

Are You a Model? (Darmstadt, 2–4 Nov 22)

Technical University of Darmstadt, Nov 2–04, 2022

Lisa Beißwanger

Are You a Model? On an Architectural Medium of Spatial Exploration.

Are you a model? A questionable start to a conversation one might think, and yet, architecture does beg the question. What does it mean to call something a model? Which implications, projections or desires are called to the table? Architects do not build buildings, they draw plans, they model structures or produce objects; all practices with a longstanding tradition in architecture—be they analog or digital. As a discipline working with substitute media and through displaced methods, we might ask of objects indeed: Are you a model? More than a pickup line, we want to put the model front and center in an assessment of architectural thinking and doing. We aim to explore the role architectural models play in professional and societal processes, as referents not merely of scale or form, but of architectural knowledge.

In nine moderated sessions and two keynotes over the course of three days, we will investigate together how architectural models are constructed or destroyed, how they operate, what they promise – and if that promise holds –, and which kinds of knowledge they produce. We hope to uncover new approaches and diverse takes on the model as both instrument and phenomenon in architecture and its history.

Organizers:

- Institute for Architecture Theory and Science (ATW), Technical University of Darmstadt
- Building History, Research and Preservation, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts
- LOEWE cluster of excellence “Architectures of Order”
- Platform for digital science and research FID BAUdigital
- Deutsches Architekturmuseum, Frankfurt am Main (DAM)
- Center for Critical Studies in Architecture (CCSA)

The conference will be broadcasted online via Zoom.

The Hesse Chamber of Architects (AKH) awards training points for this event.

For registration and further information please visit:
<https://www.architektur.tu-darmstadt.de/are-you-a-model>

PROGRAM:

WEDNESDAY, 02.11.2022

Location: Wilhelm-Köhler-Saal, S1|03 Altes Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstraße 1, Darmstadt

12:00 Registration

12:45 - Welcome

13:00-15:00 - Does size matter?

Anna-Maria Meister, Technical University of Darmstadt

Introduction: On Models and Scale

Evangelos Kotsioris, The Museum of Modern Art

tba.

Giulia Boller, ETH Zurich

Heinz Isler's small-scale physical models: an interplay between form and forces

Carlotta Darò, ENSA Paris Malaquais and ETH Zurich

The Acoustic Scale: Immersive Reduced Spectacles

Ruth Ezra, University of St Andrews

Muscovy glass, from fenestration to demonstration

15:00-15:30 - Coffee Break

15:30-17:30 - Who made me?

Anna Luise Schubert, Technical University of Darmstadt

Introduction: On their Material Production

Matthew Wells, University of Manchester and Manchester Architecture Research Group

Object, manual, material, collection

Erik Herrmann, The Ohio State University

Vjenceslav Richter and the Reliefmeter

Sebastiaan Loosen, ETH Zürich

Mr. Dennis' Model: Organizing Knowledge in the Postcolonial Era

Eliza Pertigkiozoglou, McGill University

Building Models of Practice: The OXSYS Software for Hospital Design, 1969-1974

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KEYNOTE

Annabel Jane Wharton, Duke University

Am I Good?

Location: Max-Guther Saal, L3|01 Architektur, El-Lissitzky-Straße 1, Darmstadt

19:30-21:00

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THURSDAY, 03.11.2022

Location: Wilhelm-Köhler-Saal, S1|03 Altes Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstraße 1, Darmstadt

08:30 Registration

09:00-11:00 - Give me access!

Oliver Elser, Deutsches Architekturmuseum

Introduction: On Models in Participatory Processes

Maxime Zaugg, ETH Zurich

In the Eye of the Beholder: New Representation Techniques for Public Urban Scale Models

Ecaterina Stefanescu, University of Central Lancashire

Rooms: Modelling Migrancy in the Context of Berlin

Tamar Zinguer, University of Oklahoma

Worlds in a Box: Modeling (inner and outer) Landscapes

Cansu Degirmencioglu, Technical University of Munich

Deniz Avci Hosanli, Izmir University of Economics

The Politics of Cutting and Gluing: Architectural Models as Propaganda in Early Republican Turkey

11:00-11:30 - Coffee Break

11:30-13:10 - What the hell happened to me?

Teresa Fankhänel, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University

Introduction: On their Afterlife and Decay

Stéphanie Quantin-Biancalani, Contemporary Architecture Collection in the Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine

Crossing and Transformation. About Paul Andreu's sphere models

Stefanie Brünenberg, Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space

Kai Drewes [online], Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space

How to use architectural models: Connecting Archive and Research

Daniel Cardoso Llach, School of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University

Models and Visions. Experimental Reconstructions of Design Pasts

13:10-14:30 - Lunch Break

14:30-16:10 - What is my act?

Lisa Beißwanger, Technical University of Darmstadt

Introduction: On Models as Actors and Stages

Christian Janecke, University of Arts and Design in Offenbach/Main

Modelling Scenic Attitudes. On Funnels, Conical Stairs and Caveae in Postmodern Architecture

Giulia Amoresano, University of California, Los Angeles

Christina Moushoul, Princeton University

From Site to Set: the multi-scalar effect of architectural models in crafting gender and sexuality in

postwar Italy

Mara Trübenbach, Oslo School of Architecture and Design

Sculptural puzzles. A conversation essay about model making, rituals and material literacy in architecture

16:10-16:40 - Coffee Break

16:40-18:40 - Am I the real thing?

Christiane Fülcher, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts

Introduction: On Copies and Casts

Diana Cristobal Olave [online], Princeton University

One-to-one scale: Witnessing the Walker Art Center's Idea Houses I and II (1941-1947)

Ana Carolina Pellegrini [online], Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul

Unstuck Architectures: when the building becomes a model

Wonseok Chae, Bergische Universität Wuppertal

The modeling grammar of the real

Simona Valeriani, Victoria and Albert Museum and Royal College of Art

Studying, copying, making, sharing. Multiple approaches to an historical model.

19:30-21:00 - Evening Talk

with Thomas Demand [online], Annabel Jane Wharton and Anna-Maria Meister

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FRIDAY, 04.11.2022

Location: Wilhelm-Köhler-Saal, S1|03 Altes Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstraße 1, Darmstadt

08:30 Registration

09:00-11:00 - Do we look alike? — by FID Bau

Chris Dähne, Goethe University Frankfurt a. M. and Technical University of Darmstadt

Andreas Noback, Technical University of Darmstadt

Introduction: On Digital Multiples Twins and Simulation Processes

Gabriele Gramelsberger, RWTH Aachen

Digital Twin, Metaverse and Computerbased Simulation

Yana Boeva, University of Stuttgart

The Model Multiple: On Approximation Work in Digital Models and Twins

Baris Wenzel, Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences

Digitally recreating the Mannheim Multihalle Modell - Exploring the simulation of physical form-finding in the tradition of Frei Otto

Carolin Höfler, TH Köln

Models in Reality: Computation and Simulation in Architecture

11:00-11:30 - Coffee Break

11:30-13:10 - Where are you going?

Nadja Gaudillière-Jami, Technical University of Darmstadt

Introduction: On Models in Future Practice

Andreas Pilot, Technical University of Darmstadt

built together! digital models and teaching teamplay

Salome Schepers, ETH Zurich

THE MOCK-UP

Beth Hughes, Royal College of Art

Adrian Lahoud, Royal College of Art

Abstract - Set and Setting: Architecture and the Rehearsal of Sense

13:10-14:30 - Lunch Break

14:30-16:10 - What can you learn from me?

Christina Clausen, LOEWE Research Cluster „Architectures of Order“

Introduction: On Model Didactics

Kelly Joan Whitmer, Sewanee: The University of the South

Games, models and projects in pedagogical praxis, c. 1650 – 1750

Alberto Calderoni, University of Naples

What We Have Learned, so far

Holger Zaunstöck, Francke Foundations Halle

What am I, actually? The Model of the Halle Orphanage (1719/20)

16:30-17:00 - Conclusion and Closing Remarks

Reference:

CONF: Are You a Model? (Darmstadt, 2-4 Nov 22). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 21, 2022 (accessed Dec 17, 2025),

<<https://arthist.net/archive/37738>>.