THE PLASTIC LANGUAGE

Zeynep Çolak

All fields of arts are about expressing ideas, reflecting the artists' creativity and creating a sensory experience for humans but Hegel defends that architecture is the mother of all arts and the reason behind this statement is the fact of architecture combines aesthetics, structural principles and mathematical precision in order to design. The harmony of textures, openings, planes, views, sounds, light and shadows in a good architecture is the evidence of no other field of art can draw the same amount of media in their creations even more an architect's art is no valuable without an existence of human to experience it. Certainly architecture deserves Hegel's statement but what he overlooks in this statement is that other fields also feed architectures abstract side, what I mean is that painting, sculpture and architecture interpenetrate during the creative process in fact their unity is the true form of the creative process. Therefore expressing oneself in a work of art, externalizing feelings and impressions show its most component form in both plastic arts and architectural works and they can't be defined as independent creation activities. Whether it is architecture, sculpture or painting, the perceptible world which takes place in the background of the plastic language is the journey of human existence in the universe.

Plastic language is a way of communication and a method for action and what is more all fields of arts share it. My master who is an extraordinary sculpture artist has thought me the principles of making sculpture and what she always told me was "See the whole" while making it. Also in the architecture school we learn to do the same, in other words we learn to design a whole from separate parts and create a composition with a

certain language. Architecture usually consists of a carefully planned out scheme of patterns and styles that react to its natural surrounding and is referential of movements developed throughout the history. However in order to define architecture fully it should be studied via the history of arts books and one should know how the plastic arts affect architecture and how architecture affects plastic arts. One of the iconic architects/artists of Turkey, Nafi Çil says "In order to become a fine architect, one should firstly become a painter and a sculpture artist first to learn the aesthetic principles of them and then become an architect." And that all plastic arts (painting, sculpture and architecture) are a whole and especially a building which does not provide the aesthetic and incorporeal values of a painting or sculpture cannot hold the distinction of being an artwork. In addition according to the theory of aesthetics, art activity is based on intuition knowledge since architectural activity is the concern of aesthetics then it is also a spiritual activity. As a result in the emergence of harmonic integrity in architectural space, volume and plane come to life in a spiritual activity. In the light of these aspects I prepared a three dimensional artwork to express my vision on the connection between art and architecture (1).





1.2

The work 'Metropolis' consists of plastic paper bended on each other to create fluid spaces and also different scaled branches are covering them. The individual pieces are stacked and dispersed in order to produce a miniature cityscape while giving references to Parametricism, Deconstructivism and Organic Architecture. The work resembles a forest with various scales of trees located in-between plastic surfaces. It is also a paradigm of an architectural format which people want to see in the future of metropolitan cities. The perceptible world behind the work "Metropolis" is a reflection of an architectural biodiversity which focuses on the relationship between human and other living species rather than only focusing on human beings and shows the position of human existence in the universe with the plastic language. In other words man made skyscrapers and nature can coexist without giving any compromises. For some time people forgot what architecture actually means; architecture should not be separating human beings from nature on the contrary it should bring human beings and nature closer. After all nature taught us everything we know because nature is the ultimate designer.

Apart from these, the vertical spaces are formed of transparent overlapping layers which are a reference to how Colin Rowe and Robert Slutzky recognized the simultaneity between modern painting and architecture. In their book "Trancparency: Literal and Phenomenal" (Slutzky, 1963) "", they compared Picasso's L'Arlésienne painting and the Bauhaus building. The relationship between two can be put briefly by saying with the achievement of composition formed of overlapping forms L'Arlésienne does not allow us to see the various aspects of an object at the same time as a consequence of limitless possibilities of alternative readings it offers. Similarly Bauhaus achieved a multiple sidedness so that it should be experienced from different viewpoints to be understood, in other words it needs to be experienced through movement which involves time, just like the artwork "Metropolis" should be experienced from different viewpoints with giving time.





As a consequence another similarity between the fields of art that they require time to be experienced and they require time to be appreciated and I think this is the miracle of any artistic work; the fact of their being timeless. Therefore the greatness of an artwork is measured by their timelessness. Today we appreciate a cave painting just as much we appreciate a contemporary painting or a good architecture. It can be said that good art conveys the presence of the maker and the presence of human consciousness. Architecture isn't just about the building; good

architecture tells us something about the world. It tells us something about history; culture, how the society works and lastly tells us who we are and good art in general tell something about those. "Ah, to build, to build! That is the noblest of all arts." said Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Architecture

is the noblest art indeed, but one should always remember, without the other fields of arts to feed architecture; architecture would be incomplete, we would be incomplete. Dostoyevsky once said "Beauty will save the world." I would say art will save the world.