

Thanks Michael.
A nice blend of cynicism and sensitivity.

But surely when we make architecture we look for a still, dynamic tension between light and dark and space and place and use.

The spirit of architecture lies often in living stones....as in *Les Pierre Sauvages*....or Kahn's Rochester church.

Yet it is hard to think the same way about flying, weightless curves of plastic and silicone ...as in Wolf Prix's amazing work in China....

although we try to find a way.

Patrick (Q)

-----Original Message-----

From: MK <michael@KARASSOWITSCH.CA>

To: AM-CARC-ACS-L <AM-CARC-ACS-L@LISTSERV.TAMU.EDU>

Sent: Wed, Nov 6, 2013 9:39 am

Subject: Rock Balancing

Ok, I'll bite here.... A bit playfully and provocatively ... I'm in Vienna and not necessarily in an LA frame of mind.

I've seen rock balancing all over, and have done it all my life. Even my 26 month old son does it with his set of found stones all the time out of the natural impulse that comes for the wooden blocks and so on.

There is something in it that inspires people to pipe on about spiritually and art. Btw, the similarity to Goldsworthy is for me in that sense of silent patient absorption that balancing the rocks requires.

Silent patient absorption with the simplest materials available. Many people look to nature for those simplest means. The simplest means is one's self. Meditation for example; the mind. Balancing a heavy rock on top of a lot of others imperiled by that further rock - at shoulder level - puts the rock, one's shoulder muscles (and back and neck and tummy ..,) between the simplest most direct approach. It may be seen as a reminder of Dante's Purgatory.

For me, the connection to architecture surprised me, and that is why I am communicating here today. When we build to presence architecture, we take matter generally without asking, and we 'pin' it in place like dead butterflies in a grid - each in a set abstracted narrow purpose system - where being dead is essential to the concept. Rock balancing spiced my imagination to try to imagine what our presencing of architecture might look like and be able to presence architecturally if every bit of a 'building' (ie. human intentional environment) were balanced in place in that manner, alive.

Spirituality is an other issue. An architect who takes this seriously is positioned to support spirituality.

Cheers,
Michael