

Design beyond Sites. Investigating Architectural and Urban Design Nonlocal Effects.

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

XXX CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON URBAN FORM (ISUF2023)

PRAXIS OF URBAN MORPHOLOGY

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Vladan Djokić
Aleksandra Djordjević
Milica Milojević
Aleksandra Milovanović
Mladen Pešić

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INTRO

ISUF2023 PRAXIS OF URBAN MORPHOLOGY

Coming from 20 architects, geographers, planners and historians, to more than 600 individual and institutional members across the globe, ISUF presents the important international organization of urban form both for researchers and practitioners. Due to its orientation to both of these fields, ISUF 2023 presents a great opportunity to rethink the praxis, perceived as process by which theory/idea is enacted, embodied and realized.

The theme for ISUF 2023 is drawn from the previous experience and ideas, directed toward systematization and synthesis of intellectual knowledge.

Following this line of reasoning, the Conference tracks are envisioned to confront the topics that are represented as being opposed in order to open up a debate how to transfer ideas to operational knowledge.

A. Good in Planning, Landscapes and Townscapes

- A1. Urban planning vs. Urban design
- A2. *Fringe growth vs. Urban belt*
- A3. Prescription vs. Description

B. Culture Space, Common Space and Personalities

- B.1. East vs. West
- B.2. South vs. North
- B.3. Networks vs. Individuals

C. History of Ideas and Challenges

- C.1. History vs. Future
- C.2. Preservation vs. Transformation
- C.3. Pre vs. Post

D. Programming and Rethinking Concepts

- D.1. Strategies vs. Measures
- D.2. Education vs. Practice
- D.3. Quantitative vs. Qualitative research

Design Beyond Sites. Investigating architectural and urban design non-local effects

Dr. Caterina Barioglio¹, Dr. Daniele Campobenedetto²

¹ Future Urban Legacy Lab, Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino, caterina.barioglio@polito.it

² Future Urban Legacy Lab, Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino, daniele.campobenedetto@polito.it

ABSTRACT

The effects of architectural and urban projects extend beyond their localization. The anthropic modification of the spatial environment produces echoes in terms of urban rules, technical requirements, cultural shifts, and behaviours that travel beyond the place in which the modification occurs. The effects of the Equitable Building on the 1916 New York City Zoning Resolution or the role of the Seagram Building in shaping the rules of the next Zoning Resolution (1961) are just some examples. This article aims at exploring the relationship between projects and rules as a way of better understanding the effects of architectural and urban design on urban form, not only related to the project site. The article investigates four case studies of contemporary urban transformation that provide insights on the relationship between the local dimension and the wider effects of design. Findings show how, while projects are generally considered the result of a defined system of rules, juridical and design dimensions influence each other in a circular relationship. Moreover, while the effects of built and unbuilt projects are part of the outcomes of design, they are hardly considered part of the design process. The article discusses how, and through which tools, could these non-local effects of design be recognized. More generally, the article shows that it is possible to consider localized design as a means of representing and addressing general and comprehensive issues with effects in the field of urban morphology.

Keywords: urban rules, urban design, architectural design, urban morphology