

2 Sessions at SAH (Mexico City, 15–19 Apr 26)

Apr 15–19, 2026

Deadline: Jun 5, 2025

ArtHist.net Redaktion

[1] Territorial Reconfigurations: Volumes, Weights and States of Matter

[2] Mapping new epistemologies of collecting and archiving

[1] Territorial Reconfigurations: Volumes, Weights and States of Matter.

From: Valeria Guzmán Verri

Date: 20 May 25

In 2017, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration published an image of tropical cyclone Nate as a three-dimensional volume of water embedded quantitatively and aesthetically in the Central American territory. This image invites us to question how socio-physical characteristics such as volume, weight, size and transitions of matter, as well as their governance and monitoring, have configured or are configuring spatio-political notions of territory over time, its mappings, counter-mappings and imaginations. As studies in geography, architecture, and environmental engineering show, the volume of a given territory (urban or rural for instance) can increase in size when spaces and materials placed at the service of its construction and maintenance are taken into account. It also increases in weight when counting material stock, greenhouse gas emissions and energy embodied in its construction, maintenance, use and destruction. It produces its own spatialities when seismic faults, floods, landslides and other earth and atmospheric dynamics that cross political boundaries are incorporated. By taking into account transitions of matter (e.g., solid-fluid or solid-gaseous), territories can also be considered as bodies of water (from aquifers and rivers to hurricanes and oceans) interacting with soil, air and the built environment.

This panel will explore how these diverse notions of territory are changing our understandings of built environments, architectures, landscapes, and infrastructures. We seek papers that spatially assess the possibilities or the limits of these notions of territory at any time period and in any geographical region where conditions of coloniality, imperialism, and/or dictatorship intervene in their making. We also encourage interdisciplinary works exploring how cartography, drawing, image or literature broaden spatio-political imaginations of territories in their plural significations, beyond political borders.

Session Chair: Valeria Guzmán Verri, University of Costa Rica.

Submission Guidelines:

- Confirmed 2026 Session Chairs are not eligible to submit to the Call for Papers
- Abstracts must be under 300 words.
- The title cannot exceed 65 characters, including spaces and punctuation.
- Abstracts and titles must follow the Chicago Manual of Style.

- Only one abstract per conference by an author or co-author may be submitted.
- A maximum of three (3) authors per abstract will be accepted.
- Please attach a two-page CV in PDF format.

Abstracts are to be submitted online, all the information is here:

<https://www.sah.org/2026/call-for-papers-mexico-city>

[2] Mapping new epistemologies of collecting and archiving.

From: Gabriel Hernández

Date: 28 May 25

The session at the 2026 Annual International Conference of the Society of Architecture Historians (SAH) in Mexico City will interrogate present and future strategies for collecting and archiving architecture.

Titled 'Mapping new epistemologies of collecting and archiving', we seek to add new layers to understanding the archive and archiving as significant epistemic edifices in their own right and their seminal importance for architectural histories to emerge, develop, and stay open to critique.

What is the role of recently created private and public architectural institutions based around archive collections? How are they affecting the landscape of archival processes and thinking? What will the histories emanating from these archives look like?

Join us in CDMX next year to discuss current architectural archiving and collecting varieties, examine their central role in revising histories, and connect them to critical practice!

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Reference:

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