

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/race-and-modern-architecture/>

The speaker discusses their understanding of race as a socially constructed category that leads to racism, emphasizing that race is more about societal classifications than inherent characteristics tied to physical appearance. They assert the need for architectural education to address the construction of race and its implications in history, planning, and urban development. The speaker argues that various architectural practices, including segregation in urban neighborhoods and discriminatory building policies, reflect racial dynamics.

The discussion extends to how contemporary architectural history still inherits 19th-century European racial categories, necessitating a new approach that recognizes the contributions of marginalized groups. The speaker advocates for an "intertwined history" approach, highlighting global connections and the contributions of diverse communities to architecture.

Furthermore, the speaker focuses on the specific case of urban renewal in Berlin's Rosberg district, examining how immigrants—especially Turkish populations—were racialized through various discriminatory housing regulations. They explore subversive efforts by architects to create inclusive practices during the renewal process, ultimately fostering a more equitable urban environment that allows immigrant families to remain in their homes.

The narrative emphasizes the importance of recognizing the agency of immigrants in shaping their surroundings and advocates for a more just architectural history that embraces the contributions of all communities, rather than perpetuating a Eurocentric, male-dominated perspective. The speaker concludes that understanding these dynamics is crucial for exposing racism and working towards justice and peace in our built environments.