The Practice of Architectural Research

*Perspectives on Design
and its Relation to History and Theory*

*International Symposium
8 - 9 October 2020*

Proceedings

KU LEUVEN   Universiteit Antwerpen   fwo

Thursday 8th of October

09h00 Introduction
+ Caroline Voet, conference chair, Assistant Professor at Faculty / Department of Architecture, KU Leuven

**09h15
-
10h30** Keynote lecture: The Mysteries Encountered when Finding Reality
Helen Thomas, editor, Senior Research Fellow at Department of Architecture, ETH Zürich
+ Dialogue moderated by organisers Caroline Voet and Eireen Schreurs (PhD Candidate KU Leuven, University of Antwerp, TU Delft)

**10h30
-
12h00** Session 1A: Positioning the Discursive Practice (chair Lara Schrijver, Professor at the Faculty of Design Sciences, University of Antwerp)

+ Irina Davidovici, Switzerland / Senior Researcher at ETH Zürich
The discipline of concept and the judgement of the eye: pedigrees of form in architectural practice.

+ Wouter Van Acker, Belgium / Associate Professor at Faculty of Architecture La Cambre-Horta, ULB
The Nine-Square Grid: The Surviving Image of an Architecture without Content

+ Fatma Tanis, The Netherlands / PhD candidate at TU Delft
Sedad Hakkı Eldem as a Cosmopolitan Individual: Research, Writing, and Practice in the formation of Turkish Modernism

**13h30
-
15h00** Session 1B: Positioning the Discursive Practice (chair Lara Schrijver)

+ Louis Mayes, United Kingdom / Architectural designer, writer, Blueprint, The Cass
Searching for the Essential - Sketching, Drawing, Designing

+ Patrick Lynch, United Kingdom / Lynch Architects, Honorary Professor at University of Liverpool
The Poetics of Interpretation: Hermeneutics + Participation + Reflection

+ Carlo Menon, Belgium / Accattone magazine and PhD candidate at The Bartlett School of Architecture, London
Agency and Critical Editorial Devices in Recent Little Architecture Magazines

**15h15
-
16h55** Session 2A: The Tools of the Discursive Practice (chair David Vanderburgh, Professor at the Faculté d'architecture, UCLouvain)

+ Cathelijne Nuijsink, The Netherlands / Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta), ETH Zürich /Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow
Rem Koolhaas' House with No Style: the 1992 Shinkenchiku Residential Design Competition Forging a "Space of Ideas"

+ Elke Couchez, Belgium / Lecturer in History and Theory of Architecture at the University of Hasselt
Architects who read, ILAUD and the Predicaments of Direct Experience

+ Pauline Lefebvre, Belgium / Chargée de recherches FNRS, Faculté d'Architecture de l'ULB
Values in the making. Observing architects crafting their discourse

**17h00
-
18h30** Session 2B: The Tools of the Discursive Practice (chair David Vanderburgh)

+ Harold Fallon, Belgium / Assistant Professor KU Leuven, partner at AgwA
+ Benoît Vandenbulcke, Belgium / Assistant Professor ULiège, partner at AgwA
+ Benoît Burquel, Belgium / ULB and partner at AgwA
Distributed artefacts: found in Translation

+ Sepideh Karami, United Kingdom / Simpson Postdoctoral Fellow - ESALA, Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
Starting from the Mess. The "Environment-Worlds" of Architectural Research and Design

+ Simon Henley, United Kingdom / Architects Henley Halebrown, postgraduate unit master/ PhD by Practice Kingston School of Art
Façade studies

20h00 Keynote lecture: Architectural Research as a Key to Understanding Buildings
Wilfried Wang, Professor at University of Texas at Austin, School of Architecture
+ Dialogue moderated by Caroline Voet and Sofie De Caigny (Director Flanders Architecture Institute)

Distributed Artefacts:
Found in Translation

"We decided to (...) reflect further on non-hierarchical relationships between verbal and non-verbal content, on the nature of such mixed contributions and on (...) their irreducibility to verbal forms."

Harold Fallon, Benoît Vandenbulcke and Benoît Burquel

Harold Fallon (1977) graduated as a Civil Engineer Architect at UCL in 2001. He co-founded AgwA architecture office in Brussels in 2003. Harold is lecturing and researching at the KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture since 2007. His PhD in architecture at the RMIT (au) researches the design strategies rooted at the heart of the practice and the relationships with the literary practice of poet Francis Ponge as inspirational force.

Together with:

Benoît Vandenbulcke (1978) graduated as a Civil Engineer Architect at UCL in 2001. He co-founded AgwA architecture office in Brussels in 2003. His PhD in architecture at the UCLouvain departs from research on his practice at AgwA and makes use of the tools of a designing architect to engage with the work of Sanaa, Zumthor and Herzog & De Meuron. He is currently professor at the faculty of Architecture of ULiège since 2017.

Benoît Burquel (1981) graduated as a Civil Engineer Architect at ULiège in 2005. He obtained a Master of Human Settlements from the KU Leuven in 2007. After lecturing and researching at ULiège in 2014-2017, he currently lectures at ULB. He co-organized the summer schools "Real Estate Architecture" running from 2016 until 2018. He is a partner of AgwA architects since 2017.

In fall 2020 a first peer-reviewed selection of articles will be published following the conference "Practices in Research". In this publication, practicing architects were asked to develop a reflection upon the nature of the interaction between their practice and their research. They were explicitly invited to make explorative use of text and illustrations, with the objective to overcome the traditional duality and hierarchy between word and image. In this experiment, the contributors developed very specific layouts, that were translated afterwards to fit a template for the publication.

The layouts seemed crucial to convey the content, and even participated in the relevance of the contributions. The exercise of translation challenged the understanding of the nature of such contributions. In these contributions the visual content and the layout could not be reduced to the status of illustration of the text.
We decided to grasp the opportunity to reflect further on non-hierarchical relationships between verbal and non-verbal content, on the nature of such mixed contributions and on some consequences of their irreducibility to verbal forms. From there, the notion of "distributed artefact" is proposed and positioned, as well as a double and overlapping assessment of these distributed artefacts, including the verbal/logic consideration and the intersubjective appreciation of both content and form.

The article consists of a series of images and a text. They form two autonomous, interdependent, parallel and intersecting threads. The images punctuate the text following regular intervals.
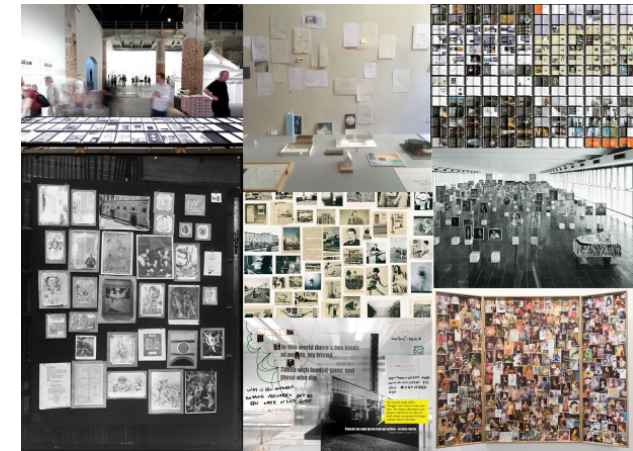
Mise en abyme distribuée

Lleft to right, top to bottom: 1. multiple authors, "Book of Copies", San Rocco, presented at the Venice Architecture Biennale, 2012; 2. Tomas Ooms, "Of Fragments: Taxonomic Landscapes: Markings of a Threefold Practice", CA2RE Ghent , 2017; 3. Gabriele Mastrigli, ""S,M,L,XL. Architecture of a Book", lecture, Kent State University ; 4. Aby Warburg, Mnemosyne Atlas, 1924-1929; 5. Gerhardt Richter, "Atlas", 1962-2013, reproduced in David Burnett, "The order of Memory: Gerhard Richter's 'Atlas'", Queensland Art Gallery Blog, 2017; 6. Lina Bo Bardi, view of the gallery of the MASP by Paolo Gasparini, Colección Instituto Bardi /Casa de Vidro São Paulo, 1970; 7. Harold Fallon, "Tought and Action", in "Metarbitrariness?", PhD These, RMIT, 2012; 8. Hans-Peter Feldman, "Seated women in paintings", 2008.