

EL PROYECTO DE LA CASA DE LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN EN SKJOLDEN, NORUEGA

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ABSTRACT

In 1914, the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) designed and started to build a timber house on the steep hillside of Lake Eidsvatnet in Skjolden, Norway. In this small village, Wittgenstein had found the peace that he considered essential to his work on logic. But his plans to settle in Norway were cut short by the outbreak of World War I and he only occupied the house during visits at various but important stages of his life, the last of them only five months before his death in Cambridge. Nevertheless, the Skjolden house was central to the development of Wittgenstein's philosophical thought and represented the only place he really felt capable of working. To date, understanding of the relationship between Wittgenstein and architecture has been determined by research on the 1929 house in Vienna, which was built for his sister Margaret, in collaboration with the architects Paul Engelmann and Jacques Groag. My work details, for the first time, the project of the single house that the philosopher conceived and built for himself. The Skjolden house certifies Wittgenstein's ethical commitment to architecture, which is independently reclassified as vernacular architecture to that espoused by Adolf Loos and anticipates solutions that Wittgenstein applied later to the house in Vienna.