



Dear Architecture,

Stop with the constant selfies please.

I remember a time I had to pick my ass up to see you, but now, all I need is a phone, my favorite architecture website and you're there, in my hands, showing me the goods. You look more fine than ever, railings removed, gleaming white, twisting and turning to shade from the sun. Just gorgeous.

I mean, now that you're here in this virtual library, is there any sense to meet up, I'm already seeing you the best you possible could be; airbrushed to perfection, edited with the most delicate tweaks to show those phenomenal moments inhabited by a good looking woman that's always looking up and away so you can't tell she's too good looking but deep down you know she's good looking. With technology these days I have all the selection. There are tons of material to scan through, with new pictures screaming for shares and attention, in every category from Adaptive reuse to zoo.

Rather than the journey it's more than ever about the time of capture. The end images, frozen in virtual space, floats from device to device, shared, and liked. The public discourse has shifted from the pens of architect into the mainstream pixels of the inter-webs. We double tap our screens, eyes scroll quickly, comment, giving quick little hearts.

Projects ingest this digital attention; using an international acknowledgement of space making to fuel individual willfulness, global recognition, and layering contributions to uniqueness. These international cities generate from banality, custom skylines capped off with odd shapes, height, and constant propaganda. From the international style, other than a scattering of glass box architecture, a new visual based architecture defined by branding, and signature forms populate contemporary metropolises. Whether it is a twisting tower, a stacked tower, or a glass box, the power relationship is still imminent and unchanged. A sensuous exterior surface distracts the public, enticing photo documentation, while the interior remains typical; the same repeating floors, layout, and activity. The public is out and about, immersed and sedated in a field of fantastic formal manipulations and ornamentation and the private is in. No cleaner can this divide be made clear.

I just wished you could be open; more vocal, more social about how you should be felt, not just seen. In a society so visually dependent, you have the potential to clear the air and offer us a breath of fresh air. You need to look within, and take a stance, rather than compete impulsively for virtual pixel hearts and thumbs for being curvier, sharper, or taller. These senseless quick bursts of happiness will have no long term relevance in a fast paced society. We need you to be socially conscious, context sensitive, for all. An architecture not defined by an icon, the number of likes, or a single image, but an architecture celebrated through habitation, memories, and true physical presence.

Sorry for rant,

From Devote arch lover.