

The Utopia of Reality: Realisms in Twentieth Century Architecture and Beyond

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A·U·R· Architecture Utopia Realism

Edited by Petar Bojanić, Ljiljana Blagojević and Vladan Djokić

International Scientific Conference | 3rd-4th October 2013
Organised by University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture

Exhibition “IVAN LEONIDOV· PROJECTS” | 3rd-24th October 2013
Organised in partnership with Schusev State Museum
of Architecture, Moscow

Book of Abstracts | Exhibition Catalogue



University of Belgrade |
Faculty of Architecture

MA

Schusev State Museum of Architecture

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A'U'R' Architecture Utopia Realism

Belgrade 2013

Architecture Utopia Realism

International Scientific Conference

Organized by: University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture

Amphitheatre of the Faculty of Architecture

3rd-4th October 2013



University of Belgrade
Faculty of Architecture

Conference Participants

Prof. em. Dr. Fritz Neumeyer

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Dr. Reinhold Martin, Associate Professor of Architecture

Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation, New York, USA

Director, PhD Program in Architecture (History and Theory),
Columbia University

Director, Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American
Architecture, Columbia University

Dr. Irina Korobina, Director

Schusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow, Russia

Dr. Ljiljana Blagojević, Associate Professor, Vice Dean for Research

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia

Dr. Silvia Malcovati, Assistant Professor

Polytechnic of Turin, Italy

Prof. Dr. Alessandro de Magistris

Polytechnic of Milan, Italy

Krunoslav Ivaniškin, Architect

IVANISIN. KABASHI. ARHITEKTI, Zagreb, Croatia

Dr. Ivana Wingham, Principal Lecturer

Head of Architecture, University of Brighton, UK

Dr. Tijana Vujošević, Assistant Professor

University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia

Aleksandar Kušić, PhD Candidate

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia

Dr. Luka Skansi, Postdoctoral Fellow

University IUAV, Venice, Italy

Prof. Keller Easterling

Yale University School of Architecture, USA

International Scientific Committee

Prof. Dr. Vladan Djokić, Dean

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia

Prof. em. Dr. Fritz Neumeyer

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Dr. Irina Korobina, Director

Schusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow, Russia

Prof. Keller Easterling

Yale University School of Architecture, USA

Prof. Dr. Ákos Moravánszky

ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Dr. Silvia Malcovati, Assistant Professor

Polytechnic of Turin, Italy

Dr. Carmen Popescu, Independent Researcher

University of Paris I Panthéon – Sorbonne, France

Dr. Petar Bojanić, Director

University of Belgrade, Institute for Philosophy and
Social Theory, Serbia

Dr. Ljiljana Blagojević, Associate Professor, Vice Dean for Research

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia

Conference Organising Committee

Prof. Dr. Vladan Djokić, Dean

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: vdjokic@arh.bg.ac.rs / Office: + 381 11 3345 359

Petar Bojanić, Director

University of Belgrade, Institute for Philosophy and
Social Theory, Serbia
E-mail: bojanic@instifdt.bg.ac.rs / Office: +381 11 2646 242

Dr. Ljiljana Blagojević, Associate Professor, Vice Dean for Research

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: ljblagojevic@arh.bg.ac.rs / Office: + 381 11 3218 734

Dr. Marija Milinković, Teaching Assistant

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: marija.milinkovic@arh.bg.ac.rs / Office: +381 11 3218 751

M.Sc. Dragana Ćorović, Teaching Assistant

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: dcorovic@arh.bg.ac.rs / Office: + 381 11 3218 734

M.Sc. Vanja Panić, Teaching Assistant

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: panic@arh.bg.ac.rs / Office: +381 11 3218 729

Aleksandar Kušić, PhD Candidate

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: aleksandar.kusic@arh.bg.ac.rs / Office: +381 11 3218 734

Nataša Janković, PhD Student

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Serbia
E-mail: natasha.jankovic@gmail.com / Office: +381 11 3218 727

Conference Volunteers

Students of the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture:

Veljko Dinić, Mihailo Mandić, Ivana Marjanović, Aleksandar Pavlović, Katarina Petrović, Iris Puzović, Miloš Stojković, Uroš Stojadinović and Katarina Škrbić

Conference and Exhibition Programme

Thursday 3rd October:

Conference Opening

17:00-17:15

Vladan Djokić

Dean, University of Belgrade,
Faculty of Architecture

17:15-17:30

Petar Bojanić

Director, University of Belgrade,
Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory

Keynote Lecture Introduction

Renata Jadrešin-Milić

University of Belgrade,
Faculty of Architecture

Keynote Lecture

17:30-18:15

Fritz Neumeyer

Technische Universität Berlin
*Beyond Escapisms and Affirmation:
Utopia and Realism Revisited*

18:15-18:45

Discussion

IVAN LEONIDOV: PROJECTS

Exhibition Opening

19:00-19:15

Ljiljana Blagojević

Vice Dean for Research, University of
Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture

19:15-19:45

Irina Korobina

Director, Schusev State Museum of
Architecture, Moscow

Friday 4th October:

Introductory Lecture

10:00-10:15

Ljiljana Blagojević

University of Belgrade

Architecture Utopia Realism

Session 1

Chaired by:

Marija Milinković

10:15-10:45

Silvia Malcovati

Polytechnic of Turin

The Utopia of Reality: Realisms in Twentieth Century Architecture and Beyond

10:45-11:15

Alessandro de Magistris

Polytechnic of Milan

(Soc)Realism(s) in Practice: Re-reading the Soviet Experience in the 1930s

11:15-11:45

Discussion

11:45-12:15

Short Break

Session 2

Chaired by:

Aleksandar Kušić

12:15-12:45

Krunoslav Ivanišin

IVANISIN, KABASHI, ARHITEKTI

Place (Space) Non-Place

12:45-13:15

Ivana Wingham

University of Brighton

Architecture is a Form of Drawing

13:15-13:45

Discussion

13:45-15:00

Break

Session 3

Chaired by:
Dragana Ćorović

15:00-15:30

Tijana Vujošević

University of Western Australia
Frank Lloyd Wright and Libertarian Utopia

15:30-16:00

Aleksandar Kušić

University of Belgrade
*Encountering the Real: Belgrade
Architecture as Cognitive Mapping*

16:00-16:30

Luka Skansi

University IUAV, Venice
Manfredo Tafuri and the Critique of Realism

16:30-17:00

Discussion

17:00-17:30

Short Break

Conference Résumé

17:30-17:45

Ljiljana Blagojević

University of Belgrade
AUR: Closing Remarks

Session 4

Chaired by:
Ljiljana Blagojević

Keynote Lectures

17:45-18:30

Keller Easterling

Yale University
Extrastatecraft

18:30-19:15

Reinhold Martin

Columbia University
Horizons of Thought

19:15-19:45

Discussion and Conference Closing

Silvia Malcovati

Polytechnic of Turin

The Utopia of Reality: Realisms in Twentieth Century Architecture and Beyond

Abstract: The notion of realism, which appeared in the theoretical debate on architecture in the early thirties of the twentieth century, when the “realistic” assumptions proposed on the occasion of the first congress of soviet writers in Moscow in 1934 were claimed as the “official” creative method and were subsequently adopted by all artistic disciplines, appears immediately as an ambiguous notion, straddling between idealism and ideology, innovative research and historicist formalism. The failure of socialist realism and the crisis of its architectural image, emphatic and monumentalist, clearly shows the utopian character of the realist “dream,” but also, in a way, its imaginative power in striving to build a better world. Maybe that’s why after the Second World War the question of realism comes again into discussion, especially in Italy, as an alternative to the modern paradigm, no less utopian, which was seeking absolute laws in defining form and space.

Ernesto Nathan Rogers first in 1962 devotes an issue of *Casabella* to the USSR, and a few years later he wrote a book eloquently entitled *Utopia of Reality*, entrusting to architects the task to “transform reality in its deepest essence, in the moral and political, as well as in the didactic and pedagogical fields.” Realism thus returns to the core of the theoretical discussion on architecture, both in relation to the emerging postmodern American proposals, and mainly in relation to the architecture of the *Tendenza*.

The paper proposes a survey on the realisms of twentieth century as a tool to reflect on the current state of architecture: after the excesses of the postmodern populism, the disillusionment of the “Architettura Razionale” and the dialectics reconstruction – deconstruction, a *new spectre* of “Realism” seems in fact nowadays haunting *Europe*, and also in architecture emerges, again, the interest in a return to reality, to build a better world. Maybe is realism of today’s great utopia?

Keywords: Utopia, Realism, Italian architecture of the post-war period, *Tendenza*, postmodernism, New Realism

Biography: Silvia Malcovati is Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture and Design of the Polytechnic of Turin, where since 2003 she has been teaching and researching. She was born in Milan (1969), studied architecture in Milan (1987-90) and Barcelona (1991-93) and graduated in Milan with Giorgio Grassi. Gets a Post-graduate grant from the Italian Ministry of Education and Scientific Research for a work at the ETH, Zurich, Switzerland (1994-95), is awarded the Ph.D. in Architectural Composition at the IUAV in Venice (1999) and gets a post-doc grant at the Polytechnic of Milan (1999-2001). Since 1994 she worked at the university as an assistant and then as a lecturer at the Polytechnic of Milan (1999-2000) and the Polytechnic of Turin (2002-2003). She has organized conferences, seminars, research projects and curated exhibitions and publications.

Among them: *Berlino 1990-2012. La ricerca sull'isolato e sul quartiere* (Milan 2009), *Tipologia architettonica e morfologia urbana. Il dibattito italiano. Antologia 1960-1980* (Milan 2010), *Peter Behrens. Maestro di Maestri* (Milan 2011), *Una casa è una casa. Scritti sul pensiero e sull'opera di Giorgio Grassi* (Milan 2011), *Realismo e architettura and New realism and architecture of the city* (ed. with others, Santarcangelo di Romagna 2013). She has worked professionally in various architectural firms in Barcelona and Berlin (1991-93) and worked in Milan in the office of Prof. Arch. Giorgio Grassi (1993-2003). Since 1995 she works as a freelance in Milan. She participated in several national and international competitions, some of which rewarded.

notes

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