

TEAM 10 THE 'YOUNGERS' OR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ANOTHER AVANT-GARDE

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Abstract

This paper focuses on the notion of 'generation' in terms of inheritance and transference of authority to examine when, why and how the Team X generation took shape. Situated within, and taking inspiration from, the reflexive turn in social sciences, a socio-historical perspective is used to examine a generation that is not formed biologically, but rather constructed socially: Team 10 is called the 'Younger' generation. The old/young categorization is considered here not as a natural phenomenon — a notion propagated by Le Corbusier — but as a tool that serves to redefine each group of actors and their tasks, and disqualifies those considered 'modernist' traitors, or 'non-creatives', unable to breathe new life into the movement. The Youngers, entrusted with the impossible task of ensuring the continuity of the organization but also the renewal of the movement, must be equal to the Masters, while also not repeating the past: they must do otherwise. The architects who become Team 10 differ in terms of their professional situations and resources. To achieve their task of renewal, they construct an intellectual system of difference — otherness — primarily in relation to their Masters but also inside their professional environment. The self-dissolution of CIAM that results reinforces the story of the birth of a new avant-garde, especially since this new elite of heirs no longer needs the CIAM to assert itself.

Finally, this paper focuses on the social construction of Team 10 as a 'young generation' and a grouping of 'creators', 'heirs' and ultimately, a new 'avant-garde'.

Keywords: generation, socio-histoire, avant-garde, organization, otherness.

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