

Metropolis Laboratory, break out session 30.06.2010, indlæg CH

I think the SOUP experience perhaps raises more questions than answers, questions which probably are relevant to projects of the same nature.

When trying to evaluate what came out of the efforts one gets into problems, because there are few or very unprecise criterias to work with.

Did we produce art, architecture, entertainment or social engineering? All of it or none of it?

The SOUP group was put together by Kunstfonden, architects and artists and a curating institution, none of us knowing each other or having collaborated before.

Being a building architect I have criterias for evaluating even the most modest shelter, function, economics, aesthetics, contextual adaption are some of them. A piece of architecture has a purpose and can be judged on this base.

The criterias for the free arts are others and more subtle, less measurable. And the curating function again its own.

Evidently the idea of Kunstfonden was to see what could come out of giving the three professions a joint challenge.

It was interesting, but it was not easy to get to a mutual conceptual platform.

I wonder if the social angle we chosed as framework was that neutral field we could meet on, where none of us had the professional dominance? Social angle here broadly understood: activating local ressources, involving the people in the neighbourhood.

Having come so far, however, each of us developed works within the criterias of our own profession and with practically very little interference of the others, probably out af respect of the other and perhaps also because the time left at that stage did not match our ambitions.

Very early in the proces of our collaboration we decided that every work would be presented as a mutual work, yet – refering to the above - none of us would hesitate to point out who was the autor of any specific work.

Every work of art and architecture included in the total can be evaluated from the professional criterias of the autor. But what about the combined efforts of the total work?

Did the joint forces produce a quality further than that of the sum of the individual works?

And the social dimension? Short term results and long lasting perspectives?

The dwellers? Their views and experiences? Were they statistis in the hands of project makers?

We participants can have, and do have opinions, diverging opinions. They are subjective, anchored in our professional experiences. And are we to evaluate?

This young field of artistic practice, to which the SOUP project belongs needs the development of criterias in all aspects, which can only happen through professionals outside the circle of doers, activists, artists, architects etc.

Meant as an invitation to those of you, who have the professional skill and

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