

Sound Modernity: Architecture, Technology and Media (SAH 2015)

Chicago, United States, Apr 15–19, 2015

Deadline: Jun 6, 2014

Olga Touloumi, Harvard University

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SAH The Society of Architectural Historians 2015 15-19 Apr 2015

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The last decade has seen a growing interest in studies of sound and acoustics. Beginning with Emily Thompson's 2002 *Soundscape of Modernity*, scholars and historians have argued that histories of sound technology and architectural acoustics can equip us with powerful tools to examine the operations and processes of modernization. By investigating the practices and discourses of architects, engineers, acousticians, and composers, these scholars demonstrate that the "acoustic," deeply entrenched in the making-of-modern, invites an unprecedented dialogue among cultural studies, institutional histories, and socio-technical histories of sound.

We invite papers that consider and situate sound modernities within the framework of architectural practices and discourses. What kind of sound practices have architects incorporated within their projects and what kind of disciplinary stakes did these practices pose to architecture? What has been the impact of changing aural cultures on design practices and pedagogies? Which aural futures did architects envision in their projects and which pasts did they recall?

We are interested in contributions that examine sound modernities in architecture, interrogating the spaces that articulated them, the technologies that formed them, and the media that transmitted them. Presentations should engage with the full spectrum of architectural practice, examining projects for assembly halls, learning environments, urban housing, laboratories etc. The panel also aspires to explore the discursive articulation of sound modernities in theory and history, and how architects engaged with established and emerging sound media to communicate modern ideas about architecture. The goal is to bring forth the acoustic aspect and to launch a critical discussion on the aural history of space and the spatial history of aurality.

Session chairs: Olga Touloumi, Harvard University, touloumi@fas.harvard.edu and Sabine von Fischer, ETH Zürich, sabine.von.fischer@gta.arch.ethz.ch.

Reference:

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