

Building Design: A component of the building labour process

Jörn Janssen

This paper will trace the origin and position of the architect in the building labour process in 17th century England, when wage labour relations became the dominant form in Europe. The ensuing emancipation of wage earners is also apparent through the rise of salaried professionals. This stage of urban development in 17th century England took the form of squares and terraced housing, e.g. the Duke of Bedford's Covent Garden in London with Inigo Jones as the surveyor. He was also 'Surveyor of the King's Works' (from 1613) and the work of the architect was incorporated in the surveyor. The paper will conclude with observations on building design - 'architecture' - as a separate profession in its reconfiguration under the regime of 'design and build' epitomised by its most demonstrative recent examples of 'Hardcore Architecture' under finance capital around the globe.

Biography:

Jörn Janssen, Dipl. Ing. Dr. rer. pol./European Institute for Construction Labour Research; born 1935 in Düsseldorf; 1953-9 study of architecture; 1959-69 work as architect in Düsseldorf; 1970-71 lecturer at the Technical Universities of Berlin and Zürich; 1971-97 professor for Construction Management and Economics at Fachhochschule Dortmund; 1997-2014 research on the history of wage labour relations in London.