

Island societies and architectural imagination: From Deleuze's desert island to Plato's Atlantis and More's Utopia

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Abstract

The contemporary crisis of spatiality issues lies largely in the sense of the uncanny, the existential anguish. This thesis studies the way in which fictional island societies became the defensive refuge of man, a separate reality. Deleuze in his text "Desert Islands" studies this separate reality, which he highlights as a fundamental driving force for the re-creation of the world. Plato's Atlantis and More's Utopia are typical examples of such separate island societies that function as virtual places of re-birth and re-creation.

A renewed reading of these classic works has the potential to bring contemporary architecture close to what Deleuze saw in the 'Desert Islands', that is to be the concept of collective in the individual. This approach is related to the recognition that island societies such as More's Utopia are conceived as imaginary worlds where we discover the collective soul of the place that we lost in contemporary cities and elucidate a spatial model of common good where architecture and urban planning emphasize on collectivity -and thus, public space- and convey and draw values from the society.

Keywords: island society, re-creation, collectivity