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EDITORIAL

KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE ON BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES MEANS, INSTRUMENTS AND MODELS

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The increasing influence wielded by *Technique* in defining the frameworks of contemporary social and productive life urges a revision, or perhaps better, an adaptation, in the cultural and educational maturity of the various professionals working in the field of architectural design and building construction, both on the scientific research and professional practice fronts.

“Making” was “art” in that pre-technological condition in which the maker-craftsman was mirrored in the work that reproduced its specific “quality” while “making”, in the technologically evolved stage, has become “production.” In this context, the shift from “qualitative” to “quantitative” properties is evidenced by dissecting the “making” into partial tasks that the technical structure reconnects until they are combined into the final product. Thus, the progressive slide from the condition of artist-craftsman to that of technician-specialist is revealed.

Thus, the contemporary condition of *Technique* is embedded in this domain in its correlation with the various human activities. This theme also highlights the need to open a new space for reflections based on a different theoretical and cognitive approach to the topic itself.

In fact, the traditional concept of *Technique* as a tool is nowadays associated with the notion of an entity provided with decision-making significance. The transition from the dimension of a medium, thus lacking the ability to choose, to that of goal, with its well-defined evaluative property, is seen as the epilogue of the technologically evolved condition. This latter condition, the contemporary one, is now far away from the instances that guided, until the second half of the 20th century, the entry of mechanized processes into the dynamics of production.

Above all, the endemic influence provided by the Information Technology revolution of the 21st century has progressively broken down the traditional boundaries on which the disciplinary patterns of knowledge had been consolidated, both as tools and methods of research but also as predictive potentialities for models based on the processing of large amounts of data.

Recent developments in the application of Artificial Intelligence are the most explicit expression of the potential of this contemporary evolved condition of *Technique*, which requires a constant confrontation with the ethical dimension of the heterogenesis of goals, paralleling what happened in the last twenty years in the field of Biotechnology.