Response to the preface and chapter 1 of Iain Fraser and Rod Henmi’s “Envisioning Architecture”

Iain Fraser and Henmi view drawing has two roles: drawing is an interaction between an author and her or his ideas in the design process, and results of drawing have their own life. In the design process, drawing is not a medium transparently translate thoughts. It is not only influenced by thought, but also influence thought. Besides, after drawings have been completed, they persist and influence those who view and interpret them.

Fraser and Henmi’s main purpose for this book is to analyze drawings and showing how drawing has been used. The chapter 1 is an introductory chapter, which analyze the details of Le Corbusier’s drawing. The interesting thing is that Fraser and Henmi also quote Corbusier’s own explanation of his drawing. We all know that many architects make their own story after they design. Therefore, even Fraser and Henmi want to address the consciousness parts of drawings, I feel a little confusing.

Following Fraser and Henmi’s analysis, I am also curious if there are unconscious behaviors in the design process. Is it possible Fraser and Henmi’s interpretation beyond Corbusier’s original imagination? Maybe Corbusier did not know his drawing clearly while he was drawing, but able to fill in the gap after he finished that drawing. Maybe the reason Corbusier always carried past sketchbooks with him when he was working on new projects is that he did read more from his drawings and could use those elements as new objects for new works. These are guesses that are impossible to prove.