

Rogelio Salmona and Le Corbusier: about the permeability of the making

Abstract

Rogelio Salmona was one of the most important architects of the 20th century in Colombia. His work, altogether with the work of some co-generation colleagues, laid the foundation for architecture made there since 1960 which operated a smart cultural synthesis between the principles of the modern movement coming from Europe and the United States and the technical and material potential of the Colombian environment.

Rogelio Salmona formed for six years in the studio of Le Corbusier in Paris between 1948 and 1954. After this experience, the architect always claimed to be a disciple, but not a follower of Le Corbusier, even asserting that the most important influence he had received during the years spent in the French capital was from Pierre Francastel, a sociology professor at the École de Hautes Études.

This thesis tries to delineate how the influence of Le Corbusier may have operated in the work of the Colombian architect. To do this, first, it is studied in depth the projects in the studio of Le Corbusier in the period between 1948 and 1954 and how they were developed. Secondly we approximate to the state of architecture in Colombia done during the same period, with particular emphasis on the work done by the co-generation colleagues of Rogelio Salmona. Finally the first works by the architect on his return to Colombia and his writings are studied and discussed.

After this Itinerary, it is possible to identify several points in common, regarding the approach to the craft of the two architects, described and illustrated by some of their works. In both cases, the approach to the project through the development and editing of a series of pre-set variables leads to a systematic way of doing infinitely rich in possibilities.

This research uses this case study to inquire in a broader sense into the mechanisms operating in the transmission of knowledge, on the field of architectural projects.