

Weaponry-Theory: Architectural Theory in an Age of Capitalist Warlords

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Abstract

The opening of a new architectural periodical with the question “The End of Theory”, contradicts the tradition to inaugurate a journal with a view of the future rather than a lament on the recent past. The cause of theory in architecture is not desperate. If we define theory in architecture as being as much a general attitude and an atmosphere, as any actual and rigorous thought production, the immediate contemporary theoretical atmosphere appears indeed world-wide much thinner than before. Pragmatism seems the contemporary canon and agenda. Theory is mutating but not brought to a mute state. If theory, especially in architecture, has reached an end, this does not mean that architecture can escape from any theoretical constraint. The necessity of architecture’s autonomy is still present. It raises a host of unanswered questions, in turn requiring some degree of theoretical treatment. The dissolution of the notion of the ‘end’ stands as a mirror-image of the dissolution of the notion of the ‘new’. Three areas of concern will be engaged, the first “Theory as a Weapon”, the second ‘The Chinese Experiment’ and the third ‘The possibility of instant theory’.

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