you’re making me sentiment

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When I attempt to interpret adaptive reuse, I'm putting myself within the debate on how to see the intersection of conservation, architecture, history, and urban planning. Originally, "adaptive reuse" was seen as purely a practical, economical and environmentally friendly way of using the leftovers of cities. This continues to be an argument with high persuasive power to mainstream audiences and clients, but I can't understand reuse projects when they become a background to "our" whims.

I place myself, contemporary architects, clients, and community members all inside "our." There's an undeniable poeticness associated with ruins that draws us in, but at what point does a ruin become garbage to be discarded? Who decides this? These are the questions at the center of this project. While I'm not proposing a definitive answer, I hope to bring a different way to see existing buildings and their potential: to slow down and be in dialogue with the building and to understand its wants and needs at this point in its life.

The "design-by-numbers" process may have a place in new-builds, but forcing that same model onto existing buildings creates a tension that questions why reuse in the first place. As Fred Scott said in his book, On Altering Architecture, what is the point of attempting to reuse if "on the one hand, it would alter the host building in a deep and radical way, removing any possibility of conservation traditionally understood, and, on the other hand, it would lose "the hope of a new building."

So to tackle a project that is doing something on top of something that exists previously, understanding the existing thing is key for the project to make sense. If the identity of what it was is lost after the intervention, even if it's a technological marvel of a building, both the charm of a ruin and the efficiency of a new building is gone. I think connections of what it was should be found; a connection between it, its surroundings, and the client's wants and needs. The final link is the architect, how can we find these connections and connect to it ourselves? So that there is not more "we," the architects, and "them," the existing building, client, and community.

I propose we begin this process of finding connections through sentimentality, something that we all have but is personal to us. Through a process of cataloging moments, I can begin to treasure and care for the mundane and have more of an understanding of the existing identity before proposing an alteration to how one reoccupies it. This project specifically tackles the uncovering of memories with film photography, a process equally rooted in nostalgia and sentimentality. These images attempt to capture the beauty of melancholy and in turn, ask the architect and audience to slow down and contemplate as they imagine the potential of reuse.
architecten jan de vylder inge vinck house 43 2005 belgium #reorganization #addition #website
maryann thompson architects atrium school 2006 watertown ma, usa #adapt #addition #wrap #website
office kgdvs city villa [62] 2008 - 2012 brussels, belgium #addition #insertion #plinth #website
office kgdvs garden pavilion [85] 2010 venice, italy #adapt #addition #attached #website
office kgdvs architecture library [78] 2010 - 2014 ghent, belgium #addition #insertion #website
lacaton & vassal frac dunkerque 2013 dunkirk, france #adapt #addition #attached #website
lacaton & vassal transformation d'un immeuble de logements 2014 - 2016 saint-nazaire, france #addition #attached #website
lacaton & vassal caserne de reuilly [174] 2014 - ... paris, france #adapt #addition #website
flores & prats sala beckett 2016 barcelona, spain #adapt #reorganization #website
lacaton & vassal transformation de 530 logements 2017 bordeaux, france #addition #attached #website
harquitectes centre civic lleialtat sants enca 2017 1214 barcelona, spain #adapt #reorganization #website
office kgdvs yale union [260] 2017 - portland, usa #reorganization #addition #website
aux bureau voor architectuur en stedenbouw brewery reconversion 2018 ghent, belgium #adapt #reorganization #archdaily
gensler one post office square 2018 - ... boston, usa #addition #skeleton #website
becker & becker hotel marcel new haven, tapestry collection by hilton 2022 new haven, usa #gutted #website #vogue
gensler one post office square 2018- ... boston, usa #addition #skeleton #website
bernd and hilla becher

harry e. colliery coal breaker

wilkes-barre, pennsylvania

1974

new topographics

series

objective

building
holden street  north adams, massachusetts  1974  new topographics  #objective  #streetscape
untitled
new topographics
objective
streetscape
YOU’RE MAKING ME SENTIMENTAL