

The Interpretation of Contemporary Additions in Reuse Practices Through Semiotics: The Case of the Louvre Pyramid

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Abstract:

This study focuses on analyzing contemporary additions in the reuse of cultural heritage through the lens of architectural language and semiotics. The reuse process is a complex one, aiming to preserve the cultural value of heritage while adapting it to contemporary use and ensuring its future sustainability. When the original structure is insufficient to meet modern functional requirements, contemporary additions become necessary, which raises questions about the integration of old and new. Semiotics, a discipline centered on the study of signs and symbols, offers a systematic approach to understanding how meaning is created through architectural interventions. The research examines the Louvre Pyramid as a case study, applying the theoretical frameworks of semioticians and architectural theorists such as Fischer, Zevi, and Eco. The analysis focuses on three key aspects: context, function, and symbolic value, aiming to explore how contemporary additions communicate with the historic fabric of the building and how they contribute to the overall architectural narrative. A comprehensive literature review revealed that there is a gap in the study of architectural language within the context of heritage reuse, particularly in relation to contemporary additions. The findings of the study suggest that when contemporary additions are thoughtfully integrated with historic structures, they contribute not only to the aesthetic and functional quality of the spaces but also reinforce the cultural, historical, and social sustainability of the heritage. The successful blending of old and new can enhance the cultural legacy, ensuring its relevance for future generations.

Keywords:

Semiotics, louvre pyramid, adaptive reuse, contemporary additions.