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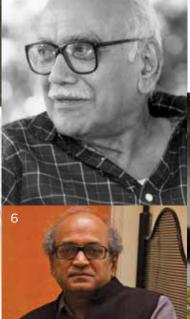
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LAURIE BAKER CENTRE
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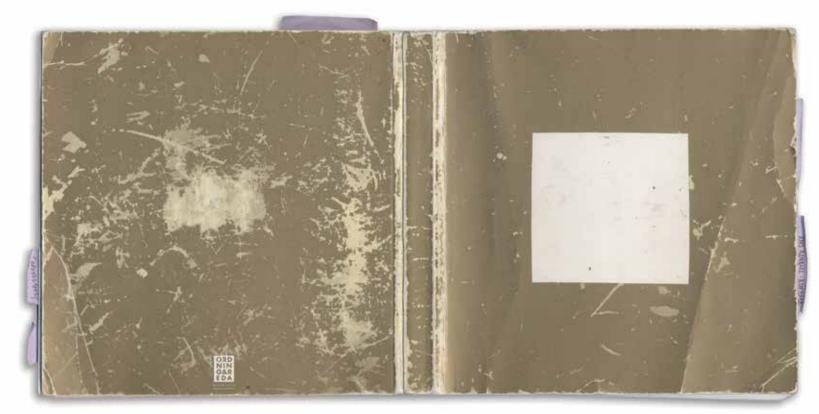
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NOTEBOOK & THE COLLECTION

In the historic understanding of architecture, drawing figured as the dominant medium of expression. Before any practical work was undertaken, architects were encouraged to make the historic pilgrimage to Rome, to seek out the ruins, to sketch, draw, interpret and imbibe. In the Renaissance for instance, Andrea Palladio methodically reconstructed many Roman ruins, even providing a kind of imaginative interpretation of an entire building from a mere fragment; so much so, that even his own constructed work began to draw inspiration from the imaginary reconstructions. Closer to our own time, Le Corbusier, Alvar Alto and Louis Kahn produced numerous freehand travel sketches and imaginary studies of an intensely personal nature that had little to do with their architecture. The drawing's lack of application to building makes many architects avoid

drawing altogether; however many professionals use drawing to delve into the world of ideas and ideals. The ideal building cannot be built unless it is first examined in the private imagination. Its deliberate masking of function, and devoid of the urgency to build, gives vent to the innately human tendency to explore the inexplicable and find some private meaning through drawing. We explore here the imaginary capacity of the medium itself - the drawing as a fluid unrealized statement of possibility. Against the background of a practice, the individual artist/architect pulls and elaborates ideas from the depths of remoteness and thought and retains them as jottings in a private notebook, or elaborations in the file drawer. Such thought processes and concerns relate less to specific buildings than to expressions of attitude and mindscape.

ROGER CONNAH



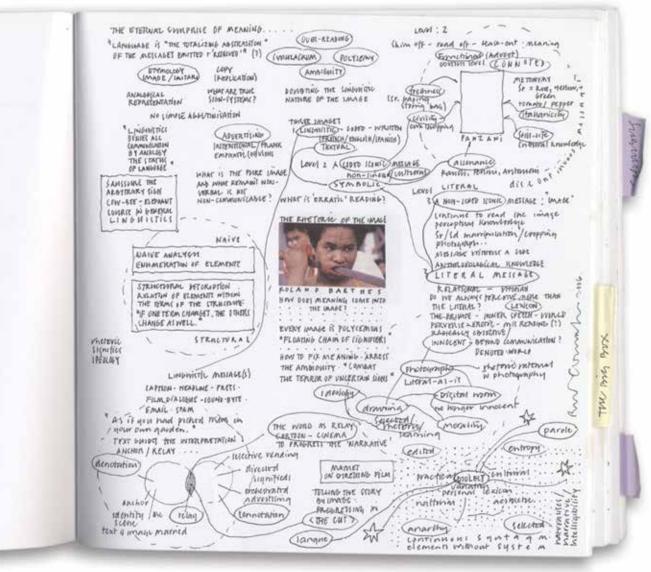
The Not So Secret Workings of an (Architectural?) Brain The Golden Notebook (ordning och reda) 2002 Roger Connah

Architects used to rely on drawings as transfers, steps from the idle towards the occupied, from the intuitive towards the framed. Today, perhaps due to time, anxiety, software and social media, the way architects think and draw may be changing. Some go as far as claiming not many are doing it these days thinking and drawing, that is.

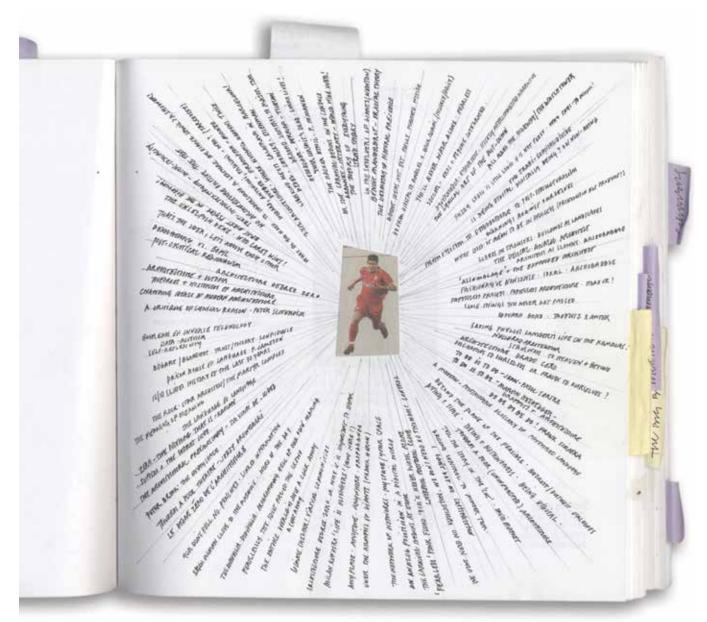
These calligraphisms - 5 Easy Pieces started in a 10"x10" Golden Sketchbook (Ordningoch Reda, Sweden) and then began life in real time. By real time I mean there is no advanced planning of the sheet-as-canvas, or where the information and knowledge will be layered. Crucial to the effectiveness, or not, of mapping is the unknown material - the narrative and links that emerge from an event - a lecture, an outline, or a program. Without

agenda or destination. Incomprehensibility is not determined by the layering as how the brain erases and edits as it goes along, but merely demonstrates the workings of the architectural brain in action. The drawings and maps that emerge erase knowledge and learning as fast as they locate new thinking. The drawing of text is forever thinking through architecture, without harbouring the intention to build anything; thus a drawing of text, and an architecture of words. These drawings rely on a model of knowledge and language that fluctuates continually between fluency, redundancy, absence and infancy. Always, but always, they begin in the middle of something else. Memory, direction, required skill and narrative are all contained in the instant unthinking precision of this downhill drawing.

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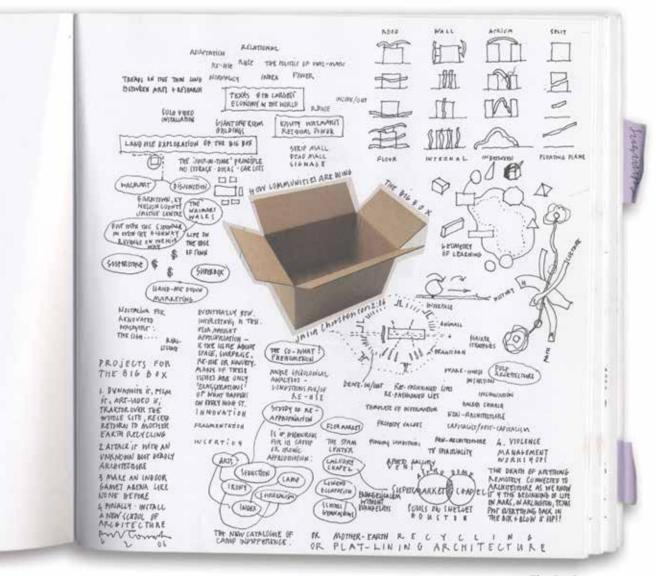


The Rhetoric of the Image An approach to the seminal essay by Roland Barthes (2006)



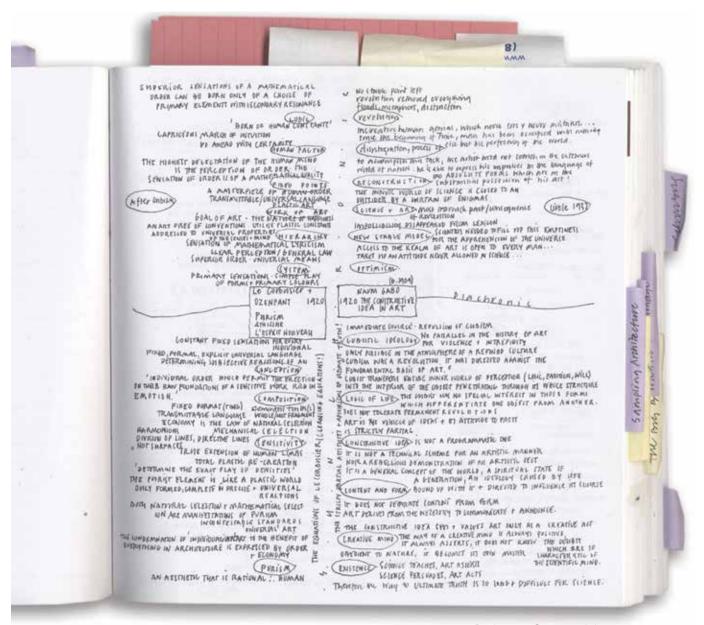
The Steven Gerard Circle
A non-hierarchical circle sketch for the lecture "Architecture Degree Zero" (2007)

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The Big Box

A real time mapping of a lecture by Christenson on the Big Box (2006)



Purism vs. Constructivism Le Corbusier & Ozenfant versus Naum Gabo (2004)

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