ABSTRACT

The research consists of three successive and interdependent parts. The 1st part explores the typological evolution of primary schools (and from secondary schools, more specifically) by investigating the role of natural light – and the implications of daylighting mechanisms – on the constructive quality of the spaces it inhabits. The second part proposes a comparative analysis between the formal and constructive qualities present in school buildings constructed between 1945 and 2015 in Switzerland. The third part begins with the observation that many recent research findings demonstrate the importance of the significant and controlable amount of natural light needed in these spaces. By comparing the daylight performance of school spaces with a wider historical, spatial, and pedagogical approach, the objective is to positively influence decisions related to the design of naturally lit spaces in the school of tomorrow.

CRITICAL ASSESS: VARIATIONS OF THE DAYLIGHTING MECHANISMS’ GEOMETRY


WASHINGTON, L’architecture

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Jean-Denis joined the LTH and LIPI laboratories in late 2014 as a PhD candidate in the Doctoral Program in Architecture and Sciences of the City (EDRAS). He holds a B.Sc. Arch and is a M.Arch from the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium, and was a visiting student at the University of Technology in Finland and at the two Universities of Venice in Italy. Upon graduating, Jean-Denis received a teaching assistantship position in the undergraduate design studio and architectural theory courses at the UCL where he taught for two years. He has also been a guest lecturer and a guest critic in many design studios at the bachelor and master’s levels in Belgium and Switzerland, a co-curator of several master’s thesis, and a design teacher for the EPFL’s entry to the United States’ edition of the Solar Decathlon competition. He has four years of professional experience as a registered architect and collaborator, during which he worked on public and private projects in France and Belgium. His research in theory of architecture and daylight is supported by the EPFL and the Swiss NSF, and a Wallonia-Bruxelles International Excellence Fellowship (WBI).