

Jean Baudrillard a Jean Nouvel

Druhý rozhovor

2000

Singularity (singularita, jedinečnost)

- J.B.** I perceive architecture as pure event. /.../ At some point, architecture is like poetry: you can provide all the interpretations you like, but it's always there. /.../ You have an object that literally absorbs you, that is perfectly resolved in itself.
- J.N.** In the case of singularity, the aesthetics of the object is not fundamental to the extent that aesthetics obeys a type of convention, a type of judgment.
- J.B.** Moreover, at first we don't know whether an object will become singular or not. This is what I referred to previously in terms of „becoming“, of becoming –or not becoming– singular. It's a question not of change but of becoming. Sometimes even circumstances, whether they're historical, sociological, or whatever, trigger an object's singular becoming.

Change vs. Becoming (změna vs. stávání se)

- J.B.** There must be a difference between things that change and things that become. Becoming is not the same as importing change, initiating it, wanting it at any price. ... We can say that cities have become things over time. /.../ Cities, in the past, ended up acquiring a kind of singularity, while here, now, before our eyes, they change/.../ We're watching their characteristics erode. /.../ The city is no longer a form in the process of becoming, it's an extended network.

Complicity (spoluúčast, komplicitví..?)

- J.N.** Complicity is the only guarantee that we'll be able to push the boundaries. If this complicity is established, it means that something more than simple comprehension is going on between people, a shared meaning, mutual assistance. /.../ There has to be a shared dynamic, one that's often unspoken but translated into actions.

What utopia?

- J.B.** I still believe we can change the world through architecture.
- J.N.** I dream about program for quickly resolving the living conditions of those who are most disadvantaged. /.../ Only the readymades can provide very, very low production and distribution costs through automated production that can generate millions of copies. I dream about habitat packages that can be parachuted in, along with a few tools, but don't predetermine the shape of the structures.
- J.N.** Let's invent a sexual reproduction for architecture!
- J.B.** Procreation without sexuality challenges the idea of sexuality without procreation – which has been the essence of eroticism. As the laboratory grows in importance, the field of eroticism will start to implode.

Transparency (průhlednost)

- J.B.** Transparency is something extraordinary that expresses the play of light /.../, but at the same time, you get the impression that it also involves a subtle form of censorship. /.../ Isn't there a danger that glass will become a universal material? /.../ Previously it stood for a kind of absolute ideal. We could believe in the transparency of our social relationships or our relation to power. Now it's turning into terror.

Singularity vs. neutrality, globalization

- J.B.** Neutrality has never had a good reputation because neutral things are indifferent. /.../ The universal remains a system of values, and in principle, everyone can access it. But little by little, it's becoming neutralized; cultures are just being juxtaposed. /.../ This is the „Disneyfication“ of the world. Unlike the values that drive universalization, globalization will be a theater of intense discrimination, the site of the worst discrimination. /.../ This movement is going to create a virtual hypersociety that will have access to all the resources and all the power. /.../ I have the impression that this is happening now in cities.

The idea of Architecture and History

- J.B.** One of the problems is that we can no longer make architecture without having an idea of architecture in mind, the history of architecture. That's where I say: „Let's not think too much!“ /.../ People who accumulate every reference they can lay their hands on, multiplying the amount of data, exhaust themselves before they can say...what? Nothing.
- J.N.** Yes, we can make architecture that is not about architectural theory. /.../ The ability to create a vacuum is the prerequisite of any act of authentic creation. If you don't create vacuum, you'll never achieve singularity.

Freedom

- J.B.** Be yourself! Be free! That's part of the idea, the new diktat of modernity. Under the constraints of this new liberation, the individual is forced to find an identity for himself. Today we still live with the ultimatum that we find our identity, fulfill ourselves, realize our full potential. But this is a prodigal freedom and culminates in individualism. /.../ When you're free, when you think you're living a realized freedom, it's a trap. /.../ Everything that was once idea, dream, utopia, is virtually realized.