



SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORIANS

Virtual Conference 2024

September 19-21

Conference
Program

GENERAL INFORMATION

- All times noted in the program are Central Daylight Standard (CDT).
- Instructions on accessing live sessions will be sent to attendees prior to the conference.
- All programs will take place live on Zoom meetings; there will be no pre-recorded presentations.
- All sessions will be recorded and attendees will have 30 days of on-demand access.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

06:00 AM–7:50 AM

PS01 Architecture of Global China in the Cold War: Reimagining China and the World

Sun Zhijian, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Session Chair

Abstract:

In recent years, scholars have increasingly challenged the standard narratives of decolonizing built environment as the product of (post-)colonial networks and global capitalism, and revealed that urban histories of the decolonizing South cannot be fully understood without noticing transnational interactions among socialist actors. However, despite being aligned with the Eastern-bloc in the 1950s, the engagements of socialist China in the postcolonial world remain largely peripheral to these studies. This session contributes to existing narratives of both global China and global socialism from the lens of architecture and related knowledge production, by attending to how China, as both recipient and donor in the contexts of decolonization and Cold War, actively engaged with the multi-directional exchanges of people, knowledge and things mediated by various actors, whether socialist, capitalist or non-aligned, among China, East Germany, Vietnam, Tanzania, Benin and others. By scrutinizing the East German export of shell systems as a developmental typology of modern industrial architecture to PRC in the 1950s, Butter also looks into their further possibilities in China's contemporary contexts. Drawing on theories of socialist cosmopolitanism, Ding examines how the China-aided stadium, cotton factory and assembly buildings in Benin engaged with diplomacy and architectural development both within and beyond China. Based on archives from China, Tanzania and the UK, Sun shows how Maoist China's socialist tropical architectures in Canton and Dar es Salaam were both concurrent and co-constitutive in transnational geo-political and techno-scientific contexts. Focusing on Chinese-built sports facilities in decolonizing Asia and Africa, Xue demonstrates how these highly-mobile professionals not only reimagined China, but also reshaped the local realities of the South. Through the case study of China-aided Thai Nguyen Steelworks in north Vietnam, Wang sheds new light on the agency of Vietnamese actors in reshaping the technology and nature of Chinese assistance in the Cold War politics.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Shell Shed Roofs for China: Exported Industrial Architecture from the GDR*, Andreas Butter, Bauhaus Dessau. Germany
- *Building Socialist Cosmopolitanism: Architectures of Sports, Production and Assembly in China-Benin Engagement*, Ding Guanghui, Independent scholar
- *China's Two Tropical Architecture: Climate, Thermal Regimes and Global Socialism in Canton and Dar es Salaam, 1955-78*, Sun Zhijian, National University of Singapore (Session Organizer and Chair)
- *Technology and Nature in Cold War Vietnam: China-aided Thai Nguyen Steelworks*, Wang Xun, National University of Singapore

08:00 AM–09:50 AM

PS02 Locating Democracy: Democracy and Space

Nubras Samayeen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

Etymologically, “Democracy” comes from the Greek words *Demos*, meaning “people,” and *Kratos*, meaning “to rule.” Accordingly, Democracy, which was born in Athens, expected citizens to take an active role in the governance, where the governing force would be the people’s voice. Therefore, historically, Agora was the place where democracy resided; it was a meeting platform for citizens, where people congregated, participated in events, passed time, and attended talks of philosophers. With time, Democracy’s spatiality shifted. Nation-building, and the embrace of democracy, have been a panacea for many countries, particularly in the postcolonial nations of the Global South. They built capitols and capital cities that symbolically, ideologically, and physically became the sites of democracy. Capitol buildings, the kernel of these democratic landscapes, are protected with layers of security measures; they remain isolated, while the open civic spaces become more representatively engaging. Contrarywise, many open spaces that may appear democratic are functionally not so; perpetual surveillance, imposed social regulations, cultural barriers, and obscured restrictions on gender and race result in a rather non-democratic, non-emancipatory space. Events such as India holding its Republic Day parade on the Rajpath built by the British Colonials, the United States Capitol being sieged (in 2021), and protesters swarming Oscar Niemeyer’s National Congress building (in 1984) further problematize the very notion of democratic space. In terms of Henry Lefebvre’s definition, these symbols of democracy as spatial productions are both real and unreal.¹ So, these events pose questions-how do we locate and spatialize democracy? Is Tiananmen Square, of communist China, a democratic place? How do we locate democracy spatially, or is it just imaginary? How does a democratic place operate? How does democracy manifest in the built environment? Blurring disciplinary and geographic boundaries, the topic seeks a historicism over the spatiality of contemporary democratic practices around the globe. Holding the traditionally seen Grecian democracy as a benchmark, responses can be of varied theoretical and disciplinary lenses offering a critical dissection of “spatial democracy” in the visual, physical, symbolic, and participatory continuum in the contemporary (1950–today) era.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Housing and the Political Economies of Exclusion*, Burak Erdim, North Carolina State University, USA
- *Specter of "Basic Democracy" and the practices of Exclusionary Public Spaces in Pakistan*, Farhan Karim, Arizona State University, USA
- *Notes on Architecture and Democracy in Iran*, Pamela Karimi, Cornell University, USA
- *A Strange Kind of Democracy: Participatory Design in a West Bank Settlement*, Noam Shoked, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- *Democracy, Landscape, and Architecture: Louis Kahn’s Assembly Building Complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh*, Nubras Samayeen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

10:00 AM–11:50 AM

PS03 Beyond Buildings: Preservation as Techniques and Technologies

Meng-Hsuan Lee, Columbia University, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

This panel reframes architectural preservation as techniques and technologies. Moving beyond preserving physical buildings, the panelists explore how various technological praxis engender new modes of thinking. We analyze how the physical, politico-economic, or geographical constraints of preserving actual buildings often generate these new techniques. These constraints prompt practitioners to utilize media technologies in innovative and critical ways, ranging from popular books and memes, light art, digital visualizations, to podcasting. They deal critically with issues as loss and trauma, civic engagement, and decolonization. Meng-Hsuan Lee explores how preservationists in Taiwan use popular media such as general audience books and internet memes not only to virtually resurrect Japanese colonial buildings and cityscapes, but to appropriate the colonial past to democratize and decolonize the present.

Natalia Irina Roman explores the critical spatial practice of using light installations to activate neglected spaces while challenging the idea of static art, from Along the Lines initiative that reanimates the obsolete interlocking towers along Berlin and NYC railways, to Breathing Lights (2016) that revitalizes hundreds of abandoned homes across New York State.

Claire Dillon will trace how new digital initiatives to reconstruct the ruined Cathedral of Mogadishu engages with centuries-long traditions in the visualization of ruins through diverse modalities, and critically question the validity of such projects, the positionality of the author, and best practices for the future of digital heritage.

Deqah Hussein-Wetzel investigates the use of digital media and its role in preserving cultural memory in urban environments. She uses the Urban Roots podcast, which she co-hosts/produces with Vanessa Quirk to amplify Black American stories in danger of being lost to posterity. Her work aims to raise awareness around preservation-based development in the U.S. by using history as a weapon against the forces of displacement and inspiring new forms of inclusive development.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Of Books and Memes: Popular Media as Preservation Techniques in Post-post-colonial Taiwan*, Meng-Hsuan Lee, Columbia University, USA
- *Light Art and Movement as a Preservation Method*, Natalia Irina Roman, Bauhaus University Weimar, Germany
- *Rebuilding Pasts, Reimagining Futures: Somali Heritage in the Built Environment*, Claire Dillon, Columbia University, USA,
- *Beyond the Written Record: The Role of Community-Engaged Narratives as a Tool for Equitable Preservation of Black Cultural Heritage*, Deqah Hussein-Wetzel, Columbia University, USA

12:00 PM–1:50 PM

PS04 Hiding in Plain Sight: Early Modern Women Designers in Europe

Shelley E. Roff, University of Texas at San Antonio, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

Could there have been a woman architect before the modern era? When Despina Stratigakos published her critical text *Where are the Women Architects?* (2016), historians were just beginning to uncover the presence of women in architecture in the late nineteenth century. No one thought (or dared) to ask if women performed the role of architect before the advent of modern professionalization. Yet, evidence can be found - hiding in plain sight - in the archives of early modern Europe of women designing, renovating, and building architecture,

and not necessarily through patronage of the work. Bringing together academic scholarship from various regions in Europe, this session aims to break through a firmly-held cultural belief that women did not design or build in earlier historical periods.

The veil that has until now obscured our recognition of women as designers can be attributed to the consensual, binding, and perpetuated grip of historical attitudes and language. The speakers in this session will present distinct socio-historical settings in which women in the seventeenth to early nineteenth centuries engaged in design. They examine how these women acquired design and technical knowledge, and, with the aid of drawings, executed designs for architecture and interiors. This session asks, does design or construction follow a different process when a woman is engaged? What language or omissions in the sources obscure women's roles in design? In what context should the term architect, amateur, or 'author of the work' be applied to a woman's role? Our objective is to build a new framework and language for interpreting women's roles in shaping the built environment. The question should no longer be why women have been absent from the making of architecture, but rather, why their history before the modern era has not yet been written.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Did She or Didn't She? Design and Authorship in Early Modern Architectural Works*, Shelley E. Roff, University of Texas at San Antonio, USA
- *Design and Diplomacy: The French Interiors of Marie-Anne de la Trémoille in Bourbon Spain*, Alba Carballeira, Independent scholar, Spain
- *Magdalena Morska and the Picturesque: Designing Zarzecze Village in Search of Private Homeland*, Izabela Kopania, The Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw, Poland

Session Respondent:

Conor Lucey, University College Dublin, Ireland

02:00 PM–03:50 PM

PS05 School Histories and Indigenous Resistance in North America

Elisa Dainese, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

Since at least the nineteenth century, within the settler colonial push to modernize and westernize the Americas one of the ways to achieve Indigenous assimilation laid in education. Historical accounts have highlighted how through the design of educational spaces, imported settler colonial knowledge aimed to control local perceptions, peoples and landscapes, and it disqualified already present ways of knowing. Case studies have analyzed how, while converting potential Indigenous objectors into model workforce and/or religious citizens, federal and national agendas adopted varied controlling strategies to Indigenous schooling: from the erasure of kin relations in the Indian Residential Schools in Canada, to the "cultivation" of bi-lingual programs in the Mexican *internados*.

This session extends the timeline, expands the focus, and examines the complex and layered history of Indigenous spaces of knowledge exchange and education. In addition to core ideas of resilience and resistance to control, indoctrination, and assimilation embedded in the school case, the interest is in the past, present, and future agency of Indigenous peoples to conceive and secure places for knowledge sharing. Discussions examine examples from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Topics include, but are not limited to, the reevaluation of ideas of authority and continuity in the history of North American education; the recovery of

underrepresented positionalities in the production of pedagogies and educational institutions; Indigenous reciprocity, North American educational spaces, and contested/liberated landscapes; Indigenous places for storytelling, intergenerational knowledge exchange, and alternative concepts of authorship; Indigenous collective memory and cultural property protection.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Researching the Intersection of Dënësųłíně Linguistics and Shape Forming. First Nations Vernacular as Resilience*, James Bird, University of Toronto and Knowledge Keeper of the Dënësųłíně Nation, Canada
- *The Circle of Life: Symbolic Resonance of the Diné College Campus*, Karla Britton, Diné College, USA
- *On Architecture, Pedagogical Experiments, and Indigenous Self-Determination in the North*, Elisa Dainese, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
- *'Indian Design' as Survivance: Angel De Cora's Workshop at the Carlisle Institute*, Maura Lucking, Columbia University and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA
- *Architecture as Protest: Indigenous Resistance and Pedagogies in Twenty-First Century Mexico*, Tania Gutiérrez-Monroy, University of British Columbia, Canada. Co-authors include Comunidad Indígena Otomí Residente en la Ciudad de México and Pueblos Unidos de la Región Cholulteca y de los Volcanes

Respondents:

- Lynn Paxson, Iowa State University, USA
- Anne Marshall, University of Idaho, USA

This session has been endorsed by the SAH Indigenous Architecture Affiliate Group.

04:00 PM–05:50 PM

PS06 Cultural Ecosystems of Computing in Architecture and Design

Kirsten Day, University of Melbourne, Australia; and Sarah Teasley, RMIT University, Australia, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

Histories of how architects and designers integrated hardware and software into their practices remain relatively undeveloped. The 2023 SAH Virtual panel 'Implicit Choices and Appropriations: Architectural Software Histories' explored histories of architectural software's development and use, primarily in vanguard contexts in Europe and the US.

However, from a social history perspective, how architects – alongside practitioners in related fields – located at distance to the vanguard of digital experimentation responded to the emergent availability of computers, software and ideas within their everyday practices also requires investigation. So too do the technical and professional infrastructures and communities within which architects, artists and designers encountered and accessed computing.

Working from architectural history, design history, games history, media history and history of technology perspectives, this session will explore the factors that shaped architects and designers' decisions around integrating hardware and software tools into their practices through micro-histories of practice in one creative and industry milieu, Melbourne Australia, in the years 1985-2005. Throughout this period, universities and firms acquired microcomputers, personal computers and software ranging across CAD, desktop publishing, typography and graphics applications. Take-up, however, varied.

Drawing on methods including oral history, artefact and archival research, auto-ethnography and software emulation facilitated by AusEaaS, the Australian Emulation Network, the papers in this session explore how take-up varied, and why. Papers will reflect on how factors such as Melbourne's geographical distance and cultural proximity to the Global North, policy shifts towards economic liberalization at federal level and cultural economic subsidy at state level, gender and race politics, and the funding models and industry relationships these produced for architecture firms, creative practitioners and universities. The aim is for these micro-histories to prompt further explorations of the adoption of hardware and software, as technologies, into local practices.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Deconstructing Practice: The Impact of Digital Tools on Architecture of the Early 1990s*, Kirsten Day, University of Melbourne, Australia
- *Creative Micro-computing in 1980-90s Australia: Circulation between the Domains of Art, Industry, and Academia*, Melanie Swalwell, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia
- *A New Design Industry for Australia: Exploring the Emergence of Melbourne House / Beam Software Australia's First Game Design Studio and the Global Success of its Microcomputer Games*, Helen Stuckey, RMIT University, Australia

Respondent: Harriet Edquist, RMIT University, Australia

06:00 PM–07:50 PM

PS07 Future Directions in Early Modern Scholarship: Race, Sensory Perceptions, and Indigenous Knowledge in Architectural and Urban Studies

Juan Luis Burke, University of Maryland, USA; and Luis Gordo Peláez, California State University, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

The study of early modern architecture and urbanism risks being overshadowed in an academic world increasingly preoccupied with research on recent eras. It is paramount to reinvigorate scholarly discourse surrounding early modern studies of the built environment for its rich insight into the complexities of urban and architectural development that remain pertinent today. Our objective is to underscore the enduring relevance of this field by highlighting innovative early modern research that addresses current scholarly concerns and offers insights into new methodologies and approaches.

This session gathers a group of early modern scholars presenting cutting-edge research illuminating the path forward for early modern built environment studies. We envision these contributions broadening the field's scope, focusing on global connections, critical theory, transnational networks, and exchanges of architectural Indigenous knowledge. The papers presented in this session range from a revisionist framing of the Villa Caprarola's frescoes and their racialized representation of the four continents, an exploration of early modern Isfahan and the phenomenological perception of its commercial spaces, a comparative, early modern study of thatched roofs in Andean and Caribbean architecture, to finalize with an examination of early modern religious architecture in Chennai, and its commodification by tourism in the present.

In this form, our session focuses on comparative methodologies, and revisionist narratives that consider race. But overall, the session highlights a global approach that charts the path forward in early modern scholarship.

These presentations address interdisciplinary methods that provide new insights into early modern urban analyses, including the interplay between architecture and social, economic, and environmental histories, and innovative methods on early modern sensual perception. These topics are not merely a range of academic pursuits; they offer a beacon to illuminate the future of the field. The session offers a critical reflection on the discipline's current state, anticipating its future trajectories, and highlighting the indispensable role of architecture and urbanism in shaping the early modern world and, by extension, our present-day environment.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Undecorated: Racecraft and the Pope's Stronghold in Premodern Caprarola*, Dijana O. Apostolski, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA
- *Reconstructing Senses and Spaces: Safavid Isfahan as an Early Modern City*, Farshid Emami, Rice University, USA
- *From Marketplace to Museum: Global Tourism, Cultural Heritage, and Economic Encounters at a South Indian Temple*, Gita V. Pai, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, USA
- *Centering the Thatched Roof: Ecology, Ephemerality and Community Collaborations in the Americas*, Stella Nair, University of California, Los Angeles, USA and Paul Niell, Florida State University, USA.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

06:00 AM–7:50 AM

PS08 Research on Women Architects in Portuguese (Post-)Colonial Africa

Leonor Matos Silva, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal and Beatriz Serrazina, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

While gender studies, like (post-)colonial studies, are widely studied, there is a clear lack of knowledge about the intersection of the two topics. The research project [WomArchStruggle - Women architects in former Portuguese colonial Africa: gender and struggle for professional recognition \(1953-1985\)](#) [DOI 10.54499/2022.01720.PTDC] seeks to respond to this gap. The aim of the session is to gather six women researchers allocated to the project to share and discuss their specific objectives and outputs with the audience of the SAH Virtual 2004.

The five presentations will be sequenced chronologically:

- (1) The first, by Leonor Matos Silva (PT), will focus on the training period of the first group of women architects tracked by the project, since their professional histories begin when they start Fine Arts School in Portugal;
- (2) The second, by Ana Vaz Milheiro (PT), will pay particular attention to the work of the first female architect born in Angola and her role in designing housing models in Luanda, offering new lenses for analyzing mass housing for colonized populations during the late Portuguese colonial period;
- (3) The third presentation, by Francesca Vita (IT), will focus on the case study of an immigrant from Yugoslavia in Guinea Bissau during the independence movement and later during the country's post-war reconstruction;
- (4) & (5) The last two presentations, by Inês Lima Rodrigues (PT) and Maria Alice Correia (AO), and by Patrícia Noormahomed (MZ), deal with the first architecture courses in Angola and Mozambique respectively, which represent the first challenges that aspiring architects faced in the independent nations.

Finally, the session will feature Mary McLeod (US), who is a consultant of the project above mentioned, as a Respondent. A book that will include the inputs from this event is also being prepared.

Papers and Presenters:

- *The Training of Women Architects Working in Portuguese Africa: Architecture School's Archives (1953-1974)*, Leonor Matos Silva, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal (Session Organizer and Co-chair)
- *From school to practice: female architects on housing. Antonieta Jacinto's "Cacuaco House", Angola (1957-1964)*, Ana Vaz Milheiro, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

- *Biography of an Immigrant Woman Architect in Guinea: the Postindependence Period*, Francesca Vita, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal
- *The Female Graduates of the First Architecture Course in Angola: Names, Origins, Aspirations*, Inês Lima Rodrigues, Iscte-University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, and Maria Alice Correia, Lusíada University of Angola, and IPGUL
- *Women in the First Architecture Course in Mozambique*, Patricia Noormahomed, University of Basel, Switzerland

Session Respondent:

Mary McLeod, Columbia University, USA

08:00 AM–9:50 AM

PS09 Envisioning Alternative Futures of the Rural South

Andreea Mihalache, Clemson School of Architecture, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

This session presents four pedagogical approaches that navigate the complex social and environmental challenges in the Southern United States through design methodologies equally rooted in historical research, community engagement, and speculative thinking. The overarching goal is to examine how histories of inequality and misrepresentation in the Southern United States, especially in rural areas, inform new design approaches that give agency to underserved communities.

Shifting attention away from the main urban centers where most of the resources are concentrated, we address issues of abusive tourism, aging infrastructure, lack of healthcare, food, housing, and public spaces in rural communities. Facing the threat of uncontrolled tourist developments, environmental challenges, and gentrification, how will communities such as the Gullah Geechee, that have historically inhabited the Atlantic Coast barrier islands, maintain their culture, agency, identity, and presence? Already operating on borrowed time, what is the future of a nuclear power plant such as the Oconee Nuclear Station in Seneca, SC (situated on Lake Keowee which resulted from submerging historic sites, among which a Cherokee town) and how will it impact the neighboring communities? Can a cultural center in the small rural community of Plantersville, SC, designed through locals' engagement, provide sustainable and innovative solutions to the systemic lack of food, healthcare, and education in the Lowcountry's infamous "Corridor of Shame"?

Anchored in rigorous research, our session aims to open a dialogue about the social and environmental future(s) of vulnerable places and vulnerable populations whose potential is often distorted and rarely fully recognized.

Papers and Presenters:

- *It Takes a Village – Third Space in the American Rural South*, Rayshad Dorsey, Clemson School of Architecture, USA

- *Architecture, Climate Change, and Tourism on the Southeastern Barrier Islands*, Andreea Mihalache, Clemson School of Architecture, USA; and David Franco, University of Texas at Arlington, USA
- *Vulnerable Places, Vulnerable Populations – Teaching Environmental Justice in the Midst of Social, Economic, and Environmental Challenges of our Dynamic Future*, Ulrike Heine, Clemson School of Architecture, USA
- *Reimagining Oconee Nuclear Station – Infrastructure and Design as Tools for Social and Environmental Consciousness*, Amy Trick, Clemson School of Architecture, USA

10:00 AM–11:50 AM

PS10 Living Architecture: New Approaches to Gothic Structures

Gabriela Chitwood, University of Oregon, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

Gothic structures have been the objects of study considering their structural design and construction. These projects have considered the patrons and masons but less often the embodiment of the spaces. Using this foundation, this session considers the interconnected and embodied use of Gothic structures. This session sees “embodiment” in many forms, considering gothic ecclesiastic architecture's varied arts and uses. Reconstructing the enlivening presence of people is made possible through interdisciplinary methods highlighted in this session.

The session's four papers move from the personal, intimate uses of gothic spaces towards the production of ornamentation and high ritual performance dependent on the Cathedral space. The session's first paper, "The Gothic Cloister as a Domestic Space" by Kathrine Allen Smith, draws upon textual, archaeological, and architectural evidence to explore the sacramental character of daily practices within the Gothic cloister. The second paper, "Cathedral as Parish: The complications at Toulouse Cathedral," by Gabriela Chitwood, considers through archival evidence how the parochial community sought to establish and use their altar within Toulouse Cathedral during the 14th-century, following a century of construction that redefined the cathedral's spatial organization. The third paper, "Building in Blue: Amiens Cathedral and the Medieval Textile Industry" by Lindsay S Cook, revisits the links between Amiens Cathedral and woad, using experimental archaeology, fieldwork, and archival research to explore the contributions of woad merchants to Amiens Cathedral's St. Nicholas Chapel. The session concludes with a paper concentrating on the intersection of architecture and performance from Rebecca Smith, "Crowning Spaces: How the Coronation Affected the Design of Reims Cathedral and Westminster Abbey," which examines how the desire and expectation of hosting coronations affected the design and architecture. This session is sponsored by AVISTA (Association Villard de Honnecourt for the Interdisciplinary Study of Medieval Technology, Science, and Art).

Papers and Presenters:

- *The Gothic Cloister as a Domestic Space*, Katherine Allen Smith, University of Puget Sound, USA

- *Cathedral as Parish: The Complications of Toulouse Cathedral*, Gabriela Chitwood, University of Oregon, USA
- *Building in Blue: Amiens Cathedral and the Medieval Textile Industry*, Lindsay S. Cook, Penn State University, USA
- *Crowning Spaces: How the Coronation Affected the Design of Reims Cathedral and Westminster Abbey*, Rebecca Smith, Wake Technical Community College, USA

Presider: Patricia Marie McCall, University of Oregon, USA

12:00 PM–1:50 PM

PS11 Just Histories of Rural Urbanism

Tiago Castela, University of Coimbra, Portugal; and Joaquim Moreno, University of Porto, Portugal, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

Rural urbanism has been relatively neglected by architectural history. However, can't we take, even if for a moment, the country's side? Can't we ask to what extent does it make sense that the history of present-day urbanism is understood mainly through cities and metropolises? Regardless of the increasing urbanization of humanity, half of us live in villages and towns; and the scale of most human lives bears little relation to the scope of planetary urbanization. Have these built environments not changed? Weren't these designed in ways that were novel and creative? In consequence, this session's first analytical concern is to inquire about forms of planning and design that are specific to rural buildings and settlements, and are not mere emanations of the city. In addition, the session interrogates to what extent city planning and rural urbanism should be understood relationally, foregrounding the productiveness of circulations between the urban and the rural.

The session thus explores the potential of an anti-urbanocentric and relational perspective for epistemic justice, starting with a paper by Ginger Nolan on how vernacular rural urbanism in postcolonial India was both an actant on 1960s theory and on current discourses on "smart villages." Afterwards, Filipa Guerreiro addresses villagization design by the Internal Colonization Agency in mid-Twentieth Century Portugal. Joaquim Moreno and Diego Inglez de Sousa will present work on prefabrication within the postwar rural development project in the late 20th Century, also in Portugal. Tiago Castela will present a paper on postcamps in postcolonial Africa, created by agriculturalists on sites of wartime villagization. All papers suggest paths for a history of Twentieth Century rural urbanism that acknowledges the paradoxes of total urbanization, and the legacies of the emergencies of various past political projects with global ambitions, including fascism and late colonialism, as well as US-led and socialist developments.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Peasants, Planning, and the Internet of Things: From Model Village to Smart Village*, Ginger Nolan, University of Southern California, USA

- *Architectural Narratives of Internal Colonization: Portuguese Agricultural Colonies (1936-1960) as a Laboratory for Overseas Colonization*, Filipa Guerreiro, University of Porto, Portugal
- *Petrified Urgency: Decolonization, International Assistance and Prefabrication in Portugal*, Joaquim Moreno and Diego Inglez de Sousa, University of Porto, Portugal
- *Africa's Postcamp Architectures: Agriculturalist Redesigns after Colonial Villagization in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau*, Tiago Castela, University of Coimbra, Portugal (Session Co-Organizer)

02:00 PM–03:50 PM

PS12 The Senses in Interior Design

John Potvin, Concordia University, Canada; and Benoit Beaulieu, Concordia University, Canada, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

The physical world is experienced and understood through the five senses. This is especially true of the interior where decorators and designers, both professional and amateur, have long experimented, embraced and harnessed new materials, objects and technologies to enhance or heighten sensory awareness and wellbeing.

Yet, a discussion of sight, touch, smell, hearing and taste is too often overlooked in the histories and historiography of interior design and design history. Interiors do not solely exist in abstract or inchoate form: it is through the senses that the body navigates and negotiates the experiences that interior design offers. Drawing from fields including design and architectural history, design studies and sensory studies, our session will examine the somewhat fragmentary histories of how the senses have been mobilized within various forms of interior.

The contributions brought together in this session shed light on sensory expressions and experiences of interior design throughout history. Examining domestic interiors ranging from the early modern period up to the mid-twentieth century, the presenters give back the body its central role in the practices, understanding and uses of interiors. In so doing, they explore fundamental considerations about identities, social structures and politics that reveal the significance of the senses in all aspects of interior design and decoration.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Luxury, Primitivism and Art Deco: A Case for the Importance of Touch in Interior Design*, John Potvin, Concordia University, Canada
- *Sensitive Design: Robert de Montesquiou's Sensorial Installations*, Benoit Beaulieu, Concordia University, Canada
- *The Sentient Body: Scenes from the Dressing Room*, Louisa Iarocci, University of Washington, USA
- *Queer Family Album in the (Walk-in) Closet*, Alice T. Friedman, Wellesley College, USA
- *Designing for Heat: Fireplaces and the Senses in the Early Modern Italian Domestic Interior*, Erin J. Campbell, University of Victoria, Canada

04:00 PM–5:50 PM

PS13 Palimpsests of the (Post)colonial

Mekarem Eljamal, Columbia University, USA; and Ranjani Srinivasan, Columbia University, USA,
Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

The construction of the future cannot be disentangled from the past. Scholars of the built environment have pointed to the challenges of navigating the postcolonial condition, which has been shaped by difficult and often unsettled histories. Excavating how people across southern geographies mobilize to resurrect, repurpose, reinterpret, and contest the environments they inhabit both allows us to examine the ways in which communities work to engage the past and by extension, the future.

As De Cesari and Herzfeld (2015) note, postcoloniality precludes some futurities while making others possible. Drawing together contested geographies that have, until now, been located at the margins of architectural history, participants weave together and highlight the divergence and convergences of how the past is embodied in moving towards collectively envisioned futures. In attending to the dialectical relationship between past, present, and future and their enactments within and through the built environment, this panel seeks to unpack how the nuances of repurposements, resurrections, and reinterpretations complicate our understanding of the (post)colonial condition.

This panel attempts to assemble a range of geographically diverse and interdisciplinary perspectives on postcolonial palimpsests, thereby allowing us to see the ways in which space provides a mediating link between the past and the future.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Spectres of Post/Colonialism in Lahore: Urban Heritage through Walking Tours and Storytelling*, Mahoor Fatima, Pratt Institute, USA, and Sunjay Mathuria, Concordia University, Canada
- *Towards Palestine: Meaning and Symbolism in late 20th Century Palestinian Protest Posters*, Mahdi Sabbagh, Columbia University, USA
- *From the Lines to the Pettai: Labour, Resistance and Placemaking in South India*, Ranjani Srinivasan, Columbia University, USA

06:00 PM–7:50 PM

PS14 Inhabiting the Planet within Capitalist Ruins

Junia Mortimer, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, Session Chair

Abstract:

Architects, urban planners, designers, historians, anthropologists, social scientists, philosophers, climatologists, indigenous people, community leaders and many other thinkers have been

reaffirming that the modern project has failed. Anna Tsing, professor at the University of California, USA, proposes to understand such failure as in fact a *modus-operandi* of capitalism, a system that constantly produces its own ruins, which may become potential areas for resurgent lives. Wellington Cançado, professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, stresses that this failure is due to the lack of mediations and relationships between us, humans-urbanites, and other non-human beings and entities. According to Cançado: “In the frenzy to build a unique and ever newer world, we have forgotten - or perhaps given up - on inhabiting the planet”. How to inhabit this planet and to carry out our research projects and works with Architecture facing the predatory ways we, as occidentals, place ourselves and understand ourselves in relation to nature?

Since the 1960s, architects have focused on issues such as sustainability, obsolescence, environmental performance and recycling. More recently, researchers linked to the humanities have been postulating the need for an epistemic repositioning, as a means of overcoming and confronting the current condition of the planet produced by us: the Capitalocene. As postulated by environmental historians, one of the most important challenges facing universities today is to bring together knowledge that was built separately and has resulted in distinct and often antagonistic disciplines: Natural History (such as Biology, Zoology, Geology) and Human History (such as Social History and Cultural History). It is a monumental but structural challenge for creating another episteme, capable of confronting the Capitalocene through the affirmation of diverse agencies between humans and also between humans and other living beings or other things in nature, taking deeply into account Political Ecology.

The researchers gathered for this panel seek to explain the socio-environmental situation we face at the moment and to stimulate a discussion, following distinct approaches in terms of research focus and methodological procedures, that point towards new scientific paths, within the framework of architecture and urbanism.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Towards Other Ways to Affirm Hybrid Agency*, Marcela Silviano Brandão, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil
- *Witoca: Relearning Ancient Science from the Field of Archaeology*, Ana Maria Durán Calisto, Yale University, USA
- *Learning from Environmental History*, Eduardo Costa, University of São Paulo, Brazil
- *Living Archive: Multispecies Assemblages of Memories*, Junia Mortimer, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

06:00 AM–7:50 AM

PS15 Modernity and Informality in Global South

Rana Habibi, Breda University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands; and Diaan van der Westhuizen, Breda University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

This session panel is devoted to exploring the relationship between modernity and informality in urban landscapes of the Global South. The discussion will focus on case studies from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Iran, and South Africa. In the early 20th century, cities in these regions, like other countries in the Global South, underwent rapid modernization due to the arrival of the urban modernization agenda, the nation-making process, and new socioeconomic plans such as the semi-industrialization agenda.

While all these agendas mainly focused on creating a middle-class society, there was no room for the neglected part of society, which required more time to face this rapid cultural and economic transformation. In other words, the everyday life of most rural inhabitants did not approximate the urban-cultural modernization that was on the agenda of the states of the time. The discourse of modernization of everyday life is inherent in a dichotomy of top-down and bottom-up modernization. Therefore, the rebellion against this fast modernization of culture would also show itself as informality.

Centralizing the economy in larger cities caused massive population immigration from rural. While modernization focuses mainly on the urbanized context, the rural population is becoming familiar with the concept of modernity through their immigration. Therefore Rural, now city-based communities often find themselves marginalized and not part of the fully designed modernized environment. This marginalization has led to the emergence of informal settlements and alternative public spaces, which historically were inherent in the complex interplay between fast urban development, socioeconomic inequality, and community agency.

This session sheds light on the nature of modernity in the Global South context and examines the adaptive strategies employed by marginalized communities in response to modernization processes. It delves into the socioeconomic, cultural, and political dynamics shaping informal spaces, alleviating the community's resilience in navigating fast urban and cultural transformations.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Tehran: From Top-Down Modernization till Unplanned Housing Practices*, Rana Habibi, Breda University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands
- *Desire Lines: Everyday Placemaking in Top-Down South African Public Spaces*, Diaan van der Westhuizen, Breda University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

- *Claiming Elite's Territory: Modernity and informality in Urban Landscapes of Everyday Public Space in Dhaka*, Kishwar Habib, University of Alberta, Canada
- *Recognizing the Everyday Space of the Low-Income Neighbourhood "As It Is" The Case of Surakarta, Indonesia*, Cynthia Susilo, Resilience Development Initiative, Indonesia

08:00 AM–09:50 AM

PS16 International Genealogies of Housing and Well-being

Katharina Borsi, University of Nottingham, UK; and Izumi Kuroishi, Fukushima Gakuin University, Japan, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

This session discusses genealogies of the concept of well-being as articulated through housing in an international context. Throughout the twentieth century, histories of housing have been intertwined with conceptions of the health, welfare and prosperity of the population. While the very provision of affordable and sanitary housing for all was the primary objective for many nations, the different cycles of housing programmes often aligned this spatial infrastructure with various broader political, social or cultural goals. Particularly the scale and ambition of the housing programmes after World War II, sought not only to ameliorate housing conditions of entire societies, but to improve the quality of life of individuals and the collective. However, the very same housing programmes have left a significant and often controversial physical and conceptual legacy in our understanding of housing.

Using the period of large-scale housing provision after WWII as a primary point of reference, the papers examine case studies and housing policies from Japan, Britain, Germany and Spain to explore their significance and legacy in the formation of the concept of well-being in housing in the different cultural contexts. This session brings together the negotiation between standardization, technocracy and alternative design concepts based on regionalist and social democratic ideals in the planning of minimum housing in Pre- and Post-War Japan (Kuroishi); the continuity of ideas of Health and Well-Being in British Public Housing between WW2 and the present (Boughton); a comparison between conception of well-being in large housing estates in East and West Berlin (Borsi); and contemporary design approaches for planetary, personal and community well-being in current Spanish Social Housing in the context of historical urban and architectural housing movements (Gómez-Moriana).

Papers and Presenters:

- *Designing for Well-Being in Large Housing Estates in East and West Berlin: Märkisches Viertel and Marzahn*, Katharina Borsi, University of Nottingham, UK
- *The Idea of Quality of Life and Minimum Housing Size in the Japanese Pre- and Post-War Architectural Movement*, Izumi Kuroishi, Fukushima Gakuin University, Japan
- *Ideas of Health and Well-Being as Understood and Applied in the Design and Planning of Post-War British Public Housing*, John Boughton, Independent scholar; Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the School of Architecture of the University of Liverpool

- *Well-Rounded Well-Being: The Low-Carbon Bioclimatic Architecture of the Balearic Housing Institute*, Rafael Gómez-Moriana, University of Calgary School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape, Spain

10:00 AM–11:50 AM

PS17 Category Crossings: Early Modern Architectural Intersections

Dijana Omeragić Apostolski, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, Session Chair

Abstract:

Early modern architecture did not passively mirror socio-political hierarchies and structures but constituted, altered, and proliferated their contingent contexts. In addition, hierarchical social structures and environments rarely developed in social vacuums. If we consider power relations inherent to architectural and urban discourses, praxes, and places, we begin to observe and scrutinize spatial relations as choreographed and contested social relations that relay the multifaceted intricacies of the systems they embody. This session explores early modern architecture's heterogeneous cross-cultural relationships, intersecting power structures, and colonial racial politics to offer insight into the intersections, influences, and resistances of diverse cultures and traditions exerted on various architectures and architectural discourses.

Spanning the early modern Mediterranean and Atlantic worlds, this session's papers will consider questions such as: Can we recognize Indigenous architectures in dialogue with early settler colonial histories? Which methodologies are helpful for cross-cultural historical explorations? Can "early modern" be an applicable designator and periodization tactic for writing histories that aim to cross geographic categories? How did early modern European theories of matter, materials, and architecture influence colonial identity constructions alongside ideas about otherness and appropriateness? And how did Ottoman ideas about the built environment affect and resist the Latinate architectural theories from across Mediterranean Europe? Through these and similar questions, papers will explore threads of marginalized and effaced architectural histories disregarded by conventional Eurocentric architectural historiography. Finally, the session will also raise theoretical, methodological, and historiographical inquiries that critically reflect on early modern architectural history more broadly.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Recognizing Parallel Expressions in Indigenous Architecture*, Suzanne McLeod, University of Manitoba, Canada
- *The Ca d'Oro in Context: Gilded Reflections of Colonialism and Empire*, Rebecca M. Howard, The University of Memphis, USA
- *Blackness and Identities: Revisiting Taxonomies of Color in Gianlorenzo Bernini's Biographies*, Fiona Sit, University of Leeds, UK
- *Architectural Theory Beyond European Conventions: The Early Modern Ottoman Case*, Gül Kale, Carleton University, Canada

12:00 PM–1:50 PM

PS18 Reframing S. F. Kimball: Historiography, Politics, Authoriality

Demetra Vogiatzaki, ETH Zurich, Switzerland, Session Chair

Abstract:

Throughout his life, Sydney Fiske Kimball liked to present himself as “a student of problems.” A prolific historian, curator, designer, educator, and institution-builder, Kimball faced and overcame a number of obstacles in his long and multifaceted career. The financial and socio-political ramifications of the Great Depression and the Second World War, the often explosive, interpersonal dynamics of donors, dealers and governance bodies in early twentieth-century Philadelphia, and the amusing riddles presented by disorganized archives on both sides of the Atlantic, are only some of the hurdles traced by the growing scholarship on his life and work.

Seventy years after his death, this session aspires to further interest in Kimball’s legacy, paying attention not only to unexplored frictions and accomplishments of his career, but also to the historiographical and ideological complications that arise when these problems converge with the limitations of biography as a genre. Bringing together for the first time perspectives from different aspects of Kimball’s career, this panel situates his work within larger institutional and disciplinary frameworks, casting light on the ways in which individual agency interacts with collective knowledge production in the archive, and beyond.

Marie Frank (UMass Lowell), currently working on the first monograph on Kimball, delves into the interplay between his personal life and professional persona, offering new insights into the construction of his authorial voice and legacy. Charles L. Davis II (UT Austin) investigates Kimball’s engagement with anthropological societies and ethnographic frameworks, revealing how these interdisciplinary connections shaped his approach to American architecture. Maarten Delbeke (gta/ETH) reassesses Kimball’s work on French decorative arts, problematizing its postwar reception and the role of national identity in shaping architectural discourse. Finally, Jean-François Bédard (Syracuse) sheds light on Kimball’s curatorial and acquisition practices as a director at the Philadelphia Museum of Arts.

Papers and Presenters:

- *Fiske Kimball: Biography and Autobiography*, Marie Frank, University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA
- *Sydney Fiske Kimball and the Settler Colonial Imaginary*, Charles L. Davis II, University of Texas at Austin, USA
- *Le baroque et les bons allemands. The Frenchness of Rococo after WWII*, Maarten Delbeke, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- *Fiske Kimball and the Aesthetics of the Period Room*, Jean-François Bédard, Syracuse University, USA

02:00 PM–03:50 PM

PS19 U.S. Capitalism and Architecture: Contracts, Labor, Materials

Bryan Norwood, University of Texas at Austin, USA; and Chelsea Spencer, Rice University, USA
Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

The past decades have seen a revival of interest in the study of capitalism. Rather than a universally explicable system, capitalism has been opened up as a subject of historicization. This panel argues that architectural historians are well-positioned to reframe some of these historical questions.

Moving from the 1820s to 1970s United States, this session presents five studies. Michael Osman's "Constructing Federalism" compares the systems the New York Canal Commission and US War Department used to pay contractors during the 1820–30s. Whereas one sought to create a self-regulating entrepreneurial class, the other used contracts to manage preexisting businesses and conscripted labor forces. Bryan Norwood's "Status and Contract" also inquires into early US political economy. Reframing Henry Maine's famous 1861 description of modernization as progress "from status to contract," he argues that architects combined contractual rhetoric with a pursuit of professional status. In "'Architecture Is the Work of Our Brains,'" Jay Cephas shows how the path of professionalization forged by the American Institute of Architects in the late-nineteenth century was predicated on the exclusion of Black and working-class builders, arguing that its efforts reflected a capitalistic consolidation of communal building knowledge. Complicating notions of competitive bidding as an abstract system, Chelsea Spencer's "The Lowest," reveals how estimating and tendering were carefully staged in the Gilded Age offices of architects and bureaucrats to construct contracting as a purportedly free market. Finally, Vyta Pivo's "Concrete to the Rescue?" examines the failure of a concrete dome in the Marshall Islands, constructed to contain the waste of nuclear tests, to shift attention from the centers of production to the "peripheries" of waste accumulation.

By considering how architects, bureaucrats, and builders engaged with contracts, labor, and materials, this panel shows that architectural history has much to say about what capitalism has been, is, and might be.

Papers and Presenters:

- Constructing Federalism: Public Works and the Building Industry in the Early Republic, Michael Osman, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- *Status and Contract: The Political Economy of Architectural Professionalism in the Early Republic*, Bryan Norwood, University of Texas at Austin, USA
- *Architecture Is the Work of Our Brains': Race and Class Exclusion in the Late-Nineteenth-Century Professionalization of Building Practices*, Jay Cephas, Princeton University, USA
- *The Lowest: Competition, Corruption, and Ritual in the Gilded Age Building Industry*, Chelsea Spencer, Rice University, USA
- *Concrete to the Rescue? The Runit Dome and Nuclear Containment in the Marshall Islands*, Vyta Pivo, University of Miami, USA

04:00 PM–5:50 PM

PS20: Alphabet Soup Landscapes: Understanding the New Deal Legacy Today

Mary Okin, Living New Deal, USA; and Elena Ion, Living New Deal, USA, Session Co-Chairs

Abstract:

In 1933, at the height of the Great Depression, newly elected President Roosevelt established a series of “alphabet soup” agencies whose acronyms became synonymous with the “New Deal.” Agencies like the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Civil Works Administration (CWA), and Federal Housing Administration (FHA), among others, radically transformed the U.S. built environment, creating architecture, artworks, public space, archives, infrastructure, and many other investments in the American people. Their scale and impact were unprecedented and never fully documented. Ninety years later, the New Deal legacy continues to impact many fields and organizations represented by members of the Society of Architectural Historians, encouraging critical self-reflection. In the absence of a museum, scholarly journal, or scholarly society devoted to the New Deal’s vast legacy, The Living New Deal (LND) is leading the effort to create space for New Deal studies dialogue that addresses timely debates about the challenges the country faced in the 1930s and still faces today: housing affordability, climate resiliency, various forms of discrimination, underfunded infrastructure and social services, and economic recovery. By crowdsourcing documentation, the project seeks broad audiences for New Deal history. It also cultivates an educational mission by bringing together scholars from across the humanities, lifelong learners, and allied professionals interested in the built environment, art, historic preservation, and public policy. Inviting a range of expertise on the New Deal’s complex legacies, this SAH session features affiliated scholars whose work engages with debates surrounding the “living history” of the New Deal’s programs and projects. It considers how we can revisit the New Deal’s history and its physical and intangible legacies, pushing the field of New Deal studies forward by engaging with our own historic moment and its debates over labor, class, race, environment, housing, social justice, and the future of American democracy.

Papers and Presenters:

- *New Deal Housing and the Formation of Black Urban Citizenship*, Kimberley Johnson, New York University, USA
- *Overpass Communities: Civic Landscapes and the Unhoused from the New Deal to the Present*, Benjamin Ellsmore-Jameson, University of Virginia, USA
- *Race, State Space, and Battles over Public Art*, John Ott, James Madison University, USA

Session Respondent: Erika Doss, University of Texas at Dallas, USA