Theoretical Architecture

Urban Theoretical Architecture emerges balanced on a cusp joining imagination to reality. Urban design as the study of the design and construction of cities is a subset of architecture, so perhaps urban architecture is a name more appropriate to the study. Principles, methodology, and veracities of architecture all apply to urban design. The discipline Theoretical Architecture defines a study combining architectural imagination and application of laws of nature upon the structures of imagination to discover, refine and build elements of architectural theory. Since theory is the “systematic statement of principles,” “formulation of apparent relationships or underlying principles” and “fundamental truth,” Theoretical Architecture and its sub discipline of Urban Theoretical Architecture are methodologies for discovering, refining, and building principles, relationships, and fundamental truth.
Theory and Reality

Also in residence at the cusp binding reality to imagination, the birth of Theoretical Physics provides further insight into character and methodology of Urban Theoretical Architecture. One record of the birth of Theoretical Physics can be found in the following quotation:

“If...we supplement the propositions of Euclidean geometry by the proposition that two points on a practically rigid body always correspond to the same distance (line interval), independently of any changes in position to which we may subject the body, the propositions of Euclidean geometry then resolve themselves into propositions on the possible relative position of practically rigid bodies. Geometry which has been supplemented in this way is then to be treated as a branch of physics. We can now legitimately ask as to the “truth” of geometrical propositions interpreted in this way, since we are justified in asking whether these propositions are satisfied for those real things we have associated with the geometrical ideas.”

Viewed algebraically, this statement contains essential principles extractable from Theoretical Physics and very applicable to the realms of Architecture and Urban Theoretical Architecture. As in algebra, the quotation is an “equation” containing relations and variables. The variables can be replaced by other variables without changing the verity of the formula and the equation’s form can be rearranged without affecting the symmetry (equality) of the relationships. Therefore, words in the original statement can be replaced by words corresponding to the original words in basic meaning or intent.
Methodology

Using algebraic methods, the quotation of Albert Einstein can be rewritten in order to derive applications to a Theory of Architecture and Urban Design. An example of this follows:

If we supplement the propositions of imagination by correspondences binding these propositions to a real physical construction or constructions so that the structure of elements and relations of the imaginary proposition correspond to and are isomorphic to the structure of elements and relations of the physical construction(s), the propositions of the imagination further develop and resolve according to the physical laws brought to bear upon the corresponding physical construction(s). Imagination that has been supplemented in this way is then to be treated as a branch of physical construction. We can now legitimately determine the “truth and beauty” of the imagination’s propositions interpreted in this way, since we are justified in asking whether these propositions are satisfied for those real things we have associated with the imaginary propositions.