

2018 FOUNDERS' AWARD

Sabine von Fischer

"A Visual Imprint of Moving Air: Methods, Models, and Media in Architectural Sound Photography, ca. 1930"

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This year's Founders' Award provides a wonderful challenge to the ocular hegemony of architectural history. It shows us how we might begin to recuperate that which we cannot see—in this case what we hear—when discussing architecture. As such, this essay provides an important addition to what has become a growing discourse in the history of the built environment as the so-called sensory turn has begun to influence the discipline.

In the process of writing the essay Sabine von Fischer provides an important historiographic lesson—she makes transparent how she found out what she did—uncovering by chance an album of sound photographs in the archives of Franz Max Oswald, Switzerland's expert in applied acoustics. Von Fischer's analysis expands the definition of photography to demonstrate how the non-visual senses claim a presence in its presumed visual objectivity.

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