

ARCHITECTURE AS A SOCIO-TEMPORAL LANGUAGE

By

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ABSTRACT:

TITLE: Architecture as a Socio-Temporal Language: Generative Constraints

INVESTIGATION AREA: Developing and exploiting the referential apparatus of architecture as language change.

Insofar as architecture is restricted in expression through the assembly of available resources according to rule sets - it constitutes a sort of language. Languages exhibit characteristics of self-formation and self-destruction as they negotiate temporal variation. Languages, including architecture, also suffer from an indeterminacy of translation whereby intended effects are ravaged by the very same forces which permit their communication.

Exploring the similar operational constraints of architecture and language permits the artist much greater control over the perception and cultural performance of a work. While users of languages comprehend content to varying degrees depending upon fluency, vocabulary and education, architecture also negotiates comprehension through the accumulation of physical and mental events thereby producing an etymology. Arranging these events strategically produces emergent architecture that performs as a relevant contemporary artifact within the referential apparatus and deep structure of existing built and natural ecologies.