

ASSIGNMENT: 1 + 3 + 9

Summarize your thesis according to the following fairly straightforward rules:

- ~ 1 (one line that serves as your thesis statement)
- + 3 (three sentences that expand upon -- without repeating -- the original line)
- + 9 (sentences that flesh out the idea).

All three parts should build one argument, but should not repeat (or be merely restatements of the same thing). It may help to think of the first part as your title, the second as the subtitle, and the third as an executive summary, or brief description you might find on the back of a book.

DUE: Submit by email to your advisors, and the coordinator by Fri. Oct. 11.

“PROJECT”

In order to advance Friday's discussion of the terms “Profession,” “Practice,” and “Discipline”, I would like to introduce some readings on the idea of a “Project,” as formulated by Eisenman, Aureli, Tafuri, and others. Although I have said that a “thesis” is not just a studio project you invent, I do feel it can be part of a “project” as defined in these readings. The editors of the new journal *Project* (including CMU SoArch alumn Jonah Rowen) write: “What is a project?... As with the question ‘What is architecture?’, we can propose answers, but none will be more than provisional. A project is an idea that subsequent generations can mine again and again to create new architecture without exhausting its potential. A project provides a framework for understanding new architecture in relation to the network of ideas and precedents that constitutes the discipline at a given moment. A project is a conviction of sensibility that becomes so pervasive in an architect's thought that it can be found in every one of the architect's works... A project in architecture... [is] the pursuit of an intellectual problem or critical agenda that transcends an architect's individual work...” Eisenman claims that a “project” is where the architect defines the world in his/her own image; while in “practice” the client or world identifies problems that are solved by an architect. He identifies only 6 “meta-projects” in the history of architecture. Tafuri claimed that history was a “project of crisis.” Andrew Zago says: “There is only one project in architecture... [and that is architecture]...” Aureli says, “A project is necessarily a lifelong undertaking, and today, with the speed at which information is produced and with the state of permanent destruction in which we are forced to live and produce, a lifelong project... is completely impossible.”

Is your thesis part of a “project”?

READ: Please read the following articles and videos and be ready to discuss. (all are available on the thesis website, under author's last name):

- Rowen, Jonah, et al. Excerpts from *Project* no.1 and no.2 (2013)
- Aureli, Pier Vittorio, “A Project is a lifelong thing...” *Log* 28 (2013): 67-78
- Aureli, Pier Vittorio, “The Solitude of the Project,” *Log* n.7 (2006): 21-32
- Eisenman, “Practice vs. Project”, <http://sma.sciarc.edu/video/peter-eisenman-projects-practice/>

See also:

- Biraghi, Marco. *Project of Crisis: Manfredo Tafuri and Contemporary Architecture*. Series: Writing Architecture (2013)
- “The City as a Project,” a PhD research program at TU Delft, organized by P.V. Aureli, is conceptualized to understand the city's form as an act—or project—that defines a political intentionality. See: <http://thecityasaproject.org>