

Adaptation of formerly rural or industrial buildings for the purpose of individual living. (Typology)

How does creating a living space within a space formerly used for anything but living effect that future space.

How do architectural decisions and design affect all these in terms of economy, easy of use of the actual living space, how does reuse of original construction effect longevity of such structures.

These are some of the questions that I've been posing myself when trying to fathom what exactly it is I'm trying to achieve with the set research.

It all started when I began to conceptualise the fact that as an architect with no exceptional salary and living in today's society that despite the will of a lot of people in my vicinity and age group to actually own something due to the entire trend of so called "subscription living" it is becoming close to impossible to own one's own property unless inherited. What I viewed as one of a few viable solutions and a solution that might given my training as an architect also bring the largest possible volume (?) of "added value" to some such property would be to buy a run/down existing barn or any other formerly rural or industrial structure and convert such structure into an inhabitable building.

During the course of the first semester we have started work on a publication that is to be a continuation of an already established body of work by Jan Stempel, Jan Tesař and Petr

Volf on single family houses only this part of the series would concentrate on rehabilitations, some of which were also formerly rural or industrial structures.

What this initial research and a sort of fishing session for case studies unveiled was a series of approaches that can almost break down these houses into categories of architectural approach in terms of composition as well as what we all call and yet sometimes have hard time explaining to people outside of the profession "CONCEPT".

How exactly was this or that building conceived and transformed into a habitable space. Now this is largely a very visual exercise which is difficult to put into words although there are examples of architects (Jean Nouvell) being one of these who would be able to put concept of a building into words and almost describe the entire conception of the project in writing. Us, perhaps lesser architects would usually resort to sketches or diagrams for such explanation.

This has led to an idea that in order to wrap my head around and categorise these potential case studies as in many other areas where we architects apply our expertise it is necessary to simplify and somewhat almost distill the essence of these projects and buildings which led to the idea of creating a set of typologies based on the original use. Similarly to typology of civic buildings this would have a set of rules and criteria required and followed for such building use however in this case this would be a sort of a typology "couple".

Second denominator of this couple would in this case always be the use which was the goal for this rehabilitation so in my research this would be the individual living, however the first part of the couple would change based on the original use.

What will be surely interesting to describe and study is how this original use and the extend to which the elements and aspects of the original building that were inherent to that original use have informed and affected the form and the way in which the actual living is being performed so to speak in the newly or half/newly conceived buildings.

As an example a vertical building such as a former water supply tower or a silo will likely be transformed into a dwelling that is vertical as well and thus can pose difficulty in terms or distribution between the spaces and the need for stairs whereas a former water mill will be transformed into a space that will likely have connection to water on top of which such structure will likely be affected by moisture in it's construction.

By looking at examples both overseas and for the purposes of the aforementioned publication also exclusively in Czech Republic my goal is to create a somewhat of a guide book that could serve as a first point of reference for someone who might find themselves in a similar position of wanting to acquire a formerly say industrial building that has lost its purpose in todays society with the intent to somehow honour the genius loci of that space and providing a suitable living environment, zeroing in on possible threats as well as advantages that could be associated to the specific typology couple

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