



Amsterdam, NL

Study on 'Population Thinking'

2004



What makes Darwin a "population thinker" and defines "population thinking" as opposed to "typological thinking" is that he offered a non-theological approach to speciation, extinction, and the production of new forms. These evolutionary changes are caused by a universal condition of organisms; the operation of variation and natural selection is impossible to predict for individual cases, but in the long run they will either adapt to their circumstances or become extinct.

In a design process as in evolution theory, the logical matters, such as quantifiable design parameters, and factual matters, such as criteria evolving in the process, are inseparable and keep adapting the basic model. In our study, the geometric principles were derived from the wish to generate visual experiences; in addition, parameters of structural limitation and cost efficiency were applied. These pragmatic definitions allowed us to test organizational models for flexibility and diversity by developing variants through calculusbased "modifications of code".

The result is a series of possible plans, of which one specific, individual type could become the house for a specific family.

Bifurcation House

Ossiach, Carinthia, 2002–2005



The location of the site on a north-facing slope, some 100 meters from the lakeshore, is at variance with the requirement of affording breathtaking views of the lake and the mountains. The objective is to design a house that creates a spectacular visual relationship with its environment and, at the same time, to overcome the disadvantages of the site.

In the Bifurcation House, leisure, sleeping and living areas are clearly separated from one another on three floors. The ground plans are designed as central plan, corridor plan and open plan, respectively. The circulation integrates the three floors with their prototypically different organizational layouts. By taking up visual clues, it choreographs a walk through the house and brings pictures of nature inside. This organization also informs building's outward appearance through multiple bifurcations.

