

0047

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0047 presents

NORWEGIAN COLLECTION OF POTENTIAL ARCHITECTURE

September 29 – October 26, 2007

Launch: Saturday 29, 7 PM

Thousands of hours are spent on the unrealised every year, both in the professional sphere and in the academic context. An enormous amount of work is produced presenting a future never to be. This work is often inaccessible, hidden and forgotten in the archives or servers of offices and architecture schools. The questions then become; if examining the unbuilt, can one find other ideas and other values? And how can the unbuilt make contributions to the development of the architectural discipline and to society?

Archigram's Walking Cities, Koolhaas's Parc de la Villette, Mies van der Rohe's Project for an Office Building in Friedrichstrasse in Berlin, Boullée's Newton's Cenotaph, Le Courbusier's Contemporary City for Three Million Inhabitants and Sverre Fehn's Royal Theatre in Copenhagen are all examples of unrealised projects that have influenced the world in different ways. Never built, but still representing significant contributions to the development of the discipline, of cities and of society.

This is the background for NORWEGIAN COLLECTION OF POTENTIAL ARCHITECTURE. With this project 0047 wants to focus on the half-baked, the promising, the raw and the invisible architecture; Projects that miscarried, went over the top, were turned down by clients or for other reasons never became realised. To have an effect, these unbuilt works need to be made visible. To reach its fullest potential they must be seen, discussed and valued. They must surface and become part of our awareness.

That is why we launch NORWEGIAN COLLECTION OF POTENTIAL ARCHITECTURE, an online collection of unrealised architecture, designed as a collaborative online platform with continuously added projects. A statistical representation and survey of the collection data will provide insight into this undisclosed realm. By using today's most influential media, the internet, the project also investigates how architecture can be communicated with the use of user-generated systems, networking, news feeds, online debate and knowledge sharing.

Hopefully, NORWEGIAN COLLECTION OF POTENTIAL ARCHITECTURE can be used as a reference for media, clients, politicians, architects and students and hence contribute to the architectural discourse. Together the unrealised projects can reveal hidden potential and knowledge, and create a better and more complete understanding of the current state of Norwegian architecture.

As a part of the launch of the collection, 0047 has invited a group of people to write about the phenomena of potential architecture. Fredrik Shetelig, Vice Dean at the Faculty of Architecture and Fine Art, NTNU, writes in his text about the dark and the white room of the unrealised. Håkon Matre Aasarød from Fantastic Norway Architects writes about how visionary projects change the society and the important fact that architects construct both physical and abstract realities. Principal at Bergen School of Architecture and secretary of European Norway, Marianne Skjulhaug, focuses on the unbuilt architecture between the utopian and the trivial. Professor Gerrit Mosebach from NTNU and PLAN B writes about Bjørnvika and how good ideas and visions have been forgotten. Aslak Hanshuus from Huus & Heim Arkitektur writes about Tullinløkka and how the proposed projects have laid out the premises for the third competition. These articles as well as other texts, investigations and comments are available on internet.

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NORWEGIAN COLLECTION OF POTENTIAL ARCHITECTURE is developed by Espen Røyseland and Øystein Rø.

Visit www.potentialarchitecture.net

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