



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ARCHITECTURE

call for proposals #3

>>> blockblock blockblock

Ministère de l'Architecture proposes to think about an inconsistency and a very rich inaccuracy of architectural science: that of the blocks.

- A block means a minimal building unit. A stone block for example.
- A block means a part of a building, in general autonomous.
- A block means a building with many units in it.
- A block means a group of buildings regarded as a unit.
- A block means an area bounded by streets or buildings on four sides.

Ministère de l'Architecture proposes to its contributors to think about this strange lexical situation : the same word indicating five fundamental elements of the architectural thought and creation but also basically different in terms of scale and function: a zone of buildings, a group of buildings, a whole building, a part of a building and a building material.

Where does the interlocking of blocks stops? How to cease distinguishing them or how to distinguish them radically then? What underlies this inaccuracy?

BLOCK >>> any large solid piece of wood, stone, or metal, often with flat surfaces > a blocklike stand or platform on which hammering, chopping, etc. is done > an auctioneer's platform > a mold upon which things are shaped as hats > the shape of a hat > anything that stops movement or progress; obstruction, obstacle, or hindrance > any solid piece of material used to strengthen or support > an oblong building unit of concrete, larger than a brick and usually not solid > a similar unit of glass or other material > such units collectively > a large building with many units in it, or a group of buildings regarded as a unit > an area bounded by streets or buildings on four sides; city square > the distance along one side of such an area > any number of persons or things regarded as a unit > in a computer, a unit of memory, consisting of one or more contiguous words, bytes, or records. <<< source : Webster's 3rd edition.

Conditions of participation are detailed
in the presentation of Ministère de l'Architecture.

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