

ABSTRACT

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PROJECT TITLE ON ARCHITECTURAL SURFACE:
THE DIALECTIC BETWEEN REPRESENTATION AND OPERATION

RESEARCHER Assistant Professor Dr. Tonkao Panin
Faculty of Architecture, Silpakorn University

EMAIL tonkao@su.ac.th

MENTOR Professor Ornsiri Panin
Faculty of Architecture, Kasetsart University

The research intends to explore the power of architectural surface-façade in both aspects of its interior operation and exterior representation. It focuses on the role of architectural façade-surface to shape and reshape the identities of both architecture and place. How architecture as it appears in direct experience – be it in its immediacy as a given texture or in its remoteness as an image – gives us references and clues to the work of architecture itself and of larger social, cultural, political and natural framework of its location. This two-way movement towards an inner and outer horizon endows architectural surface with the capacity to generate meaning – or ideology and locates it in the crucial juncture by which it seems capable of transcending its superficiality in many possible directions.

Does the façade respond to its internal operation (function-production)? Does it also carry the task of representation, conveying the messages inherent in its historical-traditional characteristic (responsive to social, cultural, political aspects)?

Are there other ways of thinking and working with the topic that avoid dichotomy or the subjugation of one concern to the other? The task of disclosure in architecture is not limited to that of representation in the traditional sense of the word. An alternative strategy could involve seeing the building's external façade, surface or cladding as elements that structure both the building's skin and its spatial-temporal operations, which includes both its

interior tasks towards its function and exterior tasks towards the context. Architectural façade cannot be considered as an object independent of human activities. It has a decisive role in laying down the framework for human occupation, both within the body of architecture and within the city.

This inquiry into the depth of its architectural surface (façade-skin-covering-dressing-cladding) touches upon its visible and non-visible manifestations, i.e. upon its practical, material, constructional and representational aspects. Addressing various examples and innovative ways of thinking and building architectural surface in contemporary practice, the subjects include not only the relation between surface, material and production. The theme also suggests the relation between surface and meaning, image, form, space, human occupation as well as location in terms of the dialogue between architectural surface and its surroundings. Thus, this research addresses surface as a basic premises of architecture. The manifold of architectural surface appears not only within the parameter of architectural body but also outside of it. Surfaces of architecture and their surroundings are not two separate things, for they represent the different levels of boundaries in which we dwell.

KEYWORD Architectural Façade, Surface, Cladding, Dressing, Bekleidung Theory, Architecture and the City