

ACTS OF AMBIGUITY: 1. NORTHERN LIGHTNESS

COLLECTIVE VOCABULARY

The vocabulary of Classical architecture provides a common place, as it contains a vast amount of elements that have gradually become familiar throughout society. Its visual connotations have created a collective understanding of many buildings surrounding us. An intriguing complexity arises when reinterpretations are required because of deviant and demanding programs: moments when this vocabulary is subject of challenge.

Throughout Europe, architects have been inspired by the bright source of Italian Renaissance. Yet, being confronted with other, local conditions, the editing and reinterpretation of this classical vocabulary was required. Both Modernistic and Vernacular motives were introduced and mashed-up, causing intriguing bastards as a result. Another perspective is considering these phenomena as experiments, as indicators of the strength of local architectural discourse, causing most beautiful results.

This studio will focus on vocabulary, gesture and style. During this trajectory elements and motives of both classical architectural language and contemporary interpretations will be part of study, reevaluated and be brought into the current era by developing architectural proposals which are charged with these.

A DIPTYCH: NORTHERN LIGHTNESS & MILANESE MODERNISMS

In Scandinavia the idea of Nordic Classicism arose. Aiming for finding a balance between imported- and local traditions. A reduced interpretation of classical architecture resonated in Stockholm, in various types of buildings. In the first semester the studio will focus on a site in Stockholm. In the second semester the Novecento-movement of Milan will be subject of study, among others. As a thorough discourse of reinterpretation took place in this city, resulting in a generation of buildings expressing strong ambiguities towards both Modernism and Traditionalism.

CURRENT URBANISATION

As many European cities currently seem to be under pressure by densification, tourism and rising real-estate prices, the consistence of our domestic environment might require reconsideration. Simultaneously this pressure might only be temporary; therefore it is worth engaging with the longer perspective by providing possibilities of reconversion. To engage with igniting a change, an urban fragment will be developed from an ensemble of buildings - to the scale of the individual apartment.