

Index, Tectonics, Algorithm: Architecture and the Intellectualization of Perception, or What Architecture Speaks About

What does architecture speak about? About itself – what else could it possibly speak about. And in fact, it has to speak about itself out of necessity. If it stops doing so, it risks its cultural status and jeopardizes its architectural one.

The lecture will investigate the question of how architecture speaks and communicates. I will elaborate on the claim that in architecture, technology does not pose any problem– not even today in the era of digital fabrication– and actually, it never did. The issue at stake in architecture is– and always has been– visibility and perception.

Architecture can be understood as the great project of intellectualization of perception. Yet particularly in architecture, visibility is not limited to surface phenomena. And this is where the index comes into play, along with tectonics, and algorithm, to answer the question: what does architecture speak about, and how?