

Florian Beigel and Philip Christou: *a dream of innocence*

16 February — 7 April 2018

Price list on demand at hellobettsproject@gmail.com

As space researchers Florian Beigel and Philip Christou are deeply interested in 'the space which lies between'. In their architecture, like in Giorgio Morandi paintings, the space in-between is formed and represented, making the positive objects stronger and more powerful. The void constitutes in this way the potential and quality of the coexistence. Crevices, gaps, intervals, emptiness are important subjects when it comes to think about Florian Beigel and Philip Christou 'architecture as city'.

A number of years ago, Marie Coulon came to speak to us about an idea she had to open a new gallery in London to exhibit drawings and other works by architects. Although she didn't really know much about architecture, she wanted us to have an exhibition in her gallery. Six years later we are showing a selection of pencil line drawings for our first show at the Betts Project.

Some of the drawings are initial design concept sketches for a project in Seoul, Korea. We have made designs for the re-building of two neighbourhoods within a 'shanty village' on the slopes of a mountain on the edge of the city. These drawings were done about 4 years ago, and we are still waiting for the Seoul city government to decide to build the '104 Village' project. In one of the neighbourhoods there is a small public 'alleyway yard' where 5 alleyways meet. Next to this little square will be another public place of about the same size, with a public laundry building. Several of the '104 Village' drawings in this exhibition are studies for a small aedicule-like tower that we have designed to stand between the alleyway yard and the laundry yard. It will stand under a large chestnut tree, acting as a focal point of the neighbourhood. Laundry will be hung on washing lines attached to the tower.

These project related drawings have been chosen as we think they embody the essential spatial character of this aspect of the project. Some of them were drawn before the design work had been done, and a few were drawn by looking at the timber design model when the design was more complete.

In contrast to this, we are showing drawings that are not project related. They are more like one commonly thinks of as 'still life' drawings. We are drawing the space in a room between things, the irregular order of the elements of a wall, or the space on a table top between characters. The subjects that are drawn vary a lot, but the intention to see the space between things, a certain balance of relationships, is common in all the drawings.

—FB + PC, January 2018