

STEVE HOLL
NYU DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, NEW YORK, 2007

The renovation by Steve Holl Architects aims at upgrading the building's performance to be more efficient and luminous.

They installed a new porous stair shaft that changes direction at each floor and joins the 6-level building vertically.

The stair shaft contains many pores which form shadows that change seasonally and according to the time of the day. Therefore, it mainly encourages social interaction.

The installed stair shaft is made in consideration of the existing walls and is in dialogue with the context as the white installation is similar to the colour of the walls.

Therefore, the white stair shaft is juxtaposed with the white brick wall.

To add some colour in the bright stair shaft and white wall, prismatic film was installed on the south-facing stairwell windows which occasionally break the sunlight into a prismatic rainbow.

Interiors were reorganised using excellent properties of light and materials.

Materials such as cork tiles that are easy to clean and insulated glass units are used.

Although the interiors have been reorganised but the historic exterior of the building remains untouched.



BY : ARYA PARTE

KRIN DE KONING

DWELLING @TURNER CONTEMPORARY, MARGATE, 2014

The insertion is constructed using basic materials such as wooden beams that are intertwined with each other and painted using bright colours.

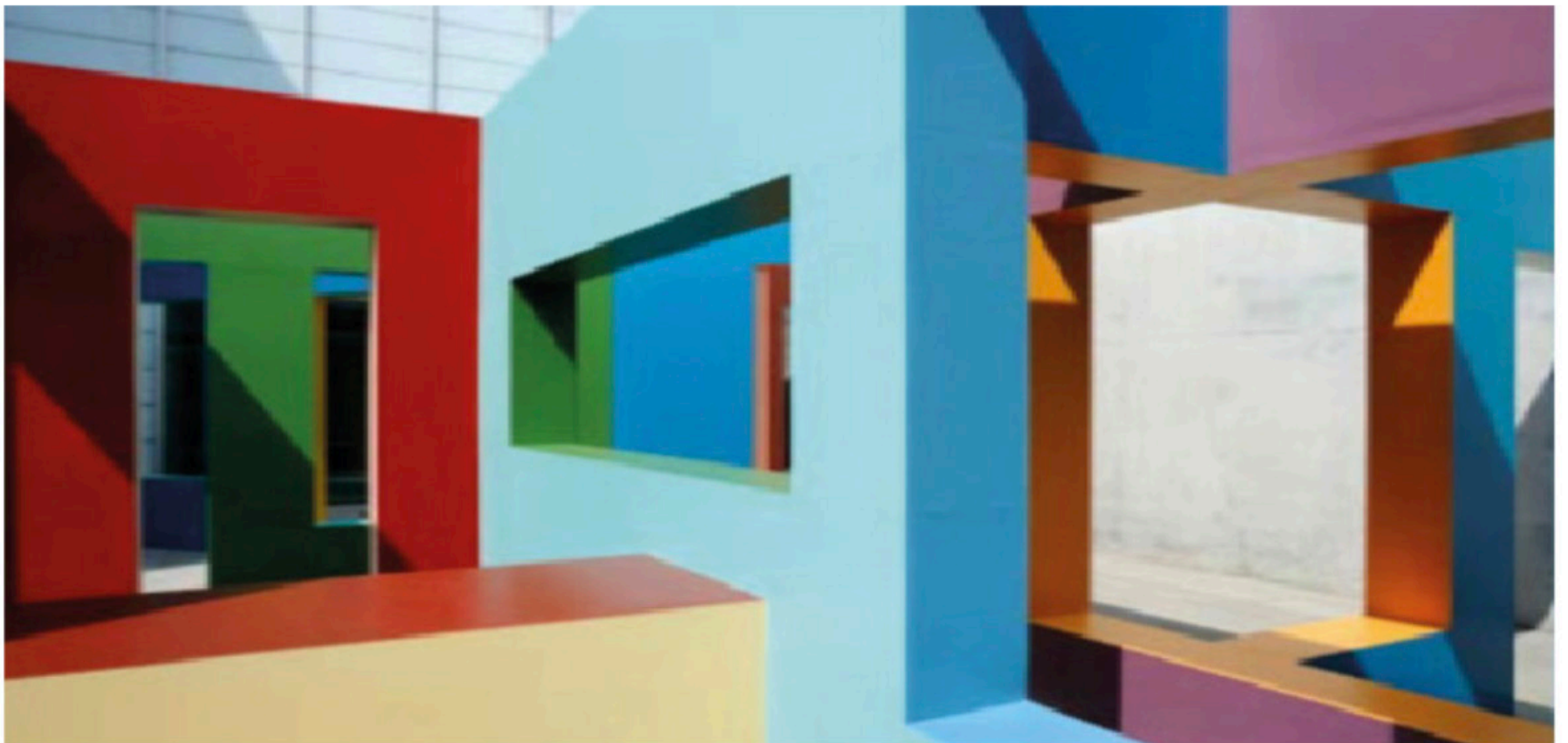
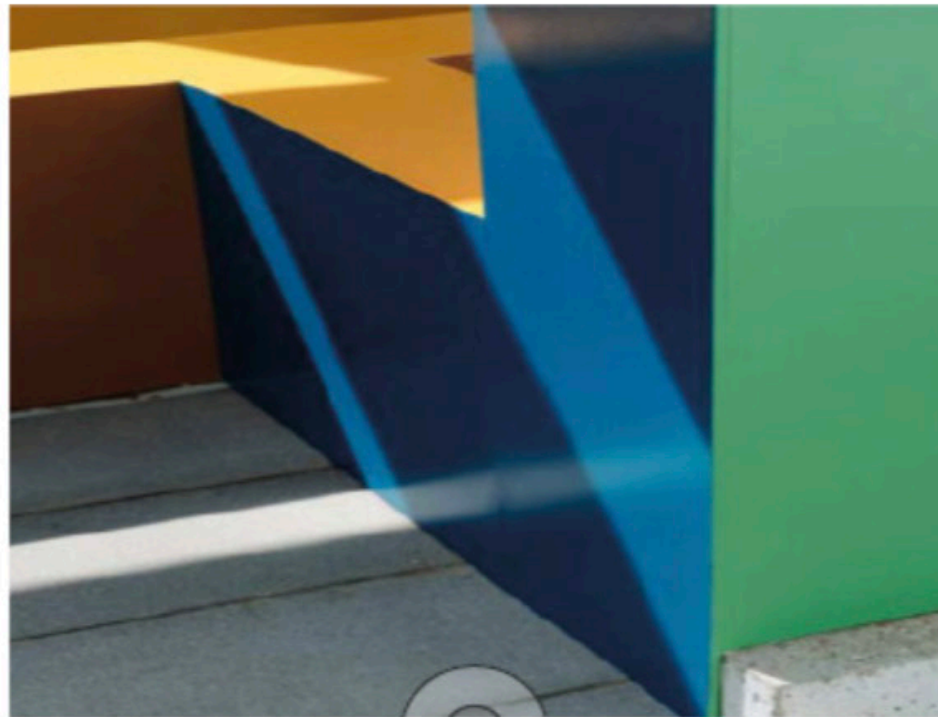
The structure conjoins and collides over the existing walls smoothly with perfection and does not cause any damage or alterations to the context in which it is placed.

Therefore, the insertion is in dialouge with the environment as it blends with the existing walls that are remained untouched.

It also offers new possibilities to experience and navigate the space the work inhabits as people will walk through and around the insertion.

The insertion is not vital for the context in which it is places but still acts as an public walkway that connects inside and outside spaces.

The innovative insertion also acts like a dwelling due to the voids in the structure that appear like architectural features such as doors, walls and windows.



BY: ARYA PARTE

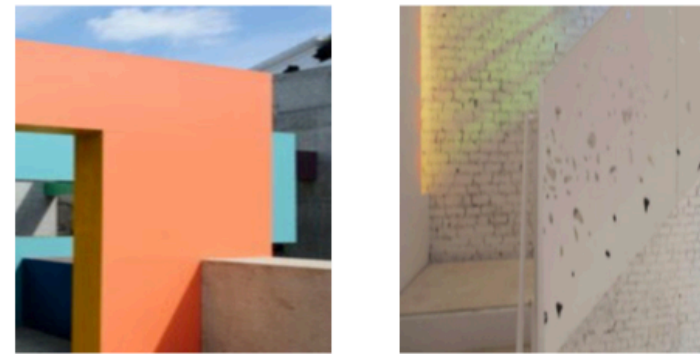
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DIFFERENCE

- This insertion is not vital to the context in which it is placed as it is more experiential.
- This structure was specifically made for the 'Summer of colour festival' and hence it's a temporary insertion.
- This insertion is not functional as it does not have any specific and important purpose.
- Includes artificial architectural features that appear like doors and windows.
- The insertion is painted with bright colours due to which it is juxtaposed with the existing white and grey wall and creates a contrasting effect.
- The insertion is constructed using materials such as wooden beams that are intertwined with each other.



SIMILARITIES

- In both the case studies the insertions are in dialouge with the environment in which they are placed as the insertions blend in with the existing context without damaging or making any alterations in the existing structure.
- The maze by Krin de Koning is open to the sky so shadows move across the surfaces of insertion throughout the day. Similarly, in the insertion by Steve Holl, the shadows are formed by the presence of people and by the prismatic film that splits the sunlight. The film is installed in the south facing windows and the shadows change according to the time of the day.



DIFFERENCE

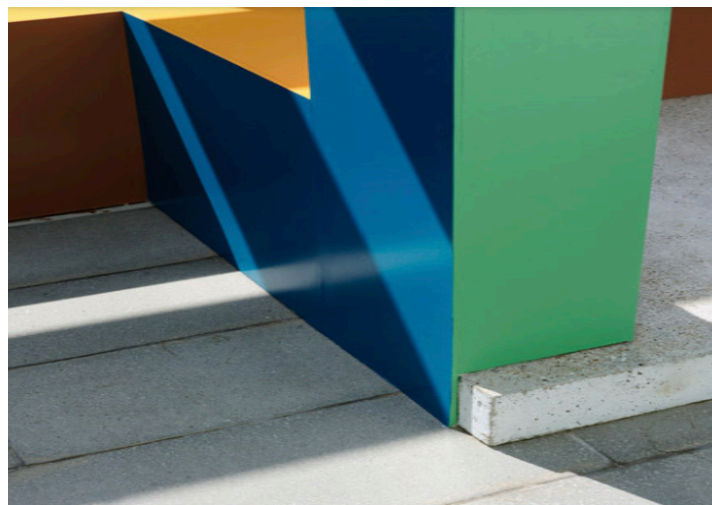
- This insertion is vital to the context in which it is placed as without it, people won't be able to move from one floor to the other.
- This structure was specifically made for commuting between the different levels of the building and hence it's a permanent installment.
- This installment is functional as it has a specific purpose of enabling people move up and down different levels of floor.
- Includes architectural features like stairs and windows.
- The white stair shaft installed is not juxtaposed with the existing white brick wall as the insertion blends in with the wall and does not form any contrasting effect.
- The installation is constructed using materials such as concrete, wood and cork tiles.

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Insertion is an act of placing elements and objects in an existing building or structure in a way that the existing structure remains very much engaged and untouched. This text provides information about two different insertions by Steve Holl architects and Krin De Koning. It is interesting to know how the insertions are placed in dialogue and how it entirely changes and develops new uses in the existing structure. The text is organised into themes of the two case studies and analysis of the insertions followed by the conclusion.

The first insertion is by Steve Holl Architects in New York in 2007. The architects managed to complete the interior renovation of a 1890 corner building at Washington for the consolidation of the NYU Department of Philosophy. A new stair shaft that joins the 6-level building vertically with a shifting porosity of light and shadow that change seasonally was inserted. Whereas, the second insertion was by Krin -



De Koning in England in 2014. He has created a labyrinthine walkway between walls on a terrace at the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate and was specifically made for the 'Summer of colour festival'. The installation comprises of painted wooden beams that intertwine with each other and form architectural features like doors, windows, etc. Both the cases are different from each other in terms of functionality, experience, contrasting effect, materiality and type of insertion based on time period.

In terms of functionality, the main difference is that the dwelling structure is not functional as it does not have any important purpose. Whereas, the stair shaft is functional as it has a specific purpose of enabling people to move up and down different levels of floor. Based on the time period, the dwelling structure was made for a festival and therefore, it's a temporary insertion and on the other hand,

the stair shaft is a permanent installment. The dwelling structure differs from the stair shaft in terms of experience as the dwelling is not vital to the context in which it is placed as it is more experiential and the stair shaft is less experiential but more vital. The dwelling creates a contrasting effect as it is juxtaposed with the existing white wall while the stair shaft is not juxtaposed with the existing white brick wall as the insertion blends in with the wall and does not form any contrasting effect.

The insertions vary greatly in terms of materiality used as dwelling is constructed using wooden beams whereas, stair shaft is constructed using concrete, wood and cork tiles.

Both the cases share a number of similar features such as both the insertions are in dialogue with the environment in which they are placed as the insertions blend in with the existing con-

Bottom left
Fig. 2, caption

Top left
Fig. 1 caption

Centre
Fig 3, caption

Bottom right
Fig. 4 caption



text without damaging or making any alterations in the existing structure. (fig. 1 & 2) The maze is open to the sky so shadows move across the surfaces of insertion throughout the day. Similarly, in the insertion by Steve Holl, the shadows are formed by the presence of people along with the pores on stair shaft and by the prismatic film that splits the sunlight. The film is installed in the south facing windows and the shadows change according to the time of the day. (fig. 3 & 4)

This topic was really interesting and contributed a lot towards the understanding of 'Insertions'. Insertions can entirely change the experience of a space and create new uses of the space. It was interesting to learn how Insertions can be made without causing changes to the existing structure.

References:
wikipedia, pinterest, deezeeen