

What does it mean that one does history?

-Style?

- formal and spatial similarities of buildings built during a specific period

- differences between periods in terms of visual and spatial expressions

-“Metaphorical seeing”

- similarities of buildings despite the fact that they look different

- not immediately recognizable

# Significance of Interpretation

## -Originality in Interpretation

- not necessarily in whether you have brand-new materials or not

- but, in how you see materials regardless of whether the materials have been with us for thousands of years or have been newly discovered

- Polysemic nature of architectural and urban artifacts and written materials

- Interpretations regarding the same material can be even mutually conflictual

- Interpretations are fictive

-Interpretations are fictive? What does this mean?

-Interpretations are fictive? What does this mean?

-Literal/ Fictive/ Fictitious

## Activity of Interpretation

- Joining disjunctive points to create a fabric out of the otherwise mechanical succession of historical events
- Giving a contour to the otherwise chronological and uniform layout of historical events
- Creating a narrative, a story, or a plot out of indifferent and seemingly unrelated historical events

## History and Creativity

- Freedom from conditions
- Freedom within conditions

Steven Holl, Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland (1998) )  
(image source: *Steven Holl, El Croquis 1986-2003*, p. 15, p. 160)

Helen Levitt (1913-2009), New York, circa 1940  
(image credit: photographer Helen Levitt,  
Laurence Miller Gallery)