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Review of doctoral dissertation thesis

### **CONTINUOUS SPACE PHENOMENA**

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The topic of this dissertation thesis was deliberately chosen and offers a wide range of different and important questions for multilayered long-time research. The initial idea declares space continuity as the most important feature of modern architecture. But continuity took different forms during its evolution, as well. Though Laila Sabsadiová tried to sort continuity into four generations, depending on slightly different ambitions of architect and also society.

Chapters and categories are based on the background of theory and selected (iconic, groundbreaking) case studies. Readings on theory and quotations serve as conceptual frame, selected buildings as easily readable explanatory examples.

Weak points:

- 1) The essential weakness of the dissertation thesis is all these theorists became more or less „guides“, quite uncritically followed by Laila Sabsadiová. Above that, the selection of buildings and related texts seems to be rather cliché, with no surprises. Was the Grounded Theory applied (announced on p. 20) for this selection? And why there is no chart or full list of potential examples (may be Annex 2)? And methods of selection clearly explained?
- 2) If there is an ambition „to read“ modernism through the phenomenon of continuity, brisk changes of lifestyle and values should also be involved. And in parallel even some new phenomenons and shifts taking place in casual, everyday architecture (open space offices, kitchen incorporated into living room, interiors closely related to garden etc.). To explain continuity as „typical“ phenomenon, it could not be followed just by groundbreaking,

extraordinary, iconic examples and abstract, intellectual, art theory.

3) Even architects could explain more and pretty directly (memoirs, lectures, texts etc.).

4) Phenomenon of continuity could / should also be accentuated by many (!) explicit drawings and descriptive space analysis (lines, points, volumes, borders, movement etc.).

5) Some features, categories are also unfortunately overlooked –for example continuity versus moving parts and changes of volume (see Schröder House, Maison de Verre, Aalto's church in Vuokseniska, Archigram etc.).

In terms of previous comments, dissertation thesis seems to be rather history of „reflection of the phenomenon in theory“, than „history of the phenomenon“...

Dissertation thesis is carefully, clearly organized, accompanied with relevant annexes. Perfectly written, almost without typing errors.

Just some notes to edge: Sentences should be shorter. Sometimes it is really hard to read and understand them, especially at the beginnings of chapters, usually in the form of collage of various ideas and theories. The first picture on p. 188 shows AEG in Humboldtian (not Turbine Hall).

Nevertheless, list of references and texts is enormous and admirable. Laila Sabsadiová put much work into the text writing and studies. She synthesized all ideas and studies into great and convincing dissertation thesis.

It is my pleasure to recommend her dissertation thesis to final presentation and defence. And recommend to award her the academic degree Ph.D.

Best regards,  
Prof. Ing. arch. Petr Vorlík, Ph.D.

