

Ephemerality of the Everyday in Architectural Production - Mapping Home, Care and Labour on the Construction Site

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Architecture is often misunderstood as art, as the product of an architect's creative work, entirely obscuring the numerous systems of labour involved within its production. This deliberate invisibilization¹ works to exclude, isolate and alienate construction workers and their labour (both productive wage labour and reproductive care-work (both waged and unwaged) from the collective discourse on Architectural Production. To re-frame this ubiquitous pattern, my thesis is focused on situations and trajectories that are popularly perceived to be outside the horizon of architectural practice while being specifically situated within or near architectural sites.

It perceives home-making² practices— the undefined, careful and prudent arrangement of a domestic sphere within the power structure of the site — as an act of embodied resistance against invisibility with the aim to make them observable. The field in this investigation is observed through two temporally transient frames — a make-shift home within an 'under-construction' building and a labour camp³ of a high-rise construction company— in Hyderabad⁴, India. While the make-shift home moves as the building rises, adapting seasonally, the 'camp' is more stationary, restricted only to brief improvisations. In either case, the 'home' on the site informs socio-political relationships in the capitalistic architectural production network.

This thesis has been an exploratory field exercise under the broad question: What is reproduced through and by the processes involved in the production of Architecture? Within this emergent subject of architectural research, my thesis asks specifically: Who builds our Architecture?⁵; Where and how do they live and work? How do they make a home-place within the work-place? What components of the construction system act to separate construction workers from the space they produce through the labour of their bodies? Is there resistance to capitalistic exploitation within their home or workplace?

This information, technical, statistical and experiential has been used in identifying patterns and documenting research findings. In the form of demographic data, interviews, collection of field notes and sketches, an informative cartography has been drawn. These maps along with the essays will chart migration, everyday life, class struggle, home-making practices and gender and caste issues that reflect – and also challenge – shifts in the political economy.

Keywords: care-work; labour; home-making; make-shift home; 'labour camp'; construction site

1 Peggy Deamer, *Architecture and Labor*, 1st edn (Routledge, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429325182>.

2 In architectural theory, homemaking practices are seen as lived realities that render buildings with experience and meaning.

3 'Labour Camp is the name given to the company housing provided to construction workers.

4 Hyderabad is considered as one of the fastest growing cities in the world according to several reports (Savills' Growth Hubs Index and Knight Frank India).

5 Kadambari Baxi et al., 'WBVA Guidebook', *Who builds your Architecture?* n.d.