

4. Great Histories of Modern Architecture. History, or Theory?

1. History

-researching exploring analyzing documenting

-the result is a set of historical „facts” in logical chronological and typological order

2. Theory

-theorizing means in the original Greek: thinking, looking at the sensory world without preoccupations, contemplating, reasoning concluding projecting, and as a consequence, imagining

-not to be confused with hypotheses, ideology, apology, strategy, doctrine, method

-the mind is framed and organized by and along the network of our prejudices, as necessary results of our human socialization, we are trying to be aware of them, to get rid of them, and to overcome them by finding new interpretations

see also lecture 1

3. Indicativ phase

After the first great achievements of the new architecture in the twenties and thirties, first comprehensive reflections appear around the middle of the century

-Historical approach

Sigfried Giedion: Space Time Architecture 1941

chronological progress of „constituent facts” in history

influenced by Wölfflin Principles in Art History

teleology, history is interpreted as verification of modernism, as a logical consequence of facts of the past

involves dreams, imaginations of possible future events

more or less idealistic

-Empirical approach

Bruno Zevi: Architecture as Space 1948

what we experience, how we perceive architecture, sensory impressions, and their reconstruction in the mind

conclusion, modern architecture is the successive phase of man's building activity in history,

more realistic

conception of organic architecture

-Other important contributions

-Jürgen Jödicke: A History of Modern Architecture 1959

-Leonardo Benevolo: History of Modern Architecture 1960

Architekturgeschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts 1998

-William Curtis: Modern Architecture since 1900. 1982

4. Critical phase

-Manfredo Tafuri: Theories and History of Architecture 1968

Architecture and Utopia 1976

nothing is evident any more, criticism of irrationalism of utopian salvation theories of modernism, instead of being modern, collapse into formalism, producing non-places

-Robert Venturi: Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture, see lecture 7

-Charles Jencks: Modern Movements in Architecture 1973

The Language of Post Modern Architecture 1977 see lecture 7

-Kenneth Frampton: Critical History of Modern Architecture 1984

half a century time

5. End of „Histories” of Modern Architecture

-histories started to be replaced by comments, reviews, anthologies, see lecture 11.

-Hans Belting: The End of History of art? 1987

-Francis Fukuyama: The End of History 1989