

PIERRE LINGER

CONSTRUCTING THE POETIC IMAGE

- The crematory as a study in existential architectural form



The poetry of a disoriented desert. Deceiving objects disappearing and reappearing in the fog.

MATERIAL TURN

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This thesis is born from the belief that architecture's purpose lies beyond the rational and broad societal aspects. Architecture that separates from economy, religion, environment and redirects its focus to the poetic, made for the individual and striving to challenge world conceptions. This thesis investigates the poetic space that holds metaphysical or existential qualities, space that can extend and challenge the human mind, make us think, imagine, or dream.

Poetics can be described as the theory of literary form, in an architectural context this could transfer to the logic and rules behind how architectural form creates poetic space. This, in turn, requires an understanding of what it means to be poetic, something with a great variation of meaning. The word poetics originates from the Greek term of poiein, meaning to make, which in turn gave the term poiesis, fabrication. This term was defined by Aristotle as the act following noesis, thinking, meaning a creation that is preceded by reason, building can, therefore, be seen as poetic creation meaning reasoning followed by production (Turnovský, 2009). While this would indicate that all architecture is poetic, Novalis defines the poetic as the art that stirs emotion and adds that it does

not only evoke moods and vision but also perhaps mental dances. Along with the view from Schopenhauer stating that the poetic is in the object, which is seen only in the imagination (Turnovský, 2009).

To conclude the definition of the poetic used in this thesis, poetic space is space that is preceded by reasoning, space crafted with an idea that can be intellectualized by the people experiencing the space. Poetic space is also required to create something new or bring-forth something existing. A metaphysical creation that could be described as an expansion of the human mind and soul, creating imagination and thoughts.

In this thesis, studies and the representation of a crematory explored how architectural form preceded by linguistic reasoning could create poetic space. Architecture derived from the mind of the architect, expressed in form and words.

Keywords : Poetic space, Crematory, Existential architecture, Phenomenology