



## Theorising Appearance

Mohd. Shahrudin Abd. Manan

The project attempts to formulate a systematic design activity among newcomers in the architectural field. The activity is not limited to the intentional physical movements as a constructive discipline in making tangible forms but is also extended to the activity of thinking as an act in understanding normative theory of design principles. Coordinating the activity within progressive cognitive thinking through documented design sketches and scientific skills of quality workmanship through various scales of experimental study models, the whole design processes are eventually manifested in a form, a structure of free-functions with unspecified events. The processes cover the initial phase of introducing students with interdisciplinary discourses of environmental design knowledge followed by analytical critique of design ideology from selected prominent artists.

In this design, Norain perceived artworks of abstract expressionist sculptor, James Rosati as a structured language to be semiotically translated into an existential folly. The artist's experiments in marrying animal formalism with geometric juxtapositions, colour exposures and textural compositions became the theoretical footing while materialising her folly's appearance. Adopting ant as her referential subject, the characteristics of the invertebrate animal were theorised to deconstruct appearance of ornamental images, skin envelopes and exoskeleton frames of her proposed folly.

The folly later augmented the Parc de la Villette of Bernard Tschumi's proposition on design crossprogramming in organising systems of space, event and visibility in unfixing architectural monumentality. It, at last, becomes a mode in delineating border between forming knowledge as 'theorising' and knowledge of form as 'appearance' in architectural design.



Norain Binti Ismadi