

CENTER OF ADVANCED AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH
"Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje
CENTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE
University of Rijeka
RECAS
Regional Network of Centers for Advanced Studies in Southeast Europe
Faculty of Architecture – Skopje
"Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje
Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory
University of Belgrade

The 4th Moise Architectural Seminar
04-08 September, 2023 - Cres, Croatia

DIRECTORS:
Ognen Marina
Center of Advanced and Postdoctoral Research
"Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje
Snežana Vesnić
Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade

VENUE:
Moise Palace, Cres, Croatia

DATES:
Wednesday, September 04 – Sunday, September 08, 2024

THEME:
BEYOND

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE & ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Prof. Dr. Biljana Angelova, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje, North Macedonia
Prof. Dr. Snježana Prijić Samaržija, University of Rijeka, Croatia
Prof. Dr. Ognen Marina, "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje, North Macedonia
Prof. Dr. Snezana Vesnic, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Prof. Dr. Petar Bojanic, University of Rijeka, Croatia
Prof. Dr. Michele Bonino, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
Prof. Dr. Per-Johan Dahl, Lund University, Sweden

BEYOND

The 4th Moise Architectural Seminar, titled "Beyond," ventures into an explorative journey that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries, embarking on a quest to redefine the scope and impact of architectural research. This seminar aims to foster a radical rethinking of architectural studies, urging participants to contemplate and investigate beyond the conventional frameworks of architecture, urbanism, geography, and even beyond the tangible confines of cities and the intangible nuances of cultures and politics.

At the heart of "Beyond" lies the challenge to participants to envision architecture not merely as a practice confined to its technical nature but as a multidisciplinary platform that intersects with various fields of study and aspects of human life. This approach advocates for a holistic understanding of architecture's role in shaping and being shaped by the socio-political, cultural, and environmental landscapes it inhabits.

The theme draws inspiration from the challenges of the traditional notions of disciplinary boundaries, arguing for a fluid and dynamic understanding of discipline that allows for cross-pollination of ideas and methodologies. This critique forms a foundational pillar for the seminar's theme, prompting a reflection on how architecture can evolve by embracing interdisciplinary approaches and by daring to venture into uncharted territories.

However, while insight of the discipline can offer insightful perspectives on the flexibility and permeability of disciplinary boundaries, the seminar "Beyond" seeks to critique and expand upon ones' research positions. It raises critical questions about the potential risks and challenges of diluting disciplinary specificity. Can architecture maintain its core identity and integrity while engaging in this expansive dialogue? How can architects ensure that in their quest to transcend boundaries, they do not lose sight of the unique values and perspectives that architecture brings to the table?

The seminar encourages a critical examination of these questions, advocating for a balanced approach that respects the depth and richness of architectural tradition while boldly exploring new horizons. It invites participants to engage in a multidimensional discourse, drawing from diverse fields of knowledge to enrich and expand the architectural imagination. "Beyond" represents not just a theme but a call to action—a challenge to rethink, reimagine, and revolutionize the practice and study of architecture in the 21st century.

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 4th, 2024 (Moise Palace)

- 11.00 – 11.05 Welcome note by Petar Bojanić - Director of CAS SEE
11.05 – 11.10 Welcome note by Ognen Marina & Snežana Vesnić - Directors of the seminar
11.10 – 11.15 Welcome note by Biljana Angelova - Rector of University “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” in Skopje
- 11.15 – 11.30 Opening: Ognen Marina (CAPRIS UKIM)
“Beyond”
- 11.30 – 12.00 Lecture - Petar Bojanić (CAS SEE-UNIRI)
“Discipline” and its Additions (Multi-, Inter-, Counter-, etc.)
- 12.00 – 12.30 Discussion
12.30 – 16.00 Lunch break
- 16.00 – 17.40 Panel Presentations (moderated by Alessandro Armando)
- 16.00 – 16.20– Andrea Canclini – Lancaster University - UK
“Contemporary Paradigms: Linguistic, Phenomenology, Architectural Sublime, Complexity Sciences, Ecologies”
- 16.20 – 16.40 – Federica Joe Gardella – POLITO-Italy
“Beyond the Archive’s Architecture”
- 16.40 – 17.00 – Monica Alexandra Munoz Veloza – POLITO-Italy
“Architecture as decolonial practice: dialogue with alternative knowledges”
- 17.00 – 17.20 – Valentina Rapueano – Lund University – Sweden
“What can Architecture do?”
- 17.20 – 17.40 – Ana Gilmet – Lund University – Sweden
“New grounds for Architectural practice”
- 17.40 – 18.00 Discussion
18.00 – 18.15 Coffee break
18.15 – 18.30 Promotion of Khorein journal
18.30 – 19.30 Invited lecture - Dana Cuff (UCLA)
“Above and Beyond: Reimagining Architecture’s Just City”
- 19.30 – 20.00 Discussion
20.00 – 23.00 Reception (Garden of Moise Palace)

Thursday, September 5th, 2024 (Moise Palace)

- 10.00 – 10.30 Lecture - Lecture - Michele Bonino (DAD-POLITO)
“Beyond Borders. Architecture and the New Silk Roads”
10.30 – 10.45 Discussion

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.40 Panel Presentations (moderated by Andrea Canclini)

11.00 – 11.20 – Ivana Angelova – CAPRIS-Macedonia

“Public spaces as political spaces: Lessons of connectivity and solidarity in Skopje and Ljubljana”

11.20 – 11.40 – Sanja Avramoska – UKIM in Skopje

“Managing Spatial Conflicts and Flood Resilience in Urban Riverfront Redevelopment Projects (URRP)”

11.40 – 12.00 – Aya Jazaiery – Loughborough University

“Beyond Shelter: the ‘Bunkerisation’ of Beirut’s Post-war Architecture”

12.00 – 12.20 – Giulia Montanaro – POLITO-Italy

“Questioning construction process of common space: Rural Community Building Policies and the Architectural Practice in China: A Case Study”.

12.20 – 12.40 – Teodora Mihajlovska – UKIM in Skopje

“Parametric Design of Arches and Shells Using Graphic Statics”

12.40 – 13.00 Discussion

13.00 – 20.00 Free afternoon

20.00 – 23.00 Wine and Olive oil tasting (Moise Palace)

Friday, September 6th, 2024 (Moise Palace)

10.00 – 10.30 Lecture - Per-Johan Dahl (Lund University)

“Beyond Urbanism”

10.30 – 10.45 Discussion

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.45 Panel Presentations (moderated by Milos Cipranic and Ivana Angelova)

11.00 – 11.20 – Richard Lee Peragine-POLITO-Italy / CAPRIS UKIM-Macedonia

“The project of emptiness. Sovereignty, the weaponization of space and architecture in the Bosnian Krajina”

11.20 – 11.40 – Marko Icev – CAPRIS UKIM – Macedonia

“Architecture beyond capitalism”

11.40 – 12.00 – Nemanja Milicevic & Ema Alihodzic Jasharevic – Belgrade-Serbia

“Alter void / Tectonics of the underground”

12.00 – 12.20 – Milan Ristic & Relja Petrovic -Belgrade-Serbia

“The Zombie Phenomenon of Derelict Retail Architecture: Ambient Analysis of the Transformation of Systems and Places of Consumption”

12.20 – 12.45 Discussion

12.45 – 13.00 Conclusions of the Seminar

13.00 – 20.00 Free afternoon for participants

13.30 – 14.30 Free tour of city of Cres

20.00 – 23.00 Social dinner (Restaurant Riva)

Saturday, September 7th, 2024 (Moise Palace)

7th International Summer School Architecture and Philosophy
Architectural *To Be*: On the Possibility of Being beyond Being

- 10.00 – 10.15 Opening: Architecture *and* Philosophy: “TO BE”
Petar Bojanic & Snezana Vesnic
- 10.15 – 11.30 Round Table: Session 1
- 10:15 – 10:30 Zeljko Radinkovic (IFDT)
“Heidegger and Derrida: Being as the Transcendental Ground or as the Ultimate Metaphysical Signifier”
- 10.30 – 10.45 Petar Bojanic (CAS SEE-UNIRI)
“Forms of Presence of the Imperative in Being”
- 10.45 – 11.00 Snezana Vesnic (University of Belgrade)
“Be, or the Question of Pre-Concept?”
- 11:00 - 11:30 Discussion, moderator Zeljko Radinkovic (IFDT)
- 11.30 – 12.00 Coffee break
- 12.00 – 14.00 Round Table: Session 2
- 12.00 – 12.15 Andreas Lechner (TU Graz)
“Günther Domenig’s Steinhaus as a workshop building”
- 12.15 – 12.30 Miloš Čipranić (IFDT)
“Who Is an Architect?”
- 12.30 – 12.45 Andrea Canclini & Aya Jazaiery (Lancaster University & Loughborough University)
“What is Something’. The Ontological Question as the Relationship Between Theory and Praxis in Architecture”
- 12:45-13:15 Discussion, moderator Milos Cipranic (IFDT)
- 13.15 – 13.30 Final conclusions: Ognjen Marina, Petar Bojanic, Snezana Vesnic
- 20.00 – 22.00 Farewell party (Moise Palace)

(Participants of 4th Moise Architectural Seminar will take part and contribute to the round tables and discussions of the 7th International Summer School Architecture and Philosophy)

PARTICIPANTS

Dana Cuff – University of California, Los Angeles

“Above and Beyond: Reimagining Architecture’s Just City”

Abstract

The modernist proposition that buildings and cities exist on a continuum blinds architects, scholars, and theorists from seeing that cities resist disciplines, and cannot be characterized as projects or objects of inquiry. Architects, magnetized by the city for its scale and complexity, too often cede its intrinsic political, public essence or forego their own formal, aesthetic contributions. Dana Cuff will describe the two overlapping, collective platforms she invented to build upon and move beyond architecture’s disciplinary core, pushing boundaries via her design research center, cityLAB, and the Urban Humanities Initiative, an innovative, project-oriented pedagogy for graduate students in architecture, urban planning, and the humanities. The “center” and the “curriculum” are sites for creating appropriate qualitative methods that rely on historical scholarship, contemporary cultural studies, and projective design practices. The models result in public impacts more far-reaching than those of most academics or practitioners. Cuff’s university-based experiments demonstrate the potential of recasting architectural research in order to imagine a more just city, and thus a more equitable architecture.

Bio

Dana Cuff is Professor of Architecture and Urban Design, Urban Planning, and Founding Director of cityLAB at UCLA. Since receiving her Ph.D. in Architecture from Berkeley, Cuff has published and lectured widely about design and inclusion, the architectural profession, and affordable housing. She is a prolific writer, including books such as *The Provisional City* about postwar housing in Los Angeles, a co-authored text called *Urban Humanities: New Practices for Reimagining the City*, and most recently, *Architectures of Spatial Justice* (2023). Cuff has had greater public impact than most academics through the co-authoring of successful state housing legislation grounded in cityLAB’s research (AB 2299, 2016; AB2295, 2022). Since cityLAB began in 2006, its impacts have grown significantly under Cuff’s leadership, becoming a model for design-based urban and architectural research centers nationwide. For over a decade, Dr. Cuff has led the Mellon-funded Urban Humanities Initiative at UCLA, one of the most innovative social justice curricula in the country. The importance of Cuff’s work is reflected in recent prestigious awards: Women in Architecture Activist of the Year (2019), Researcher of the Year (2020), Educator of the Year (2020), Public Impact Research Award (2022), Lund University’s Honorary Doctorate (2022), and UCLA’s 135th Faculty Research Lecturer (2024).

Ognen Marina – Center of Advanced and Postdoctoral Research – CAPRIS UKIM in Skopje

“Beyond”

Abstract

To this day and age, deep-rooted, structural inequalities in social and spatial sustainable development have been one of the most consistent and pressing challenges society has faced. Recent events, such as the development of AI and new platform-based development of technology, but also the emerging conflicts and world pandemic highlight the urgent need for new research, innovation and collaboration beyond existing practice to tackle this challenge for future generations of researchers. The disciplinary frame has become too rigid for insights in some of the complex issues and

challenges that the world is faced with and in the same time this disciplinary boundary has become porous for the new technological innovations and social advancements as a result of the development. These uncharted territories are urging for a new approach in thinking, conceptualizing, structuring, exploring and researching the newly gained freedom of understanding and using these advancements. By envisioning architecture not merely as a practice confined to its technical nature but as a multidisciplinary platform that intersects with various fields of study and aspects of human life we can develop an approach that advocates for a holistic understanding of architecture's role in shaping and being shaped by the socio-political, cultural, and environmental landscapes it inhabits. The traditional notions of disciplinary boundaries, arguing for a fluid and dynamic understanding of discipline that allows for cross-pollination of ideas and methodologies could become a foundational pillar for the future research prompting a reflection on how architecture can evolve by embracing interdisciplinary approaches and by daring to venture into uncharted territories.

Bio

Ognjen Marina is an architect and holds PhD in Architecture and Urbanism. He is the Dean of Faculty of Architecture since 2017 and Director of Center for Advanced and Postdoctoral Research at UKIM in Skopje since 2023. His main field of interest is development and implementation of novel strategies in architecture and sustainable urban development. He is particularly interested in use of digital tools for modelling processes of urban transformation and urban innovation through hybridization in the context of transitional societies, urban resilience and climate change mitigation. He is active in promotion of novel tools in development of urban environment that could enhance better citizens' participation and cooperation with decision makers and designers.

Snežana Vesnić – Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade

“Be, or the Question of Pre-Concept?”

Abstract

Architecture can be thought via a history of variations of understanding of Being as presence and various traces (absences). If we consider architecture through the prism of the ontological difference between Being and Entity, we can claim that this distinction is conceptually determined, and that it is continuously created, shifted, and altered. In the process of establishing physical and metaphysical relation between Being and Entity, we find the contingency of imaginative creation in architecture. If this relation Being-Entity is relatively clear, and if we take the role or purpose of the architectural concept to eternally project these connections, the question that presents itself is that of the “beginning” or how to think the original Be, the beginning of any (pre-)beginning? Could the be that precedes Being itself be understood as a Pre-Concept? What then would be the beginning of the beginning? Or is Be a pre-concept that holds the architectural concept as that which determines all beings? By reading a few passages from Hegel, Derrida, and Bataille in analogy with architecture, I will attempt to project traces of the architectural to be – traces of beginning, end, and death. By designing the intertwinement of these traces (which paradoxically construct the being of the architectural object), my intention is to question how something exists and how it is created? Whence the original potential of architecture or any creative act? Finally, I will claim that the theoretization of the phenomenon in architecture is erroneous and runs counter to the concept of the phenomenon in philosophy, which results in the impossibility of defining the form and object of architecture.

Bio

Snežana Vesnić is a practicing architect and Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Belgrade. Her fields of study include architectural philosophy and aesthetics, with a focus on “architectural concepts.” She is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Khōrein: Journal for Architecture and Philosophy*.

Petar Bojanic – CAS SEE University in Rijeka

"Discipline" and its Additions (Multi-, Inter-, Counter-, etc.)

Abstract

In this talk I would like to reflect on discipline as a category (as opposed to notion, structure, norm, protocol, etc.). I would like to explain the quotation marks in the title, as they can always follow and amend the word discipline. My intention is to reconstruct a decades-long resistance to discipline (as punishment, control, violent pedagogy, militarism, fanaticism, masculinity, unfreedom), and to uncover the origin of praise for self-discipline, un-discipline, interdisciplinarity, and the like. Further, I would like to offer a few arguments in favor of discipline as one of the most important protocols of social ontology, and the unconditional condition of cooperation, group work, indeed life. Discipline is learning together, it is the production and nurturing of knowledge that constitutes and sustains an (architecture) institution.

Bio

Petar Bojanić is a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (IFDT) of the University of Belgrade, and the Co-Director of the Center for Advanced Studies, Southeast Europe (CAS SEE), of the University of Rijeka. Bojanić's study of institutions and counter-institutions, engaged and (negative) social acts, has been profoundly enriched by his research on the theory of the architectural concept and project. His most recent book is *In-Statuere: Figures of Institutional Building* (Vittorio Klostermann, 2022). He is the founding co-editor-in-chief of *Khorein: Journal for Architecture and Philosophy*.

Michele Bonino – Politecnico di Torino

“Beyond Borders. Architecture and the New Silk Roads”

Abstract

The new Silk Road, or China's Belt and Road Initiative started in 2013, has transformed many places all around Eurasian and African and Latin American territories, transferring new ideas of architecture beyond national borders. In some cases, it provided crucial infrastructure, such as the General Hospital of Niger in Niamey or the National Library of El Salvador, while it also generated entire new urban areas, e.g. the Free Zone in Khorghos, Kazakhstan, with sometimes controversial effects to local communities and the environment. Based on research undertaken at the Politecnico di Torino and on a book now in print, this lecture looks at the Belt and Road Initiative in architectural and spatial terms.

Bio

Michele Bonino, Professor of Architecture and Urban Design and Ph.D. in History of Architecture, is the Head of the Department of Architecture and Design at the Politecnico di Torino.

He was the PoliTo Vice-Rector for Relations with China (2014 – 2021) and Asian Countries (2021 – 2023), a Visiting Professor at Tsinghua University (2013-2014), and a Visiting Scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2016).

On behalf of the Politecnico di Torino, he was the principal architect for the Shougang Visitor Centre for the XXIV Olympic Winter Games (Beijing 2022, with Tsinghua University). He was the Academic Curator of the 2019 Bi-City Biennale of

Urbanism/Architecture - Shenzhen (with Sun Y.). He was invited to the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2004, 2010, 2012, 2021, 2025.

His current research focuses on the innovation of design and its practices according to models of transnational exchange. He's the author of more than 350 scientific publications. Among his recent books, *Architecture and the new Silk Roads* (Birkhäuser 2024 – in print, with F. Carota), *The Story of a Section. Designing the Shougang Oxygen Factory* (ORO 2022, with E. Bruno, A. Armando, G. Durbiano), *China Goes Urban. The City to Come* (Skira 2020, with F. Carota, F. Governa, S. Pellecchia). He's a member of the Scientific Committee of "Vicino/Lontano" Festival in Udine and of the Steering Committee of "Biennale Tecnologia".

Per-Johan Dahl – Lund University
"Beyond Urbanism"

Bio

Per-Johan Dahl is an architect and researcher. He holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from University of California Los Angeles, MArch from Lund University, and UC in Civil Engineering from Blekinge Institute of Technology. Currently an Associate Professor at Lund University Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, Dr. Dahl has taught at several universities in Europe, Hong Kong, the Middle East, and the U.S. He is faculty and board member of the Research Institute for Experimental Architecture (RIEA), member of the China Room expert panel at Politecnico di Torino, and co-founder of smogstudio: a research-oriented design practice committed to mediate the intersections and overlaps between architecture and urbanism. Dr Dahl's research interests concern architecture in urbanization, with an emphasis on new modes of design thinking, the politics of urban form, and emergent building types. He pursued his post-doctoral research as a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, New York City. He is professional member of the American Institute of Architects, Architects Sweden, and the Hong Kong Institute of Architects. His research and practice have been published and exhibited internationally.

Aya Jazaiery – Loughborough University
"Beyond Shelter: the 'Bunkerisation' of Beirut's Post-war Architecture"

Abstract

Violent conflicts in cities leave their mark on buildings; shelling can pierce through, puncture, destroy or even tear down structures. Cities recovering from war put a great effort in re-building, covering up scars, welcoming the recovered state of peace. Architecture plays a key role in reinstating a sense of new safety.

This research examines the process of post-conflict reconstruction, focusing on the hidden layers within the architectural design process. Beyond the tangibility of materials, buildings reveal the long-lasting effects of war through layers of fear and division. Framed around the phenomenology of war, the focus is on the possibility of war's continuity in time, using Beirut as case study.

The Lebanese Civil war broke out in April 1975. The fighting militias took control of urban enclaves within the capital, dictating social, political, and territorial power. A demarcation line emerged crossing the city from north to south, dividing the capital between Christian communities in the East and predominantly Muslim ones in the West.

Both sides were bombarded during intermittent periods between 1975 and 1989 causing short and long-term population displacement. Those who stayed first resorted to make-shift solutions to protect their homes, using sandbags, concrete blocks, and reinforcements to close off windows and openings, shielding apartments from shelling, car bombs and gunfire. Yet, as the war persisted, these temporary measures

necessitated more permanent solutions, leading to a transformative period in the city's architectural landscape. Architectonic elements eventually responded to evolving social constructs, where buildings no longer served as mere shelters from natural elements, but also as shields to protect from the actual danger of war.

This research highlights the symbiotic relationship between fear and architectural design in war-borne Beirut, transcending mere functional considerations to explore the profound intertwining of human and non-human elements within the built environment.

Bio

Dr. Aya Jazaiery is a researcher in the field of architecture with strong interest focused on the design process. This pertains to all the tangible and intangible creative, sociological, political, and psychological practices that define the intellectual, formal, and aesthetical manifestations of architectural and urban productions. Her background is rooted in the architectural practice and she has worked at Arata Isozaki and Associates' office in Tokyo between April 2013 and March 2015 and as part of Kengo Kuma's research Laboratory at the University of Tokyo between March 2012 and March 2019.

Andrea Canclini – Lancaster University

“Contemporary Paradigms: Linguistic, Phenomenology, Architectural Sublime, Complexity Sciences, Ecologies”

Abstract

We all know how many questions and interpretations the contemporary discourse in architecture raises. However, one point of reference seems to be emerging: the contemporary attempt to recover different cultural contributions, with no one able to acquire a leading role, definitively outside the certainties that modern culture has constructed.

In fact, the liberation from/of differences has challenged the claim to know the true nature of reality and of human being, opening up the awareness of the impracticability of perfect objectivity in the multiplicity of interpretations: reality for us today is the result of the intersection of multiple competing narratives, interpretations and reconstructions.

Whether it is the awareness of pluralisation with the multiplication of aesthetic products, the aestheticization of the world of life in the media, the relevance of sensory knowledge as a guide to the cognitive process, the influence of aesthetic inventive-argumentative models on thinking in general, the ecological rediscovery of the ethical and aesthetic value of nature and thus a new sense of man's relationship with the world, or the need to understand the technocratic and economic direction in the social sphere, today it is a question of recovering a reason capable of representing the different statements of reality.

Architecture today is therefore increasingly accustomed to defining its disciplinary boundaries from the outside, influenced by paradigms that create a complex and contradictory web of themes and motifs. In the sense attributed to the term by Thomas Kuhn, it is a question of defining them as guiding principles, valid for scientific research as well as for all other types of research, in their interrelationship, evoking the interdisciplinary richness that animates the entire contemporary architectural debate.

Bio

Dr. Andrea Canclini is currently working as a Lecturer in Architecture at the School of Architecture at Lancaster University, former Lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture of the Politecnico di Milano, where he has been teaching for the past four years the

subjects of Theory in Contemporary Architectural Design and Design Studio, and Visiting Professor at the Beirut Arab University.

He has participated in several international activities, symposia and conferences, among others at the PhD School in Politecnico di Milano, The Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia, the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Brussels, the Architectural Humanities Research Association Conference 2021 at Loughborough University, the Jade Universität, The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain; He organised and chaired a session at the EAHN European Architectural History Network 2022 at ETSAM Madrid, and appointed as Head of the Scientific Committee for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the VII CIAM in Bergamo 2019 organised by the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of Politecnico di Milano.

Milos Cipranic - Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

“Who Is an Architect?”

Abstract

Given that architecture is a collective endeavor, it can be argued that architectural objects are a non-discursive expression and sign of the communities or institutions within which they are created. From a socio-ontological point of view, the question arises whether the true creator of an architectural object is the individual architect or whether its author is a collective subject? Is, for example, the city, as a persona ficta, the architect of itself? Certain texts by José Ortega y Gasset and Álvaro Siza contain ideas regarding these questions, on which an attempt to answer these questions can be based.

Bio

Miloš Ćipranić is an art historian. He is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory of the University of Belgrade and a member of the Institute's Laboratory for the Theory, Creation and Politics of Space (PerspectLab). Ćipranić is the deputy editor of *Khōrein: Journal for Architecture and Philosophy*. He is the author of the book *Descriptions of Architectural Objects in Antiquity* (in Serbian, 2022).

Željko Radinković - Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade

“Heidegger and Derrida: Being as the Transcendental Ground or as the Ultimate Metaphysical Signifier”

Abstract

For my presentation it is important to confront some of Heidegger's fundamental considerations regarding the primacy of the question of being with Derrida's objection that being necessarily remains a part of the metaphysically shaped designated relationship. Heidegger sees being as the transcendental ground or the condition of the possibility of understanding the world. Being is not to be understood as a thing, nor as an all-encompassing thing in a metaphysical sense, but always as given in different ways of being. Derrida claims that every adherence to the question of being only perpetuates the metaphysical question. Accordingly, being is the ultimate, last signifier within a metaphysical designation relationship (signified/being-signifier/entity). Derrida would rather place the emphasis on the material basis of the linguistic sign, on the traces left behind by the original meaningful actions.

Bio

Željko Radinković (1969) is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. He completed his studies in philosophy and history at the University of Stuttgart, taking his doctorate at the same university on the topic of narrativist interpretation of Heidegger's philosophy (Hermeneutik der Zukunft). At the University of Stuttgart, he was involved in various projects in the field of philosophy of technology (Nexus). Since 2011, he has been employed at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory. He was engaged in establishing cooperation with German universities. Between 2020 and 2023, he was the editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Philosophy and Society*. He mainly works on hermeneutics, phenomenology, philosophy of technology, on Heidegger and Husserl, and translates from German to Serbian.

Andreas Lechner – TU Graz

“Günther Domenig's Steinhaus as a workshop building”

Abstract

A certain reasoning behind educating architects is why Domenig repeatedly describes the Steinhaus (1986-2008) – his magnum opus at Lake Ossiach in Carinthia – as a “workshop building for architecture”. Against quickly jumping to the conclusion of spectacular ego-architecture or simplistic semantics, I will take Domenig's idea of a workshop space for architecture seriously and trace a logic of architectural instruction behind the more than 20-years process of his designing and constructing this building, that epitomizes his radical vision as well as his understanding of the causal creative activity of the architect that has to express itself materially.

Domenig's most personal project signifies a semantic shift, translating natural stone formations and rural buildings into an expressive, autonomous structure. As a sort of Carinthian “regionalism”, Domenig reflects his own upbringing in the rugged Mölltal valley and translates nature and vernacular architecture observations into considerations for building on the site. What will lead to a five stories building spanning over 800 m², composed of concrete, glass, and steel blocks is arranged in an irregular yet ordered manner, resembling a rockfall.

But as a new model of a “school”, how exactly does the Steinhaus co-teach experimental thinking, structural design, and new ways of experiencing space through its spatial presence? This contribution will affirm Domenig's vision of the Steinhaus as an active workshop space for architectural thought in a literal sense, a perspective not seriously explored in the existing literature. The open-ended, temporary, and incomplete nature of the Steinhaus highlights a design intention that not only moves far beyond any functional or programmatic concerns. The didactic cornerstone for Domenig's undogmatic curriculum is a sort of anti-pedagogy or unlikely architecture, that transcends familiar pragmatics through the open-endedness of its design process executed in a very rare 1:1 model on site.

Bio

Andreas Lechner studied architecture at TU Graz and after formative study stays in Los Angeles, trained as an architect living and working in Berlin, Tokyo and Vienna. In 2009, he earned his doctoral degree, subsequently serving as assistant professor and, since 2017, as an associate professor specializing in architectural design and typology at Günther Domenig's former institute. Andreas is a practicing architect, co-editor of “GAM – Graz Architecture Magazine” and director of the international research group *CounterintuitiveTypologies.com*. He is the author of “Thinking Design – Blueprint for an Architecture of Typology” (Park Books: Zurich 2021) and a visiting professor at the Politecnico di Milano. He is editing “Architectural Affordances – Typologies of Umbau” (Thymos Books: Naples 2024) together with Gennaro Postiglione and a special issue of

RIBA's Journal of Architecture on "Peripheries-Peripherocene" slated for 2026 together with Cameron McEwan.

Ivana Angelova - Research Fellow at CAS SEE, University of Rijeka

"Public spaces as a political place: Lessons of Connectivity and Solidarity in Skopje and Ljubljana"

Abstract

Public spaces are crucial political venues that facilitate public discourse, social interaction, and community engagement. They foster social cohesion by offering neutral grounds for interaction, bridging social divides, promoting mutual understanding, and building a stronger sense of community. Public engagement, vital for democratic societies, allows for expressing diverse viewpoints and mobilizing collective action.

Cities globally often originate near freshwater sources like rivers, which generate life and form the core axes along which cities develop. Urban streams and greenways mitigate challenges like heat islands, flooding, air pollution, and degraded water quality. They connect natural areas and benefit both the environment and the community. Southeast Europe, rich in water resources, integrates water into the cultural history and identity of cities, enhancing urban livability through linear public spaces like green promenades and walkways.

Linear public spaces along rivers, distinct from traditional parks and squares, offer extended routes for walking, jogging, or cycling, promoting physical activity and better health. Their elongated form fosters social cohesion by connecting diverse neighborhoods, enhancing community sense among residents from various backgrounds. However, increased land value and tourist attractiveness along rivers can lead to economic development and gentrification, affecting land memory.

The study identifies patterns in urban corridor usage in the Balkans, highlighting disparities in access to resources and opportunities. It emphasizes livelihood, commonality, and solidarity as means to envision a "culture of a shared future" in the region, fostering equitable urban development discussions and bridging academic research with public policy.

The research delves into the evolution of public spaces along watercourses in the Balkans, with a focus on Skopje and Ljubljana as illustrative examples of urban development in the post-socialist context. The cases of Vardar River and Ljubljanica River, offer insights into the role of urban waters in fostering democratic, livable, and resilient cities. While Ljubljana is noted for its sustainable urban solutions, Skopje faces challenges in integrating similar strategies.

Findings show that comparatively, both Skopje and Ljubljana share common traits in their riverfront developments, but differ significantly in aspects like adjacent governmental institutions and the cultural significance of their waters.

Skopje's urban development along the Vardar River has been fragmented, with significant underutilization of its northern bank. The river, historically a boundary between Macedonian and Albanian communities, has reinforced socio-economic divisions due to uneven investment and planning, particularly emphasized in projects like Skopje 2014. Civic movements and governmental actions have highlighted the need for inclusive urban planning to promote equitable investment and inter-ethnic communication, as evidenced by the Good Public Space Index, which shows disparities in the usability and democratic nature of spaces on either side of the river.

The Ljubljanica River is pivotal to Ljubljana's urban renewal and residents' quality of life, boasting extensive riverside promenades, lush greenery, and integrated pedestrian and cycling paths that enrich the urban experience. However, challenges such as

gentrification, tourism pressures, and balancing modern development with heritage preservation pose ongoing issues for maintaining social cohesion along the riverfront.

Bio

Ivana's academic and professional journey has been centered at the intersection of urban research and architecture. She is currently a research fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe, University of Rijeka. She gained her PhD from Meiji University in Tokyo where she was affiliated as a Research Assistant. The international practical experiences span from Kengo Kuma and Nikken Sekkei Architects in Japan, Al Borde Arquitectos in Ecuador and Hochschule Wismar in Germany. Moreover, Ivana has been a senior associate in the Urban Planning Department at two municipalities and has been a faculty instructor in her hometown, Skopje.

Ana Gilmet – Lund University

“New grounds for Architectural practice”

Abstract

Architects are poised to play a crucial role in the necessary social and environmental transformations required to address the challenges of climate change and socio-political instability. However, limited financial power tend to prevent disciplinary practices from realizing these transformations. New forms of architecture will require new institutional models. This study takes architectural activism as object of inquiry to extrapolate the creation of new frameworks from where architectural interventions can occur. It focuses on two case studies of architectural activism in different scales.

The first case study, "Open Up Your Courtyard," is an example of long-standing grassroots efforts in Malmö, Sweden, to reshape the understanding of public space in the Möllevången area, which culminated in the implementation of architectural interventions produced by citizens. The second case study, "House Europe!," is a European initiative, which explores the potential to scale up the transformation of architectural practice through trans-national legislation.

In both these cases, architects engage with a broader network of actors, consolidating new territories of action. By reframing the territories in which they operate as complex sets of processes, new forms of practice emerge. “Strategic practices,” as Freya Matthews would call them, allow for the formation of new alliances both within and outside the institutions to which architects belong, creating new conditions for design development. This study will demonstrate that each context requires the design of a specific assemblage of spaces, actors and actions, which prompts the architect to actively engage with the territory in which it operates. The study argues for the engagement of architects in the active production of new institutional models, grounded in their respective contexts, both spatially and socially.

Bio

Ana Gilmet holds an M.Arch from Lund University, with exchange studies at Politecnico di Milano. Her diploma project, titled "A Place in Between Places," was conducted under the guidance of Per-Johan Dahl and Sandi Hilal. The project delves into architectural strategies aimed at promoting temporal appropriations of space to facilitate the integration of migrants into the urban life of Skellefteå in northern Sweden. In addition to her architectural practice, Gilmet has a longstanding commitment to the right to the city activism. Over the past 10 years, she has been involved in the political strategy for an ECI (European Citizens Initiative) against the demolition of buildings, developed a parallel feminist curriculum for the architecture program at Lund University,

participated in the Fearless Cities network, and contributed to local initiatives in Malmö such as Öppna Möllan. Her practice has been exhibited and recognized at the Southern Sweden Design Days and the Oslo Architecture Biennale.

Valentina Rapuano – Lund University
“What can Architecture do?”

Abstract

Working primarily in practice for a few years, and being asked to describe the discipline of architecture, I would argue that it too often is about static calculations of a building catalog, or the combination and physics of different materials, or even the historical style in which different elements have been designed. While these definitions are correct and there are many more to list, I would argue that they are not the most striking characteristics that describe the discipline of architecture nor its potential. Sure, the archaic definition of architecture is to create shelter, but we cannot stay on the surface of that definition.

I would argue that architecture is in itself a transdisciplinary field, a tree, that has its roots in the built environment but extends its branches into tangible and especially intangible realms. A tree, which does not stand alone in a plain field, but is surrounded and influenced by other disciplines and practices.

To consider only certain aspects of architecture, creates decontextualized and alienated built surroundings that could be placed anywhere and nowhere, since they are not related to their environment. What impact does architecture have on one person, on an area, on a whole society being surrounded and using architecture in their everyday life? The beauty and strength of architecture lies exactly in this fluidity and non-definition of the field. We do not have to follow any strict theoretical approach of science, nor succumb to the open-ended nature of the arts. We can seize the creative nature of our field and push the boundaries to explore new methodologies and ways of perceiving architecture.

The architectural dialogue should not be afraid to lose its unique viewpoint. By being transdisciplinary and borrowing theories and concepts from other disciplines, we expand the holistic stances of architecture. This variety is indeed what makes the field resilient and sustainable in a society that is ever-changing.

Being such a broad field one can surely pose the question of the relevance of architecture in itself - if it is just a conglomerate of other fields - do we still need it as a separate discipline? I think this question has already been answered in practice, where architecture all too often is neglected in the seemingly cost efficient-process of creating more profitable solutions. Merely utilitarian shelter cannot be defined as architecture as such and will never solve issues in the relation of user and built environment. The sensible vision of architecture has to always influence space that is created around us users inhabiting it.

By always returning to the question: What can architecture do?, a broad question that can help us to ground ourselves, we can re-consider what the limits of the field are and see how it can give its pinch of salt to different matters.

Bio

Valentina Rapuano is an architect and graphic designer currently working at Cobe in Copenhagen. She holds a MARK from the School of Architecture at Lund University and a BSc from the Vienna University of Technology. The focus of her studies was on social matters in the built environment. Questions such as Whom do we build for? and What is the role of architecture? Guide her in understanding of the discipline. In her Master's

thesis she generated an explorative discussion - manifesto - about the role of architecture as a tool of age integration. As a research assistant at the department of Urban Arena at Lund University, she had the chance to see a transdisciplinary approach to urbanism and understand how different departments of Lund University can be connected and become a strong network of knowledge for the academic but also practical field of the built environment. Her continuous collaboration with the School of Architecture at Lund University and the participation in the planning of Lund Architecture Symposium allowed her to expand her field of knowledge and get to know new tendencies and practices in different realities and environments.

Federica Joe Gardella – – Politecnico di Torino
“Beyond the Archive’s Architecture”

Abstract

This contribution presents a segment of my doctoral research investigating the evolving nature of architecture and urban design archives, particularly by focusing on their transformation, expansion, and recomposition due to the documentary revolution and the advent of artificial intelligence. The discontinuity identified corresponds, as pointed out by Ferraris (*Documanità. Filosofia del nuovo mondo*, 2021), to the spread of recording and archiving possibilities that result in the production of a quantity of documents unparalleled to any previous epoch of humankind - so-called Big Data, i.e., raw and extended information, exempt a priori from taxonomies, syntheses or mathematical reductions. Through a series of empirical investigations conducted between 2023 and 2024, this study employs ethnographic observation of design practices in diverse architectural research laboratories, differing in the type of research conducted and the network of partners and stakeholders involved. The first two case studies explore the UCLA-cityLab's project on affordable housing on California Community Colleges lands and the CMU-CodeLab's project on the close and distant reading of Charpatian-style churches. In both cases, part of the research involved constructing and assembling the project archive by collecting and analyzing a heterogeneous array of data formats, including statistical data, interviews, drawings, photographs, historical documents, and spatial and geo-referenced data. The third case study investigates the generative potentialities of the archive by delving into the image archive of MVRDV's The Valley project, which serves as the training dataset for a LoRA model for Stable Diffusion. The final case study focuses on UCY's Twin2Expand project, which aims to create a geo-referenced data repository to perform simulations through Evidence-Based Design and Planning methodologies. Here, the interest concerns the effort to apply models - that have proven to be effective in producing reliable results in data-rich environments - in a data-scarce context, such as Cyprus. To conclude, this contribution aims to go *beyond* the definition of the architecture and urban design archives in our contemporary era and provide insights into how these changes could inform the future trajectory of architectural research and practice.

Bio

Federica Joe Gardella is an architect and PhD student in "Architecture. History and Project" at the Polytechnic of Turin. Her research explores the impact of incorporating digital technologies on architectural design processes, seeking to understand if and where innovation occurs. Combining theoretical discourse with empirical investigations, she explores the evolution of design practices within some selected architectural research labs and firms. During her PhD studies, she served as a visiting scholar at the CityLab research center at the University of California Los Angeles and the Computational Design Laboratory (CodeLab) at Carnegie Mellon University. Prior to her doctoral studies, she completed a dual MSc in Architecture with honors from

Politecnico di Torino and Politecnico di Milano and obtained the Alta Scuola Politecnica Diploma. Furthermore, as a member of the "Architectural design theory" research group at Politecnico di Torino, she has been actively involved in research projects exploring both the processes of transformation of the city and the evolving nature of the architectural profession in response to technological advancements.

Monica Alexandra Munoz Veloza – – Politecnico di Torino

"Architecture as decolonial practice: dialogue with alternative knowledges"

Abstract

According to the Urban Development Division of the Inter-American Development Bank, the urban population in Latin America and the Caribbean has grown significantly from 108 million in 1959 to nearly 500 million today. This constant demographic increase, coupled with the inability of local governments to meet the housing demand, often forces inhabitants to build their own houses. This situation leads to ever-expanding cities in constant change, spatially divided by social and economic factors. Unfortunately, approaches to address these urban issues have not yielded the expected results and have even generated new problems. For instance, the unrestricted influx of foreign models and the inappropriate use of non-local technology have undermined the preservation and active utilization of traditional building knowledge and construction practices. Moreover, the diffusion of modern city principles in the "Global South" without considering the diverse and complex social dynamics has exacerbated existing inequality and spatial and social segregation.

Despite the positive intentions outlined in official documents, standards, and guidelines at both global and local levels to support a paradigm shift in the conception of the built environment, their implementation has often remained limited. One of these documents is the 2016 New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, "Habitat III," in Quito, Ecuador -and the four-year report by the Secretary-General on the progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda, published on March 15, 2022. The agenda addresses various issues related to transformative and sustainable urban development, with a particular emphasis on nature and culture. Furthermore, it acknowledges traditional, indigenous, and local knowledges as crucial in developing socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions.

However, two significant obstacles limit the ability to implement these transformative commitments. The first is the failure to embrace diversity and plurality within the current economic and political power structures. The second is the urban-rural divide, where the dominance of the first suppresses the subaltern cultural backgrounds of the latter. In connection with these two issues, the transfer of technology is another critical aspect in the context of sustainable development. While the United Nations emphasizes cooperation and knowledge sharing, technology should not be imposed through power dynamics or seen as a universal solution. On the contrary, technology transfer should be pluriversal and decolonial.

The author challenges the notion that modern solutions are always the answer to modern problems. Instead, the concept of "Sustainment," coined by philosopher Tony Fry, is supported. This concept advocates for an era opposed to the dominant and absolutist Enlightenment that has governed development paradigms until now. The author also emphasizes the need to envision architecture as an evolving practice. One capable of critically examining the past to generate multiple possible futures and open to dialogue with diverse disciplines and other models of knowledge, recognizing them as subjects rather than objects.

The decision to apply for participation in this seminar stems from the author's interest in exploring the architect's role beyond conventional boundaries through perspectives that move away from top-down approaches and embrace interdisciplinary and

participatory methods. This interest was further developed in a doctoral dissertation that analyzed the architect's role in countering the epistemic violence that obstructs the recognition and inclusion of alternative constructive knowledge held by communities in self-built informal urban contexts.

Bio

Mónica Alexandra Muñoz Veloza is a Colombian architect and post-doctoral research fellow at the Politecnico di Torino since February 2024. She specializes in technological and environmental design in architecture, contributing to innovative sustainable practices. Currently, she is engaged in the "CD4NF - Circular Design for Natural Fibers" project, which is part of the "3A-ITALY - Made in Italy circolare e sostenibile (MICS)" initiative in the context of Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), funded by European Union – Next Generation EU. This research focuses on studying and developing circular reuse scenarios for by-products and waste from the textile and agro-industrial sectors. Her work in this project involves evaluating the sustainability of circularity scenarios and contributing to developing eco-friendly and resource-efficient design practices. Mónica Alexandra Muñoz Veloza's career is characterized by her commitment to sustainability with an interdisciplinary approach. Her contributions to the field of architecture and her ongoing research contribute to developing more sustainable building environments.

Giulia Montanaro – Politecnico di Torino

"Questioning construction process of common space: Rural Community Building Policies and the Architectural Practice in China: A Case Study"

Abstract

"Rural community building" is a central policy in China's rural urbanisation process for the national goal of village revitalisation. This research intent to focus on the resource management complexity in the construction processes of community spaces, in which design choice and actors, principally architects, struggle on. Common goods and services, especially community centres for these village revitalisation processes, are an important political issue in countries whose constitutions profess an ideology of equality to counteract the rapid urbanisation of recent decades. Through the process of urban implosion/explosion (Brenner, 2014) in the 20th century and the drive for modernisation, the accumulation of social wealth has also led to an intensification of capital polarisation between areas, but in the progressive infrastructural blurring. The result is urban-rural inequalities and the rise of urban enclaves, with the consequent marginalised urban space that takes on the connotations of an unprecedented 'urban field' (Lefebvre, 1973: 68). In other words, the urban can mean a set of social, logistical and economic relations on a global scale intrinsic to the capitalist market (Brenner, 2015), in which architects act as professionals. Architectural practice, as the entire construction industry, are inextricably linked to the socio-economic context, which profoundly influences design and construction decision-making. This research explores the tension between contemporary architectural practices, considering their influences from and relationships with the wider construction industry, and the local construction contingencies related to community building in rural areas of China, situated on the margins of the urbanisation process. Starting from this position, the hypothesis of this research is that in order to better understand the processes of urbanisation taking place in China, it may be useful to relate the specificities of place observed in the process itself, and from a different perspective, that is, observing the building process and its ecology and economy of resources. The decision-making processes have a high degree of uncertainty, in the process itself and in the outcomes and dependent on several implications and actors. However, this kind of complexity is often accounted as a linear process of subsequent steps and decisions, from the cause to the effect, from the

project to its execution. A five-month field study was conducted to observe and document the entire construction process of the community hall in Zhaoshan Village (沼山村- Zhaoshancun), in Baohan County (保安镇- Bao'anzhen). It is a key construction project of the Village's Maoshan Village Scenic Area pilot project, it is the first renovation project in Hubei province. Through the design studio, I engaged with almost all the stakeholders involved in the project, including local residents and institutions, with a focus on communication between the designers and other participants such as builders, craftsmen and suppliers. I meticulously documented daily activities, explored the rationale behind various decisions and supported my observations with literature research. Although there were language barriers, my active presence and involvement in the activities, albeit as an observer, helped to mitigate these challenges. The empirical fieldwork will be reported through a reportage structured around object construction. By providing an inside view of the project's development, it will offer a documentation of the process through research observation and an opportunity to study it through diagrammatic schemes that will help to read the process. The objective is not to produce a manual that systematizes solutions, potentially leading to the creation of new instructional guidelines. Rather, it aims to highlight the frictions and tensions within the construction industry market and raise awareness of the interacting mechanisms.

Bio

Giulia Montanaro obtained in 2020 the Master's Degree in Building Engineering and Architecture at Università di Pavia with honour and Master's Degree in Architecture at Tongji University in Shanghai as part of the double degree program stipulated between the two universities with a thesis entitled "Architecture Beyond: Italian Architects and Practices in Shanghai". She is an engineer currently enrolled in the joint Ph.D. program in the field of Architecture between Politecnico di Torino and Tsinghua University that created a specific PhD curriculum named "Transnational Architectural Models in a Globalized World", which focused on the movement of architectural and urban models, practices, and construction techniques in the globalized world, with a priority focus on the relations between China and the West. Since 2021, she has been collaborating with the China Room research group of the Politecnico di Torino working on the relation between construction industry and design practice.

Richard Lee Peragine – Politecnico di Torino

"The project of emptiness. Sovereignty, the weaponization of space and architecture in the Bosnian Krajina"

Abstract

This application presents a completed doctoral thesis (2024) that attempts a critical deviation from set disciplinary paths in architecture, moving beyond both its formalism and its technocratic solutionism. The contribution posits and explores a relationship between spatial forms of ruination and sovereignty, from the purview of architecture as a practice. To do so, it suggests the methodological stratagem of the figure of emptiness, to underline a spatial and concrete emptiness— a character pertaining to spaces of ruination; the condition of "emptiness" of supposedly "empty" spaces—as well as a politico-metaphysical meaning of the emptiness, or void, of sovereign power. The contribution thus engages with a two-fold question: what is the spatial and theoretical relationship between sovereignty and emptiness? And what ethical orientation of the project of architecture might it foster?

The figure of emptiness addresses a situated arrangement of sovereign power irreducible to that of the State: the differential sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina; that, specifically, of the region contentiously known as the Bosnian krajina—a territory

that straddles over the border with the central counties of Croatia, which has been determined historically and geographically as a frontier. In recent years, in the krajina, thousands of migrant and refugee people have faced violent bordering operations put in place by state and non-state agencies attempting to thwart illegal(ised)mobility along the so-called Western Balkan Route. The spatial configuration of migration management overlaps with that of the Transition, an ideological-teleological narrative of contemporary racial capitalism that has contributed to years of hardship and organized neglect for people living in the post-socialist Western Balkans.

Borrowing on philosophy, critical theory, geography and political ecology the core argument is that sovereign power is founded on a void and operates in space according to a multifarious logic of rule predicated on the articulation of the human/nature divide, which in the Anthropocene has become ever more evident. The specificities of the Bosnian krajina highlight how the figure of emptiness is part and parcel of specific structures of regulation and domination, which are operated through a frontier logic, a more-than-human biopolitics and the ruins of the Transition. The contribution finally argues the relationship between sovereignty and emptiness in the Bosnian krajina determines a project of emptiness, based on the weaponization of specific geophysical, architectural and toxic environments legitimated by the figure of emptiness in the context of migration management and the Transition.

Yet, far from being an emptiness that can be appropriated, the figure of emptiness elicits a negativity that limits and resists the domination of the spatial project of the Transition, while being conducive to an ethico-political orientation for the project of architecture at its many scales. The territorial exploration of the Bosnian krajina thus opens up to the prospect of an empty ethics of the project of architecture—one that beginning from the an-arché of the project seeks to upend its ends and the clear-cut distinction between theory and practice, in order to contest the solutionism and complicity to power of architecture in contemporary racial capitalism.

Bio

Richard Lee Peragine completed his PhD in Urban and Regional Development (URD) at the Politecnico di Torino in 2024 (supervisor Camillo Boano). His doctoral work looks at the relationship between sovereignty and the figure of emptiness in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a way to address the ethics of the project of architecture. He is currently working on the spatial politics of migrant labour in agri-food production in Northeastern and Southern Italy, at the Department of Architecture, Università di Ferrara and at the Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino. Prior to research, he worked as an architect in practices in London, Bologna, Berlin and Brussels.

Nikolina Sekulovic – Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade

“Between Iterations: The Continuous Cycle of Evolution and Evaluation”

Abstract

This research aims to deconstruct the architectural design process and identify the possibility of developing alternative production models. In architecture, designing as a projected field of options, is not considered a stable constant ensemble but an open activity with a changing framework. The primary focus of the research goes from the architectural project to the design process, and its objective is the creation of the theoretical production model rather than the creation of the object. Although the process's nature is initially dual, implying a transparent, rational part of the process and a transcendent, closed one with unexplained paths, it can be observed as an empirical entity with its framework and logic of functioning. This paradox is acknowledged as an appropriate position for exploration and a contributing factor whose research can uncover aspects beyond the boundaries of architecture and contribute to developing

alternative models of architectural production. The architectural design process is a cyclical, iterative process described as a "successive transformation of problem states." The sequential decision-making system is separated into an order of intermediate states, constituting its evolutionary and evaluative aspects simultaneously. Since the overlapping character of decisions relies on arguments and critique as crucial categories through which the process fulfills its potential, the possibility of reconstruction exists precisely in the void between their acceptance. This undefined intermediate space can be seen as an elastic filter of the architect's interdisciplinary knowledge. By breaking down the process's linearity, the opportunity for developing diverse approaches as discursive decision-making processes becomes available. The question arises regarding whether it is achievable, precisely in this condition of uncertainty within the transformative process, to position the theoretical construct - dynamic models that, in their intermediate states, open up space for different approaches, still keeping the integrative framework of the discipline.

Bio

Nikolina Sekulović, MSc, is a Teaching Associate at the University of Montenegro, Faculty of Architecture. She has won multiple scholarships and awards in architectural competitions. She is a PhD student at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Belgrade, researching and developing ideas under the mentoring of Snežana Vesnić, PhD. Her fields of interest include research on the architectural design process and contemporary architectural design challenges.

Milan Ristic & Relja Petrovic -Belgrade-Serbia

"The Zombie Phenomenon of Derelict Retail Architecture: Ambient Analysis of the Transformation of Systems and Places of Consumption"

Abstract

The dominant mode of product consumption influences architecture, which, in this case, serves as the infrastructure for product procurement, accessibility, and places of consumption. We focus on the areas of sale, shopping centers, and the changes in spaces after a shift in consumption habits. Consumption patterns change in terms of lifestyle and through new technologies that facilitate and accelerate the process of acquisition and access to products. These changes often demand new architecture that fully replaces the previous system's function, thus leaving behind desolate spaces with huge potential for repurposing or experiencing further decay. Shopping centers of similar dimensions and styles with the same function and characteristics were constructed at the end of the twentieth century in Belgrade. A small shopping center with a few floors was constructed in every neighborhood, playing the role of a local center, displaying postmodern formal features like square proportions, spirals, circular cutouts, etc. The trend that influenced the abandonment of these centers was the construction of larger shopping centers toward the end of the first decade of the second millennium, which were larger in size and a representation of centralization in consumption at the city level, in contrast to the local nature of the old centers. This change did not mean an absolute abandonment of old shopping centers, since they also became the site of spontaneous reinvention as lower-standard consumption spaces as well as locations for craftsmen's professions and other uncommon services. A new ambiance emerged, characterized by the display of goods in hallways, liminality, a sense of reduced security, and a lack of air and natural light. These new spaces and environments were formed spontaneously, and yet a systematized outcome can be recognized, which is why it represents an intriguing phenomenon and the focus of our research. Abandoned space reuse is a step towards sustainable development in urban aspects, happening here without the interference of designers or decision-makers. These spaces span across the city and are referred to as "zombies" in this study due to

their successful functioning in a new manner despite poor physical condition and maintenance. Three zombie shopping centers from different parts of Belgrade will be selected and described by the personal perception of the spaces, photographing of the spaces, and then feeding the obtained textual and visual data into an artificial intelligence model. The results of the AI-modelled data will then be synthesized through the authorial filter of both physical and digital drawings; some depiction of their general characteristics to the perception of such spaces will create a "commonplace." The methodological approach that uses artificial intelligence tools aims to provide new views in the analysis of the process of longitudinal transformation of space that is the subject of research. Through an innovative research approach, we aim to identify the specificities, advantages, drawbacks, and potential of these spaces, highlighting their significance and proposing interventions that could improve them.

Bio

Milan Ristić (born in 1998) was born in Belgrade, where he completed his primary and secondary education. Due to his interest in art and science, he enrolled in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Belgrade in 2017 and completed his undergraduate and master's studies in 2022. After completing his studies, he gained practical experience working at the "AGM" architectural bureau, and he enrolled in the PhD Studies at the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Belgrade in October 2023. During his studies, he showed an interest in contemporary approaches to architectural design with a focus on the future of architecture. His doctoral research focuses on the accessibility of public spaces and architectural objects. The chosen topic falls within the field of architecture and urbanism and touches on sociology. His current research is focused on mapping the problems faced by wheelchair users in the context of the city of Belgrade, with future work to encompass a broader scope of disabilities.

Relja L. Petrović, born in Belgrade in 1996, graduated from the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture in 2022, earning the title of Master of Architecture. Following his studies, he worked at the Museum of Applied Arts in Belgrade as a curator in the Department of Architecture, Urbanism, and Architectural Design. During his curatorship, he participated in organizing significant exhibitions, notably the 45th Salon of Architecture. After his tenure at the museum, he contributed to a project of exceptional importance for architectural and cultural heritage – Staro Sajmište. Since March 2024, he has been employed at the Faculty of Architecture as an assistant in the Department of Architecture, actively participating in teaching courses related to architectural design. Concurrently, he is a doctoral student in the academic program of Architecture and Urbanism. His research interests lie in the scientific and artistic spheres of architecture, as well as in interdisciplinary fields such as environmental psychology, sociology, and cultural heritage. He is an active participant in summer schools, conferences, and workshops and is a member of professional associations.

Nemanja Milicevic & Ema Alihodzic Jasharevic – Belgrade-Serbia
"Alter void / Tectonics of the underground"

Abstract

The purpose of this research is an experiment, that is based on the theoretical concept of the *void*, setting it up as a new possibility of conquering space within a karst terrain, introducing a new concept of *tectonic culture of spatial thinking* in the Montenegrin context. An epistemological analysis of the theoretical concept of *the void*, can enable a new reading of it, on a theoretical and a practical level. The narrower field of research of this paper is focused on the questioning of the void as a product of the *tectonic thinking of space*, which refers to the engagement of an unpredictable emptiness, but

also the stereotomic construction of the void within the karst terrain. Stereotomous building culture is explored, which is created by subtracting some mass - an architecture of deepening, leaving a void as a positive configuration of the subtracted. *Tectonic culture* creates space by releasing voids, examining the potential of a new space that is underground and very connected to the terrain. In the following, the *paradigm of porosity* is explored, refers to the immune state and the "oxygen" of the soil, which is a filter that enables new content. Montenegrin terrain, which is characterized by a slightly porous, specific karst geomorphological composition, that conditioned the architectural concept of building above ground level, establishing a clear boundary between what is above and what is below the ground. Nevertheless, such a section contains unexpected cracks - voids, as unrepeatable, dramatic breaks in the density of the rock mass - (pores, caves, scratches, caves), which represent a void - a space where life is possible. Such a spatial concept of a living underground break, *beyond* the expected, becomes *alter void*, as a kind of *alternative void* that is built into the terrain, opposite to the one created by the adopted method of building above ground. What was underground until now belonged to our historical-archaeological *geoheritage*, while now archeology is becoming an integral part of the city, or the city is becoming archaeology. In this sense, using the underground as a development model that generates a new urban utopian chance, a new - old method of deepening architecture can be developed, as an opportunity to create a new city (*alter city*).

Bio

Emilia Alihodžić Jašarović is an architect and educator, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Montenegro. As part of the team, she has won several awards at international architecture festivals, and at architectural competitions (winner of Salon of Architecture in Montenegro and Salon Novi Sad, Serbia, 2022), and nominee for Piranesi Award, 2022. She was a member of the Montenegrin team at the XII Biennale of Architecture in Venice (2010 and 2023). In the role of mentor, she worked on several student international workshops (EASA Montenegro 2021). She was vice president of the Association of Architects of Montenegro. She is part of the team who create non-institutional cultural center Kolektor in the former Titex factory. She is one of the founders of the O5LAB.

Nemanja Milićević is an architect and teaching assistant at the Faculty of Architecture in Podgorica. He is a PhD student where he doing research about the relationship between poche and void. He is one of the founders of the design studio OOUR, which in addition to successful architectural realizations represents Montenegro at the Venice Biennale of Architecture in 2016 and 2023. As part of the team, he has won several awards at international competitions and architectural festivals. He participates in numerous international workshops (Kotor APSS), and mentorship at the international European architectural workshop EASA Montenegro 2021. He is one of the founders and part of O5LAB.

Ivana Angelova – CAPRIS-Macedonia

“Public spaces as political spaces: Lessons of connectivity and solidarity in Skopje and Ljubljana”

Abstract

Public spaces are crucial political venues that facilitate public discourse, social interaction, and community engagement. They foster social cohesion by offering neutral grounds for interaction, bridging social divides, promoting mutual

understanding, and building a stronger sense of community. Public engagement, vital for democratic societies, allows for expressing diverse viewpoints and mobilizing collective action.

Cities globally often originate near freshwater sources like rivers, which generate life and form the core axes along which cities develop. Urban streams and greenways mitigate challenges like heat islands, flooding, air pollution, and degraded water quality. They connect natural areas and benefit both the environment and the community. Southeast Europe, rich in water resources, integrates water into the cultural history and identity of cities, enhancing urban livability through linear public spaces like green promenades and walkways.

Linear public spaces along rivers, distinct from traditional parks and squares, offer extended routes for walking, jogging, or cycling, promoting physical activity and better health. Their elongated form fosters social cohesion by connecting diverse neighborhoods, enhancing community sense among residents from various backgrounds. However, increased land value and tourist attractiveness along rivers can lead to economic development and gentrification, affecting land memory.

The study identifies patterns in urban corridor usage in the Balkans, highlighting disparities in access to resources and opportunities. It emphasizes livelihood, commonality, and solidarity as means to envision a "culture of a shared future" in the region, fostering equitable urban development discussions and bridging academic research with public policy.

The research delves into the evolution of public spaces along watercourses in the Balkans, with a focus on Skopje and Ljubljana as illustrative examples of urban development in the post-socialist context. The cases of Vardar River and Ljubljanica River, offer insights into the role of urban waters in fostering democratic, livable, and resilient cities. While Ljubljana is noted for its sustainable urban solutions, Skopje faces challenges in integrating similar strategies. Findings show that comparatively, both Skopje and Ljubljana share common traits in their riverfront developments, but differ significantly in aspects like adjacent governmental institutions and the cultural significance of their waters.

Skopje's urban development along the Vardar River has been fragmented, with significant underutilization of its northern bank. The river, historically a boundary between Macedonian and Albanian communities, has reinforced socio-economic divisions due to uneven investment and planning, particularly emphasized in projects like Skopje 2014. Civic movements and governmental actions have highlighted the need for inclusive urban planning to promote equitable investment and inter-ethnic communication, as evidenced by the Good Public Space Index, which shows disparities in the usability and democratic nature of spaces on either side of the river.

The Ljubljanica River is pivotal to Ljubljana's urban renewal and residents' quality of life, boasting extensive riverside promenades, lush greenery, and integrated pedestrian and cycling paths that enrich the urban experience. However, challenges such as gentrification, tourism pressures, and balancing modern development with heritage preservation pose ongoing issues for maintaining social cohesion along the riverfront.

Bio

Ivana's academic and professional journey has been centered at the intersection of urban research and architecture. She is currently a research fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe, University of Rijeka. She gained her PhD from Meiji University in Tokyo where she was affiliated as a Research Assistant. The international practical experiences span from Kengo Kuma and Nikken Sekkei Architects in Japan, Al Borde Arquitectos in Ecuador and Hochschule Wismar in Germany. Moreover, Ivana has been a senior associate in the Urban Planning Department at two municipalities and has been a faculty instructor in her hometown, Skopje.

Marko Icev – CAPRIS UKIM in Skopje – Macedonia
“Architecture beyond capitalism”

Abstract

In our contemporary conversation and understanding of architecture, there is a certain relationship that is rarely examined, and that is the relationship between architecture and capital. Since Alberti, architecture has been positioned as a mostly bourgeois profession that caters to the interests of concentrated capital and power. In many of the definitions of architecture from Pevsner to Venturi, the relationship between architecture and capital remains unquestioned and the architect is always positioned as the arbiter of good taste among the brutish financiers and capital flows. In architectural history, many of the projects from socialist countries, periods before capitalism and geographies where capitalism has little reach have been entirely ignored, relegated to the spectrum of mere “building.” Recently, Mark Jarzombek’s *Architecture of the First Societies* gives us an updated vision of work that should be considered part of architecture’s heritage but has escaped previous studies because it was made by workers and societies that are outside of the spectrum of capitalist production in the empire and its colonies. Today, it is urgent to reconsider this relationship and look for new theories, stories, case studies and examples that will provide new definitions of architecture beyond the traditional capitalist relations. This paper will outline a theoretical proposal of architecture outside the trappings of capitalist systems. Relying on the works of Gramsci, Lefebvre, Lina Bo Bardi, Rebecca Solnit, Ursula Le Guin, and Graeber & Wengrow, this essay will aim to theoretically position architecture as a social and labor practice in a given socio-political context, rather than an academic conservatory discipline, and as the legacy of the working people who have constructed it, as opposed to the lone-author architect that western historiography favors. The goal of this paper is to provide a pathway to more participatory and diverse understandings of architecture, with a focus on different approaches of building as a way of coming together and building together.

Bio

Dr. Marko Icev is an architectural and urban historian, planner, and architect. He completed his PhD in Critical Studies in Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California, Los Angeles. Previously he received his B.Arch from Jefferson University, and M.Sc. in Urban Design at the Pratt Institute. His dissertation “Building Solidarity” studies the post-earthquake reconstruction of Skopje from 1963, with a focus on the international collaborations of the effort, looking at architectural labor as a form of solidarity, and as model for working outside of capitalist frameworks. During his graduate studies, he was a recipient of the Mellon Foundation scholarship for the Urban Humanities. He has published and worked in the private and academic sector in Macedonia and the United States. His interests include the modernity of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as architectural labor organization.

Sanja Avramoska – UKIM-Macedonia

“Managing Spatial Conflicts and Flood Resilience in Urban Riverfront Redevelopment Projects (URRP)”

Abstract

This dissertation explores the spatial conflicts originating from fluvial flood resilience within urban riverfront redevelopment projects (URRP) in Germany, focusing on the challenges of balancing multiple competing functions. The research begins by analyzing the primary roles of river corridors in contemporary cities and identifying the common spatial conflicts that arise along riverbanks.

The research is grounded in a theoretical framework, continuing with an exploration of resilience theory, followed by an examination of the state-of-art flood resilience in theory and practice, from where specific resilience attributes are derived and put into an analytical framework. These resilience attributes are then used to analyze four detailed case studies, assessing how the resilience paradigm has shaped each project. The case studies investigate how infrastructural, architectural engineering, and urban planning in these projects integrate flood resilience with other essential functions, such as city image, ecological corridors, public spaces, and transportation. Through stakeholder expert interviews, document analysis, and applying resilience attributes, the dissertation seeks to uncover the trade-offs and challenges in achieving multifunctionality and effective flood protection in urban river corridors.

Bio

Sanja Avramoska earned her master's degree in architecture from the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Skopje in 2018. She began working as a teaching assistant at the same faculty in 2020. With practical experience and involvement in various competitions, Sanja received several recognitions, including an honorable mention in the Shinkenchiku Residential Design competition in 2019. As part of a team, she worked on projects that were selected for the Future Architecture Platform in 2021 and the LINA Platform in 2022—both European networking initiatives. She was awarded a DAAD research scholarship, which enabled her to participate in a six-month research program at TU Berlin in 2020, where she developed her PhD proposal. Since 2021, Sanja has been pursuing her PhD at TU Darmstadt, focusing on resilient cities, particularly flood resilience, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD), and resilient building. In 2023, she completed a research stay in Germany, funded by the DBU, to explore the multifunctional design of riverbanks in German rivers.

Teodora Mihajlovska – UKIM-Macedonia

“Parametric Design of Arches and Shells Using Graphic Statics”

Abstract

Over the last three decades, computer-aided design has revolutionized architecture, enabling complex geometries and expanding formal possibilities. This digital shift has allowed new materials and construction technologies to turn virtual designs into built realities. However, this focus on formal freedom often overlooks structural considerations, leading to material inefficiencies. To address this, digital rationalization techniques modify complex forms post-design, enhancing construction efficiency without altering the original intent. The concrete shells of the 20th century and digitally designed complex geometries share a similar language of fluidity and curvature, but they differ fundamentally in structural performance. Concrete shells, which transfer loads through membrane compressive forces, are based on a combined architectural and engineering approach, a form-finding method, while the free-form geometries of curved surface architecture primarily arise from the underlying process of digital modelling. While early form-finding methods were based on physical models, contemporary digital tools now facilitate this process more rapidly, though they sometimes lack transparency and insight into the underlying structural principles. Tools based on graphic statics offer a more precise and intuitive approach, enabling designers to better understand and control the structural constraints of their designs. Understanding these constraints is essential for successfully guiding the design process toward structurally sound and efficient forms.

Bio

Teodora is an architect and researcher with a background in Architectural design and construction. She is currently a PhD candidate at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University

in Skopje, North Macedonia, where she has been studying since October 2021. She previously earned a Master of Architecture from the same institution in July 2018, with a thesis focused on the requalification of a fragmented urban territory in Skopje. Her research interests consist of structural form-finding using three-dimensional Graphic Statics and its application in the design of arches and shells. Since January 2021, Teodora has been working as a University Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Architecture, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University. In this role, she assists with subjects in the fields: building materials, building constructions and mechanics of solid and deformable body at the Institute of Building Construction. In addition to her professional experience, Teodora has published 15 research papers, reflecting her research contributions to the field of architecture. Before her current position, Teodora worked as an Architect at Studio 2000 from December 2016 to December 2020, where she managed various small and medium-sized projects.

Alessandro Armando

Bio

Dr. Alessandro Armando has been Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Design (DAD) of the Polytechnic of Turin since 2011, where he teaches Architectural and Urban Composition. He was also the Referent of the Master's Degree Course "Architecture Construction City" (2018-2021) and since 2016 he has been a member of the Teaching Board of the Doctorate DASP ("Architecture. History and Design") of the same Polytechnic, and a member of the Doctoral Studies program "Architecture and Urban Design", at the Faculty of Architecture of Skopje ("University Ss. Cyril and Methodius" - UKIM). His current research activity focuses mainly on the theory of architectural design, in particular on professional practice and diagrammatic innovation in design. He is the founder and member of the editorial board of the magazine "Ardeth" (Architectural Design Theory); he is a member of the advisory board of the series "Architettura" for the publisher Manifestolibri; member of the scientific committee of SCIENZA NUOVA - Italian Institute for Advanced Studies of Turin "Umberto Eco". He was guest editor of "Rivista di Estetica", 2, 2019 (Sciences of Future). He has held lectures and conferences in numerous national and international universities and institutions (Genoa, Rome, Milan, Venice, Skopje, Zagreb, Lisbon, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Berlin, Beirut, Belgrade, Stockholm, Manchester, Rijeka, Dubrovnik). He was a visiting scholar at the Collège des Humanités of EPFL-Lausanne (February-June 2017). Between 2005 and 2014 he worked as a consultant for the Metropolitan Urban Center (UCM) of Turin, dealing in particular with the support of urban design and planning projects, in relation with the Municipality of Turin and other metropolitan administrations.

Guest of Honor

Biljana Angelova

Prof. Dr. Biljana Angelova is the Rector of "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje

Ana Trombeva Gavriloska

Prof. Dr. Ana Trombeva Gavriloska is the President of the Advisory Board of Center of Advanced and Postdoctoral Research at "Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje