

Eva Gheysen

Disruption as a tactic for sense making in architecture

When we try to make sense of our surroundings, we rely on a frame of references, including the material and situational context, previous experiences, memories, stories, education... and so much more. This 'referential totality' is a structure of relations from which several issues emerge, i.e. our understanding of the places we inhabit and the things we encounter. I am interested in the process of how these referential structures operate and give meaning to our surroundings. How they suggest, associate, blend, collide, interfere... In other words, how sense making evolves from this referential totality. In this inquiry, special attention is given to the relation between the 'house' as a material construct and the 'home' as a feeling of belonging.

I will use the tactic of disruption in order to analyze and understand how sense making processes are sensitive to changes in the referential structures. Disruptions of intimate nature seek for the fundamental characteristics that shape our experience with and perception of the world. The approach of disrupting the familiar is closely linked to the Critical Design discourse where tactics of de-familiarization are implemented as a means of 'poetic knowledging' (Dunne, 2005). The study takes on the form of a project-based exploration in which creating and investigating are intrinsically interconnected.