SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

CALL FOR PAPERS
Society of Architectural Historians
2026 Annual International Conference
April 15–19 in Mexico City, Mexico

Conference Chair: Swati Chattopadhyay, SAH Vice President, University of California, Santa Barbara

The Society of Architectural Historians is now accepting abstracts for its 79th Annual International Conference in Mexico City, Mexico, April 15–19, 2026. **Please submit an abstract no later than 11:59 p.m. CDT on June 5, 2025,** to one of the 54 thematic sessions, the Graduate Student Lightning Talks or the Open Sessions for the Mexico City conference. SAH encourages submissions from architectural, landscape, and urban historians; museum curators; preservationists; independent scholars; architects; scholars in related fields; and members of SAH chapters, Affiliate Groups and partner organizations.

Thematic sessions and Graduate Student Lightning Talks (GSLT) are listed below. The session selection committee reviewed the submitted proposals and composed a program that represents a range of time periods and will be illustrative of wide regional distribution. If your research topic is not a good fit for one of the thematic sessions, please submit your abstract to the Open Sessions; Open Sessions are available for those whose research topic does not match any of the thematic sessions. Please note that those submitting papers for the Graduate Student Lightning Talks must be graduate students at the time the talk is being delivered (April 15– 19, 2026). Instructions and deadlines for submitting to thematic sessions, GSLT and Open Sessions are the same.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Confirmed 2026 Session Chairs are not eligible to submit to the Call for Papers
2. Abstracts must be under 300 words.
3. The title cannot exceed 65 characters, including spaces and punctuation.
4. Abstracts and titles must follow the Chicago Manual of Style.
5. Only one abstract per conference by an author or co-author may be submitted.
6. A maximum of three (3) authors per abstract will be accepted.
7. Please attach a two-page CV in PDF format.

Abstracts are to be submitted online using the link below.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT

Abstracts should define the subject and summarize the argument to be presented in the proposed paper. The content of that paper should be the product of well-documented original research that is primarily analytical and interpretive, rather than descriptive in nature. Papers cannot have been previously published or presented in public except to a small, local audience (under 100 people). All abstracts will be held in confidence during the review and selection process, and only the Session Chair and Conference Chair will have access to them.

All Session Chairs have the prerogative to recommend changes to the abstract to ensure it addresses the session theme, and to suggest editorial revisions to a paper in order to make it satisfy session guidelines. It is the responsibility of the Session Chairs to inform Speakers of those guidelines, as well as of the general expectations for participation in the session and the annual conference. Session Chairs reserve the right to withhold a paper from the program if the author has not complied with those guidelines.

Please Note: Each Speaker and Session Chair is expected to fund their own travel and expenses to Mexico City, Mexico. SAH has a limited number of conference fellowships for which Speakers and Session Chairs may apply. However, SAH's funding is not sufficient to support the expenses of all Speakers and Session Chairs. Speakers and Session Chairs must register and establish membership in SAH for the 2026 conference by **September 30, 2025** and are required to pay the non-refundable conference registration fee as a show of their commitment.

Mexico City Key Dates

June 5, 2025	Abstract submission deadline
July 31, 2025	Session Chairs complete notification to all persons who submitted abstract regarding status of submission.
August 14, 2025	Session chair and speaker registration opens
August 14, 2025	Annual Conference Fellowship applications open
September 30, 2025	Deadline for speaker and session chair registration (non-refundable) and membership in SAH
September 30, 2025	Deadline for conference fellowship applications
January 6, 2026	Speakers submit complete drafts of papers to session chairs
January 13, 2026	Early registration opens and you may now add events to your existing registration and/or sign up for tours
February 10, 2026	Session chairs return papers with comments to speakers
April 1, 2026	Speakers complete any revisions and distribute copies of their paper to the session chair and the other session speakers
April 15-19, 2026	SAH 2026 Annual International Conference Mexico City, Mexico Hilton Mexico City reforma

List of Paper Sessions

2026 Sessions

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Architecture and Democracy
Architecture and Jurisdiction
Architecture, Bodies, Resistance
Architectures of the Indentured
Arctic Architecture and Urbanism
Bad Buildings: Writing the Stories of Difficult Architecture
Beyond Paradigms: "Feminine" Pedagogy in Architectural Education
Border Construct: Political Objects, Regional Imaginaries and Architectural Agency
Building the Supply Chain
Counter-narratives: Architectural Histories from/with the Caribbean
Cultural Entanglements: European and Ibero-American Baroque Architecture
Earthwork: From the Ground to Architecture
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Paper Session Descriptions

Afterlife of Byzantine Architecture in the Era of Modernity

Since the mid-ninteenth century, an intriguing revival of Byzantine architecture has taken place across Europe, the USA and beyond. Various buildings associated with Byzantine architecture in different ways have been integrated into urban landscapes, not only because of their striking silhouettes but also due to the layers of symbolic meaning they carry. Examples include Sainte-Marie-Majeure in Marseilles (1852-93), Westminster Cathedral in London (1893-1903), Notre-Dame d'Afrique in Algiers (1858-72), the National Shrine in Washington D.C. (1919-61), the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour in Moscow (1883; 2000), and the War Memorial in Canberra (1927-41). A clear understanding of this rich and versatile tradition remains elusive, however, largely due to historiographical reluctance to incorporate the Byzantine legacy into discussions of modern architecture.

This session invites papers that explore the formal and conceptual references to Byzantine architecture as part of a broader, kaleidoscopic vision of architectural modernity, where historical allusions and neo-styles are considered inherently modern phenomena. These references encompass a wide range of elements and patterns often ambiguously identified and collectively referred to as Byzantine. They may also reflect theoretical connections to the values of modern architecture, such as rationalism, logical tectonics, simplicity, and abstraction. Notably, the modern Byzantine discourse played a role in shaping power and identity within various social and political contexts, including nationalism and imperialism, clericalism and messianism, monarchism and conservatism.

The foundational premise of this session rests on a paradox: a discrepancy between "Byzantine" as an all-encompassing term for the dissenting variety of architecture and the plurality of its meanings. Contributors are invited to explore disparate legacies of Byzantine references in the world's architecture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as evidenced in a diverse array of sacred and secular buildings.

Session Chair(s): Aleksandar Ignjatovic, University of Belgrade

Architectural Heritage in War and Displacement

On the 70th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, this session intends to interrogate the ways architectural history relates to war and displacement. The world is currently experiencing one of the biggest forced displacements in history—117.3 million refugees in 2023. War and displacement are associated with both genocide (the systematic destruction of a group of people) and epistemicide (the systematic destruction of ways of knowing). As a tangible source of knowledge, architecture—from religious monuments to vernacular

houses—is among the most common targets of cultural heritage intentionally destroyed, desecrated, looted, and exploited for political agendas.

This session invites little-known and under-represented case studies from recent and past displacements around the world to investigate questions around three themes: a) Theoretical: What constitutes architectural heritage worth saving – and for whom? How can architectural history be used and abused in the fight for power? When does architecture become a negotiation tool for "reconciliation" and "peace-building" and what are the implications for state and non-state stakeholders? b) Experiential: How can lost architectures be embedded in collective memory? What is the difference between experiencing, knowing, and remembering, and how do these manifest in the study of decolonized histories? c) Ethical: How can historians advocate for the protection of architectural heritage considering the insurmountable human suffering and loss of lives during war? What values should drive decisions around how to respond when heritage is in danger of being lost?

Session Chair(s): Tasoulla Hadjiyanni, University of Minnesota

Architectural Histories of Expansive Families

The normative family order has been critiqued from multiple directions in recent years. Authors Sophie Lewis and M. E. O'Brien have re-engaged feminism's call for family abolition. Scholars in queer and trans theory including Jack Halberstam have argued that "[q]ueer uses of time and space develop [...] in opposition to the institutions of family." Kim TallBear demonstrated how the imposition of Western, heteronormative family models under industrial and racial capitalism work "through particular intersections of race, class, and gender […] to increase certain human populations and not others," operating not only as a technology of colonial violence against Indigenous people but also of global ecological destruction. The family has long been critiqued in Marxist discourse, from Silvia Federici famously arguing in the 1960s for care and housework as wage labor, to Antonio Hardt and Michael Negri considering the family a "corruption of the common." In architectural spaces and histories, however, the nuclear family has maintained a strangle-hold on conceptualizations of domesticity, despite only 33% of the world's population living in such arrangements.

This panel asks what ways of care, reproduction, inter-generationality, community-making, interspecies kinship, and love emerge when we think of architecture beyond nuclear families? What spatial and architectural analogs can we foreground in histories that urgently need telling? What ways of refusal and resistance can be extrapolated from these histories in relation to the dominant social, economic, and cultural norms of their times?

We welcome papers from all periods and regions in the world exploring feminist

discourses of family abolition, queer familiality, Indigenous and decolonial critiques of the nuclear family, communities and histories of self-governance, architectures that center—as Michel Foucault articulated—"friendship as a way of life," intentional elder and intergenerational living communities, and domestic spaces for extended or polyamorous families and more-than-coupled bonds.

Session Chair(s): Sergio Preston, Princeton University; and S. E. Eisterer, Princeton University

Architecture Against Empire in the Early Modern Atlantic World

From the establishment of European colonies in the Americas and West Africa in the sixteenth century to the revolutionary political changes of the 1790s, innovative and alternative spatial practices emerged as forms of resistance to the colonial project on both sides of the Atlantic. In Northeast America, the Iroquois Confederacy reorganized its settlements into decentralized networks for mutual communication and defense. In colonial Brazil, runaway enslaved individuals transformed remote environments into self-governing quilombos fortified with palisades, traps, and concealed pathways. Across the ocean, in present-day Ghana, the people of Gwollu developed fire-resistant, baked-earth roofs to repel slave traders, while in the Kingdom of Dahomey (modern Benin), whole villages relocated to delta waterways, utilizing a landscape known only by locals to elude European incursions. Often culturally hybrid, these "extra-colonial" communities reconfigured their built environment to assert autonomy, remaining entangled with but not fully dominated by colonial authorities. Far more than refuges, these spaces embodied both local and transatlantic knowledge and gave physical expression to political projects rooted in collective decision-making, foresight, and social creativity.

This session invites papers that explore how architecture was reimagined as both a site of resistance and a medium for social experimentation across the early modern Atlantic World. We welcome contributions that consider the broad spectrum of Indigenous, African Diasporic, and other alternative knowledge systems, spatial practices, and material techniques that supported the creation and reproduction of autonomous spaces, whether in direct opposition to colonial systems or operating independently of them. Papers may critically engage with images, maps, oral histories, cosmologies, archaeological and archival records to examine: the design of collective settlements or individual structures that sustained resistance and social reorganization; the development of building techniques and material skills for defense; and the use of natural features and environmental adaptation to create communication networks and fortification systems.

Session Chair(s): Lorenzo Gatta, University College London; and Harvey Shepherd, The Courtauld Institute of Art

Architecture and Capital in Spanish America, 1500 to 1700

Spanish colonial rule in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries radically transformed the built environment of the Americas. Long-standing settlements on the islands of the Caribbean and in the varied landscapes of Mesoamerica and the Andes were modified and, in some cases, supplanted by cities with conspicuous institutional structures like churches, town halls, and palaces housing courtrooms, prisons, and treasuries. Ports built on coastal sites were bounded with imposing walls and towers, and towns conceived as centers for the mining of metals and the production of sugar and other commodities had their own distinctive infrastructures.

The construction and maintenance of a network of towns in the Americas was an expensive venture. It required the acquisition and transportation of building materials such as stone, wood, and metal together with the marshalling of heterogeneous work forces that included experienced wage earners alongside enslaved persons forced to labor without remuneration. A consideration of the economics of architecture in the Spanish empire in the period ca. 1500 to 1700 provides new insights into our understanding of this enterprise. For this session, we seek papers that explore architecture and capital through the study of individual buildings, building types, or urban centers in places subjected to Spanish colonial rule in North and South America.

Session Chair(s): Jesús Escobar, Northwestern University; and Michael Schreffler, University of Notre Dame

Architecture and Democracy

The relationship between architecture and democracy has been a long-standing subject of academic inquiry, broadly categorized into two perspectives. The first adopts a critical stance, emphasizing the limitations—and sometimes the impossibility—of architecture embodying democratic principles. This perspective highlights how architecture is frequently appropriated to support anti-democratic agendas, reinforcing authoritarian power structures and enabling spatial practices that inhibit democratic engagement. In contrast, the second perspective offers a more optimistic but narrower view, focusing on democracy through the lenses of access, participation, and inclusivity. Advocates of this approach emphasize designing spaces that enhance public accessibility, foster participatory processes, and address marginalized voices. This view, however, often fails to account for systemic forces, such as economic structures and governance, that fundamentally shape the relationship between architecture and democracy. Ignoring these broader dynamics constrains architecture's capacity to meaningfully advance democratic ideals. Within this discourse, specific architectural typologies, particularly parliament buildings and public spaces, have received considerable attention. Parliament buildings are often seen as physical embodiments of democracy, yet critics contest this notion, arguing that architecture as a material form cannot embody meanings. Instead, architecture can represent various fluid and contingent meanings shaped by shifting

social, cultural, and historical contexts. Historical analysis of public spaces, similarly, evoke the democratic ideal of the ancient Greek agora, ignoring the inherent racial and gender exclusions that attend the use of public space.

This session invites papers that explore how architecture facilitates democratic ideals, values, and spatial practices. Papers that analyze architectural or urban examples—particularly from the twentieth century onward—through socio-political and/or economic lenses, mapping the spatial contours of democracy and its complexities are welcome.

Session Chair(s): Farzaneh Haghighi, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

Architecture and Jurisdiction

This session addresses architecture's relationship to legal authority—or jurisdiction. The concept of jurisdiction directly applies to the architecture profession through legal mechanisms that have historically authorized and regulated the practice. But the relationship between jurisdiction and architecture also extends beyond the discipline, as architecture's material and medial operations reconfigure how legal authority itself is instantiated. For example, state projects demarcating public and private property have historically taken place through the building of enclosures, railroads, or national parks. Particular architectural forms such as those at Native reservations, Mission courtyards, border checkpoints, or military camps have played key roles in the enrollment of peoples as either legal subjects, citizens, or enemies of the state.

This session engages with architectural histories that question the making (and unmaking) of legal authority across political borders. How has architecture contributed to making jurisdictional infrastructure legible? We want to reflect on comparative case studies where jurisdictional conflicts, asymmetries, and overlaps between different legal authorities have come together in building projects. We are interested in architecture's jurisdictional effects both in its immediate material manifestation (i.e., the building), and as implicated in legal systems that necessarily extend beyond that building.

We invite papers that center an interdisciplinary approach to histories of jurisdiction and architecture, by examining projects that reify, reconstruct, or reconfigure contested legal authority. We are particularly interested in issues surrounding the governance of Indigenous land and resources, including material or immaterial disputes (such as cultural practices in place); the governance of property and natural resources (and their definition, demarcation, extraction and exploitation across regions); and jurisdictional conflicts made visible through architectural, urban, or regional planning projects. Our geographic scope is broad; case studies from any place from the eighteenth century onwards are welcome.

Session Chair(s): Lisa Haber-Thomson, Mount Holyoke College; and Manuel Shvartzberg Carrió, University of California, San Diego

Architecture, Bodies, Resistance

The genocide, ethnic cleansing, and destruction of built environments in occupied Palestine and Syria show in real time settler colonialism's relentless attempts to maintain and expand its territorial grasp. Far too frequently, news of bombed and destroyed homes, hospitals, schools, and camps break through a complicit mass media, reaching a global body that demands an end to imperialist occupation. These reports attest to violence upon architecture becoming a means to destroy bodies, communities, histories, humanity.

In its past and present forms, colonialism has cemented itself on historiographic voids: on the failure of hegemonic narratives to denounce its violent dispossession and on the deliberate Othering of Indigenous knowledges. And yet, never consumed by this violence, the bearers of these knowledges construct their own histories and their own resistances through a variety of tactics. In the words of Linda Tabar (2024), occupied peoples' stories "exceed settler colonial attempts to shrink them conceptually and physically."

This panel seeks papers investigating forms of resistance against occupation. We are interested in the wide range of efforts that inform pressing conversations on genocide and urbicide, as well as analytical tools that can enrich these ongoing concerns. We welcome understudied, overlooked, and marginalized examples across geographies and temporalities, as well as the myriad forms in which resistance unfolds, adapts, and persists: ephemeral and self-restituted architectures, spatial and collective practices that reconfigure landscapes, buildings, and social conditions, as well as bodies reshaping or becoming architecture, among many others. We invite proposals that engage tensions between bodies and infrastructures, providing insights into countering and challenging regimes of power and destruction.

Session Chair(s): Tania Gutiérrez-Monroy, University of British Columbia; and Elijah Borrero, Louisiana State University

Architectures of the Indentured

Following the gradual abolition of slavery in the nineteenth century, indentured servitude became the dominant labor system powering economic progress across the world. At least 50 million people from Asia, Africa, and the Pacific Islands, many of whom were bound by debt, migrated to the Americas, Australia, and European colonies on different continents between 1840 and 1940, fulfilling the global demand for workforces. As numerous as the lives affected by this intercontinental labor trade were buildings connected to their migration. Indentured workers' labor was essential to the making of a wide range of structures, including transcontinental railroads in North America and colonial plantations in Southeast Asia. The indentured labor system also enrolled places such as lodging houses in China and brokers' depots in British Malaya into new networks

for labor recruitment. Yet indentured workers also produced other sites and activities that did not serve the economic motives of their employers. Their presence, for instance, brought about spiritual and entertainment areas to their work destinations; meanwhile, their remittance money paid for constructions and even funded political resistances at home, such as in the case of the Ghadar Movement in India.

This session calls for papers dealing with architectures of the indentured in any geographic region. Whereas scholars have shed light on the role of spatial practice in the history of slavery, we seek to foster conversations on approaches, theories, issues, and case studies that bring new perspectives to our understanding of architecture and labor after the abolition of slavery. We invite works that address social, political, financial, cultural, technological, material, and other aspects of the indentured labor system, foregrounding buildings and environments that conditioned indentured workers and/or embodied their agencies in the making of the modern world.

Session Chair(s): Robin Hartanto Honggare, National University of Singapore; and Javairia Shahid, Columbia University

Arctic Architecture and Urbanism

The Arctic is changing. Destructive forces of climate change unleashed by human overconsumption of fossil fuels—particularly in the Global North—have become an undeniable part of the landscape and people's everyday lives in the region. As Elena Glasberg (2012) has phrased it, the world is "becoming polar:" we must now center the formerly peripheralized polar regions to understand the future that awaits the rest of our heating planet. As ice continues to melt, making the Arctic Ocean increasingly accessible, extractivist agendas seeking new resource opportunities and military threats posed by new frontlines are emerging. These dynamics are causing significant shifts in Arctic geopolitics, exemplified by US President Trump's neo-imperialist threats to annex, purchase, or use economic and military force to gain control of land in the Arctic.

In recent years the growing interdisciplinary field of Critical Arctic Studies has cultivated an awareness of the history, culture, indigeneity, geography, politics, and more-than-human life of a region too long understudied, essentialized, and othered. As new Arctic histories materialize, the nationalist and colonial separations imposed on the region—often enforced by cartographic abstractions—are being stitched back together, forming a new Arctic awareness and suggesting alternative Arctic futures.

Architectural and urban scholarship about the region is a crucial and still emerging aspect of these academic efforts. This panel seeks contributions that critically examine the historical and/or contemporary built environment of the Arctic and the wider Circumpolar North, including how it relates to the region's multiple specificities. We invite papers that engage cultural, aesthetic, environmental, and methodological approaches, or any other

perspective that can highlight underexplored themes of Arctic architecture and urbanism. Interdisciplinary studies that include Indigenous perspectives and/or postcolonial/decolonial approaches are particularly encouraged.

Session Chair(s): Frederik Braüner, University of California, Berkeley; and Anne Romme, Royal Danish Academy

Bad Buildings: Writing the Stories of Difficult Architecture

How do we engage with "problem" architecture? This session seeks papers that investigate the afterlives of buildings representing negative, controversial or traumatic phenomena and cultural moments. It will explore the questions of ambiguity, uncertainty, destruction or neglect that have arisen when a society is faced with the architectural relics of a past occurrence it would prefer to forget. Often such buildings are allowed to molder into decay, as in the well-publicized case of Germany's unsuccessful attempts to dispose of Joseph Goebbels's former villa. Alternatively, they are preserved as partially sanitized remnants of a time carefully demarcated as the past, such as the plantation museums of the American South. A building might be publicly torn down as a symbolic act of regime change, with pieces taken as trophies, as was done in 1789 at the Bastille in Paris. Individual buildings can become "bad" through neglect or decline, such as the infamous Ponte Tower of Johannesburg, which amassed nearly five stories of trash in its hollow, circular core as white flight transformed the inner city in the 1980s. They might also become sanctified by disaster, potentially limiting the histories that can be written about them, as in Minoru Yamasaki's much-maligned World Trade Center. The narratives of such buildings are bound to the traumas they symbolize, making the process of critical analysis inseparable from the distress that the buildings represent.

We invite proposals of two types: direct histories of problem architectures, and historiographic studies focused on the reception of difficult buildings. Papers should directly engage with the objectionable or challenging historical aspects of the architecture. We are interested in reevaluations of well-known structures and buildings whose negative reputation that may be less-known to an international audience. Transnational comparative studies are particularly welcomed. There is no restriction on time period or geography.

Session Chair(s): Lindsay Blair Howe, Technical University of Munich; and Cara Rachele, ETH Zurich

Beyond Paradigms: "Feminine" Pedagogy in Architectural Education

On May 18th, 2024, the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania awarded Ms. Huiyin Lin with a posthumous Bachelor of Architecture degree since the university did not admit female students until 1934. Lin would go on to significantly contribute to the development of modern architectural education in China and was

instrumental in compiling the first comprehensive history of Chinese architecture. Her legacy prompts a broader reflection on emerging paradigms that challenge the field's traditionally male-dominated frameworks. In recent years there has been a profound shift in architectural education, driven not merely by demographic changes—as reflected in an increase of female faculty in architecture schools globally—but by a fundamental reconfiguration of architectural thought.

This panel explores the transformative impact of "feminine" pedagogy in contemporary architectural education, considering how it disrupts patriarchal structures, historical/theoretical interpretations and studio dynamics that have long underpinned the discipline. Rather than focusing solely on demographic representation, the panel delves into how this paradigm shift encourages multiplicity, hybridity, and messiness while dismantling existing linear, singular, and "objective" architectural canons, and fosters destabilized, non-systematic approaches to knowledge production. Submissions may include recent historical accounts of "feminine" teaching in architecture, and/or reflections on the ongoing pedagogical experiments that embrace fluid and interpretive methods. This panel encourages participants to integrate locally situated challenges posed by patriarchal frameworks, recognizing that each cultural context offers distinct obstacles and opportunities, and especially welcomes voices and examples from underrepresented regions.

Session Chair(s): Dijia Chen, University of Melbourne

Organized by SAH Women in Architecture Affiliate Group

Border Construct: Political Objects, Regional Imaginaries and Architectural Agency

This session critically examines the role of architect-technicians and their use of innovative architectural typologies, urban interventions, and theoretical provocations in shaping the planning, administration, and perception of the México/United States border from its initial delineation to the present. The border is explored as both a physical site and a fluid political, cultural, and psychological construct, inviting diverse interpretations while prioritizing analyses of its complex social dynamics and political/material economies. Recognizing the role of architects as planners and urbanists in shaping the México/United States border, this session invites papers on regional, urban and architectural histories that highlight the evolution of border-related institutions and offices. It interrogates the complicity of architecture and its designers in systems of power, focusing on the built environment's role in reinforcing or challenging the political, social, and economic dynamics of the border.

The session focuses on large-scale, multi-site architectural projects that address the border as both a political barrier or object of contention, as well as the border's expansive role as a loosely defined zone or infrastructural network that shapes peoples, products,

and environments. This perspective moves beyond viewing the border as a fixed entity to consider its expansive influence as a region. Papers may address the development of the border as a region shaped by ideologies of territorial communication and administration, fiscal and infrastructural policies, migration concerns, security-state mechanisms, broadly defined ports-of-entry and their respective micro-economies, natural resource extraction and its environmental impact, and efforts at border "beautification" as an interface of engagement.

Session Chair(s): Germán Pallares Avitia, Rhode Island School of Design; and Albert José Antonio López, University of New Mexico

Building the Supply Chain

Over the past century, supply chain capitalism has reordered modern life as we know it, establishing a "global factory" and spanning vast distances with new circulatory systems, including networks of warehouses, shipping routes, cargo terminals, and communications centers. This so-called "logistics revolution" sees companies strategically locating their production sites to boost profits and undercut labor organizing. The resulting transformations in manufacture and distribution allow builders to ship architectural components in various stages of fabrication, dictating new architectural economies of labor, scale, and materiality.

This panel convenes historians of the built environment who engage with supply chain capitalism in their scholarship. We intend to look broadly at the many architectural ramifications of supply chain systems throughout the modern period and across the globe. We seek multidisciplinary submissions locating supply chain logics not only in built and bureaucratic documentation but also in works of visual and material culture. We share the following questions to motivate thinking on the subject, but all relevant submissions are welcome.

• How does supply chain capitalism reproduce spatial regimes and material value systems that support hegemonic social hierarchies? How does it exacerbate extant inequities, like labor exploitation and environmental degradation?

• How does positionality along a supply chain concretize advantageous or vulnerable subject positions?

• What have architectural workers done to disrupt, stop, or otherwise reorganize supply chains? Papers about laborers in understudied contexts (e.g. the Global South; rural, poor, and informal building cultures; enslaved, incarcerated, and otherwise oppressed workers) are especially welcome.

• What methods allow historians to recover evidence of building expertise otherwise rendered invisible by exploitative supply chains?

• What approaches help us return a wider range of earthen, natural, and elemental histories to scholarship on modern building materials and supply systems?

Session Chair(s): Vyta Pivo, University of Miami; and Sam Dodd, Stony Brook University

Counter-narratives: Architectural Histories from/with the Caribbean

This session foregrounds the Caribbean as a site for counter-narratives in architectural history, challenging its persistent marginalization within colonial and global historiography. Far from being an isolated assemblage of islands (between the Americas and European architectural histories), the Caribbean is an expansive archipelago of poetic relations—interconnected spaces, diasporas, and atmospheres that defy notions of singularity and containment.

To examine architectural histories from and with the Caribbean is to confront the legacies of colonialism etched into its stolen artifacts, displaced lands, and banished peoples. It is to engage with histories of resistance and reclamation, where the region's decolonial imaginaries challenge dominant frameworks and demand methodologies that honor its layered complexity.

The session asks: What can be revealed when its histories are read contrapuntally, exposing ruptures, resistances, and alternative imaginaries? How can ancestral knowledge, cultural expressions, and material traces unsettle institutional frameworks such as syllabi, curatorial practices, and architectural studies?

We invite scholars, practitioners, and cultural producers to propose critical approaches by positioning the Caribbean as a site of architectural significance. Of particular interest are papers based on original research that position the region's architectural histories within the political, social, and cultural contexts of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Session Chair(s): Yazmín M. Crespo-Claudio, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Cultural Entanglements: European and Ibero-American Baroque Architecture

Ibero-American historiography tends to explain Spanish Baroque architecture as the outcome of purely internal Iberian developments. The rich surface decoration, which covers façades and retablos in particular, but sometimes also entire rooms, are explained by the Islamic and Morisco or Mudejar ornamentation and its continuation in the so-called Plateresque style of the sixteenth century, in short: by “invariantes castizos,” according to Fernando Chueca Goitia. Numerous motifs, however, appear to originate from the so-called “column books” of northern Alpine carpenter architects such as Wendel Dietterlin and Vredeman de Vries. Although John Moffitt rightly attributed the Spanish form of the Estípide to Dietterlin as early as 1984, the investigation of the paths of the German treatise to Spain and in Spain and the reasons for and contexts of its

reception have not yet been examined in detail. Moreover, the influences of northern alpine Mannerism on the Spanish Baroque go much further and were by no means limited to Dietterlin or the "column books," but also took place via other media and the exchange of artists, architects and patrons. But how did European mannerist and baroque forms and concepts reach Latin America?

By examining treatises, drawings and architects and their routes within Europe to Spain or between Spain and Latin America, this panel aims to contribute to a better understanding of artistic connections between geographically separated cultural areas in particular and to phenomena of cultural entanglement in general, in which culture is not transferred top down, but is only received on the basis of a certain disposition and transformed during the process. Both case studies and investigations of more general developments as well as methodological or historiographical contributions are welcome.

Session Chair(s): Berthold Hub, BHT Berlin/ETH Zurich

Earthwork: From the Ground to Architecture

Exploring the critical intersection of architecture and geoscience, this session focuses on how the ground—both as a physical and conceptual entity—actively shapes the design and construction process. The ground constitutes a material interface between the natural and built environments, from soil that sustains life to geological resources that can be extracted for human use. The way we build can reveal worldviews that are either more attuned to human experience or ecological interactions. While recent discourse has emphasized representations or extractive uses of the ground, we are particularly interested in how architecture has incorporated scientific or technical methods for understanding and manipulating the ground. How have site surveys, soil analyses, or seismic studies, for example, guided design concepts and decisions? Where might we begin to see reciprocal relationships between designers and the ground?

This session seeks to bridge disciplinary divides through in-depth case studies from a range of time periods and geographies, with a particular interest in collaborations combining design expertise with earth sciences. We understand earth science and engineering in a broad sense, encompassing not only formalized disciplines but also practices outside established professional boundaries. We welcome papers on topics such as: the construction of ancient and medieval subterranean cities; early modern intersections between geology and architecture; Indigenous knowledge systems and design in relation to land; techniques of earth-sheltered building; the underground as site of alternative communities and activism; experiments in earthquake-resistant structures incorporating movement; the development of bunker systems in anticipation of conflict; and underground architecture framed in terms of energy performance. Through this cross-disciplinary dialogue, we aim to highlight how the ground acts as a central protagonist in the design process across temporal and cultural realms.

Session Chair(s): Katerina Bong, University of Toronto; and Anna Renken, University of Toronto

Erasure and Resilience in Eastern European Architectures

The architecture of Eastern Europe—the region largely populated by Slavic peoples spanning between the German-speaking lands and the continent's customary borders on the Ural and the Caucasus—is today facing the most severe crisis since World War II. On the one hand, the military aggression in Ukraine has endangered inhabitants and jeopardized built environments—from vernacular architecture to socialist housing estates. On the other, the exacerbation of ideological polarization in response to the war has fueled historical revisionism across the region. It is reflected in attempts at whitewashing urban spaces through historicist restorations and erasing those resisting homogenization into nationalist narratives.

In response to this current crisis, the panel invites reflections on the global relevance of Eastern European architecture by prioritizing its transnational legacies. By testifying to cross-pollinating cultures and religions, including Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities, Eastern European architecture offers invaluable insights not only into the mechanisms of erasure carried out by imperialist and revisionist forces but also of extraordinary resilience in the face of such dramatic challenges. The resilience is evident in the international collaborations within the region and in the contributions of Eastern European diasporas across Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and South-East Asia. Building upon the methodologies developed by Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann (2004), Małgorzata Omilanowska (2011), Timothy Snyder (2005), and Łukasz Stanek (2020), the panel will serve as a platform for the contested and silenced dimensions of Eastern European architectural production that nation-based narratives both fail to address and actively seek to obliterate.

We welcome papers that expand, complicate, and contradict traditional narratives of Eastern European architecture in both early modern and modern periods. These might address, but are not limited to, questions of urban planning, provincial vs. colonial discourses, restoration and reconstruction, diaspora studies, unrealized projects, and the region's impact beyond its borders.

Session Chair(s): Aleksander Musiał, Princeton University; and Dimitrij Zadorin, Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Ethnoburbia: Built Landscapes of Suburban Migration

It has been thirty years since geographer Wei Li described post-1965 immigrant suburban settlements as ethnoburbs. In contrast to historic urban ethnic enclaves, such as Chinatown or Little Italy, ethnoburbs were not the result of segregation but were voluntarily chosen, typically by professional-class immigrants who could afford to purchase houses in suburbs. Ethnoburbs emerged in response to the 1965 Hart-Celler Immigration Act, the end of the Vietnam War, and continuing transnational flows of

people, investments, and goods. Perspectives on immigrant suburban landscapes are diverse, from theories of design assimilation to transnational urbanism and theming. Architectural and planning historians have identified both mainstream and distinctive ethnic spaces created by immigrants including developers, investors, shopkeepers, and social organizations. As more Americans live in suburban, car-oriented neighborhoods, our understanding of immigrant suburban environments requires new approaches to studying the links between segregation, mobility, and transnationalism. Most of the literature about the ethnoburb's built environment has focused on California, Vancouver, and Toronto, which have large Asian concentrations. We are interested in papers exploring the built landscapes of ethnoburbs in other parts of the United States and across global diasporic networks, especially those created by other ethnic groups. We welcome studies of diaspora that interrogate the relationship between local planning politics, interethnic solidarity and conflict, and the effect of generational change on heritage.

Session Chair(s): Erica Allen-Kim, University of Toronto; and Margaret Crawford, University of California, Berkeley

Farming Architecture Beyond the Farm

The agricultural sector has gained momentum in recent years among architectural historians for several reasons. Scholars have investigated the mechanisms of subordination used to colonize lands and people; they have historicized the intersection of architecture with scientific and political visions aimed at combating global hunger; they have applied historical architectural trajectories to investigate models of mono-agricultural economies (grain, sugar, coffee, cocoa, salt, mulberry, wheat, oats, rice, corn, tobacco) that, being still responsible for a high percentage of CO2 emissions worldwide, are undergoing processes of regenerative farming. Additionally, they have examined the instrumentality of land as a mechanism that perpetuates relationships of power. In so doing, "farming architecture" has been limited to the soil and spatialized as an infrastructure aimed at facilitating the production, storage, and trade of extracted resources and their post-produced goods across contexts (silos, mills, warehouses, depots, markets, ports).

Seeking to broaden and enrich ongoing discourse, this session invites contributions that explore alternative architectural historiographies "beyond the farm." It aims to investigate the crucial intertwining between the extraction of agricultural resources and the impact of the corresponding economies' accumulation of wealth on the built environment in contexts and circumstances far removed in space, time, instances, and even forms from what is usually meant by farming architecture.

The panel seeks papers that move beyond plantation lands and extraction sites, as well as beyond known colonial practices, contexts, and temporalities. We are particularly

interested in papers that follow the farming money over the long durée–from early modernity to the late nineteenth century in a global context—to unveil where farming economies affected the built environment in less-evident circumstances. Papers may highlight overlooked actors, agencies, taxation and labor practices that were instrumental in building, supporting, and promoting the reification of farming without ever touching the soil.

Session Chair(s): Angela Gigliotti, ETH Zurich; and Fabio Gigone, ETH Zurich

Feminist Routes: Views and Voices from the Global South

How do we center women, trans, and non-binary persons (womxn from hereon) in architectural histories of the Global South? Recent scholarship on the creative agency of womxn has proposed new research methods and radical reassessments of archives. Sensory and material studies, eco-feminism, and intersectionality have productively historicized womxn as builders, patrons, laborers, architects, preservationists, and custodians of space. Equally, new feminist praxes for conducting fieldwork, writing, and publishing are recalibrating architectural histories.

The discourse on intersectional feminisms has been advanced by individual scholars such as Alice Freedman, Despina Stratigakos, and Lori Burns, and collectives such as W@arch.pt and the Art and Architecture Collective. We invite papers that account for this feminist historiography, while amplifying new feminist and queer methodologies, innovative strategies of archival and field research, and scholarship that actively calls out or subverts the hidden patriarchies of our discipline. How do we make audible the historical resistance of women, queer, and nonbinary persons—in both their silent and spectacular forms, from stealth maneuvers to radical revolutions? How have womxn deployed building and landscape as processes of world-making? What are the feminist praxes of reading, writing, traveling, publishing, and co-creating knowledge? What methods or sites of study challenge the analytical categories of authorship, creative labor, episteme, and property, all of which have defined the discipline?

We regard the Global South not as a predetermined geography but an epistemic location from which new modalities of knowledge can be generated. To highlight polyvocal definitions of the Global South and feminism, we invite papers from a broad range of geographies, time periods, and subdisciplines. Likewise, we do not presuppose a set definition of feminism and encourage multiple articulations of the concept. Instead, we solicit submissions that triangulate the built environment with the twin frameworks of the Global South and feminism.

Session Chair(s): Mrinalini Rajagopalan, University of Pittsburgh; and Shundana Yusaf, University of Utah

Food Spaces of Migrant and Refugee Worlds

What spatial and architectural histories unfold at the intersection of food and migration? As people move—to seek asylum and refuge, pursue new economic opportunities, or through coercive forms of enslavement and indentured labor—food is central to (re)building lives. Disaster, war, and conflict continue to create refugees and immigrants at unheard scales, often accompanied by the ruination of their existing foodways. Conversely, migration is supercharged by extractive food industries. Meat, fruit, cereals, tea, coffee, and sugar are but some of the industries that command surplus, cheap, and dependable labor. The industrialization of food has shaped the landscapes and lifeworlds of migrants. People on the move compel histories that center the environmental degradation and structural violence wrought by capitalism and war. Migrant food spaces challenge established views of human-nature relationships and the racialized and ethnocentric biopolitics of feeding populations.

Seeking interdisciplinary spatial histories and new architectural methodologies of migrant food spaces beyond a biopolitical frame, we ask: How have the destruction of farms and food infrastructure, soil depletion, water contamination, and extreme weather created climate refugees? What new commodity histories and material histories of food, from the scale of empires to the spaces of refugee and migrant laborers, can we tell? How are warzones and territorial conflicts shaped by food blockades, humanitarian aid, and also refugee creativity in making new food spaces under extreme conditions. Acknowledging that migrant food spaces have existed across times and geographies, beyond the imperial world, we welcome diverse architectural and spatial histories as well as theorization of migratory food spaces. We encourage papers that consider post-plantation foodworlds, lifeworlds of migrants working in food industries and factories, reconstruction of communities in kitchens and on tables in foreign lands by refugees, and experimental itinerant writing that incorporates spaces of cooking, eating, growing, and nourishing through storytelling or fiction, and discusses the ethics of food-sharing and spaces of food plurality.

Session Chair(s): Ateya Khorakiwala, Columbia University; and Fatina Abreek-Zubiedat, Tel Aviv University

Foreign Aid, Architecture, and the Cold War

This session invites papers that focus on the built environment implicated in imperial ideologies and Cold War alliance-building in the decolonizing "Third World," extending into post-Soviet contexts and spanning a broad historical and geographical scope. It aims to examine how Cold War geopolitical and economic imperatives shaped foreign aid policies and programs, and how these intersected with architectural developments and spatial reconfigurations in so-called "underdeveloped" regions. Scholars are invited to explore the multifaceted configurations shaping architectural projects of foreign aid that were promoted as serving the people of recipient nations, and their repercussions. These

include built forms, material practices, spatial transformations, resource allocations, labor mobilizations, migrations, administrative bodies, and knowledge systems.

A deconstructive analysis of official narratives—specifically, the portrayal of aid propelling the transformation of "underdeveloped" territories and "colonized" populations toward progress and liberation—is critical for unveiling imperial motivations and their broader implications. Thus, examining the production and reconfiguration of Cold War architecture, both as a historically entrenched phenomenon and as a pressing contemporary issue enmeshed in global networks, constitutes a substantial historiographical and epistemological challenge. Equally vital is the decolonial task of uncovering micro-resistances within aid-driven architectural developments. The session particularly welcomes papers that interrogate the international, national, and local dynamics within these processes, illuminating how local actors negotiate, reshape, or contest foreign interventions.

Session Chair(s): Eun-Jeong Kim, Cornell University

From Living Organism to Silent Structure: Material and Environmental Perspectives on Wood in Premodern Architecture

Following the fire at Notre Dame in 2019, approximately 1,000 oaks—ranging from 150 to 200 years of age—were felled to rebuild the cathedral's spire and roof. At the intersection of natural and historical heritage, these majestic trees were sourced from carefully managed forests developed since the seventeenth century to support military shipbuilding and regularly harvested to enhance their productivity. The transformation of living wood into prepared timber witnessed the collision of ecological consciousness and anthropocentric values. Essential yet often side-lined in histories of premodern architecture, wood challenges us to rethink the discipline from the perspective of the more-than-human, the cyclical, and the living. This panel seeks to bridge three discourses that have animated the humanities in recent years: an interest in the symbolic meanings of materials; an acknowledgment of the agency of objects; and ecological concerns. How has construction with wood been understood across different times and cultures? How do buildings acquire meaning when viewed as "vibrant" configurations of human and non-human agents? How can we write histories of architecture that are attuned to the environmental benefits and costs of wood construction?

We invite papers exploring these and related questions across all geographic areas during the premodern period (from antiquity to ca 1750). We are particularly interested in contributions that combine material microhistories with methodological and theoretical considerations. Topics may include:

• premodern understandings of wood as a living material and its symbolic role in architecture

• forest management and the production, preservation, and commercialization of timber

• the use, recycling, and repurposing of wooden elements, such as scaffolding

• premodern uses of wood as a resilient material, for instance in disaster-prone areas

• processes of circulation, import/export, and adaptive reuse of wood in a global context

• timber and its exploitation as a site of oppression and resistance in colonial contexts.

Session Chair(s): Saida Bondini, University of Zurich; and Costanza Beltrami, Stockholm University

Geometry, Cosmology, and Architecture

This panel explores the motivations behind the use of geometrical systems by pre-modern builders. Monumental architecture demonstrates that builders across the globe were keenly aware of the forces the natural world placed on buildings long before Vitruvius. The existence of the pyramids in Egypt and palace/temple complexes in Shang and Zhou China demonstrate that essential building tools such as the gnomon, cord, plumb-bob, and water level had already been mastered by the artisans responsible for building them. But the geometries seen in early designs often go far beyond the technical requirements of structural stability and basic functionality. Were these complex geometries primarily an expression of artistic virtuosity? Or were they intended to display an awareness and mastery of celestial motion and natural law?

This panel seeks papers that explore the relationship between empirical observation of heaven and earth and the design of buildings. We are especially interested in case studies that shed light on the relationship between cosmology, mathematics, and design. We are also interested in the relationship between building geometry and the tools used for astronomical observation, as it implicates the connections between science, religion, and knowledge structures in pre-modern societies. How were the cardinally oriented and geometrically planned buildings of the past seen as reflecting transcendent knowledge and power? In what ways were early building complexes seen as mirroring the patterns of order in the cosmos as a whole? To what extent were early societies basing their imaginations of the cosmos on geometrical principles declared in their buildings? This session aims to generate a cross-cultural discussion of these issues, welcoming disparate examples dealing with the architecture of any society building before Galileo (1564-1642) and the advent of European scientific astronomy.

Session Chair(s): Tracy Miller, Vanderbilt University; and Robert Bork, University of Iowa

Graduate Student Lightning Talk

The Graduate Student Lightning Talks provide graduate students with the opportunity to

test ideas, refine thoughts, and enhance presentation skills among a circle of empathetic and supportive peers. This session is composed of up to 16 five-minute talks of approximately 650–700 words each that allow graduate students to introduce new and original research in various stages of progress. In their presentations, students are encouraged to raise questions over the direction of their investigations, explore methodology, or present challenges they have encountered in the development of their ideas. Papers should be clearly and concisely presented, with focused and well-chosen images, in order to encourage thoughtful feedback from the audience during the question and answer period. Students at both the master's and PhD levels are invited to apply by submitting a succinct abstract of no more than 300 words. Authors/co-authors must be graduate students at the time of the conference and must present in person at the session. The SAH Board of Directors' Graduate Student Representative serves as chair of these popular five-minute presentations.

Session Chair(s): TBD

Heritage Making in the Eastern Mediterranean

Heritage making, previously masked by the guise of historic preservation and perceived as a technical endeavor, is increasingly recognized as an intentional, complex, and contested practice. Heritage is entangled not only with top-down identity formations, territoriality, and the processes of nation and empire-building but also with acts of resistance, diasporic communities, and minority rights. Moreover, in recent decades, discussions around the repatriation of cultural artifacts and decolonization of museums, alongside the emergence of fields like critical heritage studies, have led to a layered understanding of "cultural heritage." Along those lines, critical evaluations of nineteenth- and twentieth-century restoration and conservation practices have highlighted the impact such interventions had in shaping heritage sites.

While heritage making has traditionally been seen as a modern concept that originated in Europe, this session challenges that perspective by scrutinizing heritage practices in the Eastern Mediterranean, with a focus on late Ottoman and contemporaneous West Asian and North African geographies. Potential topics may include queries about sites and monuments that served as tokens for emerging national identities among various communities, including Greeks, Bulgarians, Armenians, Serbs, Egyptians, and Arabs. We are also interested in explorations of different communities' collecting and display practices, as well as imaginaries associated with the reconfigurations of Ottoman imperial identities. Other areas of interest include the appropriations of palimpsestic monuments, such as the recontextualization of Byzantine edifices through Ottoman and Muslim agencies, alongside non-Muslim engagements with Islamic heritage. Examples of restoration, architectural reconstruction, and urban systematization that contributed to heritage formation are especially welcome. Additionally, long-term assessments of

monuments, collections, and heritage sites extending beyond the Ottoman era into their post-Ottoman contexts are encouraged. Critical inquiries into the literature on monuments and memory in the modern era compared to practices in the Eastern Mediterranean, and non-elite and indigenous perceptions of heritage, offer further avenues for exploration.

Session Chair(s): Belgin Turan Ozkaya, Middle East Technical University; and Nilay Özlü, Istanbul Technical University

Integrating Digital and Traditional Methods in Building Recording

Digital-assisted and automated modes of building documentation are rapidly transforming methods of recording architectural heritage worldwide. Technologies such as laser scanning, aerial drone survey, photogrammetry, and machine-learning for typological recognition can execute batch tasks quickly and reliably. Additionally, these technologies also redefine how

buildings and sites are represented, challenging the traditional goals and theoretical frameworks of historic preservation. While many scholars, such as Boguslawa Kwoczynska and Urszula Litwin (2016), and Mauro Lo Brutto (2021), advocate for the widespread adoption of digital methods in surveying historic buildings, others, including Paolo Vitti (2016), Joseph Williams (2023), and Wei Zhao (2022), emphasize the enduring value of traditional approaches, which build on the intellectual traditions of historians, archaeologists, and field architects, as well as ethnographic methods engaging local communities. These human-centered methods do not stop at measurement and illustration, but aim to record building rituals, design intent, artistic and construction processes, and the perceived meanings of place. It is critical to incorporate these human-centered insights into automated digital representations. This mix of approaches can play a vital role in shaping documentation strategies and understanding the historical and cultural significance of sites.

This session invites papers that critically examine the comparative merits of advanced digital tools and traditional survey methods in architectural documentation. Contributors are encouraged to present case studies from their own research projects, addressing one or more of the following questions: How do advanced digital technologies offer new perspectives on the built environment? What are the values of local knowledge in architectural recording? How do these methods handle visual communication, abstraction, and ways of representing uncertainty? How can traditional survey methods and ethnographic fieldwork be integrated with digital-assisted and automated modes of building documentation? We are particularly interested in papers that explore the challenges and opportunities of combining digital and human-centered methods, offering insights into innovative hybrid approaches that bridge these two realms.

Session Chair(s): Wei Zhao, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and Joseph Williams, University of Maryland

Interiority and Migration

Migration shapes spaces and landscapes through acts of adaptation, building, dwelling and survival in both significant and subtle ways. These placemaking practices upend conventional architectural concepts of exterior, threshold, and interior due to the often transitory, precarious, and marginal statuses of people in movement. Refugee camps, ethnic enclaves, suburban neighborhoods, construction sites, and agricultural fields have been sites of important inquiries into the built environments of migration. If the focus has been on territories and borders crossed, how does migration and the transitory allow us to reconsider the corollary spaces of the domestic and interior? How might migration give rise to new concepts, forms, and practices of interiority?

Drawing from recent research in migration and architecture, this session focuses on the patterns of migration with a particular emphasis on interior spaces. What are the multiple and diverse domestic placemaking practices that define migration? What are the improvisational and creative adaptations to migrants' new contexts that do not conform with intended architectural designs? How might spatial values, and especially domestic ones, such as privacy and intimacy be challenged by migration? This session invites papers at the intersection of interiority and migration that deploy new lenses and methods to attend to the entanglements of peoples and places in transition. Our interest is to critically examine the categories of public and private and their correlation to exterior and interior spaces under migratory conditions. We seek papers studying practices and designs that specifically define domestic and interior sites materially left behind, accompanying, reconstructed or built anew by migrants. Papers may also address the methodological challenges of migration research of domestic spaces due to the complexities and biases of archival documentation and how these challenges can be overcome and addressed.

Session Chair(s): Min Kyung Lee, Bryn Mawr College; and Robin Schuldenfrei, The Courtauld Institute of Art

Listening to Histories of Sound

"There are acoustic ways of knowing, tracking orientations to the world through sound," anthropologist Steven Feld (2024) claims. Listening offers an alternative way of knowing, distinct from the canonical reliance on written evidence in investigating the past. Oral history delves into broad questions through the micro-histories of individuals. Listening to these stories illuminates nuances, ambivalences, and challenges to well-established representations of identity and communal narratives. But what about sound itself?

Sound waves traverse space, conveying meaning, retracing or erasing borders, and

fostering a sense of community in times of both peace and turmoil. Sound—beyond music—serves as evidence of our connection to places and our sense of belonging to specific historical moments: certain genres of sound are more easily retrievable than others due to the role of technology and materials; specific political circumstances give rise to sounds that become deeply ingrained in individual and collective memory. What can architectural historians learn from sound as it moves, reverberates, and signals within space? How might listening to sound(s) reveal a place (or its imagined identity) and the ways its inhabitants are connected to their built environment? Moreover, how can tuning our ears to locally situated sounds—whether recorded or live—uncover untold histories of inequality, injustice, and exclusion?

This session invites papers that explore the potential of listening as a methodology in architectural history and examining the power of sound in uncovering layers of social interaction and meaning in the built environment. The session welcomes proposals from all geographical regions and historical periods. Contributions that foreground non-European histories and amplify marginalized perspectives are particularly encouraged.

Session Chair(s): Elisavet Kiourtsoglou, University of Thessaly

Making Markets: Transformation, Contestation, and Appropriation of Global Market Architectures

Market buildings can be found in all shapes and forms around the world. Globally ubiquitous yet regionally specific, this highly adaptable typology has played a central role in urban change and identity making in the modern city. In Mexico City, public markets, retrofitted with solar panels, now fuel the city's vast bus system, while supporters of women's rights have formed the mercadita feminista in Mexico City's Alameda Central. In post-pandemic cities, real-estate interests and civic boosters have marshalled the form to revitalize local economies, opening

pop-up markets and gourmet food halls in vacant commercial spaces. At the same time, venerable institutions like Tokyo's Tsukiji Market and London's 850 year-old fresh markets decamp for more modern and aesthetically appealing facilities, prompting fights by preservationists and vendors to preserve old social and economic networks. Meanwhile, logistics facilities and distribution centers mushroom at the edge of cities, reflecting the fact that electronic marketplaces like Amazon are undergirded by substantial architectural infrastructures.

This paper session invites scholarship that attends to the distinct modern social and urban conditions that have shaped and been shaped by market spaces. Whereas sociologists, anthropologists, and historians often analyze markets as economic, political, and social institutions, we look for papers that address the ways that global migration, environmental change, social contestation, and technological innovations intersect with

their architectural and aesthetic qualities.

Convening papers across a range of contexts, this panel will examine how the market as a form has been generated, appropriated, and transformed. We not only seek to elucidate a larger global history of market practices and actors; we also wish to highlight regional, national-, urban-, and even neighborhood-specific forces shaping this commercial type. Cases that move beyond or complicate determinative frames like gentrification, informality, heritage, and theming are especially encouraged.

Session Chair(s): Alec Stewart, University of California, Berkeley; and Trude Renwick, The University of Manchester

Mapping New Epistemologies of Collecting and Archiving

This session seeks to interrogate present and future strategies for collecting and archiving architecture. Architectural collections and archives are a relatively new phenomenon in the broad family of museum practices and are often characterized by difficulties regarding the diverse nature of architecture as both art and practice—what to collect, how to organize and preserve materials, or how to evaluate provenance and authorship. We aim to concentrate on the processes of archiving or collecting rather than on the archive contents by providing a framework that maps and analyzes the role of institutions, their meanings, and definitions in producing knowledge based not only on static objects—the archive—but on the agency of archival methodologies and processes. Building on multidisciplinary perspectives provided by authors such as Albena Yaneva (2009, 2020), Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi (2020, 2024) and Achille Mbembe (2002), we seek to add new layers to the understanding of the archive and archiving as a significant epistemic edifice in its own right, as well as the seminal importance of the archive/archiving for architectural histories to emerge, develop, and stay open to critique.

What is the role of recently created private and public architectural institutions based around archival collections? How are they affecting the landscape of archival processes and thinking? What will the histories emanating out of these archives look like? We welcome proposals that analyze current varieties of architectural archiving and collecting, which examine their central role in revising histories and their connections to critical practice. Contributions may focus on both public and private institutions, new and old, global and local, reevaluating their collections. Studies of collecting in historically underrepresented geographies are particularly encouraged. Moreover, to respond to conflictual times like ours, we encourage empirical research on archives emerging as contested sites of truths and memories or collecting that immediately answers the challenges of destruction and reconstruction.

Session Chair(s): Christina Pech, University of Oslo; and Gabriel Hernández, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

Mediating Fossil Fuels in Architectural History

As many scholars have shown, fossil fuels are everywhere in our modern lives. They power our economy, shape our politics, underpin our social lives, and influence our cultures. They are also deeply embedded in the materiality of our commodity production and consumption, including that of the built environment. Despite their pervasiveness, fossil fuels also have what Adam Hanieh (2025) calls a "everywhere-but-nowhere character" due to a confluence of different reasons, such as our tendency to think of fossil fuels as simply energy sources, the long supply chains between sites of extraction and sites of consumption, and the complex conversions of fossil fuels into not just various energy services and different synthetic products, but also diverse forms of capital. Our relationship with fossil fuels is thus not just all pervasive but also highly mediated and even rendered culturally invisible through what Amitav Ghosh (2017) calls "modes of concealment."

As an entity requiring tremendous quantities of energy and petrochemicals to produce and sustain, architecture is inextricably implicated in the mediation of fossil fuels in our modern world. In view of the current climate crisis and the urgent need to decarbonize our society, it is important to render architecture's dependency on, and highly mediated relationship with, fossil fuels legible and thus actionable. This panel asks: how can architectural history as a field known for deploying multiple modes of representation and communication address the hidden in plain sight of fossil fuels in our environments and societies? What visualizations, spatial analyses, and narrative structures are open to architectural historians in order to reveal these connections more clearly? What new sites of analysis beyond oil and coal towns or corporate headquarters can we examine? And what theoretical frameworks apart from petrourbanism and petroleumscape can we productively deploy? Proposals are welcome from across a wide chronological and geographical spectrum.

Session Chair(s): Alex Bremner, University of Edinburgh; and Jiat-Hwee Chang, National University of Singapore

Meteoric Artifacts: Architecture and the Atmospheric Sciences

From the late eighteenth century onward, pursuits to rationalize celestial phenomena have redefined architecture's engagement with the vertical dimension, turning built structures once dedicated to religious practice into sites of scientific inquiry. This process was coeval with the global expansion of colonial powers, materializing in practices of agricultural management and environmental governance under the guise of scientific objectivity. While numerous studies have examined the reciprocal influences between architecture and the atmospheric sciences, scholarship often overlooks this perpendicular relationship between the vertical and horizontal axes that underpin these interactions.

Moving beyond the notion of observation as a neutral act, this session probes how meteorological knowledge-making, particularly within colonial empires, is channeled into mechanisms of governance through the study of what we term "meteoric artifacts"—the architectures and infrastructures that navigate the nexus between vertical and horizontal axes. While the vertical aspect reflects the technoscientific efforts to capture atmospheric phenomena and render them measurable, the horizontal plane reveals how these efforts expand into imperialist eco-territorial control. By redirecting focus to this perpendicular relationship, the session reconceptualizes the meteoric as a domain encompassing more than its common association with shooting stars to include a range of aeroterrestrial occurrences, from lightning and cloud formations to earthquakes and volcanic activities—all rooted in the Greek meteōra, meaning "raised above the ground."

The session invites investigations into the architectural and infrastructural artifacts that facilitate the scientific observation of meteoric matter, including the mediating structures such as observatories, weather stations, field accommodations; survey activities from ballooning and mountaineering to maritime navigations and astronomical expeditions; as well as their technological and representational media byproducts. We welcome proposals that engage with marginalized geographies and perspectives from any period, encouraging interdisciplinary and collaborative contributions.

Session Chair(s): Tairan An, Princeton University; and Zaid Kashef Alghata,

Modeling the Future: Architecture and the Construction of Risk

From ancient granaries, temples, and fortifications to federal housing projects, home security systems, and private real-estate developments, the built environment has long been used to tame, redistribute, or financialize risk. Architectural production is shaped by presumed risks posed by environmental conditions, labor markets, construction materials, market fluctuations, racial politics, and aesthetic vagaries that lead to the rapid obsolescence of architectural forms and styles. Conversely, architecture is often implemented to manage economic, environmental, and political risks, whether through networked infrastructures for safety and surveillance, technocratic design solutions, the production of homes and construction jobs, or regimes of smart planning and sustainability. Quantitative and qualitative methods of risk analysis have in turn developed in fields related to architectural production: material science, insurance, urban planning, real estate development, public policy, and mortgage lending, among others.

This panel explores how architecture and risk are co-produced through methods of modeling economic, political, material, and ecological uncertainties. We seek papers that interrogate two competing but intertwined tendencies of risk assessment in relation to the past and future: to conserve the status quo by envisioning the future as a mirror of the recent or imagined past; and to introduce novel instruments that can transform the conditions of risk. How are calculations made, and what are the implications and limits of

modeling techniques, especially as some risks transform into near-certainties? Potential topics include—but are not limited to—histories of the building insurance industry, construction materials and design techniques, architectures of surveillance, building codes, mortgage lending, urban and regional planning, redlining, labor unrest, and smart technologies. We welcome papers dealing with all time periods and places, with a particular interest in historically grounded work that explicitly theorizes some aspect of the relationships between risk assessment and architectural production.

Session Chair(s): Ginger Nolan, University of Southern California; and Nushelle De Silva, Fordham University

Modern Interiors in Mexico and Beyond

When we consider modern architecture as an object of study, in Mexico as elsewhere, we often focus on exteriors, plans, and elevations. These basic forms of architectural representation were how new designs were most widely seen and promoted in period magazines and books. Interiors have thus played a secondary role in the recent literature, despite the fact that many architects were deeply invested in all aspects of their projects, including furniture, and interior finishes. Indeed, twentieth-century interior design in Mexico was fertile for experiments in functionality and aesthetics. Numerous agents were involved, including designers like William Spratling, Clara Porset and Arturo Pani who explored diverse materials and techniques—industrial or handmade—and frequently worked in concert with visual artists and muralists. The range of projects includes expressions of regional or national identity, as well as evidence of new ways of life made possible by Mexico's postwar industrial boom. Some of these modern interiors have been well-preserved, as is the case with Luis Barragán's House-Studio (1947), but most others have been altered by changes in use or ownership, if not lost.

This session seeks papers focused on modern interior design in Mexico from the 1940s through the 1980s, including connections to and comparisons with projects in Central America, the Caribbean, and the US Southwest. How did architects, interior designers, and artists interact? How were these interiors disseminated, used, received, or modified? Do these spaces revisit the iconography and atmosphere of past centuries, or do they generate an image of hypermodernity, sometimes at odds with political and economic realities? To what extent do these interiors conceal or exaggerate class, gender, or racial difference? Along with domestic interiors proposals should consider a variety of other typologies, including churches and temples, hotels, restaurants, museums, commercial spaces (stores, offices), and transportation hubs (metro stations or airports).

Session Chair(s): Aldo Solano Rojas, UNAM

New Architectural Histories of the British Empire

Between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, England and then Britain constructed a

global empire across Asia, Africa, and the Americas. While the term "empire" suggests a monolithic, even totalizing entity, recent scholarship has drawn attention to the variety of ways in which this concept manifested across diverse environments, geographies, and cultural contexts. Such diversity was held together not only by flows of people and goods, but by emergent imaginaries—fragmented, contradictory, yet potently cohesive. Indeed, the idea of a "British

empire" (1577) emerged even before the first spate of English colonial ventures across the Atlantic. Despite this, scholarship has primarily focused on architectures of the so-called "Second British Empire," the period of Britain's global territorial domination in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and with the exception of British North America, far less attention has been paid to earlier phases of English (and after 1707, British) colonial expansion. This session aims to investigate architecture's role in early processes of English colonization across the globe, and to consider the ties between colonial built environments and incipient notions of a British empire, however inchoate.

The session seeks to explore questions such as: How did the built environments of specific colonial localities contribute to imaginaries of a global British Empire? How did concepts of empire shape, and how were they shaped by, local environments, Indigenous populations and practices, and early modern global exchange? How did the movement of people, practices, materials, and forms of knowledge contribute to these processes? And how does studying the built environment reveal new ways of comprehending the emergence of empire? Our objective is to use the lens of the British Empire to examine the entanglements between architecture and empire in the pre-modern period. We invite papers that consider the British Empire alongside or in conversation with contemporary imperial entities and formations. The geographical scope of papers is open. We welcome submissions grounded in case studies of specific sites, as well as those that take comparative, synthetic, or methodological approaches.

Session Chair(s): Hannah Kaemmer, University of Pennsylvania; and Aaron White, Mississippi State University

New Insights on Histories of African Architecture

A disproportionate amount of historical scholarship on African architecture has focused on non-African architects, funders, and institutions. While this is in part due to the dearth and precarity of primary documentary sources about the work of African building professionals, it is also due to the dominance of Eurocentric frameworks and approaches in the study of African built environments. There are of course some studies, such as those by Ola Uduku (2017), Hannah LeRoux (2018), Ikem Okoye (2021), Nnamdi Elleh (2022), Iain Jackson (2022), and Łukasz Stanek (2024) that stand out for either challenging underlying assumptions about the histories of modernism, foregrounding minimized African contributions, or developing analytical approaches rooted in African ways of

knowing.

Yet there is still much we do not know about indigenous African architects and builders who practiced before the period of colonization. Similarly, questions about what other architectural philosophies, styles, and movements existed outside of the well-documented period of "African Modernism" have gone practically unanswered. This session aims to address this imbalance by inviting contributions from scholars on the social, political, economic, and cultural histories of architecture made, driven, and influenced by Africans on the African continent. Of particular interest are studies that utilize previously overlooked material, uncover new archival sources, use creative methodologies, or reassess old sources toward new insights. Contributions which focus on architects and builders operating outside canonical styles and fields are especially welcome, as are those that use expansive approaches, and aim to broaden the pools of sources and evidence available to scholars of African architecture.

Session Chair(s): Kuukuwa Manful, University of Michigan

Oceanic and South-East Asian Built Histories of Development

In recent years, architectural historians have increasingly turned a critical eye toward concepts of "development" and the "Third World" as they played out in architectural thinking amid post-war contexts of decolonization and the Cold War. Nonetheless, in this scholarship, Global North-Global South trajectories of knowledge transfer concerning development tend to remain consistent with their geographical parallels and focus predominantly on North American, European, and increasingly Soviet Bloc exchanges with Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. This session will expand on these geographical constellations to examine architecture's engagements with developmental thought in Oceanic and South-East Asian contexts, from the post-war period to the end the twentieth century.

In the aftermath of the Pacific Theatre of World War II, Australian and New Zealand foreign policies increasingly turned their attentions to (the threat of) the "near North." These policies were shaped by regional securitization as well as by concepts of development directed by the United Nations that connected development to national self-determination, humanitarianism, and foreign aid. The session calls for papers that examine how developmental thought was channeled into architectural pedagogy, research, and practice across the region. It will ask questions such as: How were international architecture and planning fields related to development in housing, technology, climatic adaptation, and disaster relief, mediated and transformed in Oceanic and South-East Asian contexts? How did development-focused institutions (such as universities and research centers) and international organizations (such as the United Nations and the International Union of Architects, along with their regional offshoots) facilitate new transnational networks and notions of expertise? How did actors in Oceanic

and South-East Asian contexts engage in practices of "worldmaking" (following Łukasz Stanek's use of the concept) through architecture? The panel seeks papers that cast a critical lens on these histories to ask to what extent post-war development thinking built upon colonial-era frameworks.

Session Chair(s): Isabel Rousset, University of Technology Sydney; and Renee Miller-Yeaman, University of Melbourne

Organized by SAH Australia/New Zealand

Oceanic Histories

In view of risks posed to oceans and adjoining ecologies by the vicissitudes of anthropogenic climate change, this session looks to oceanic histories of boat building, devising know-how and instruments of navigation, bathymetry, Indigenous knowledges (for example Pacific islanders' multi-sensorial ways of reading the winds, swells, and tides), and the very physics and tectonics of holding together at sea—as these have led to advanced ways of negotiating quickly changing environmental conditions.

What changes without ground: a stable stratum that can be taken from, dug into, carved with, and built upon? What intelligences and technologies have emerged in making passages across oceans by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous navigators? How have oceanic depths and volumes been experienced and conceptualized? Oceanic environments, even charted waters, are always encountered afresh, by both local and visiting voyagers. In what ways has their wisdom made its way inland? What roles have oceanic and maritime technological, material, social, and cultural aspects played in shaping buildings, places, communities, and cities? This session considers architectural and environmental histories not from vantage points on land but from the water. This session aims to rethink the terrestrial, static, and arid logics that undergird much architectural history and renew it with those emerging from fluidity, wetness, and continuous motion.

We welcome architectural and environmental histories of oceanic spaces of any geographic scope or from any historical period. Papers may be a micro-history or a *longue durée* history addressing geological scales of time. Indigenous histories are especially welcome.

Session Chair(s): Adil Mansure, Harvard University

Open Session

Open Sessions are available for those whose research does not match any of the themed sessions. Papers submitted to the Open Sessions are assessed in terms of perceived merit, and not in regard to geography, era, theme, etc.

Session Chair(s): TBD

Plant Back: Gardening As Transformative Practice

The central material of landscape architects is dynamic: plants. And yet, plants do not comply with the underlying principles of capitalism. Ownership in the strict sense does not apply to them, they do not rearrange profit, and they collaborate more often than they compete. When plants are positioned or arranged by humans, they grow dependent on long-term, perpetual care. This attention is what we call gardening. Even under cultivation, plants are endlessly generous: in their abundance of seed, evolutionary gifts, and adaptability to competition. Plants resist the common pacification of behavior, and as consequence, plants steadily disappear from works of designed environments. To bring plants back into human worlds with their full aliveness requires an embrace of their abundance and their contributions to the shared environment, including biodiversity, and the physical and mental wellbeing of other species. It is evident, that our surroundings, described as "the built environment," desperately need plants back, especially in the face of the current climate catastrophe. We ask: What would the built environment look like when plants move from their peripheral position to the center of attention?

We invite practitioners, historians, and theorists to re-evaluate the power of plants and how the practice of conscientiously and knowledgeably working with plants in projects of all scales and regions, past and present, may change our living conditions and our building environment. We challenge the way "gardening" is often marginalized in design professions, through the regulation of gender and labor, despite its central role in design. The session seeks papers that offer a more diverse historical narrative of gardening, how design professions work with the temporality of planting, and consider gardening as an act of radical resistance, racial emancipation, multispecies diversity, and personal attachment.

Session Chair(s): Anette Freytag, Rutgers University; and Rosetta Elkin, Pratt Institute

Organized by SAH Landscape History Chapter

Plateresque and Churrigueresque in the Hispanic World

Spanish art historiography of the late 1700s (Eugenio Llaguno y Amirola and Juan Agustín Ceán Bermúdez), favored Juan de Herrera's sixteenth-century classical architecture and Bourbon-era architects Ventura Rodríguez and Juan de Villanueva. The latter architects were credited with restoring canonical models and shaping a national artistic narrative that informed many historical and modern writers. This historiography castigates other ornamental architectural styles—particularly the Plateresque and Churrigueresque—that developed in the early 1500s and after the mid-1600s. These ornate styles were considered decorative fantasies and their designers, particularly Francisco Hurtado Izquierdo, José Benito de Churriguera, and Pedro de Ribera in the 1700s, labeled as "heretics." In juxtaposition, early American architects viewed Spanish architecture in a linear fashion, recognizing that Herrera's work responded to existing ornamental styles, and his

"pure Classicism" gave way to Churriguera's ornamental creations. While vilified in Spain, the Plateresque and the work of Churriguera were appreciated in America, and Herrera criticized for adopting an "unrooted" style deemed "out of key with the Spanish character," unlike the ornamental styles that preceded or post-dated it. Few modern English-language scholars have reconsidered this historiography. Similarly, studies in Spanish have focused on regional production, albeit with unequal focus. Thus, the Plateresque and the Churrigueresque along with their transoceanic manifestations remain understudied—a lacuna we aim to address in this session.

This panel examines the Plateresque and Churrigueresque through textual analyses and studies of their relationship to the Hispanic world's built environment, including architectural, sculptural, and ephemeral elements. We seek papers that deepen our understandings of the Plateresque and Churrigueresque styles and their significance in early modern Spanish and Spanish colonial architecture. Proposals may address:

- Plateresque and Churrigueresque historiographies and taxonomies
- influence of other cultures and their technologies
- intersection of race and built environment, sensorial studies, and digital humanities
- methodologies concerning the Plateresque and Churrigueresque in the broader Iberian world or within a critique of the Vasarian model of early modern historiography.

Session Chair(s): Luis Gordo Peláez, California State University, Fresno; and C. Cody Barteet, The University of Western Ontario

Redefining Agency in Global Architectural Historiography

The concept of agency has garnered significant attention in global architectural history scholarship for at least the last two decades. The goal has been to recover silenced and marginalized voices of ordinary and suppressed people and construct more inclusive global histories. Yet, as in adjacent fields such as African history and women's and gender history, the deployment of an explanatory endpoint often oversimplifies the complexity of historical processes. This "agency trap," as termed by Mona Gleason (2016), risks reducing the variety of experiences into a binary: individuals exhibiting agency or being passive bystanders. This binary, in turn, constrains the development of alternative frameworks of analysis that could help scholars provide a fuller understanding of the production of architecture. Recent scholarly interventions by historians of race, slavery, gender, and lived experience, such as Stephanie Olsen, Kristine Alexander, Susan Miller, Ville Vuolanto, Simon Sleight, Mischa Honeck, Sarah Emily Duff, Karen Vallgårda, Lynn Thomas, and Mary Jo Maynes have considered the pitfalls of the "agency trap." Instead of reducing agency to a defining contribution and concluding argument of an investigation, they have taken the concept as a starting point for historicization.

This panel seeks to critically engage with these scholarly interventions by asking how could conventional formulations of agency in global architectural historiography be redefined? Should we abandon the concept of agency or are there possibilities for refinement? What alternative concepts—

such as relationality, affordances, and lived experience—could we draw upon, instead of or in conjunction with, the concept of agency?

We invite explorations beginning from the nineteenth century onwards that address these questions through theoretical reflection, methodological innovation, and empirical case studies. Our purpose is to revisit the concept and redirect methodologies and scholarly interpretations to include interdisciplinary and global perspectives.

Session Chair(s): Sara Honarmand Ebrahimi, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna; and Nokubekezela Mchunu, Independent Researcher

Religious Places and Sacred Spaces in the Diaspora

Religion enables immigrants, migrants, and refugees to envision their homeland in their new country and to engrave their worldviews into the physical landscape. This panel seeks to explore how immigrants, migrants, and/or refugees in the diaspora engage with religious places and sacred spaces—materialized in the form of the built environment—to affirm their traditional identity, maintain transnational family ties, and foster cultural connections. Scholars from architectural history, religious studies, history, anthropology, geography, gender studies, and sociology whose research aligns with this panel's focus are invited to offer their diverse global perspectives across a wide temporal frame that will contribute to what promises to be an interdisciplinary discussion.

Paper topics may address challenges immigrants faced when establishing religious sites in the public realm; how religious placemaking builds immigrant community; immigrants utilizing their homes to construct, express, and sustain their religious identity; the transition from domestic ritual spaces to public religious sites in the host country; the study of women in diasporic religious placemaking; the ways in which sacred architectural styles of immigrant-built religious structures impact urban development; the confluence of tradition and modernity in religious architecture away from the country of origin; the experiences of immigrant youth with sacred physical settings; the intersection of gender and religion in immigrant buildings of worship.

Session Chair(s): Gita V. Pai, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Repairing/Demolishing: An Environmental History of Brutalism

In recent years, Brutalism has gained significant attention within and beyond architectural history. Scholars such as Achille Mbembe (2020) have provided new approaches to the term, describing brutalism not as an architectural style, but rather as a planetary-scale pathos of demolition: a political form producing "stocks of darkness [and] all sorts of waste, leftovers, traces of a gigantic demiurgy." Indeed, the massive use of reinforced concrete in pharaonic social housing projects have lasted only a few decades. Examples such as the infamous Robin Hood Gardens demolished in 2017 confirms the unsustainable material proposition of brutalism as a heroic muscular form of power, extraction, and waste.

This session concerns the ecological conundrum of brutalist architecture, fostering critical dialogues on its environmental history. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary approaches from

various fields of expertise such as political ecology, environmental humanities, regenerative design studies, eco-feminist new materialism, posthuman urban future studies, and others. Our goal is to discuss the interplays between construction and demolition, matter and waste, brutality and design, extractive industries and regeneration, offering the possibility to imagine reparative futures out of ugly brutes and demolishing cultures.

The session prioritizes innovative readings from the Global South, focusing on case studies different from mainstream brutalist examples. As Simon Henley has pointed out, Brutalism is "not limited to Europe and North America. And, most importantly . . . it's not something from the past, from those postwar years. It is very much alive" (2017). Aiming at elaborating on the global environmental history of brutalism as a geopolitical aesthetics of concrete utopias, the session welcomes papers that address the legacy, appropriation, and critical reception of massive reinforced concrete architecture in and beyond Europe and North America. Papers focusing on Brazil, India, Costa Rica, Philippines, Peru, Morrocco, Argentina, Mexico, Cuba, as well as papers analyzing the emergence of bio- or eco-brutalism are welcome.

Session Chair(s): Joaquin Barriendos, Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education

Secularization and the Persistence of the Sacred

This session examines the architectural dialectic between secularization and reinterpretation of the sacred from the early modern period through the twentieth century. While traditional cities were often organized around religious monuments as spatial and spiritual anchors, conventional narratives of modernization frequently assumed the inevitable obsolescence of sacred architecture. Over several centuries in the West, religious institutions lost cultural authority and official status, contributing to a decline in public participation. Yet concepts of the sacred have endured. Charles Taylor (2007) argues that many modern visitors to historic sacred monuments experience an interplay of aesthetic appreciation and spiritual resonance, reflecting what he calls "cross-pressured" belief, neither conventionally religious nor explicitly atheistic. Architecture has often played a key role in mediating secular and sacred imperatives. In the 1950s, for example, Luis Barragán's Chapel of the Capuchinas Sacramentarias negotiated between Mexico's revolutionary modernization and Catholic tradition.

Following scholars such as Taylor and Talal Asad (2003), this session approaches secularization not as a universal process but as a historically specific phenomenon, rooted in Western Christianity while shaped by adaptations and contestations across diverse religions and cultures. Papers might consider how secular building types have borrowed from religious architecture or how new sacred buildings have reappropriated secular design elements. They might examine how historic religious monuments have been repurposed or renewed, how urban design has registered changing relationships between institutional religion and alternative spiritualities, or how innovative architectural vocabularies have responded to and shaped evolving conditions of belief. The goal is a more nuanced account of how the sacred in architecture has persisted and transformed amid changing institutional fortunes. Submissions may focus on any region, especially Latin America, with its distinctive history of religious syncretism.

Session Chair(s): Joseph Clarke, University of Toronto

Small Objects, Spaces, and Practices of Care

This session proposes to highlight the relationships between "negligible" objects and spaces, bringing their histories to the fore. Building upon James Deetz's In Small Things Forgotten: An Archeology of Early American Life (1977) and Swati Chattopadhyay's Small Spaces: Recasting the Architecture of Empire (2023), this panel focuses on small, overlooked, or effaced objects, spaces, and narratives as sites of resistance, community, and practices of care across time and geographies. We frame care as the intentional affording of attention, importance, and support to marginal identities, bodies, and spaces that seek to transform constructed norms and transgress and subvert formal uses of things and architectures. The session aims to integrate material, intellectual, and oral histories and emulate an overall "scavenger methodology," following Jack Halberstam's Female Masculinity (1998) as a refusal of disciplinary coherence and an attempt to "combine methods that are often cast as being at odds with each other."

We invite papers that explore the histories of minor, marginal, fragmentary, incidental, and personal narratives, objects, and architectural spaces, including but not limited to vernacular architecture, responsive adaptations, critical resistances, and everyday objects and spaces. Whether examining uses, (re)designs, theories, methodologies, or historiographies, submissions should reflect on the interrelatedness of the cultural and social agencies of marginal objects, spaces, identities, bodies, and practices of care. Practices of care include but are not limited to healing, storytelling, designing, crafting, and appropriating architectural objects and places. Submissions may encompass any geography and historical period from the premodern to the contemporary.

Session Chair(s): Dijana Omeragić Apostolski, Independent Architectural Historian; and Zoë Cope, McGill University

Territorial Reconfigurations: Volumes, Weights and States of Matter

In 2017, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration published an image of tropical cyclone Nate as a three-dimensional volume of water embedded quantitatively and aesthetically in the Central American territory. This image invites us to question how socio-physical characteristics such as volume, weight, size and transitions of matter, as well as their

governance and monitoring, have configured or are configuring spatio-political notions of territory over time, its mappings, counter-mappings and imaginations. As studies in geography, architecture, and environmental engineering show, the volume of a given territory (urban or rural for instance) can increase in size when spaces and materials placed at the service of its construction and maintenance are taken into account. It also increases in weight when counting material stock, greenhouse gas emissions and energy embodied in its construction, maintenance, use and destruction. It produces its own spatialities when seismic faults, floods, landslides and other earth and atmospheric dynamics that cross political boundaries are incorporated. By taking into account transitions of matter (e.g., solid-fluid or solid-gaseous), territories can also be considered as bodies of water (from aquifers and rivers to hurricanes and oceans) interacting with soil, air and the built

environment.

This panel will explore how these diverse notions of territory are changing our understandings of built environments, architectures, landscapes, and infrastructures. We seek papers that spatially assess the possibilities or the limits of these notions of territory at any time period and in any geographical region where conditions of coloniality, imperialism, and/or dictatorship intervene in their making. We also encourage interdisciplinary works exploring how cartography, drawing, image or literature broaden spatio-political imaginations of territories in their plural significations, beyond political borders.

Session Chair(s): Valeria Guzmán Verri, University of Costa Rica

The Colonial Building Industry in the Americas

The colonists who settled the Americas beginning in the fifteenth century faced many challenges but none was as pressing as the establishment of a construction industry. Most colonial ventures recruited skilled craftsmen from Europe who thrived as free artisans, but the colonial building industry also heavily depended on indentured labor, tribute labor, and enslaved labor. Throughout the Americas, European, Indigenous, and African craftsmen and their descendants worked in a wide spectrum of labor systems. In many regions, a great deal of effort was put into obtaining, organizing, and training unfree workers who formed the bulk of the construction workforce.

This session seeks to examine the growth of the building industry in the Americas between the sixteenth and mid-eighteenth centuries and promote new scholarship on colonial architecture and urbanism. Ideally, papers will explore how builders managed the construction enterprise, organized a workforce, and regulated the building trades in an environment in which many forms of labor co-existed. Papers that look more broadly at the interaction of colonial labor policies and the building industry are also encouraged. This session welcomes submissions from scholars of North America and Latin America with the goal of comparing the political economy of construction in different colonial contexts in the early modern era.

Session Chair(s): Alexander Wood, Massachusetts College of Art and Design

The Other Actors: Nonhuman Agency in East Asian Built Environment

This panel invites papers that critically explore the role of nonhuman agency in the shaping of built environments in East Asia, preferably from the nineteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on how material flows and ecological processes reshape rural and urban development. By situating the built environments of East Asia within broader regional and global networks, this panel seeks to reveal and reconsider human-nonhuman relationships in landscape and architectural practices.

The concept of nonhuman agency has emerged as a critical lens for examining how specific things actively shape the material world. Adopting the approach of material history and political ecology, recent scholarship has explored the diverse ways in which nonhuman entities—such as lumber, steel, concrete, meat, and plants—are active participants in the making of infrastructures, landscapes, and buildings. These studies examine the commodity chains from production to

consumption and the flows from rural hinterlands to urban areas, investigating the complex infrastructural networks facilitating their movements. Inspired by the framework of new materialism, these works also consider the agentic capacity of nonhuman entities in creating novel experiences and affective memories.

East Asia's diverse histories and geopolitical complexity offer a vital yet underexplored context for potential investigations. We ask: How have specific nonhuman actors engaged in architectural production in East Asia? How does analyzing nonhuman agencies reveal the relationship among distant sites? How does the nonhuman-centered methodology offer new critiques of resource exploitation underlying East Asia's built environments? By attending to these questions, this panel aspires to challenge the human-centered narratives in East Asia's architectural history and broaden its scope by acknowledging the other actors involved.

Session Chair(s): Jingliang Du, University of Hong Kong; and Xinhui Chen, University of Hong Kong

The Power and Politics of Craft

Handcrafted production of ceremonial and everyday objects as a hereditary practice at the root of design knowledge has been implicated in power struggles between the makers of that knowledge and those poised to extract from it. This session seeks to understand nuanced histories of the politics of craft across periods and geographies. Acknowledging the Marxist underpinnings of the Arts and Crafts movement, we seek histories of the deeper power struggles behind craft production: how the skills of the handmade are linked to colonialism, ethnonationalism, militarism, war, and ecocide, yet have provided agency and empowerment through materialities and imaginaries of pasts and futures.

Architects and scholars have tried to capture this paradox. Sérgio Ferro argued that the modernization brought forth by concrete manufacture wrested control of construction knowledge away from the guilds, but limitations on the scale of his collaborations with construction workers failed to address their housing scarcity. Minnette de Silva proffered the independence and ecological knowledge of craftspeople as cultural producers whose authority and hybridity might offer a bulwark to Sri Lanka's unfolding war over cultural supremacy. In line with such complexities in thought and practice, we seek papers that understand craft as the crux of a power struggle, as well as a historiographical method. How do the hand and eye of the worker inform long histories of colonialism, capitalism, displacement, dispossession—and liberation? How are handmade environments entangled in struggles inherent in labor exploitation, for example, of indentured, incarcerated, or enslaved people? How are known histories of enclosures (school, clinic, prison, camp) reinterpreted in terms of manual fabrication in and of these sites? What do hand-built objects, spaces, and landscapes say about gender, caste, and racial politics, and violence and modernization at large, as well as the returns and futures built into their histories?

Session Chair(s): Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi, Barnard College; and Ana María León, Harvard University

Triumphal Arches and Classicizing Monuments in the Americas

Mexico City's Monument to the Revolution counts among the many classicizing monuments built in

the Americas since 1492. While these freestanding arches, columns, and obelisks initially served to advance political projects such as imperialism, communities have continued to reinterpret, reshape and repurpose them. Past studies have addressed these monuments individually, often in comparison to European precedents.

Forging an intersection between critical monument studies and classical reception studies, this panel brings the classicizing monuments of South, Central, and North America into dialogue with each other. We aim to sharpen awareness of the role monuments played in the broader phenomenon of classical reception in the Americas. We also seek to understand the role of the Americas in creatively reimagining the classical designs of monuments that have become global in their popularity.

We welcome case studies that consider any facet of triumphal arches and other classicizing monuments in the Americas: their role in settler colonialism; their negotiation of global, regional, and local art and architectural traditions; the social and political contexts of their patronage, dedication, and commemoration; the significance of settings and recurrence in urban design; reception of individual structures over time, including destruction, neglect, and adaptive reuse; and current usefulness for wayfinding and anchoring community gatherings such as protests and farmers' markets. Ephemeral monuments designed for special events and world's fairs are also core to this discussion. While assembling case studies from different regions, we also aim to build an international cohort of specialists who are in conversation with each other.

Session Chair(s): Kimberly Cassibry, Wellesley College; and Elizabeth Macaulay, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Urbanisms of Ancestral Indigenous America: A Reconsideration

This panel invites papers that engage with major problems in the history of urbanisms and architecture of the ancestral Americas. Primary urban generation—the independent emergence of cities of remarkable scale and complexity—occurred in the ancestral Indigenous Americas at least twice, once in Mesoamerica and once in the Andes. Archaeologists have also occasionally suggested that settlements such as Chaco Canyon and Cahokia may plausibly be conceptualized as cities. In each instance, the course of urban development featured characteristics that are unique within the scope of human antiquity. Examples from the Indigenous Americas demonstrate that several technologies that have at times been viewed as indispensable for the synthesis of urbanism, such as the wheel, metal tools, and phonetic writing, are in fact not requisites. At the same time, American examples unsettle many models for the historical trajectory of the emergence of urbanism. For instance, the largest building of Mesoamerican antiquity was built not towards the end of the region's pre-Hispanic chronology but in the first century CE, and in the Andes, textiles appear to have been produced in advance of fired pottery. How might scholars reconceptualize the ancient city in light of the unique and occasionally conflicting evidence from the Indigenous Americas? How did Indigenous American urbanists plan and organize their settlements? What aesthetic, religious, and intellectual principles guided or informed the design, siting, and ornamentation of constructions? How did Indigenous urbanisms contrast with peripatetic lifeways, such as those of Plains Americans, who carried their homes with them from place to place?

Urbanism arose nowhere more spectacularly in the Indigenous Americas than in the Basin of Mexico at Teotihuacan (ca. 100 BCE-800 CE) and Tenochtitlan (ca. 1300-1521 CE). Attendees of the session are invited to view the physical remains of the former settlement guided by the panel's organizer.

Session Chair(s): Trenton Barnes, Williams College

Women and the Worlds They Build in Migration

We invite papers that explore the transformative role of women in shaping physical, social, cultural, political, and economic landscapes through migration. Drawing on scholarship in mobility studies, relational poetics, and oceanic/environmental humanities (methods that challenge the primacy of land, sight, origins, scale, and national borders), we seek new methods of doing architectural history that engage with the experiences of immigrant women, their multi-sited worlds, fluid identities, and varied lived experiences.

The worldmaking of immigrant women (and people who identify as women) challenges conventional and normative spatial categories often used by architectural historians, and offers a fresh perspective on how gender, migration, and place intersect. For instance, labor migration has traditionally been framed as a male-driven phenomenon, with architectural histories focusing on building types that reinforce the separation between work and home. When women are mentioned, they are often confined to traditional gender roles and are assumed to navigate a world shaped by productive and reproductive labor. In addition, migration studies often rely on national origins and legal frameworks that present immigrant landscapes in binary terms, comparing pre- and post-migration experiences. The architecture of displacement, resettlement, and belonging is dynamic—transnational and multi-country migrations add further complexity—as women inhabit space across multiple locations. What new kinds of spaces and histories emerge when we consider women's lived experience of migration?

Building on the scholarship of Caroline Brettell (2016), Cecilia Menjívar (2011), Nina Glick Schiller (2003), Peggy Levitt (2001), and Rhacel Salazar Parreñas (2001), who explore how gender, race, ethnicity, class, and legal status intersect to shape migration experiences, this panel seeks to deepen our understanding of women as active agents in migration. We invite papers that expand on how intersecting identities during migration shape the production of place. We seek accounts that incorporate women's voices—personal narratives of crossing boundaries, as well as visual, textual, or spatial representations of mobility and the challenges elicited by these representations.

Session Chair(s): Maria Rose Francis, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Arijit Sen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Women, Welfare, Labor: The Architecture of Philanthropy

Before 1950 women rarely worked as architects, although they shaped, planned, designed, and maintained space. In the early 1900s, excluded from professional practice, women throughout the world established soup kitchens, breast feeding centers, daycares and playgrounds, shelters, and reformatories that furnished the social welfare system on the one hand and the penal landscape on the other. Women's Leagues, the YMCA, and Settlement Houses, for instance, invited women to

work outside of the home and contribute to emergent social systems. Many activists, such as Melusina Fay Pierce (USA) and Hedwig Dohm (Germany), wrote about these initiatives in magazines and service articles. Others like Jane Addams (USA), Muthulakshmi Reddy (India) and Amanda Labarca (Chile) promoted social and spatial programs within neighborhoods. Welfare and philanthropy became avenues that permitted women to inform vectors of architectural production. This expanded conception of architecture as cultural production is a phenomenon that scholars increasingly define as architectural agency (Kathleen James-Chakraborty, 2021; Anne Hultzsch & Sol Pérez Martínez, 2023). Elaborating on the work of Dolores Hayden (1981), who explored the role of women in spatializing these structures of everyday life, this panel seeks to complicate the contribution of women's philanthropic work in architectural history, while recognizing that the architectural spaces emerging from these forms of labor sometimes produced inequities of class, race, gender, and sex.

We invite panelists to explore how the material dimensions of gendered labor—particularly in caregiving, maintenance, and institutional settings—make visible the social construction of architecture, while examining how the architectural modes that emerged from this complex terrain of philanthropic work reflect both gendered imaginaries and evolving conceptions of gender. Bridging the Global South and North, this panel welcomes papers from across the world to revisit how women's philanthropy, charity, or welfare work before 1950 informs architectural histories.

Session Chair(s): Tara Bissett, University of Waterloo; and Maria Pía Montealegre Beach, Universidad de Chile