Architectural Study Drawings

In one of two readings- “Changes in the Role of Drawing in Design”- the author analyzed the role of drawings in design process depending on times from medieval to modern age. The other reading- “Envisioning Architecture-An Analysis of Drawing”- is about various types and functions of one architect, Le Corbusier. The role of drawing in design process is not fixed depending on drawing types (referential drawings/ design drawings/ presentational drawings), not to mention the change of times (Medieval-Renaissance-Modern). But one unchangeable thing is that drawing is essential and critical part in design process.

The reason we research the role of drawings in design process is why drawing is important, the role of drawing may be changed with new media, for example computer. I, one as student studying design computing am interested in augmenting the existed and potential role of drawings in design process using computer.

The current computer aid system in architectural design is usually used as efficient drawing tool and presentation tool. AutoCAD is the most general application for drawing. The drawing in CAD is hard drawing, and so efficient. But CAD drawings are different from freehand drawings: CAD cannot allow interactive work between designers’ tastes and media unlike the past tools, pen and paper. For example, in the third readings, “Why architects draw”, the author said that “I usually draw the ideas in very rough state and then we discuss them with new drawings. Then I let the staff explore the ideas; for example, issues of dimensions, proportions, elements to fit the program, square forage, and all those things. I let them sketch these things out with their own sensibilities.” Like the above example, freehand drawings are inherently ambiguous. Of course this aspect can be shortcoming if your drawing has to be used as shop drawings. Because shop drawing is for construction, so it must be very accurate. But the ambiguous aspect of freehand drawings can be merit. Imagine you are designer, now is the early design stage. Your rough and ambiguous design allow to new possibility and potentiality like the above example of the reading.

Drawing is a kind of medium like a letter. If we don’t have letter system, we may use drawings for communicate our opinions. In the past we have to use pen and paper for drawing. But now we have new and excellent medium. Surprisingly this medium can be used not only like just simple paper but also special paper. For example when we draw a plan this medium can show 3D images (e.g. VR sketchpad). This medium is computer.

How we can use computer? In my opinion we can use computers in other ways depending on different cases. Therefore computer application has to be developed depending on different goals of drawings.