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The metamorphosis of the Finnish Arctic landscape in the work of Raili and Reima Pietilä

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Abstract

The exploration of the significance and genesis of architectural form led Raili and Reima Pietilä to explore new paths outside the architectural trends of the mid-twentieth century that were conditioned by the dogma of modern architectural form. This search found an answer in the nature of the ancient Arctic landscape as the main conditioning agent. Their reinterpretation and translation into the architectural process characterized their first period of joint work between 1959 and 1969, where projects such as Dipoli, the Finnish Embassy in New Delhi, or the Malmi Church shared the architectural character that defined them: the metamorphosis of the ancient forms of nature that characterized the Finnish landscape and local culture. In this paper, special attention is paid to the framework in which the couple developed these theories of exploration of form and their subsequent application to the architectural project, showing a coherent process of their own that served as a starting point for the architectures to come.

Keywords: nature; materiality; architectural design; Finland