

Healing Spaces (SAH, Austin, 9–13 Apr 14)

Austin, Texas, Apr 9–13, 2014

Deadline: Jun 1, 2013

Didem Ekici

Society of Architectural Historians SAH Conference in Austin, Texas
April 9 - 13, 2014

Panel: Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body

Recent museum exhibitions and academic publications have explored the multifaceted relationship between the built environment and the body in the modern era of public health. The Canadian Center for Architecture's 2011-2012 exhibition *Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture*, for example, made a case for the paradox of new emphases on "public architectures of health" while globalized social change has made healing spaces a privilege of the rich. Meanwhile, the Palm Springs Art Museum's *Backyard Oasis: The Swimming Pool in Southern California Photography, 1945-1982* hinted at a historical relationship between visual culture, new anxieties about the body, and the growth of prefab suburban homes after World War II. In the context of the postwar Sunbelt, at least, consumerism and the family backyard produced awkward quests for natural health in inherently unnatural settings. This new work builds upon a growing field that has focused on modern preoccupations with the healthy body and a corresponding therapeutic architecture.

We are interested in expanding the field to include ways that architects, urban planners, physicians, social reformers, and civil servants have engaged with the architecture of healing and the body, as well as strategic ways that urban dwellers have modified their living environments themselves to create a kind of vernacular health architecture from the late nineteenth century onwards. We encourage submissions that interrogate unusual ways of thinking about the political economy of health and the body, nature and natural environments, and international concerns about urban design and physical well-being. Session chairs: Sarah Schrank sarah.schrank@csulb.edu (California State University, Long Beach) and Didem Ekici Didem.Ekici@nottingham.ac.uk (University of Nottingham).

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<http://www.sah.org/conferences-and-programs/2014-conference---austin>

Reference:

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<<https://arthist.net/archive/5148>>.