



Sareh Saeidi Derakhshi

INHABITING THE ARCHITECTURAL ENVELOPE

Contemporary facades commonly emphasize the separation of architecture from its local context by positioning them as support zones for various optimization demands or technical requirements. This dissertation rethinks the façade and reemphasizes the position of the building envelope as an inhabitable in-between space; a threshold that can be experienced. The context-specific spatial potentials and qualities of the building envelope is thus discussed as a dynamic interface between the building, the climate, and the inhabitant.

With its main methodology defined as Research through Design, the research approach combines qualitative and quantitative analyses with both conventional and experimental tools for design studies to move towards possible design approaches for performative building envelopes. The research's main developed tools include a taxonomy of envelopes based on the analysis of selected case examples, and the mapping of concepts and design approaches through literature studies.

By providing an overview of the primary concepts and theories on of the building envelopes, overlooked atmospheric potentials and characteristics, and proposing potential design approaches, the research offers a comprehensive understanding of building envelopes to link the architectural thinking to widely-used programs in architectural practice. The research's new insights and experimental design approaches encapsulate the spatial and adaptive qualities and potentials of the building envelope to improve the research on local-specific buildings.

Sareh Saeidi is graduated from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm (M. Arch.), had worked in Iran as an architect for several years, and is currently Assistant Professor (TP3: Emerging Sustainable Architecture) at Aarhus School of Architecture. Saeidi is interested in location-specific building design and the intermediary role of architectural envelopes. In addition to further developing the presented taxonomy of envelopes in this dissertation, her ongoing research engages with the possibilities of perceptual fluidity and flexible use of the space offered through the spatial configuration of the exterior wall in building envelopes, and how the tectonics and organization of the elements of architectural envelopes can kindle inhabitation of humans and non-humans, leading to latent architectural atmospheres.

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A Design-based Research on Redefining the Climatic and Atmospheric Performances of Architectural Envelope

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