



Un Gumno Re Gumno, following the crack - Spring Semester 2023.

Excess

Repair, restore, refurbish, preserve, demolish, conserve, maintain, reuse, recycle, up-cycle, upgrade. From repair to upgrade we can insert an increasing number of words describing design and making associated with working within existing fabric. Each verb denotes a position, a method, an attitude towards the past, the present and the future, but also describes a human action within an existing building or object. Each word carries with it a specific way of seeing and a way of doing yet despite the differences, which can sometimes be fiercely defended, they testify how the ground of architecture and design is shifting. There was a time, not long ago, when architecture and design were firmly indexed to all things new. The more modest but universally practiced acts of everyday adaptation and repair have continued largely unnoticed in the background of the new.

The discovery that steel and concrete share the same thermal expansion coefficient transformed the 20th century. If you encase steel bars, which is excellent in tension, in the concrete, which is excellent in compression, you produce the wonder compound material to emancipate the world. Together they act in sublime harmony for housing, industry or infrastructure. Separated they fall in an entangled mess of wire and rubble, aggressively opposing any kind of future reuse. It would take another century to understand that this was one the most carbon-emitting marriages which we are still far from reforming.

We shall challenge the perception of waste and discover the possibilities of use. Demolition, disassembling, and detangling shall become our resource and design tools, while we consider how users are central to the energy history or our built environment.