



drawing: Manolis Korres 1996

metalepsis of the site of exception

graduate seminar / fall 2013 / don kunze

Critical questions are those that must be continually reconceived within new methods and vocabularies. This seminar looks at films, short readings, and urban spaces where the consensus of ideology gives way to the dissensus of exception. Metalepsis, the presence of framing elements within the mimesis/representation of reality, shows how historically well-established cultural practices (the uncanny, rituals, myths, storytelling, ideological formations, etc.) have involved a “virtuality of detachment.” Theories about architecture and landscape, in moving from interpretive to active modes, may use the visual calculus of metalepsis to recast theory as primarily experimental, pro-active, and provocative. What remains the same is the gap, which we must learn to interrogate, and through such interrogation to “tarry with the negative” that is subjectivity’s essential nature.

The narrative/visual figure of metalepsis explains the architecture of “sites of exception.” At the same time it establishes that part of architecture that is architecture — i.e. its root relationship to *venustas*. Metalepsis materializes framing elements as phenomenal/material qualities that create an uncanny disturbance within ordinary architectural conditions.

The seminar involves readings, films, and staged interventions, i.e. both theory and practice. Members respond with short writings, drawings, jokes, installations, performances, skits, and video collages. phd/masters/undergraduates from all majors welcome. 15 limit.

seminar directed by Don Kunze / Thursdays 7–9.45 pm (variable weeks)

