journey for the sake of learning”

Kari Jormakka

Aristotle distinguished praxis (practice), poesis (creation) and theory (searching the final reasons of phenomena) as three basic dimensions of human activity

-theory was gradually considered in modern times the exact method of natural sciences concluding from observations of single cases and experiments through abstractions to general laws of nature

2. History

-human self consciousness Homeros Herodotos Plinius....what happened?

-the rise of consciousness of the past and the notion of modern history as a result of growing accumulation of knowledge from 15th century on

due to printing, writing, reading, the first revolution of information technology

carving, etching techniques, lithography, proliferation of visual information in form of printed illustrations

-more and more visits and expeditions to explore sites of antiquity, (Italy Greece Middle East) and overseas territories

-publishing of reports of explorations in books, brings knowledge closer to more and more people, dissemination of knowledge

-changing relation to the past, getting familiar with the past, growing interest in the past, archeologic researches,

-museums, and world fairs, the modern institutions of public knowledge in 19th century

see also lecture 5

3. 19th century reflections with strong influence on the 20th century

-Gottfried Semper: The Four Elements of Architecture 1851

Style in the Technical and Tectonic Arts or Practical Aesthetic

-Friedrich Nietzsche: Use and Abuse of History for Life 1873-74

monumental, antiquarian, critical, views of history

-John Ruskin: The Seven Lamps of Architecture 1880

sacrifice, truth, power, beauty, life, memory, obedience

-Konrad Fiedler: Moderner Naturalismus und Künstlerische Wahrheit 1881

(Modern Naturalism and Artistic Truth)

art is equal to natural creation (and to productive technology as second nature)

-August Schmarsow: The Essence of Architectural Creation 1893

conception of „Raumgestaltung“ the notion of modern architectural space

4. 20th century

- history of architecture emerged more or less parallel to art history in the 19th century with the objective of describing facts of the past in logical, chronological and typological order

the competence of history was constantly challenged and at the same time enlarged by the development and dissemination of social sciences in the 20th century, searching and analyzing phenomena of human individual and social life

history concentrates on objects and facts not on their interpretations

the intellectual activity, the interpretations, and reflections of architects of the past were intended as practical contributions, to promote proper building,

only posterity started to call them theories

-see this problem in History of Theory of Architecture I.

-theory in art and architecture needed constant legitimation in modernism

-Erwin Panofsky: On Relation of History and Theory of Arts (1925) outlines their complementary relevance

-Ákos Moravánszky: Lehrgerüste (2015) important contemporary example on writing history and theory of architecture

