

Modernity and early cultures (Paris DFK, 15.-16. Oct 04)

Sekretariat

MODERNITY AND EARLY CULTURES

Reconsidering non western references
for modern architecture
in a cross-cultural perspective

15th to 16 th october 2004,
Centre allemand d'histoire de l'art, Paris
<http://www.dt-forum.org/modernity.html>

Issue

"To be primitive" was one of the slogans of architects that took part in the European reformation debate prior to 1914. Normative Neoclassicism was opposed to by a vaguely defined construct of archaism and primitivism which in turn was defined as a "new nativeness" (Westheim) that indiscriminately referred to Egypt, the Middle East, and the "industrial purism" of North-America as a "New Atlantis" (Banham). Later, the issue of pre-Columbian cultures in North and South America was brought into the discussion.

In the age of imperialism and colonization, the colonial gaze towards non-European cultures led to the development of new forms and perspectives for European (and American) art and architecture. During this time, the reception [of the other] was balanced by self-reflections. Additionally, the reconsideration of non-European early cultures in contrast to the normative canon of neo-classical art led to the formation of a second strand of Modernity after 1910. This condition has led to fruitful discoveries in contemporary art historical research but constitutes a desideratum within the domain of modern architecture

Since the early 20th century, two important cultural issues have been part of the debate: on the one hand, the Orient (Middle- and South-East, Japan, and Egypt) and, on the other hand, the pre-Columbian cultures of America. In assorted European and American discourses, both have generally been discussed separately under the rubric of a new monumentalism and archaism or under that of "Nation Building" and modernization. According to Michel

Foucault and Edward Said these debates have become themselves discursive constructs of otherness itself. The constitution of these constructs and their reception in an international, and later global, cultural practice is one of the main concerns of our investigation.

The Paris conference will take as its starting-point this and focus the issue on two directions: First of all, on the historical contextualization of discourses about early cultures. Secondly, on presenting the cross-cultural dimension from a post-colonial perspective.

Four issues that underlie as the substructure of the conference are important to emphasize.

- Archaism and abstract architecture
- Cross-cultural discourse
- Colonial practice and modern architecture
- National strategy and legitimation

Program

conference language: English

Download printable PDF file (237 KB):

<http://www.dt-forum.org/modernity-program.pdf>

FRIDAY, 15. 10. 2004

14.00h Welcoming

Thomas W. Gaehtgens, directeur centre allemand d' histoire de l'art

Introduction Bernd Nicolai/Jorge Liernur/Luis Carranza

Reading and misreading of Early Cultures

14.30h Werner Oechslin:

Some Egyptian ideas and cultural stereotypes - and modern art and architecture

15.30h Luis Carranza:

(Mis)readings of ancient history and culture in modern North America

- coffee-break

17.00h Nabir Oulebsir:

Colonial Exhibitions and Post-Colonial aspects in French architecture of the early 20th century

18.00h Christian Freigang:

Classics vs. Anti-Classics, national tradition vs. foreign influence. - Dualistic world order and architectural discourse at the beginning of

French Modernism

- discussion

SATURDAY 16. 10. 2004

Discourses in intercultural perspective

10.00 h Bernd Nicolai:

Paul Westheim and the discourse on archaic abstract architecture

11.00 h Jorge Liernur:

The South American response. Westheim, Cetto facing Pre-Columbian Architecture

- lunch

Pergamon and(Neo) Babylon

14.00h Johannes Cramer:

(Re)-Building the past. Walter Andrae, Mesopotamia and the Berlin architecture

15.00h Can Bilsel:

The Orient as a Total Work of Art: The Near Eastern Museum, German Ideology and Figures of Counter-Enlightenment in Berlin 1928-30

- coffee-break

Early cultures and nation-building

16.30h Anna Minta:

"Ancient Hebrew". A model for rebuilding the New Jewish Nation.

concluding discussion-round table

19.00h end of the conference

Venue

Centre allemand d'histoire de l'art

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The conference is a co-operation between the Centre allemand d'histoire de l'art- Deutsches Forum für Kunstgeschichte

(Prof. Dr. Thomas W Gaehtgens)
and the Universität Trier Dept. History of Art
(Prof. Dr. Bernd Nicolai)

Idea and Conception:
Prof. Dr. Bernd Nicolai
with Prof. Dr. Jorge Francisco Liernur
and Ass.-Prof. Dr. Luis Carranza

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