

Radical Mix - Towards an Architecture of Complexity for the City of Hanoi

The book publication is part of the exhibition "Radical Mix in Hanoi" on the occasion of "Teaching Architecture: 3 Positions Made in Switzerland" an exhibition commissioned by Salvatore Lacagnina at the Istituto Svizzera di Roma, Venice brach for the Venice Biennale 2010.

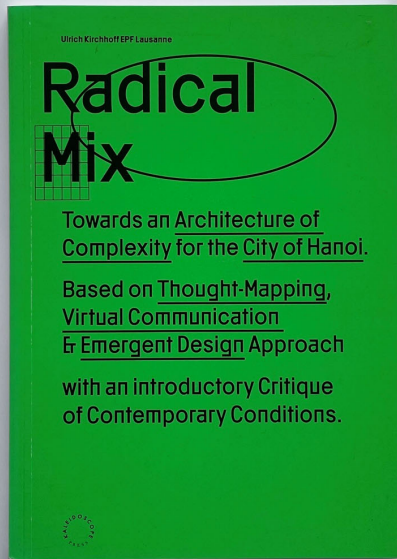
Radical Mix - Towards an Architecture of Complexity for the City of Hanoi
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The trend of urbanisation is towards densification. In that development climate, Asian cities take on a special role as a promoter of vertical hyper density. In Hong Kong e.g. the allowed density in the city has increase from plot ratio 5 at introduction in 1963 to currently 10. Meaning, that a 1,000 sqm plot could allow for 5,000 sqm gross floor area in 1963. Today, it would allow for 10,000 sqm gross floor area and therefore doubled its density in 50 years.

Eventually with growing densification of the city, the population of a singular block of architecture has increased as well, taking on an urban dimension in architecture. This leads to a shift in the understanding of architecture. A building is not an aesthetic or tectonic investigation, but a programmatic strategy on an urban level. The building economy of Hong Kong has accelerated the transformation of architectural typologies from a singular program to highly complex mixed use: A Radical Mix.

The starting point for the Radical Mix is the traditional shophouse: the hybrid of living and working under the same roof. Other than the western townhouse, it has been a typology of complexity, incorporating gardens and patios to separate and integrate the various users in a micro urbanism, rather than in a building. With the increased modernisation and densification of the city, this model of the shophouse has not been questioned, but taken as a foundation for radicalising and densifying architecture. Eventually Mixed Use has become an imminent parameter in the typological development. Scale and configuration has changed over the years, but the general condition of a hybridisation of a building has remained. With this model, the architecture of Asia has emancipated itself from the architectural Modernism, which was more inclined to segregate and separate function instead of mixing and merging them.

Yet the mixing of programs of different scale requires innovation in the way building is constructed vertically. In order to manage and develop the Mixed-Use Development effectively, a new architectural typology with a podium - transferslab - tower - configuration was introduced. In a university based research studio we conducted in 2010, we were interested in the kind of programs, that make a successful development, how the program influences the typology, what kind of circulatory systems are used to activate such a complex and large scale development. The result is Radical Mix, a book publication as part of the exhibition "Radical Mix in Hanoi" on the occasion of "Teaching Architecture: 3 Positions Made in Switzerland"







This book is part of the exhibition "Radical Mix in Hanoi" on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne.

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Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne

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Radical Mix in Hanoi

M1 1 - Vertical Urbanism
A condition where a high density, high rise development intensifies the process of urban planning into the vertical. The vertical becomes feasible due to increases of programmatic density and complexity as well as the synergistic relationship between circulation systems and connecting programs.

M1 2 - Vertical Micro Communities
In very high rise contexts, the neighborhood is articulated in discrete, Micro Communities based on the understanding of a village, a tribe and a rural neighborhood. A mode of configuration.

M2 1 - Shadow creates Life
New Regionalism. Cities in the tropics thrive through providing itself horizontal and vertical. Where shadow is a counterproductive in cold climates, any form of shade the wall found in the opposite context - a city of shadow.

M2 2 - Landscape Urbanism
The state of architecture which goes beyond the role of an object to become a subject in the urban context. It responds to the larger environment.

M2 3 - Upside-Down Urbanism
Will a city be composed by the implied forces of development, upside-down urbanism within the division from ground competition to a constructive vertical circulation.

M3 1 - Typological Mixing
Examining the modernist architectural traditions of past decades in Asia, the typological mixing emerges as the understanding of regional modernism to arise at a new level.

M3 2 - Modular Urbanism
Typologies are different in scale and size. Modularity is a response. Modular Urbanism creates an equilibrium between the different typologies.

M3 3 - Structural Transformation
Urban structure takes advantage of the changes in typologies to generate a modular development in urban forms of programs as well as structure.

M4 1 - 3 Dimensional Loops
A condition of a vertical, continuous loop, which goes beyond the elevator principle. It engages public programs above the ground floor and creates a ground-to-air connection.

M4 2 - Urban Activator
The Urban Activator is a proactive urban intervention which changes the development condition for a place. It actively generates a future scenario of developments while retaining a long-term architectural intervention.