

Towards the performative architecture through the tectonic vision.

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Abstract— The purpose of this paper is to discuss questions that indicate a direction for a good life in contemporary cities and a new action by architects and planners, promoting the concept of performative architecture through the tectonic vision. Tectonics, often known as the “construction art”, cannot be defined as a sole matter. In this work will be applied the concept’s definition capable to join the material aspects of architecture with the cultural aspects where it is inserted, aiming to provide examples that cover the precepts of performative architecture. The contemporary landscape is highly diversified due to the unrestrained growth of big centers, also urban and architectural spaces of diverse use need specific solutions for the new demands. The building performance is relevant for architectural and engineering practices, and it can be used as design principle and as a new approach to the demand of the built environment. The architectural solutions presently used are based on the culture of eclecticism and commercialism and seem to have the intention of reviving and re-building past models as an attribution of aesthetic value to heterogeneity, as well as the practice of the commercial agents and builders that turn our cities into spaces of consumption, control and social fragmentation. Therefore, one of the consequences is that contemporary cities are transformed into business cities where the majority of them are empty of meaning. Through tectonics, it is possible to overcome some critical points of contemporary cities, redefining the essence of the architecture, re-inserting it into social fabric and promoting the concept of the potential of the constructive expression. It also gives an orientation in architectural theory and practice from what the building is to what it does, through the works of architects who have presented an attitude of composing with different and new architectural systems, and the capacity of their work to adapt into place where it is inserted, also considering the particularities of each context. This approach shows how the “poetics of construction” is capable of resisting and overcoming the challenges of the commercialization of architecture and urban planning in order to pursuit a performative architecture.

Keywords: tectonics; contemporary architecture, performative architecture.