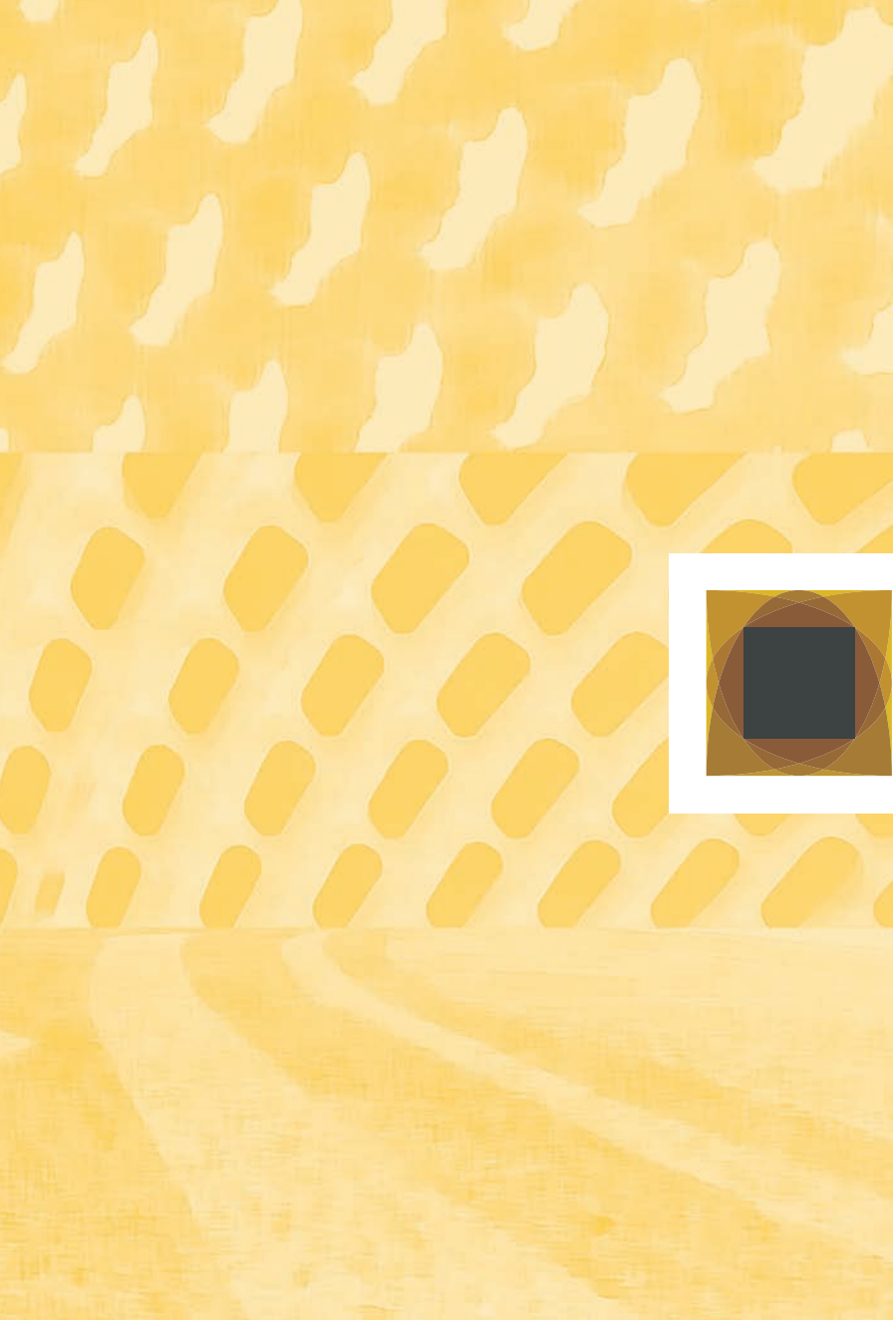

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INVESTIGATING AND WRITING ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY: SUBJECTS, METHODOLOGIES AND FRONTIERS

Papers from the Third EAHN International Meeting

Edited by Michela Rosso

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SUBJECTS, METHODOLOGIES AND FRONTIERS

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Michela Rosso (ed.)

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Editor
Michela Rosso

English editing
Adrian Forty
Josephine Kane
Susan Klaiber
Daniel Millette
Nancy Stieber

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Contents

Preface, Michela Rosso 15

1. EARLY MODERN

1.1. Fortified Palaces in Early Modern Europe, 1400–1700, 33
Pieter Martens, Konrad Ottenheym, Nuno Senos
1.1.1 Fortified Palaces in Early Modern Sicily: Models, Image Strategy Functions, *Emanuela Garofalo, Fulvia Scaduto* 35
1.1.2 The *Castrum Sanctae Crucis* in Cremona: From Fortified Castle to Courtly Residence, *Jessica Gritti, Valeria Fortunato* 48
1.1.3 From Old to New: The Transformation of the Castle of Porto de Mós, *Luís Serrão Gil* 62
1.1.4 Symphony in Brick: Moscow Kremlin at the Time of Ivan III, *Elena Kashina* 72
1.1.5 Seventeenth-Century Fortified Villas in the County of Gorizia, with Residences Modelled on the Type of a Venetian Palace with Corner Towers, *Helena Seražin* 81

1.2. Piedmontese Baroque Architecture Studies Fifty Years On, 92
Susan Klaiber
1.2.1 The Exchange of Architectural Models between Rome and Turin before Guarini's Arrival, *Marisa Tabarrini* 94
1.2.2 Guarino Guarini: The First 'Baroque' Architect, *Marion Riggs* 102
1.2.3 The Multifaceted Uses of Guarini's Architettura Civile in 1968, *Martijn van Beek* 109
1.2.4 Idealism and Realism: Augusto Cavallari Murat, *Elena Gianasso* 115
1.2.5 A Regional Artistic Identity? Three Exhibitions in Comparison, *Giuseppe Dardanello* 121
1.2.6 Wittkower's 'Gothic' Baroque: Piedmontese Buildings as Seen Around 1960, *Cornelia Jöchner* 122

1.3. On the Way to Early Modern: Issues of Memory, Identity and Practice, Open Session, *Valérie Nègre* 130
1.3.1 Quadrature and Drawing in Early Modern Architecture, *Lydia M. Soo* 131
1.3.2 Some Observations on Andrea Palladio, Silvio Belli and the Theory of Proportion, *Maria Cristina Loi* 132
1.3.3 Moralizing Money through Space in Early Modernity, *Lauren Jacobi* 144
1.3.4 Staging War in Maghreb: Architecture as a Weapon by the 1500s, *Jorge Correia* 152

1.4. Architects, Craftsmen and Interior Ornament, 1400–1800, *Christine Casey, Conor Lucey* 153
1.4.1 Architecture Before the Architects: Building S. Theodore's Chapel of S. Mark's Basilica in Venice, 1486-93, *Maria Bergamo* 154
1.4.2 Decoration in Religious Architecture of the Eighteenth Century in the South Eastern Part of Central Europe, *Dubravka Botica* 163
1.4.3 Architects of the Islamic Work and Phrasing Concepts in Geometry, *Mohammad Gharipour, Hooman Koliji* 174
1.4.4 Architects, Craftsmen and Marble Decoration in Eighteenth-Century Piedmont, *Roberto Caterino, Elena di Majo* 183

2. REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

2.1. Public Opinion, Censorship and Architecture in the Eighteenth Century, *Carlo Mambriani, Susanna Pasquali* 195
2.1.1 Public Opinion in Amsterdam: Building the Society Felix Meritis, *Freek Schmidt* 197
2.1.2 An Architect's Reputation: Libel and Public Opinion in Britain, *Timothy Hyde* 208
2.1.3 Theater Acoustics in the Late Eighteenth-Century Press, *Joseph Clarke* 218

2.2. The Published Building in Word and Image, *Anne Hultzsch, Catalina Mejia Moreno* 229
2.2.1 Catalogues and Cablegrams, *Mari Lending* 231
2.2.2 Illustrated Picturesquely and Architecturally in Photography – William Stillman and the Acropolis in Word and Image, *Dervla MacManus, Hugh Campbell* 232
2.2.3 Lost for Words: How the Architectural Image Became a Public Spectacle on Its Own, *Patrick Leitner* 233
2.2.4 *In Wort und Bild*: Sigfried Giedion, Walter Gropius and the Fagus Factory, *Jasmine Benyamin* 242
2.2.5 Juxtapositions and Semantic Collisions of Text and Image in Architectural Magazines of the 1920s and 1930s, *Hélène Jannière* 247

2.3. Layers of Meanings: Narratives and Imageries of Architecture, Open Session, *Cânâ Bilsel* 259
2.3.1 The Plan as *Eidos*: Bramante's Half-Drawing and Durand's *marche*, *Alejandra Celedon Forster* 260
2.3.2 'What do Pictures Really Want'? Photography, Blight and Renewal in Chicago, *Wesley Aelbrecht* 271
2.3.3 Content, Form and Class Nature of Architecture in the 1950s-China, *Ying Wang, Kai Wang* 272

2.4. Architecture, Art, and Design in Italian Modernism: Strategies of Synthesis 1925-60, *Daniel Sherer* 283
2.4.1 'Fantasia degli Italiani' as Participatory Utopia: Costantino Nivola's Way to the Synthesis of the Arts, *Giuliana Altea* 285
2.4.2 Carlo Mollino's Enchanted Rooms: Face-to-Face with Art in a Company Town, 1930-60, *Michela Comba* 296
2.4.3 The Logics of *arredamento*: Art and Civilization 1928-36, *Ignacio González Galán* 307
2.4.4 The Synthesis of the Arts as a Critical Instrument for Modern Architecture. The Role of Ernesto Nathan Rogers: 1944-49, *Luca Molinari* 308
2.4.5 Gio Ponti's *Stile*, *Cecilia Rostagni* 316

2.5. The Medium is the Message: The Role of Exhibitions and Periodicals in Critically Shaping Postmodern Architecture, *Veronique Patteeuw, Léa Catherine Szacka* 326
2.5.1 Charles Moore's Perspecta: Essays and Postmodern Eclecticism, *Patricia A. Morton* 328
2.5.2 Between Language and Form: Exhibitions by Reima Pietilä, 1961-74, *Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen* 329
2.5.3 Bau Magazine and the Architecture of Media, *Eva Branscome* 330
2.5.4 Entertaining the Masses: IAUS's Economy of Cultural Production, *Kim Förster* 331
2.5.5 Image, Medium, Artifact: Heinrich Klotz and Postmodernism, *Daniela Fabricius* 332

3. QUESTIONS OF METHODOLOGY

3.1. Producing Non-Simultaneity: Construction Sites as Places of Progressiveness and Continuity, *Eike-Christian Heine, Christian Rauhut* 335
3.1.1 Mixing Time: Ancient-Modern Intersections along the Western Anatolian Railways, *Elvan Cobb* 336
3.1.2 Steel as Medium. Constructing WGC, a Tallish Building in Postwar Sweden, *Frida Rosenberg* 347

3.1.3 Between Technological Effectiveness and Artisanal Inventiveness: Concreting Torres Blancas (1964–69), *Marisol Vidal* 355
3.1.4 The Glocal Construction Site and the Labour of Complex Geometry, *Roy Kozlovsky* 366

3.2. The Historiography of the Present, *Andrew Leach* 376
3.2.1 Proclaiming the End of Postmodernism in Architecture, *Valéry Didelon* 378
3.2.2 Architectural Discourse and the Rise of Cultural Studies, *Antony Moulis* 387
3.2.3 After Nature: Architectural History and Environmental Culture, *Daniel Barber* 395
3.2.4 Looking Back, Looking Now: Architecture's Construction of History, *Inbal Ben-Asher Gittler, Naomi Meiri-Dann* 406
3.2.5 Radical Histories and Future Realities – NOW, *Lara Schrijver* 416

3.3. On Foot: Architecture and Movement, *David Karmon, Christie Anderson* 424
3.3.1 Porticoes and Privation: Walking to Meet the Virgin, *Paul Davies* 426
3.3.2 Defining the Boundaries of London: Perambulation and the City in the Long Eighteenth Century, *Elizabeth McKellar* 437
3.3.3 Walking through the Pain: Healing and Ambulation at Pergamon Asklepieion, *Ece Okay* 448
3.3.4 Raymond Unwin Tramping the Taskscape, *Brian Ward* 460

3.4. 'Bread & Butter and Architecture': Accommodating the Everyday, *Ricardo Agarez, Nelson Mota* 477
3.4.1 Humdrum Tasks of the Salaried-Men: Edwin Williams, a LCC Architect at War, *Nick Beech* 479
3.4.2 Third Text: Albert Kahn and the Architecture of Bureaucracy, *Claire Zimmerman* 492
3.4.3 The Architect, the Planner and the Bishop: the Shapers of 'Ordinary' Dublin, 1940-70, *Ellen Rowley* 493
3.4.4 Layers of Invisibility: Portuguese State Furniture Design 1940-74, *João Paulo Martins, Sofia Diniz* 501
3.4.5 Bureaucratic Avant-Garde: Norm-Making as Architectural Production, *Anna-Maria Meister* 514

3.5. The Architecture of State Bureaucracy: Reassessing the Built Production of (Colonial) Governments, *Rika Devos, Johan Lagae* 515
3.5.1 SOM, 1939-46: From 'Engineered Dwelling' to the Manhattan Project, *Hyun-Tae Jung* 517
3.5.2 Unmonumental Buildings, Monumental Scale: Santiago Civic District, *Daniel Opazo* 527
3.5.3 Architecture's Red Tape: Governmental Building in Sweden 1964-72, *Erik Sigge* 539
3.5.4 Provisional Permanence: the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, *Sven Sterken* 549
3.5.5 The Jewish Agency for Israel - the Constructions of a Civic Frontier in Tel Aviv (1955-66), *Martin Hershenzon* 559

3.6. Revolutionizing Familiar Terrain: The Cutting Edge of Research in Classical Architecture and Town-planning, Round Table, *Daniel Millette, Samantha Martin-McAuliffe* 573
3.6.1 Residency Patterns and Urban Stability: A Theory for Republican Rome, *Lisa Marie Mignone* 574
3.6.2 The Pompeii Quadriporticus Project 2013: New Technologies and New Implications, *Eric Poehler* 581
3.6.3 Reconstructing Rhythm: Digital Modelling and Light at the Parthenon, *Paul Christesen, Aurora Mc Clain* 587
3.6.4 The Urban Development of Late Hellenistic Delos, *Mantha Zarmakoupi* 593
3.6.5 Classical Architecture, Town Planning and Digital Mapping of Cities: Rome AD 320, *Lynda Mulvin* 599
3.6.6 Digital Modelling in the Sanctuary of the Great Gods on Samothrace *Bonna D. Wescoat* 607

4. THEORETICAL AND CRITICAL ISSUES

4.1. Histories of Environmental Consciousness, *Panayiota Pyla* 617
4.1.1 Environmental Counter Narratives in India c. 1960, *Ateya Khorakiwala* 619
4.1.2 We Want to Change Ourselves to Make Things Different, *Caroline Maniaque Benton* 629
4.1.3 Zoo Landscapes and the Construction of Nature, *Christina Katharina May* 640
4.1.4 Experiments on Thermal Comfort and Modern Architecture: The Contributions of André Missenard and Le Corbusier, *Ignacio Requena Ruiz, Daniel Siret* 651
4.1.5 The United Nations Headquarters and the Global Environment, *Alexandra Quantrill* 663

4.2. Architecture and conflict, c. 300 – c. 1600, *Lex Bosman* 664
4.2.1 The Palace Hall of Chrysotriklinos as an Example of Emulation and Contestation in the Early Byzantine Period, *Nigel Westbrook* 666
4.2.2 Building Identity and Community in the Post-Crusade Greece: The Architecture of Interaction in the Thirteenth-Century Peloponnesos, *Heather E. Grossman* 683

4.2.3 Sienese Fortifications in the Age of the Guelph Commune, *Max Grossman* 684
4.2.4 'Faciendo sette et sedicion': Architecture and Conflict in Sixteenth-century Verona, *Wouter Wagemakers* 697
4.2.5 Political Power through Architectural Wonder. Parma, Teatro Farnese, *Susanna Pisciella* 706

4.3. How It All Begun: Primitivism and the Legitimacy of Architecture in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, *Maarten Delbeke, Linda Bleijenberg, Sigrid de Jong*; Respondent: *Caroline van Eck* 715
4.3.1 On the Colonial Origins of Architecture: Building the 'Maison Rustique' in Cayenne, French Guiana, *Erika Naginski, Eldra D. Walker* 717
4.3.2 Out of the Earth: Primitive Monuments between Prehistoric and Gothic Ambitions, *Jennifer Ferng* 718
4.3.3 Viel de Saint-Maux and the Symbolism of Primitive Architecture, *Cosmin C. Ungureanu* 727
4.3.4 Primitivism's Return: Theories of Ornament and Their Debt to Eighteenth-century Antiquarianism, *Ralph Ghoche* 728
4.3.5 Cultural Transformations and Their Analysis in Art and Science: Anthropological and Curatorial Concepts Stimulated by the Great Exhibition of 1851, *Claudio Leoni* 729

4.4. Socialist Postmodernism: Architecture and Society under Late Socialism, *Vladimir Kulić* 730
4.4.1 A Dialectic of Negation: Modernism and Postmodernism in the USSR, *Richard Anderson* 732
4.4.2 When Tomorrow Was Cancelled: Critique of Modernism in the 1970s, *Daria Bocharnikova, Andres Kurg* 733
4.4.3 The Friedrichstadt Palace, *Florian Urban* 734
4.4.4 Neither Style, nor Subversion: Postmodern Architecture in Poland, Lidia Klein, *Alicja Gzowska* 735
4.4.5 Sources of Postmodern Architecture in Late Socialist Belgrade, *Ljiljana Blagojević* 736

4.5. Histories and Theories of Anarchist Urbanism, *Nader Vossoughian* 747
4.5.1 The Legacy of the Anti-urban Ideology in Bruno Taut's Architectural Practice in Ankara (1936-8), *Giorgio Gasco, Meltem Gürel* 748
4.5.2 Henri Lefebvre's Vers une architecture de la jouissance (1973): Architectural Imagination after May 1968, *Łukasz Stanek* 760
4.5.3 City of Individual Sovereigns: Josiah Warren's Geometric Utopia, *Irene Cheng* 761
4.5.4 Architectural Aporia of the Revolutionary City, *Peter Minosh* 771
4.5.5 'Housing Before Street': Geddes' 1925 Anarchist Plan For Tel Aviv, *Yael Allweil* 780

5. TWENTIETH CENTURY

5.1. In-Between Avant-Garde Discourse and Daily Building Practices: The Development of the Shopping Centre in Post-War Europe, *Tom Avermaete, Janina Gosseye* 795
5.1.1 Shopping à l'américaine in the French New Towns, *Kenny Cupers* 797
5.1.2 From Million Program to Mall: Consumerism in the Swedish Town Centre, 1968-84, *Jennifer Mack* 798
5.1.3 Reinventing the Department Store in Rotterdam: Breuer's Bijenkorf 1953-57, *Evangelia Tsilika* 799
5.1.4 Chilean Commercial Snail Buildings: Typology, Shopping and the City, *Mario Marchant* 812
5.1.5 Building European Taste in Broader Communities: The Role of the David Jones Stores in the Promotion of Design and Architecture in Australia, *Silvia Micheli* 824

5.2. Ideological Equality: Women Architects in Socialist Europe, *Mary Pepchinski, Mariann Simon* 833
5.2.1 GDR Women Architects between Emancipation and Professional Obstinacy, *Harald Engler* 835
5.2.2 Women in Hungarian Industrial Architecture between 1945 and 1970, *Péter Haba* 846
5.2.3 Famous or Forgotten: Women Architects in Communist Poland, *Piotr Marcinak* 855
5.2.4 Emancipated, but Still Accompanied, *Henrieta Moravčíková* 867
5.2.5 Female Students of Jože Plečnik between Tradition and Modernism, *Tina Potočnik* 876

5.3. Missing Histories: Artistic Dislocations of Architecture in Socialist Regimes, *Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss, Carmen Popescu* 885
5.3.1 Scene(s) for New Heritage?, *Dubravka Sekulić* 887
5.3.2 Radical Space for Radical Time: The Intersections of Architecture and Performance Art in Estonia, 1986–91, *Ingrid Ruudi* 888
5.3.3 Appropriation, Commemoration, and Resistance: A Shifting Discourse on Political Space in Socialist China, *Yan Geng* 898
5.3.4 'Our House': The Socialist Block of Flats as Artistic Subject-Matter, *Juliana Maxim* 908

5.4. The Third Life of Cities: Rediscovering the Post-Industrial City Centre, Round Table, *Davide Cutolo, Sergio Pace* 910
5.4.1 When Turin Lost Its Myths, *Cristina Accornero* 912
5.4.2 The Case of Paris, *Joseph Heathcott* 916

5.4.3 Prague – Buildings, Spaces and People in its Re-discovered Centre, *Petr Kratochvíl* 920
5.4.4 Turin to Naples, Stopping in Milan: Urban Transformations between Heritage and Theme Parks, *Guido Montanari* 925
5.4.5 Rediscovering a Port-City: Genoa's New Waterfront, *Luca Orlandi* 932
5.4.6 A Return to Growth, *Ted Sandstra* 940

5.5. Strategies and Politics of Architecture and Urbanism after WWII, Open Session, *Adrian J. Forty* 941
5.5.1 From Visual Planning to Outrage: Townscape and the Art of Environment, *Mathew Aitchison* 942
5.5.2 Germany's 'Grey Architecture' and its Forgotten Protagonists, *Benedikt Boucsein* 953
5.5.3 Process Above All: Shadrach Woods' NonSchool of Villefranche, *Federica Doglio* 964
5.5.4 Sacred Buildings in Italy after World War II: The Case of Turin, *Carla Zito* 976
5.5.5 Architecture Resisting Political Regime: The Case of Novi Zagreb, *Dubravka Vranic* 986

6. CIRCULATION OF ARCHITECTURAL CULTURE AND PRACTICES

6.1. Afterlife of Byzantine Architecture in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century, *Aleksandar Ignjatovic* 1007
6.1.1 Suburban Byzantine: Tradition and Modernity in the British Catholic Church, *Robert Proctor* 1009
6.1.2 To Find the Right Style: Byzantine Revival Synagogues in America, *Michael B. Rabens* 1010
6.1.3 France-Byzantium: The Authority of the Sacré-Cœur, *Jessica Basciano* 1019
6.1.4 Architectural Explorations of Byzantine Revival in 1920s Greece, *Kalliopi Amygdalou* 1031

6.2. Building by the Book? Theory as Practice in Renaissance Architecture, *Francesco Benelli, Sara Galletti* 1042
6.2.1 'Restauramenti e Restitutioni di Case'. Book VII on Architecture by Serlio and the Dissemination of Classical Order in the Language of Monumental Architecture and Basic Building in Ferrara, *Alessandro Ippoliti, Veronica Balboni* 1044
6.2.2 'Libri tre nei quali si scuopre in quanti modi si può edificare vn Monast. sÿ la Chiesa': Architectural Treatise of Capuchin Friar Antonio da Pordenone, *Tanja Martelanc* 1058
6.2.3 Foundations of Renaissance Architecture and Treatises in Quentin Massys' S. Anne Altarpiece (1509), Jochen Ketels, Maximiliaan Martens, 1072
6.2.4 An Invented Order: Francesco di Giorgio's Architectural Treatise and Quattrocento Practice, *Ageliki Pollali* 1084
6.2.5 Donami tempo che ti do vita – Francesco Laparelli (1521-70). Envisioning the New 'City of the Order', Valletta, *Conrad Thake* 1085

6.3 European Architecture and the Tropics, *Jiat-Hwee Chang* 1095
6.3.1 The Afro-Brazilian Portuguese Style in Lagos, *Ola Uduku* 1097
6.3.2 Tectonics of Paranoia: The Matshed System within the First Fabrication of Hong Kong, *Christopher Cowell* 1098
6.3.3 Architecture of Sun and Soil. European Architecture in Tropical Australia, *Deborah van der Plaat* 1119
6.3.4 Health, Hygiene and Sanitation in Colonial India, *Iain Jackson* 1131
6.3.5 Climate, Disaster, Shelter: Architecture, Humanitarianism and the Problem of the Tropics, *Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi* 1141

6.4 Lost (and Found) in Translation: The Many Faces of Brutalism, *Réjean Legault* 1142
6.4.1 When Communism Meets Brutalism: The AUA's Critique of Production, *Vanessa Grossman* 1144
6.4.2 Gravitas and Optimism: The Paradox of Brutalism in Skopje, *Mirjana Lozanovska* 1145
6.4.3 Bringing it All Home: Australia's Embrace of 'Brutalism' 1955-75, *Philip Goad* 1146
6.4.4 African Ethic, Brutalist Aesthetic: Vieira da Costa in Huambo, *Ana Tostões, Margarida Quintã* 1158
6.4.5 Hard Cases: Bricks and Bruts from North to South, *Ruth Verde Zein* 1159

6.5 Southern Crossings: Iberia and Latin America in Architectural Translation, *Marta Caldeira, Maria Gonzaléz Pendás* 1160
6.5.1 Southern Readings: Lucio Costa on Modern Architecture, *Carlo Eduardo Comas* 1162
6.5.2 Avant-Garde Crossings between Italy, Argentina and Spain: From Gropius and Argan to *Nueva Visión* and *Arte Normativo*, *Paula Barreiro López* 1174
6.5.3 Shells Across Continents, *Juan Ignacio del Cueto Ruiz-Funes* 1175
6.5.4 Emili Blanch Roig and Modern Architecture: Catalonia and Mexico, *Gemma Domènech Casadevall* 1180
6.5.5 Re-entry: Antonio Bonet's Return to Spain, *Ana Maria León* 1186

7.1 Architectural History in Italian Doctoral Programs: Issues of Theory and Criticism, PhD Round Table, *Mary McLeod, Maristella Casciato*
7.1.1 Meyer and Paulsson on Monumentality: The Beginning of a Debate, 1911-40, *Giacomo Leone Beccaria* 1198
7.1.2 A relational issue: towards an international debate on habitat from the 9th Congrès International d'Architecture Moderne, *Giovanni Comoglio* 1200
7.1.3 The Urban Landscape as Cultural Heritage. The Contemporary Debate in France and Italy, *Elena Greco* 1203
7.1.4 'A Home': Östberg's search for the total artwork, *Chiara Monterumisi* 1205
7.1.5 Order and Proportion: Dom Hans van der Laan and the Expressiveness of the Architectonic Space, *Tiziana Proietti* 1207
7.1.6 The Use of the Convenzioni Urbanistiche in the Historic Centre of Milan: Negotiation and Planning Instruments in the Second Post-War Period, *Nicole De Togni* 1209

7.2 Architectural History in Italian Doctoral Programs: Histories of Buildings, Architects and Practices, PhD Round Table, *Mari Hvattum*
7.2.1 Ahmedabad. Workshop of Modern Architecture: The National Institute of Design, *Elisa Alessandrini* 1213
7.2.2 Transformations of Public Space in Paris. From Infrastructure to Forme urbaine, *Daniele Campobenedetto* 1215
7.2.3 Layers of Narration: The Architecture of Piero Bottoni in Ferrara, *Matteo Cassani Simonetti* 1217
7.2.4 Architecture that Teaches. Swiss School Buildings During the 1950s and 1960s, *Marco Di Nallo* 1219
7.2.5 Star-Shaped Rib Vaulting in the Church of San Domenico, Cagliari, *Federico M. Giammusso* 1221
7.2.6 The Evolution of Domestic Space in Southern Italy and Sicily, *Serena Guidone* 1223
7.2.7 From the South. Ernesto Basile's Routes and Destinations, *Eleonora Marrone* 1225
7.2.8 The Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Paradigm of Modern Architecture in Postwar Germany, *Benedetta Stoppioni* 1227
7.2.9 *Magnificentia*. Devotion and Civic Piety in the Renaissance Venetian Republic, *Emanuela Vai* 1229

INVESTIGATING AND WRITING ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY: SUBJECTS, METHODOLOGIES AND FRONTIERS

investigation. Firstly, I study the relationship between school building and urban context; the evolution of the typology with respect to both technical and educational concerns; and the migration of ideas. Schools are strongly related to the evolution of urban theories and the debate on school building was linked to debates on the territory and its development, its economic growth and its demographic curve. The second path examines how architects, educators, and administrators created and disseminated an image of school bound to modern architectural forms and progressive methods of teaching, combined with a persistently romantic notion of childhood.
The close relationships with other countries have always played an essential role in Swiss culture. The dissertation therefore applies international comparison, looking into the network of exchanges that Swiss architects secured with the rest of the world, in particular with the so called 'creative periphery' (Joedicke 1959) – Denmark, Sweden and Finland – as well as with The United States and England in which the most progressive ideas on education and school buildings were being developed.
The archival research has been conducted primarily at the gta Archiv of the ETH Zurich, looking into the main protagonists of the Swiss debate on modern school buildings, such as Werner M. Moser and Alfred Roth. The literature studies provide an accurate survey of period journals on education and architecture, paying particular attention to the many special issues dedicated to the subject of schools in this period.

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7.2.5 Star-Shaped Rib Vaulting in the Church of San Domenico, Cagliari

FEDERICO MARIA GIAMMUSSO
Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy – Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

This research is focused on the monastery of San Domenico in Cagliari and its renovation carried out in the second half of sixteenth century. Founded in the settlement of Villanova on the east slope of the Castle of Cagliari during the second half of the thirteenth century, the monastery of San Domenico reached its maximum expansion in the late 1560s as a consequence of the Dominican reform movement. These large-scale reforms were due to multiple factors: economic development, administrative reforms (including the diocesan reorganization), medieval orders reforms and general religious reforms relating to the defunct Council of Trent which closed in 1563 (Manconi, 2010, 250-53).
The particular focus of the thesis is on the star-shaped rib vaulting of the church; a complex work which radically transformed the temple, previously covered with a wooden roof built over a diaphragmatic arch system. San Domenico suffered complete destruction during the Second World War and was rebuilt. The destruction, together with the shortage of available documentation of its building history, has prevented a proper interpretation of the church and its architecture. Because of this lack of documentation, the research has been based primarily on indirect archival sources, such as the Acts of the provincial and general chapters of the Order, the Dominican and Ecclesiastical chronicles and the *Liber I* of the General archive of Preachers in Rome. Some direct sources from the late sixteenth century were provided by local archives (Archdiocese and Municipal in Cagliari) and by the archive of the Crown of Aragon (Barcelona).
A key tool in this study has been the design of a 3D reconstruction of the building, making it possible to analyze the church as it would have appeared before its destruction. Virtual reconstruction techniques (Marsiglia, 2013), combining historical research tools and digital representation technologies, have been employed to understand the building process. This has allowed an interpretation of architectural details and constructive features and a comparative analysis of the church with respect to other monuments from the same time. The digital reconstruction has been based on metric data, collected using image-based 3D modelling methods (Remondino-El Hakim, 2006), and materials found in the Municipal archive of Cagliari as well as in

the Soprintendenza of Cagliari and Oristano's archives.
A very important part of the study concerns the reconstruction of the relationship between the monastery of San Domenico and the Dominican order. In particular, the research has focused on the Dominican reform movement in the province of Aragon (Esponera, 1999). Furthermore, the thesis investigates the relationship between the spiritual reform and the material renovation of the monasteries. The history of San Domenico well illustrates the dynamics that characterized the spread and evolution of the Mediterranean Gothic in Sardinia, from the introduction of churches with unique nave and chapels opened between buttresses of diaphragm arches, to the introduction of star-shaped ribs vaulting of the naves.
The final goal of the work has been to demonstrate that the appearance of star-shaped ribs in the late Sardinian *Cinquecento* religious architecture does not represent a delay or isolation of Sardinian architectural culture. Perhaps these episodes should not be classifiable as 'late Gothic' architecture at all. Instead, they might be understood as local interpretations of new Renaissance systems developing in mainland Italy and the Aragonese land (Ibáñez, 2008).

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7.2.6 The Evolution of Domestic Space in Southern Italy and Sicily

SERENA GUIDONE
Università degli Studi di Padova

The research project is devoted to the evolution of domestic space in Southern Italy and Sicily, in the late classical to hellenistic period (from the middle of the fourth century to the middle of the first century BC), including both Magna Grecia and Italic sites (Russo Tagliente 1992; D'Andria-Mannino 1996). The analytic research is aimed at defining the peculiar characteristics of the domestic unit, providing a tentative reconstruction of the cultural models of reference. The research involves examination of twenty-eight sites and more than one hundred houses, highlighting the presence of different 'housing systems'. The houses examined present considerable typological and dimensional variations and are structured according to complex symbolic dimensions.
The vast majority of the examined houses derive from the Greek tradition, as for example the *pastas* and *peristilium* houses (Hellmann 2010). However, if we consider the development of a typical house over time, we can observe a series of structural changes that alter the primitive plan layout, introducing variations in the original template and, in some cases, in the dwelling's extension. This change can be linked to the gradual process of Romanization of the Southern part of the Italian peninsula; a process already underway around the end of the third century BC. The best examples of this change can be observed between the end of the second century and the beginning of the first century BC. An important part of the research is related to the diffusion of the *atrium domus*, both in Southern Italy and in Sicily. There is a great need to investigate more attentively the symbolic value of this house type in relation to the political and social context in which it spread.
From a methodological point of view, an unavoidable reference in the study of the private house is the description of the Greek and Roman house in literary sources (Pesando 1989; Coarelli 1989; De Albentiis 1990; Gros 1997). Such sources are important to understand the dwelling's structural and functional aspects as well as the activities performed inside them. Furthermore, the study encompasses structural analysis, examinations of spatial and functional distribution, typology, and architectural language. The analyses take into account structural and functional modifications of the single unit as well as of the community as a whole, using such changes as