Concepts of Sacred Spaces in Architecture (Zurich, 17–18 Nov 20)

Université de Zürich, Nov 17–18, 2020
Deadline: Apr 30, 2020

Pierre-Olivier Védrine, ephe/sorbonne

CALL FOR PAPERS

"Concepts of Sacred Spaces in Architecture and its Description in Literature from Early Modern Times to the Present“

Scientific committee:
Sabine Frommel, Prof. Dr. EPHE Paris-Sorbonne
Hubertus Günther, Prof. em. University of Zurich
Barbara von Orelli-Messerli, PD Dr., Private Docent University of Zurich

Organization:
Barbara von Orelli-Messerli, PD Dr. phil. of University of Zurich (UZH)

Working languages:
English / German / French / Italian

Keynote speaker:
Winfried Nerdinger, Prof. em. Technical University of Munich, President of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts

Project description:

The biennial international conference „A Dialogue of the Arts“, pursues a long-term vision including Early Modern Times up to the present and including all places. It explores the possibilities of widening and enriching the methods of the history of art. The five conferences from 2010 to 2018 dealt with "Descriptions of Architecture in Literature from Early Modern Times to the Present”, first in a general way (2010), then focusing on „Descriptions of Interior Design” (2012), „The Relationship of Exterior and Interior” (2014) and „Reinterpreting Architecture and its Description in Literature” (2016) and finally „The Spatial Turn in Architecture” (2018). The sixth conference will take place from 17th to 18th November 2020 and is devoted to “Concepts of Sacred Spaces in Architecture and its Description in Literature from Early Modern Times to the Present”.
Larry E. Shiner stated, “if we begin with a sacred/profane or religious/secular dichotomy every piece of evidence tends to get polarized from the beginning and we end up with artificial paradoxes. On the other hand, if we begin with the concept of human spatiality, of lived space with its fundamentally heterogeneous, oriented and meaningful organization, we can accommodate the

kinds of extreme phenomena for which the concepts of sacred and profane space were developed without distorting the phenomena which lie between these poles." (Larry E. Shiner: Sacred Space, Profane Space, Human Space, in: Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 40 (1972), 425–436).
The aim of the sixth International Conference "A Dialogue of the Arts" is to question phenomena "which lie between these poles" of sacred and profane space, and this by relying on literature of different languages from Early Modern Times to the present. The past five conferences have shown that literary descriptions of different times and languages are a witness of the time in which they are written: on the one hand they are an important contribution for understanding the development of methods in art history, on the other hand they can disclose new interdisciplinary dialogues. The presentations and the subsequent publication of the peer reviewed papers of the foregoing conferences have shown clearly that literary texts of different genres like prose, poetry, travelogues, diaries as well as letters and other categories are door-openers not only for new art historical perceptions, but can also give hints to new methods for the discipline. This means not only the breaking up of the periodical conception of art history, but also the architectural and spatial categories which define it. Therefore, we are looking for papers showing new perspectives for the discipline, which will make it possible to engage and continue new dialogues for the different shifts of time and genres. We particularly encourage the submission of proposals that crosscut cultural contexts, present diachronic perspectives or establish relationships between different research areas. Furthermore, we encourage junior researchers to submit to this CFP.

Submissions for a 30-minute presentation to the Scientific Committee should be sent by email to barbara.vonorelli@khist.uzh.ch with „CFP Dialogue of the Arts 2016" as subject message. Deadline for proposals : 30 April 2020. The abstracts should include title and a maximum of 500 words; the abstract must be accompanied by a different file with a curriculum vitae (maximum: 1 page), that must include personal identification elements, the submission title, academic affiliation and a selection of a maximum of 5 bibliographic references; notification of acceptance will be announced until 30 May 2020.

For further information please see:

Barbara von Orelli-Messerli (ed.): Ein Dialog der Künste. Neuinterpretation von Architektur und Beschreibung in der Literatur der Frühen Neuzeit bis zur Gegenwart. Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2020.

Barbara von Orelli-Messerli, Brigitte Kurmann-Schwarz (eds.): Ein Dialog der Künste. Das Verhältnis von außen und innen. Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2016.

Barbara von Orelli-Messerli (ed.): Ein Dialog der Künste. Beschreibungen von Innenarchitektur und Interieurs in der Literatur von der Frühen Neuzeit bis zur Gegenwart. Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2014.

Barbara von Orelli (ed.): Ein Dialog der Künste. Beschreibungen von Architektur in der Literatur von der Frühen Neuzeit bis zur Gegenwart. Petersberg: Michael Imhof Verlag, 2012.

Reference:

CFP: Concepts of Sacred Spaces in Architecture (Zurich, 17-18 Nov 20). In: ArtHist.net, Apr 6, 2020

(accessed Nov 18, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/22950>.