Workshop
Research in Architecture

Architekurrat der Schweiz
Conseil suisse de l'architecture
Consiglio svizzero dell'architettura
Architecture Council of Switzerland

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

The aim of the second conference on architectural research of the Architecture Council is to clarify individual positions and terminologies concerning architectural design, as an essential competence of architectural research. Strategies for financing architectural research will also be discussed.
The findings of the conference will serve as a basis for the formulation of a draft of the position paper on architectural research. This will provide a description of architectural research from the perspective of schools of architecture and the evaluation of this research in the context of the Swiss research landscape. The document serves as a basis for communicating the essence of architectural research to the outside world. In particular, political initiatives to promote architecture-specific research are to be undertaken in the future.

Ort: **Zoom:** **https://hslu.zoom.us/j/5053407969**
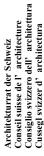**Meeting-ID: 505 340 7969**

08h30	**Welcome**
	Introduction Architecture Council of Switzerland
	with Johannes Käferstein & Joachim Huber
	Positions on architectural research:
	7 x 20 Minuten
08h50	Prof. Dr. Holger Schurk: "Design or Research in Doing"
09h10	Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Angelika Schnell, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien: „Designing Researching – updated"
09h30	Bernhard Böhm, ETH Zürich: „On the Cultures and Politics of Design Research in the UK and USA"
09h50	Prof. Dr. Roberto Cavallo, Delft University of Technology: "Crossovers"
10h10	Coffee break
10h20	Prof. Dr. Sascha Roesler, Academy of Architecture, Mendrisio: "The Way of Life:" Problems and Wicked Problems
10h40	Dr. Carlo Nozza, Academy of Architecture, Mendrisio "20th century flexible-evolutionary Housing.Design and Construction, Heritage Preservation and Innovation."
11h00	Prof. Dr. Murray Fraser, The Bartlett School of Architecture, London: "Design Research in Architecture: Implementation and Dissemination"
11h20	Discussion / Q&A
	Moderation: Martin Fröhlich

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Conseil suisse de l'architecture
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Cussegl svizzer d' architectura

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12h30   Lunch
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13h30   Workshop and Discussion
        4 groups / preparation of the representatives of the schools of architecture:
        statements on the two questions formulated below.


        Tables / Break Out Sessions
        Tisch 1:    Moderation (engl.): Elena Cogato Lanza (EPFL)
                    Heike Biechteler, HSLU
                    Bernhard Böhm, ETH
                    Patric Furrer, ZHAW
                    Stefano Zerbi, SUPSI
                    Rolf Seiler, HEIA
                    Harald R. Stühlinger, FHNW

        Tisch 2:    Moderation (german): Christoph Gantenbein (ETHZ)
                    Christine Seidler, HTW
                    Sonja Geier, HSLU
                    Hanspeter Buergi, BFH
                    Nicolas Pham, HEPIA
                    Beat Waeber, ZHAW

        Tisch 3     Moderation (engl.): Sascha Roesler (USI)
                    Carlo Nozza, USI
                    Joachim Huber BFH-AHB
                    Marion Sauter, BFH
                    Daniel A. Walser, HTW
                    Dieter Dietz, EPFL
                    Francesco Frontini, SUPSI

        Tisch 4     Moderation (dtsch): Anna Jessen/ ArchitekturWerkstatt (FHSG)
                    Christina Schumacher, FHNW
                    Martin Fröhlich, EPFL
                    Tim Kammasch, BFH
                    Johannes Käferstein, HSLU
                    Walter Angonese, USI
                    William Fuhrer, BFH
                    (Peter Schwehr, HSLU)
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14h30   Coffee break
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14h40   Presentations of group works(4x10min)
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15h20   Plenum: Discussion
        Moderation: Martin Fröhlich
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16h30   Conclusion
        Moderatorin: Dr. Joachim Huber F&E, Bereich Dencity & Johannes Käferstein
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<u>Questions</u> on architectural research (as preparation):
All participants prepare for the discussion rounds with statements on the following
questions:
1. How can architectural design be defined as an instrumental method within
architectural research?
2. Statements by the individual schools of architecture on the discourses on
architectural research listed below (sources: texts 4-1, 4-2, 6, 8-2)
How do you position yourself in relation to the discourses?
Are the factors still current, have new ones been added?
3. What possibilities and strategies for start-up financing of architectural research are you
aware of?

<u>Discussions</u> in the afternoon will take place in four moderated groups on the following basic conditions:
- The discussion will take place online. The structure for the discussion is mapped in online channels.
- The groups are composed of a moderator and 6 to 8 representatives of the schools of architecture.
- All participants present the prepared statements on the three questions on architectural research.
- Selected aspects of the morning's inputs are included in the discussion.
- The moderator can introduce further discussion points.
- After the conference, the statements will be reflected and written down by the individual participants. Together with the findings of the plenary discussion, they form the basis for the drafting of the position paper to be discussed in Mendrisio.

Thesis on architectural research
<u>Introduction</u>
At the first meeting of the Architecture Council in Lugano (SUPSI) held at the end of January, the representatives of the schools of architecture who were present presented their positions in architectural research. This took place along the question grid

Organization - Topics - Financing - Research-Teaching.

The answers show the importance of the interaction of research and teaching, its practical relevance (field research, project studio, application research). Research financing is a great challenge. There remains the desire for more autonomy for architecture within the research society and the associated power dispositives (approval practice).

In the context of the second conference in Biel (BFH) we would like to present theses on the theoretical basis of architectural research for debate. This, among other things, with the aim of discussing questions concerning the preconditions for knowledge from architectural research (epistemological view).

<u>Thesis</u>
- Architectural research is part of the educational mission.
- Architectural research is a historical component of the discipline.
- Architecture and research are integral components of everyday architectural practice for the design of our built environment as a cultural asset.

Between 2009-2012 (before the founding of the Architecture Council), the FA Architecture of Switzerland has already dealt with the topic of architectural research in detail:

The **RIBA Research Committee Paper** "What is architectural research?",
"Architectural Research: Three Myths and one Model" by Jeremy Till (2007), as well as the EAAE "Charter for Architectural Research" (2011) were the basis for this. The RIBA describes the different modes of architectural research on the basis of the distinction as follows:

a) "research into design"
b) 'research for design'
c) "research by/through design

"research into design" is the analytical and systematic study of the discipline and products of architecture. The architecture itself is the object of investigation.
"research for design" is the future-oriented collaboration and input of various disciplines (mono- or interdisciplinary) on applications and needs of architecture.
"research by/through design" is the inner-disciplinary discussion and exploration of the methods of design and methods of practice and production (both in research and teaching), as well as the application of these methods both at the core of the discipline of architecture and in the service of other disciplines.

The EAAE unilaterally places the latter clearly at the center of its 2011 charter. Based on these positions, a first draft on Swiss architectural research emerged from the meetings of the then Architecture Council, driven mainly by the input of Florian Radu and Pieter Versteegh (HES Fribourg). They extended the RIBA/EAAE approach with the two terms:

d) "Inside-Out"
e) "Outside-In"

With **"inside-out research"** the core activity of the architect is placed in the center, either as the object or methodology of research and refers to "research by/through design". Outside-in research refers to both "research into design" and "research for design". "Outside-in research" is conducted mono- or transdisciplinarily by neighboring disciplines and has only partial knowledge of architectural phenomena. The dilemma is that "research for design" has been by far the most successful field of architectural research in recent years.

Question: Could it be that the interplay of the three modes could produce a realistic picture of the characterization of architectural research?

Almost ten years have passed since then and all the institutions of the Architecture Council have accumulated research experience. This is now to be incorporated into a new positioning of research in architecture and expressed in the drafting of a position paper.

Financing
The ability to finance research is a sine qua non. In connection with the financing of research, a few aspects of varying relevance are listed. Traditionally, the fields of research have tended to be divided between universities and universities of applied sciences as follows: The majority of universities tend to focus their research and teaching on the big A (elite architecture), while the universities of applied sciences tend to focus on the small a (generic architecture). This classification is increasingly being broken down, since in the globalization trend, so-called anonymous architecture is also becoming interesting for the ETH (Global Think Thank, etc.) and, conversely, universities of applied sciences also devote themselves to topics of elitist architecture. Various institutions in Switzerland act as funding agencies for research:
The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) finances research in the academic environment.

A prerequisite here is the commitment and thus the supervision of the doctoral students, which is only possible at UAS with special constructs (cooperation with universities). How is the qualification for research defined if it is not bound to the traditional academic framework?
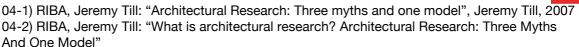
Innosuisse promotes applied research and requires a partnership with private industry, which limits the fields of research. With regard to architectural research, the federal offices (BAK, ARE, BFE, BAFU etc) and foundations are also relevant. The potential of the new player on the market, the Stiftung für Baukultur (BAK), needs to be clarified

More flexible contracts between research and teaching could be used to promote the interaction between research and teaching as a driver for the definition of new research topics.

For the visibility and verification of results in architectural research, the possibility of publication   is of central importance. While in the past publications such as Oppositions, AA-Files, AD, Arch+, Casabella, etc. took on this role, they have largely lost this significance. The question arises which media can currently take over the publication. Is it the yearbooks or self-published books of the Swiss schools of architecture. Can professional associations such as Sia, BSA, Werkbund, Visarte, etc. partially fill the gap?

Sources:
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04-2) RIBA, Jeremy Till: "What is architectural research? Architectural Research: Three Myths And One Model"
06) FA Fachschaft Architektur, Florinel Radu und Pieter Versteegh: "Die Architekturforschung", 2008
08-1) EAAE, Hilde Heynen et al.: "Charter for Architectural Research", 2011

Burgdorf, 08. Oktober 2020

Joachim Huber, Daniel Boermann

Sources – Literature

01) Horst W. Rittel: div. Ausätze:
01.1) Systematik des Planens
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03) Beat Schneider: «Design als Wissenschaft – State oft he Art», 2006

04) Jeremy Till, RIBA:
04-1) RIBA, Jeremy Till: "Architectural Research: Three myths and one model", Jeremy Till, 2007
04-2) RIBA, Jeremy Till: "What is architectural research? Architectural Research: Three Myths And One Model"

05) Holger Schurk: "Research Versus Design", Zürich 2007

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07) Marc-Antione Camp, Blanka Siska: "Forschungsförderung im Kunstbereich", 2011

08) EAAE
08-1) EAAE, Hilde Heynen et al.: "Charter for Architectural Research", 2011
08-2) EAAE: "Charter on architectural research - Proporsal", 2012

09) Anne Dye, RIBA Head of Technical research: How architects use research – case studies from practice, 2014

10) Murray Fraser: Design Research in a Globalised Age Chapter; 2014; School of Architecture and Design, Victoria University of Wellington

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14) Torsten Lange: "Forschungsgeleitetes Entwerfen" , aus: Architekturpädagogiken: Ein Glossar 2019

15) Angelika Schnell: „Forschungskultur", aus: Architekturpädagogiken: Ein Glossar 2019

16) AIA Architectural Research Agenda 2019 & 2020

17) Murray Fraser (ed), Design Research in Architecture: An Overview (Farnham: Ashgate, 2013)