Defining Digital Architecture





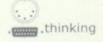
数码建筑

• 刘育东/编



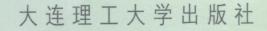












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刘育东/编



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Digital Architecture? Digitality of Architecture

Before we begin, let me tell you a story. When the first telephone was invented in human history in 1929, the advanced telecommunication that shortened global communication distance triggered a technology revolution; Scribners Magazine from New York published a message that said:

The average human being of to-day is not impressed by miracles. He reads in a newspaper that plans are being made to connect New York with Tokyo by telephone. I doubt that its practical,: he may remark. But the next day he discovers that the thing has actually been accomplished. The day after that he himself calls up Tokio and, if there happens to be a few minutes delay in putting the call through, he complains bitterly about the service.

Whenever the new technology threatens the market of the existing technology, there will always be lots of oppositions. The criticism which hear the most often is that the quality of the new technology is not steady.

If You Are Ready, You Are Already Too Late

Today the importance of computer is no more debatable. In the early 90's, most of the architects have used CAD for the architectural drafting. At that time, comparing to the 2D drafting, Modeling and 3D animation is a quite new area. Most people are still discussing what the computer can do besides drafting.

刘育东 中国台湾交大人文社会学院副院长 国际数码建筑设计奖评审委员会召集人

Yu-tung Liu

College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chiao-Tung University Vice Dean Committee of International Digital Architectural Design Award Convoker

何谓数码建筑? 谈建筑的数码性

在本文开始之前,让我先讲一个故事。在1929年人类历史上出现了第一部电话,人类通讯即将因全球人与人沟通距离缩短而引发革命时,纽约的《Scribners》杂志刊登了这样一段话:"一般人在今天并不会对奇迹留下深刻印象……如果某人从在报上得知一项用电话连接纽约与东京的计划,他先会说,'我怀疑这项计划是否真能实现'。但如果第二天他发现这个新玩意儿竟然已经被发展完成,第三天他就会亲自打电话到东京试试看,在尝试过程中只要等待接通电话的时间有几分钟延误,他就会不假辞色地严厉批评这项新发明的种种问题。"

就像这样,在人类文明发展过程中,每每有新科技发明而足以造成人们日常生活的重大变革时,只要这个新科技普及到可能引发一场"革命",并对其他相对旧有技术造成威胁时,许多反对这项新科技的声音就会立即出现。而且,最常听到的批评就是,在新科技的品质上这里有问题那里又有问题。

等我们准备就绪时,我们早已落后 和10年前相比,电脑在建筑设计上的重要性已不再需要辩论。20世纪的最后一个10年,利用电脑绘制各类平面图、立面图、剖面图、细部图等二维空间图集已成为全球事务所的标准方法,而另一方面,电脑模型与动画则尚处起步阶段,在这段时间内,讨论的焦点在于"电脑除了是绘图工具之外,对建筑还有什么影响"。

10年后的今天(21世纪的第一年),电脑除了提供所有过去传统媒体的功能,而且将这些媒体变得十分容易操作以外,还承续了建筑历史上有关设计过程与方法的脚步,发展了许多从未出现的设计媒体,如虚拟实境,自由形体技术、网际网络等等。而且由于这10年内有Frank Gehry、Peter Eisenman等成熟而又知名的建筑师的带领,Daniel Libeskind、Tom Mayne、Greg Lynn、Eric Owen Moss等中生代建筑师的发挥,以及OCEAN、UN Studio、NOX等等新生代建筑团体的实验,在21世纪之初,建筑设计

Ten years after, today the application of computer has changed the design method, especially the technology like the virtual reality, free form technology, and internet. Through the computer, many famous architects for instance, Frank Gehry, Peter Eisenman, Paniel Libeskind, Tom Mayne, Greg Lynn, Eric owen Moss have designed the amazing space. Many of the architectural elements have been redefined: function. form. volume and space. The new type of architecture predominated by the architect and computer digitized solution is generally called digital architecture. And the discussion of the computerization has been shifted into the digitality of architecture such as "Is this a temporary phenomenon or a permanent revolution?" Will this tool hurt the architecture since we're not familiar with it?" "Are we ready?" "What's digital architecture?"

Actually I still don't have any convincing answers for these questions. Here I can only quote the sentences written by linguist Susan Herring in her essay about the computer- mediated communication:

Rather than wondering whether CMC scholarship is legitimate, a more appropriate question now is how scholarship can best keep pace with the continued expansion and diversification of CMC.

The relationship between the digital architecture and architecture, is similar to the relationship between CMC and linguistics. Another quotation emerges in my mind is by an oriental intellectual, originally quoted by Peter Eisenman in his speech in Taipei, China: "If you are ready, you are already too late."

由于"电脑"这个"数码媒体"设计思考的加入,引发了比以往更惊人而绝对不能再忽视的建筑发展。我们所熟知的建筑基本要素一功能、形式、体量、空间,均已被重新定义。这些由建筑师使用电脑数码化程序在设计过程中所产生的新现象,在国际上被越来越多人统称为"数码建筑"(digital architecture)。尽管如前面所提及,在任何可能由科技所引发的革命最初期,总有正反两种意见并现,但随着时间演进,电脑科技目新月异。现阶段,在建筑领域中讨论的焦点已由电脑的工具性提升为建筑的数码性(digitality of architecture),特别是像下列这样的问题:"这是一场建筑大革命还是新工具所引起的短暂现象?"、"我们尚未完全了解就投入,是不是太危险或者会伤害建筑?"、"我们准备好了吗?"、甚至"什么是数码建筑?"等等。

对于以上问题,事实上我仍没有足以令人信服的答案。但看着电脑与网络发展快速到使建筑业与教育界远远被抛在后面时,我脑海中浮现出两段话可供作答。语言学家 Susan Herring 在1996年针对"以电脑为媒体的沟通"(computer-mediated communication, CMC)在语言学领域引发论战时提及:"我们已无需再争论CMC在语言学中是否是个值得深入研究的课题,目前该问的是,我们的研究与讨论如何才赶得上 CMC 持续快速的扩展与变化"。

同样的道理,数码建筑在建筑中的定位和CMC在语言学中的定位很类似。我的另外一个回答是,去年底(2000年12月2日)Peter Eisenman在中国台北举办的远东交大建筑讲座中,所引述的东方智者的话:"等我们准备就绪时,我们早已落后"。(if you are ready, you are already too late.)

数码建筑的内容 虽然建筑在数码时代的发展仍属初级阶段的初期,在这时候为数码建筑下定义,甚至讨论未来它的内容可包括哪些项目,似乎显得有太多的预测性,但如果以电脑自1963年具备绘图能力,以及自1990年Frank Gehry 巴塞罗那鱼

The Contents of Digital Architecture It seems too early to define the digital architecture since it's still in the early stage. Concluding from the drafting software of 1963 and the Barcelona Fish designed by Frank Gehry, we can still generally define the digital architecture as: "Architecture which involves the application of digital media into any phase of designingconceptual design, design development, detail design, construction documents and processand produce critical result no matter in function, form, volume, space or concept." The following question is, what's the future of digital architecture and how shall we architects position ourselves.

To answer these questions, we have to review the history of how the computer influence the architecture. From 1963, architects started to use computers to draft (computer-aided drafting), while the computer is also used to store and process many design datum (computer- aided design).

Up to 1990, the 3D animation technology makes the computer as design media which directly influences the design process (computer-mediated design or design with computer), like what Frank Gehry and Peter Eisenman have been doing. From 1993, the internet wave brought even greater influence on the architecture. The globalization has formed the internet-aided design and webbased design, while the cyberspace and networked space has overthrown the traditional spatial concept. In 1995, the computer modeling is getting sophisticated, there come more and more free forms, beyond our imagination, forming the virtual architecture and virtual space.

Reviewing these phases, we can generally define the architecture using the digital technology as digital architecture.

(Barcelona fish)的设计中所引发建筑的巨变来看,我们还是可以将"数码建筑"在2001年初的发展初步归纳为: "凡是将各类电脑数码媒体,使用在建筑设计的以下过程诸如设计概念、早期设计、设计发展、细部设计、施工计划、营造过程等任何一个阶段或几个阶段甚至全部的过程,并因而在功能、形式、体量、空间或建筑理念上有关键性成果的建筑,均可广义地视为数码建筑"。有了这样一个初步定义,接下来的问题则是:全球数码建筑正在迅猛发展,数码建筑可能的前景是什么?我们该如何定位?

让我先用一些篇幅简述电脑在建筑设计发展中的历史,以便用比较精确的用语试着来 回答这些问题,并讨论数码建筑可能包含的内容。1963年电脑开始具备绘图能力,将电 脑绘图(computer graphics)的功能应用到建筑设计,便成了建筑中常听到的第一代 CAD 一电脑辅助绘图(computer-aided drafting)。同时自20世纪60年代起,将电脑在人工智 能上的发展应用到建筑设计思考过程中,以及用电脑绘图功能来记录大量"建筑图文资料" (构建了所谓的电脑中的"建筑知识"),便进一步被称为"电脑辅助设计"(computer-aided design),这一直到今天仍是重要的发展方向。1990年起,电脑的数码影像处理与合成技 术日渐成熟,再加上电脑模拟与动画能力发展也趋健全,此时电脑在许多设计学科中不再 只是被视为"工具",而是进一步成为思考与表现设计理念与操作方式的"媒体" (media), 因此出现了电脑媒体化设计(computer-mediated design), 甚至被直呼为电脑设 计(design with computer)。Frank Gehry与Peter Eisenman等人的设计革命,便属于 这一类。另外,自1993年互联网络浪潮带给建筑业更大的冲击。一方面,将全球的距离 完全拉近以及将全球的建筑知识(在网络上随时可得的全球建筑图文资料)完全整合,形 成所谓 "网络辅助设计"(internet-aided design)或 "网际设计"(web-based design), 另 一方面,网络所形成的网际空间(cyberspace; networked space), 更颠覆了我们建筑向 来以点、线、面等几何关系所构建的空间概念。大约自1995年起,电脑在自由形体(free forms)的塑造与操作上渐趋成熟,再加上能呈现更逼真设计的虚拟实境技术也更成熟,越 来越多以前想像不到的建筑或空间可被建构,甚至有些在此基础上建造起来,形成所谓的 "虚拟建筑"(virtual architecture)与"虚拟空间"(virtual space)。

The Definition of Digital Architecture: New Tool? New Theory? Or New Revolution? Now it's clearly understood that the computer has influenced many facets of architecture: drafting, image, modeling, animation, multi-media, internet, free form, virtual reality. It can also be predicted that the influence will be just deeper and further. Based on the previous review. I have predicted the following possible visions for the digital architecture:

Digital architecture might be just a new tool. If the digital technology does not influence the design thinking, design method and spatial theory, then it can be treated as merely a new tool. Even though, the digital technology will be another breakthrough as a tool, much more powerful than the drafting invented in the Greek time or the modeling in the Renaissance.

Digital architecture might be a new theory. If it can be used to assist the design thinking process by internet-aided design and web-based design, the design method based on the Bauhaus pattern will be revoluted. In the same time, the design theory from the Renaissance will be also greatly changed by the computer-aided design and design with computer. In addition, if our cyberspace and networked space experience can ultimately influence our spatial concepts in the physical world, following the massy Egyptian space, geometric Greek space, mystic Gothic space, dynamic Baroque space, modernism space, there will be a brand new spatial theoryso called digitalism. On the other hand, if the design method, thinking pattern and spatial theory are all changed by the digital architecture, digital architecture will be more than a theory.

最后,为了反映数码电子时代(简称数码时代)对人类所引起的巨大变革,自1963年电脑对设计各阶段与各层面的冲击,在建筑上均广义地视为建筑在数码时代各方向的发展,并称这些具有数码性(digitality)的建筑为数码建筑(digital architecture)。

数码建筑的定位: 新工具? 新理论? 新时代? 新革命? 由前述电脑在建筑的发展上看(很难想像电脑与建筑的结合,竟会衍生出这么多专有名词,由此也可想像电脑在建筑中发展与更新的迅速),数码技术包含了绘图、影像、模型、动画、多媒体整合、网络、自由形体技术与虚拟实境等,可以预见,这些技术在以后将会更快速发展并更全面影响建筑。但若要在此刻为数码建筑定位,并了解它的前景(vision)到底是什么,(这么多人辛苦实验、探讨、突破、甚至花费比一般建筑更高的费用,到底他们看到了未来的什么?)于是我可以基于上述回顾来预测(而且仅只是预测),数码建筑在人类的建筑发展史上,有下列几种可能性:

数码建筑可能只是一种新工具。如果所有前述已成熟的数码技术,仅代表着"电脑绘图"或"电脑辅助绘图"的功能,不具备任何设计思考过程、设计方法以及空间理论上的意义与后续发展机会,则电脑真的只是新工具。而且,作为工具的数码技术是另一个新的突破,影响力将大大罗马时期的平面式绘图与文艺复兴的建模法。

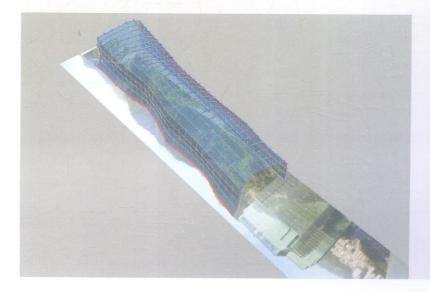
数码建筑可能是一个新理论。如果目前的数码技术具备了辅助设计思考的能力,而又能利用网络来辅助设计方法与设计过程(即internet-aided design与web-based design),则建筑设计起自20世纪30年代包豪斯的设计方法理论应会大量改写。另一方面,若电脑可作为重要的设计思考媒体,进而透过这个数码媒体的特质(即computer-aided design与design with computer),产生前所未有的设计思考模式与在此新模式下的建筑物,则我们将会见到自16世纪文艺复兴早期的设计思考理论,在停滞了500年后有了重大发展。最后,若网际空间的经验可能影响到对实质空间的经验(即 cyberspace 与 networked

The digital architecture might thus form a new age if it is considered to have an overall impact on architecture. We should pay attention if the digital architecture really forms an age, it will influence not only on architecture, but also the value system (Why it's good) and new aesthetics (what's beautiful).

Digital architecture can be defined as a revolution. Every revolution changes human history and life style: fishing and hunting revolution, agricultural revolution and industrial revolution. Since architecture is only a small part of the social evolution. We can only wait to see what's the drastic change in the digital age.

Besides these possibilities, we can also define the digital architecture by its duration. The duration of a new tool is generally a few months, 10 years to 30 years for a new theory, hundreds to thousands of years for a revolution. If the digitality of architecture can remain a few years, it can be defined as a new tool; more than 10 years, it can be defined as a new theory, more than that, it can be defined as a new age, more than hundred years, it can be defined as revolution.

下图: "数码自然"中国台北公信电子公司大厅设计,交大建筑所刘育东、李元荣、施胜诚、黄士诚、黄国贤、张嘉伦、赖德、范扬铮, 2000年11月~2001年4月/BELOW: "Digital Nature", the reception hall of Boom Electronic, INC. Yu-Tung Aleppo Liu, Yuan-jung Lee, Sheng-cheng Shih, Shih-cheng Huang, Kuo-shang Huang, Chia-lun Chang, Te Lai, and Yang-chen Fan. November 2000 to April 2001



space),而且自由形体与虚拟实境可以营造出以前无法想像的建筑空间(virtual architecture 与 virtual space),则建筑赖以维生的空间理论,将继埃及的量体空间、希腊罗马的几何空间、哥特式的神秘空间、文艺复兴后期到巴洛克的动态空间、现代与后现代空间之后,再出现建筑空间与都市空间以此的新空间理论。上述设计方法、设计思考、空间概念等三方面理论的共同发展,则有机会在建筑理论上建构一套全面的新的"主义",继现代主义、后现代主义之后的所谓"数码主义"(digitalism),建筑的历史也将因而再向前推进。然而,如果建筑的设计方法论、思考理论、空间理论以及建筑历史都改变了的时候,数码建筑将不只是一个新的理论。

数码建筑因而可能是一个新时代。如果把所有的数码技术整合起来,视为对建筑设计具有全面性的影响的因素,并且接受现今人类历史发展的新时代便是数码电子时代这样的观念,则数码建筑是继史前时代、埃及、希腊与罗马(玛雅、东方、印度等)、早期基督教、拜占庭、哥特、文艺复兴、巴洛克与洛可可、新古典、现代与后现代等建筑历史上的一个新时代,或许称为数码建筑时代。值得注意的是,若数码建筑有机会形成一个"时代",则它的影响力将不只是上述的大量的工具发展或各种理论的成熟而已。它将会全面改写建筑在产业、社会、文化方面的影响,以及引发在这些重大影响下所形成的另一种具有数码性的新价值体系(为什么好?)与新美学(什么是美的?)。

最后,数码建筑可以被定义为一场新革命。人类文明自混沌时期起,历经渔猎革命、农业革命、工业革命等重大变革,每次革命影响所及都改变了人类的思维模式与生活方式,建筑在人类文明的革命中显得极其渺小,只能随着革命所形成的新思维与新生活模式而做彻头彻尾的改变。人类文明是否会形成数码时代甚至引发一场数码革命,身在建筑领域的我们只能拭目以待。

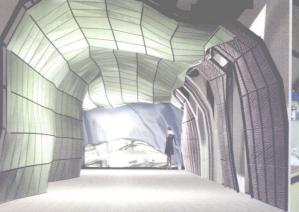
上面谈到数码建筑的四种定位,我们除了从实质发展层面来衡量外,还可以用另一

The Inconsistency in Digital Architecture It's not easy to predict the future of the digital architecture. Although, it's still progressing with the full speed. There are still inconsistency between the architectural education, society culture, and digital architecture.

The inconsistency between the professional and non-professional. As I mentioned previously, the revolution generally causes controversy. Even though many people only use computer to type and e-mail, they don't hesitate to criticize and question the digital architecture, In 1992, while I was attending a meeting in Boston, some people are still debating whether the computer can think independently, without knowing that the Deep Blue has already defeated the world chess champion.

The inconsistency between two exiting generation and digital generation. We define the generation every 10 years. Its not easy for the different generations to communicate with each other. The generation gap between the existing generation and the digital generation can be easily seen in the debate of architectural design process, presentation, space, volume, concept and aesthetics (a Taiwanese architectural student almost got flunk for using the computation presentation instead of

左下图:"数码自然"电脑模拟全图 BELOW: "Digital Nature" computer simulated perspective 右下图:"数码自然" 2001年1月17日 BELOW: "Digital Nature" Jan. 17th, 2001





个观察的指标——时间来判断。以一种新工具(数码工具)而言,它的发展持续期大约是数月,几个月后就会有另一种新数码工具产生。然而,一个新理论则可持续10年至30年(例如1970年~1980年的后现代理论及1990年的解构理论等),而新时代则有机会持续数十年至数百年,新革命则有数百年至数千年的时间(虽然时间延续的长度有越来越短的趋势)。因此,如果建筑在数码性的发展上仅有几年关键期,则它必然只是工具,若能持续发展10~30年,则它会是个新理论(这一点以哈佛、麻省理工、哥伦比亚等大学建筑系的眼光看来,它早就是新理论了),若能再继续发展并主导建筑领域数十年以上,就会有可能形成建筑的数码时代。当然,能主宰百年以上,就是新革命了。

数码建筑发展的断裂 由上面的分析看起来,虽然数码建筑到底可以发展到什么程度,我们无法预料,放眼过去10年以及未来,它发展的速度之快与影响之大,却是不争的事实。但是,就在电脑这样迅速且全面的影响着我们早已习以为常的"建筑"时,仔细观察,我们可以发现在可能的"世代交替"下,目前存在着下列几种建筑专业、教育、社会、文化上的断裂现象。

电脑常识与数码专业知识的断裂 如前面提到的,在任何一项新科技可能引发一场革命时,总有人会在对新科技缺乏全面性了解的时候便立刻反对并开始挑剔。在数码建筑的发展上,由于电脑实在太过普及,许多人会在没有吸收任何10年内有关数码建筑在设计上或理论上的"专业知识"的情况下,只是基于自己用电脑处理文书、电子邮件及上网的经验与"常识"便来评论数码建筑,很少有人乐意说他只熟悉文书与网络,而对数码建筑没有深入的了解。这个状况让我想起1992年在波士顿的一场会议中,在许多人辩论着电脑是否可能拥有思考能力甚至拥有创造力时,反对的人的电脑经验大都仅限于电脑打字的常识,而完全缺乏对人工智能的起码了解,甚至不知道电脑"深蓝"的思考能力已击败国际象棋冠军,更不知道电脑正在向创造性思维迈进。