Sessions at ACSA (Detroit, 23-25 Mar 17)

Detroit, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Conference
Deadline: Oct 5, 2016

H-ArtHist Redaktion

[1] In Practice: History as Research and Design Strategy
[2] Architectural Intelligence

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In both the profession and the academy, there is a renewed interest in the past. With the passing of theory, and efforts to move beyond the emphases on economics, technology, and ecology, contemporary architects are once again looking to history and the past as drivers for design. History is not just a source of precedents, or a "bag of tricks" for the architect to apply, but a research problem, the source of a design strategy, even a layer of complexity in the material of architecture. Architects are ever more self-consciously inventing, projecting, or manipulating the relation of present and past.

We are interested in collecting and presenting an array of "strategies" that focus on the practice of architecture as an intellectual process in dialogue with history. We seek papers that challenge given notions of the distinct role that practice and history play, that scrutinize situations where the threads of history and practice cross paths in a critical and productive dialogue. We welcome investigations into all manner of critical exchange between the project of architecture and the project of history. We are curious about collaborations between architects and historians, as well as architects working as historians, and vice versa. We are especially interested in cases in which contemporary architecture pushes the historical discourse into new territories.

Topic Chairs:

Dr. Francesca Torello, Carnegie Mellon University (ftorello@andrew.cmu.edu <mailto:ftorello@andrew.cmu.edu>) and

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[2]

Architectural Intelligence

Topic Chairs: Evangelos Kotsioris, Princeton University ekotsior@princeton.edu
Molly Wright Steenson, Carnegie Mellon University

Once a distant technological dream, artificial intelligence (AI) today is a subject of wide interest, with promises that machine intelligence and autonomous interaction will alter our daily lives. More than ever, artificial intelligence—the intelligence exhibited by machines with a learning capacity—is a vital architectural concern, as the designers of smart cities and applications for the Internet of Things deploy machine learning with big data and responsive systems at an architectural scale. The AI imaginary can be both thrilling and dastardly, and at the architectural scale, the ramifications of AI play out most vividly. In this panel, we seek to explore a long history of the architectural and spatial engagement of intelligent systems.

The relationship between AI and architecture is not new. Artificial intelligence was defined as a term in 1956, and starting in the 1960s, architects such as Nicholas Negroponte and the MIT Architecture Machine Group, Christopher Alexander, and Thomas Moran began to explicitly engage and collaborate with AI research, postulating new design methods, and designing artificially intelligent learning machines and expert systems. Moreover, architecture's relationship with intelligent systems predates the computational paradigms that transformed architectural design protocols after World War II. The English term "robot" is a translation that originates from the title of Karel ?apek's 1920 play R.U.R. ("Rossum's Universal Robots"), the transformable mechanized set for which was designed by no other than Frederick Kiesler. Siegfried Giedion discussed 18th century automata and Pierre Jaquet-Droz's "writing doll" (1770) in Space, Time and Architecture (1941) as precedents for modern automatic telephone network and technological innovation. It is through such cases that both architects and historians anticipated the dissolution of intelligent devices into seemingly ubiquitous systems.

In this panel, we invite papers that explore the intersections of architecture and artificial intelligence. In particular, this panel asks: How does one even start to compose such a history in architecture? What kinds of fantasies, imperatives and mandates have diachronically elevated the design of machine intelligence systems into a contemporary matter of concern? Which theoretical constructs and material artifacts does one mobilize to thread such a broader, deeper narrative, ranging from diagrammatic Vitruvian machines to 18th century automata to deep-learning to data mining algorithms, and beyond? We are especially looking for papers that uncover previously overlooked systems of architectural intelligence, perform novel readings of canonical objects of architectural history, and consider non-Western and non-computerized approaches to artificial intelligence. Proposals addressing such questions across scales (from the body, to the sensor, to the city), objects, infrastructures, and eras are welcome.

For more info on the overall call for papers:

http://www.acsa-arch.org/programs-events/conferences/annual-meeting/105th-annual-meeting/call-for-papers

105th ACSA Annual Meeting | Brooklyn says "Move to Detroit"

March 23-25, 2017 | Detroit, Michigan

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