

Introduction to the psychology in architecture

The architects of 55 countries characterized their profession in context of the Psychology of
Architecture Research at the CTU in Prague

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Abstract— Psychology is a field of knowledge closely related to architecture. All work is product of our mind and inspirations and it has results consequences. We witness them as our expression, will and efforts. The painters, inventors, writers and architects experience are more/less similar, while observing their finished work. Yet the research in the field of the psychology in architecture had been focused more on the users, to building influences on the environment but nearly no attention was paid to the psyche of the creators themselves – architects in spite of their creative share. The CVUT recently launched an exploration of such mental process as a part of its complex, broader scientific research.

Index Terms— We have obtained over 1200 characteristics, which were arranged according to their frequency into 16 groups. In these selected groups among which was the maximum coincidence and harmony.

1 INTRODUCTION

We live in the world of architecture and the architects are naturally the subject of our interest. Therefore we have addressed 200+ professionals from 55 countries to let each individual to define the characteristics of the approach to their practice. The specific brief was distributed to participants to name the characteristics of a successful architect from the subjective point of their views. The students were involved as well.

2 PSYCHOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE

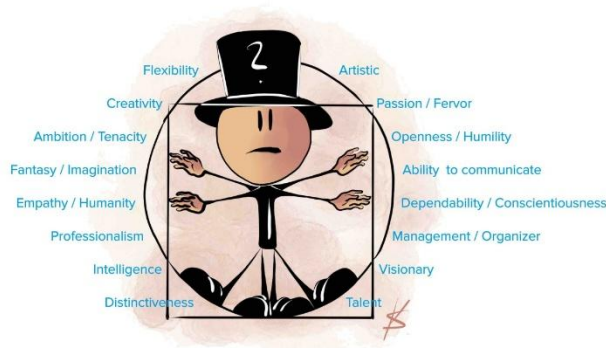
Psychology is a field of knowledge closely related to architecture. All work is product of our mind and inspirations and it has results consequences. We witness them as our expression, will and efforts. The painters, inventors, writers and architects experience are more/less similar, while observing their finished work. Yet the research in the field of the psychology in architecture had been focused more on the users, to building influences on the environment but nearly no attention was paid to the psyche of the creators

themselves – architects in spite of their creative share. The CVUT recently launched an exploration of such mental process as a part of its complex, broader scientific research.

3 THE CATEGORIES DEFINING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SUCCESSFUL ARCHITECT:

1. Flexibility
2. Empathy / Humanity
3. Ambition / Tenacity
4. Fantasy / Imagination
5. Professionalism
6. Creativity
7. Intelligence
8. Distinctiveness
9. Ability to communicate
10. Artistic
11. Dependability / Conscientiousness
12. Passion / Fervor
13. Openness / Humility
14. Management/ Organizer
15. Visionary
16. Talent

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL ARCHITECT



Picture 1: Characteristics of a successful architect

The listed attributes can be considered as a certain role of our venture into the mind of an architect and conclusion of investigation of the psychology as part of architecture, oriented on the architects themselves. These first results were offered to the Groups to choose their value preferences of the listed attributes. Based on the results of this step, we can determine the general preferences and consistencies of each group assessing the extent of their conformity. According to the volume of assertions, we were able to determine typological rarity of the respondents and following up we were able to learn eventual coincidence of typology and the each individual preferences.

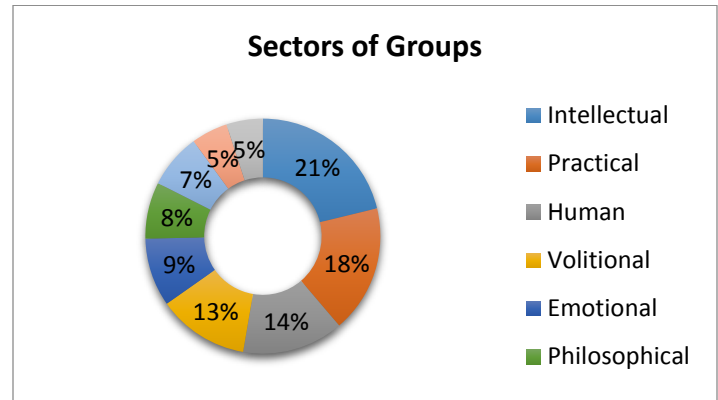
Sectors summarizing content and substance of characteristics

Apart from 16 basic groups, the search made possible integrate individual characteristics into several Sectors were generalized according to their content and substance:

- Intellectual
- Practical
- Human
- Volitional
- Emotional
- Philosophical
- Esthetical
- Professional

- Ethical

Organization of individual Sectors according to the categories and variety of individual characteristics made possible to create a Chart/Diagram of their share in the total.



Picture 3: Division individual Groups according the Categories and number of individual characteristics

Subject in his relation to its defined Sectors

Our exploration is always focused on the studied subject (Architect) and his/her perception of himself/herself or how he/she sees his/her profession, The objective of our interest is searching for differences within the limits of what they have in common. We are gaining numerous interesting impulses for more ideas which could be overlooked by using a different method. One of the examples is the Ethical Group which represents only 5% of the entire number of participants. The category of Responsibility which belongs in this Sector, is registered only in 7 cases which represents 0,6% out of all participants. One of other possible answers might be that the participating architects in general consider responsibility so obvious not to list it. Yet there can be also possible interpretation - **the successful architect does not have to be responsible in the participants' point of view.** Nevertheless, this speculation has to be further tested.

4 CONCLUSION

By this pilot research, we have followed up the period of about 16

years when we treated psychology of architecture by method of individual entries and monitored led to a decision to organize a true professional research. Due to the pilot research, we strongly believe, we would be able to come to conclusions in general and also to gain more relevant data of architects age, building preferences, typology, nationalities and finally closer to their individuality.

In recognition that no architecture is only individual calling but the result of a large team multidisciplinary endeavor, we will, after verifying professional individuality in architectural world community, we will focus on the specific subject – on the entire architectural team. Object of our interest will be authentic knowledge how does work such group, given the individual characters its members, their relationships and their opinions and attitudes.

We will investigate a case of specific atelier characteristic of its formal and informal structure, compatibility, relationships of members and their self-perception. If we would be able to scrutinize the characters of the individual members, we could find the key to ‘unlock’ the social and professional chemistry of the entire team. We will confirm their mutual communication, authentic collaboration, how their close cooperation will manifest itself and how they perceive the meaning of the common work. The work of the joint engagement.

Specific atelier – specific method - specific results.

This exploration will present us with a source of questions how to formulate and express the individual offer for those individuals, engaged in the process.

Almost no individual, no architect is capable of a true insight without a mirror. Our investigation is to be that mirror for architects to see the true themselves.

We are convinced that the results of our research and exploration will enrich the architectural profession, providing a new insight of its role.

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