

The Death of Architecture starts when people stop caring, nor discoursing —

I'm writing this article not because of a research emphasis. It's more of a personal analysis of the lack of architectural conversation in school. Switching my degree path from B.Arch to B.S. in Architecture for more diversified knowledge, my goal was set in a military endeavor and a rigorous architecture importance that accentuates its skillsets for life and death scenarios. To challenge my learning in Architecture to be applied to a more stricter datum. I have trajected my path for 4+2+6 in education and for the military.

During this switch, I have decided to minor in HSGI (Human Security and Global Intelligence). To understand the world better. What surprised me are not what are taught in the IR curriculum, though I admit, they are great classes! Due to learning new topics that the architecture world is no-where familiar of — but it was the festive conversation of the department's students. I've understood that in IR classes, students are keen to converse its discourses — in comparison to the architecture department. Now that's a juxtaposition!

Even when I was doing my B.Arch, students do not want to talk about architecture. I can understand that the topics can be sickening due to its repetition, philosophies, and theory — but great ideas come from conversations. Why is there such a lack of Architecture conversation in comparison to what the IR department has? I'm not stressing the greatness of the IR department, but I've seen this common theme of consistent conversations in other departments (Engineering, History, and more).

What surprised me are not just the students but the professors as well. Email him or her a theory and don't count on getting a reply. Stop and talk to them in the hallways to ask their opinion of a theory and they say they are busy. My biggest pet peeve — "I'm too busy". Look at the schedules of ROTC cadets and West Point cadets then tell me you're busy. It is an excuse (period).

Can this be the death of architecture? People caring only about their businesses? A profession that relies on multidisciplinary collaboration and approaches. What can this mean in the future? Why are architecture students having a hard time finding a job? Myself included. I'm only in my early 20's and I've done projects in the 6 to 7 figures scale. Though, I still crave a mentor to teach me more of what I need to know. 10+ built projects already — and still 0 IDP hours. Is Architecture just a title that in reality, are not needed? Maybe the absence of a simple conversation by students in a department will amplify to a non-unified future, in which we will just disappear one-by-one. Maybe Architecture is not important at all from the proof of in which there are nothing to talk about.

Maybe there really aren't anything to talk about.

-C.R. (2017)