Chapter 7
The Decreasing Fortune of the Drawing in the Architectural Processes: From Control and Development to Verification

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ABSTRACT
The architecture survey and the architecture design are both processes that move along the line that links a building to an exhaustive system of its representations but in the two opposite senses. The survey is concerning the knowledge of an existing architecture while the design is defining a whole building from a single original mental image. Both the processes historically adopted the drawing as the main instrument to control and develop the key actions and transmit the final product. The introduction of innovative technologies such as laser scanner and BIM has broken this practice and drawing seems today relegated to a secondary posthumous verification role while assemblage and data-base logics are threatening the continuous flow between mind, eyes and hand the drawing had been assuring for centuries. This chapter analyzes current practices of both survey and design to highlight their limits, equivokes, and risks.

INTRODUCTION
In all of processes of comprehension and creation, the physical flow of data transmission between the brain and the tabula is fundamental: such a flow must be performed by maintaining as much as possible the contact between the elements that compose it. Think about the relationship between thinking and writing on a sheet of paper; writing is to trace signs that do not represent directly mental images but analogic...
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constructs of words belonging to a language of signs referred to a shared code. This type of procedural connection formed on the experience of writing with sticks in the wax as well a quill pen on paper, and has been guaranteed in the recent past by both old typewriters and WYSIWIG word processing software. Although after school experiences, the intensive use of word processors gradually make the body forget the memory of fingers movement required for writing every single character, endorsing all of them to the same “push-the-button” either on the keyboard or the monitor icon, the process of development and translation of thought into words keeps its tenets and ensures a continuous flow.

One often does not realize how a drawing is able to describe what the “third eye”, the eye of the mind, “sees”. While drawing, retinal images from the outside world constantly mingle together images coming from one’s brain. The stimuli of photons between 400 and 700 nm that are perceived by cones and rods in the retina, are composed and confused through neuronal contacts. Along the optic nerves such “messages” partially cross in the chiasm, come to the lateral geniculate nuclei after the decussation and from there they spread on the cerebral cortex. An army of electrical discharges that constantly affects our brain: that is the process of view (Figure 1).

Figure 1. The brain and the eyes
Source: M. Carpiceci, 2014