

*Silos and Grain Elevators* as Industrial Architecture: Repetition in architectural criticism

*Catalina Mejia Moreno*

This paper further explores Walter Gropius' introduction of the *silos* into architectural discourse in the 1910s, and Reyner Banham's revisiting of the *grain elevators* during the 1970-80s. Through interrogating their interpretation of the buildings as industrial architecture - although they are not factories or 'production sheds' - and by examining the 'difference and repetition' that arises in Banham's return to the modern narrative; the aim of this paper is two-fold. First, to demonstrate that for Gropius the *silos* were the ultimate examples of industrial architecture due to their corporeality, while in contrast Banham interpreted the buildings not as *silos* but as *grain elevators*, not as monuments but as a 'process'. And second, to argue that Banham's revisiting therefore constitutes a disruption in their understanding as 'objects' derived from the reiteration of the building's iconic photographs in architectural criticism. Is this then no longer history repeating?

Biography:

Catalina Mejia Moreno is an architect (U Andes, Colombia) and architectural historian (Bartlett, UK). She teaches at Newcastle and Brighton University. Catalina received grants from the DAAD and Getty Research Institute to pursue her ongoing PhD (Newcastle University), which questions photography as the intrinsic media of repetition in architectural criticism.