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Abstract:
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This paper is focused on the general topic of dynamic interrelations between architectural and social change and puts special attention to these aspects within extreme urban residential situations and altering ways of residing characterised by radical spatial transgression and resident\'s profound processes of identification. It will try to re-situate the potentially critical role of urban architectural interventions for potential residential cultural changes. This research is dedicated to the combined architectural sociological analysis on 'The Becoming of Residential Identities' as empirical and conceptual explorations on contemporary residential situations focused on the reciprocal dynamic between social reality and architectural projections or alterations departing primarily from a Bourdieu elaborated perspective on cultural change related to symbolic capital; on visual and symbolic quality consumption. The paper will present a preliminary
assessment and qualitative analysis of the 2012 finalised refurbishment project Bois-le-Prêtre in Paris as an important attempt at rethinking the social in architecture and architecture in the social. These considerations are based on interviews with key project authors and with inhabitants on site as planned for later 2012. Significantly, the project is developed with inhabitants predominantly staying in the building during construction works with only a short two-week displacement, which as an experience of the renewal process and later adaptation to the new conditions is a focus of intended residents’ biographical study. Confronted with images from the pre-existing flat usage before reconstruction it becomes evident how this drastic projected structural as well as symbolic change offers an opportunity for a spatial act of liberation.

References: