

Continuity and Change

Continuity and Change, MADe's second thematic, self-curated exhibition, presents a series of recent unrealised or under-construction projects. The exhibition highlights the core ideas that characterise the practice's work by narrating the conceptual and constructive aspects of each project through drawings, images, models and writings.

Emptiness

It is the emptiness contained within the architecture that lies at the heart of many projects at MADe. The practice recognises architecture's primary function as providing a refuge from the outside world. Such a refuge can be sheltered under a canopy, enclosed within a fortress, or sunk into the ground. Voids may thus be sculpted within the walls or established as courtyards. Projects are therefore often focused on defining the unbuilt and dissolving the built container to keep the intervention minimal. An intentionally sculpted void often drives a project's meaning and intent.

Nonconformity

MADe's spaces are often designed to be non-hierarchical, with no clear functional allocations. This allows the spaces to be adaptable for multiple functions while maintaining a coherent expression throughout. Moreover, this helps the architecture endure over time through functional redundancy. Along similar lines, the studio constantly challenges conventional typology by articulating it in the context of history, culture, and site. The experience of the intervention is prioritised over any notional form, organisation, or structure that the building should follow.

Movement

Alongside the void, movement is a primary generator of experience in MADe's projects. A path of movement often emerges as one's sense of sight and revelation unfold during an intervention. By incorporating vistas, a path of movement also aims to integrate the intervention as a whole with the landscape. In several projects, inhabitable walls enhance the experience of moving through a project by introducing archetypal, intimate spaces. A spatial experience through movement is often either sculpted within the walls of

a project or articulated through linear elements in the landscape that may generate certain directional flows.

Landscape

In MADe's work, the landscape is not seen as separate from the architecture. An important approach is to learn from the context and then enhance it. Horizontality is often employed in the proposed forms to integrate the architecture into the landscape or to respect an existing building on the site. From the outside, the built form is sometimes seen as one of the constituents of the landscape. Internally, the landscape and architecture are often interwoven through open courts and passageways, offering scenic views of the outdoors.

Memory

Many projects focus on the recovery, restoration and reconciliation of the lost, the forgotten and the abandoned. Thorough research helps formulate ideas from varied perspectives so that the lost, the forgotten and the abandoned may be retained or transformed within the current cultural and landscape context. This supports the continuation of the people's collective memory and presents a vision for the future that may strike a balance between familiarity and novelty.

Impermanence

Though the projects take cues from collective memory, they also explore themes of impermanence within these interventions. MADe is conscious of the pertinent threshold for defining the function of the spaces and hence does so only when necessary to overcome the functional redundancy of architecture over time. MADe responds to such impermanence through minimal intervention, non-conformity to function, and the idea of regeneration.

Threshold

MADe establishes dualities as points of inquiry. These dualities of topography, culture, time and nature are engaged with, negotiated, and sometimes integrated through the design interventions. At times, an intervention is designed as a gateway or a series of passageways so that the intervention itself

dissolves as a whole. This puts the two related but opposing elements into conversation. As a result, the intervention becomes a threshold between the dualistic entities, not necessarily by distinguishing the two but by establishing continuity between them.

Publicness

As most projects are in the public realm, MADe often aims to forge long-lasting urban relationships by creating containers of emptiness that enable and encourage people's engagement. These containers of emptiness aspire to stir human emotion, as would the stillness of the ocean, the horizontality of the horizon or the vastness of the sky — all in an attempt to address the collective memory of the people.

These themes respond to continuity and change in various ways across projects. The exhibition further demonstrates MADe's continuous engagement with these themes and the changes in their manifestations over time.

MADe (studiomade.org)

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