

Flat Theory / A Genealogy of Apartments

Keywords: Apartments, Arrangement, Genealogy, Modernization, New Materialism

Department of Architecture, Chair of Methods and Analysis & Architecture Theory

Area of Research: Architecture Theory / History of Building Types



Research Summary: This doctoral study sets out to construct a first genealogy of apartments, with the greater purpose to construct a deliberately double-edged “flat theory” of modernization. Apartments and flat housing are arguably one of the most studied fields at the intersection of architecture, urban theory, sociology, and theories of modernization and housing. Yet, there has never been a single study to approach the formation of apartments as the specifically modern form of living in synthetic manner. History books are full of ‘specimen’ of modern apartments, but they never tell the story of their *speciation*. Theoretical works, in contrast, often ignore the extent to which this process marks the most significant concretization of modernization processes of the built environment. In its tripartite structure, *Flat Theory* will architecturally draw together and theorize a) how apartments initially take form, conceptually and materially, starting in the 16th century; b) how apartment houses crystallize as a novel building type in the 18th and 19th capitals of Europe; c) how apartment housing continues to become the global urban form of living.

Research Methodology: This transdisciplinary discourse-analytical project uses the disciplinary specificity of architectural research methods to render the topological and typological changes of floor plans through a new materialist lens.

Key Publications: (in preparation)



Robert Alexander Gorny

PhD started in: 2015

MSc (hons.), The Berlage, TU Delft 2014

Dipl.-Ing. Arch.& Design, ABK Stuttgart (D) 2009

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Main Question:

In its extended post-Foucauldian productive reading of the built environment, the main interest of the study is to capture and render visible the difference that apartments made, in how we relate to another.

Deliverables:

Comprehensive publication in book format with newly redrawn architectural diagrams.

Link(s):

www.relationalthought.com
cargocollective.com/flattheory

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