DEAD METAPHORS IN ARCHITECTURE

KNAPP, outbuilding, Old Rauma, Finland

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LINGUISTICS AND ARCHITECTURE?

Language is a central feature in being human. With language (a complex structure of words) we can only express things we are mentally connected to - and the other way around!

A LANGUAGE IS A MINDSET

Human language aims to transmit information and feelings. So does architecture, like every form of art.
METAPHOR

a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

DEAD METAPHOR

is a figure of speech that has been used so excessively and repeatedly over time that it lost its link to the imagination or picture it was originally supposed to create in our minds. Their conventional meaning becomes the actual meaning over time. Therefore, we can understand the implied meaning without knowing where it came from.
Time is running out

When you say that time is running out, it means that you almost don’t have enough time to do the thing you need to do. The original metaphor referred to the sand in an hourglass, so time (as measured by the sand) would literally run out of the top bulb into the bottom.
Deadline

While everyone understands this to mean when something is due, a deadline originally referred to the line around the perimeter of a prison wherein a prisoner would be shot if they went beyond it.
TRANSFORMATION

in which the present building refers to the previous one.

IRJANTEEN KIRKKO 1745 - 1911

IRJANTEEN KAPPELI 1912 -
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IRJANTEEN KAPPELI 1912 -
LAVILA MANSION ANNEX – the original plinth
VUOJOKI MANSION – carriage drivers house
What kind of a building are we restoring here?
DEAD METAPHOR in architecture

is a form that has replaced the original one so thoroughly that it has lost its link to the original.

The new form becomes the actual form over time. Therefore, we oversee the etymology of the edifice if we do not look carefully.