



The journal *studies in History and Theory of Architecture*, published by the Department of Architectural History & Theory and Heritage Conservation at «Ion Mincu» University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest, Romania, invites submissions for the 2020 issue.

# Architectural Aesthetics

## AN OLD MATTER REVISITED

**A query on architectural aesthetics as a topic that is evaded, or simply banned, from the contemporary discourse.**

Trying to highlight the architects' involvement in topics other than the mere production of form, the heading *Less aesthetics, more ethics* of the 2000 Venice Architectural Biennale inadvertently opened the way to a specious professional dichotomy. The title has become a tagline encouraging alternative practices of architecture motivated by ethical — environmental and social — concerns, while seemingly dismissing the aesthetic discourse.

Yet, concerns about the nature and expression of beauty have proven fundamental for defining architecture as a practice, for writing its theory, for endowing its critique and education with specific instruments even before aesthetics was born. And despite the debunking of the universal truth and beauty, and the collisions between the plurality of subjective truths and the universality of other emergent values and problems, an aesthetic program has always underpinned architecture and is bound to do so in the future. Architectural deliberations on aesthetics have always challenged the professional habits and allowed architecture to reinvent itself.

Now, more than ever, when it seems that “anything goes”, when various crises that seem to threaten our world and civilization require new fields of creativity, the power of aesthetic thinking to emancipate architectural theory and to motivate its practice is worth remembering.

We invite contributors to reflect on the architectural aesthetics by examining:

- relevant insights rooted in classical, modern, postmodern and contemporary theory and criticism;
- political instrumentalizations of aesthetics;
- aesthetic discourses in democratic design and planning;
- contradictions and affinities between aesthetics and ethics in architecture;
- autonomy or dependency of architectural aesthetics and art theory;
- aesthetic categories and values explored in modern and contemporary arts appropriated by architectural discourse;
- expressive searches hidden behind other motivations;
- new expressive trends derived from liminal contemporary practices and/or implicit in architecture's social and environmental interests, etc.

These directions are not restrictive, as the eighth volume of sITA aims to rekindle the interest in architectural aesthetics by assembling relevant lessons from the past, critical assessments of current practices, or past, present and, perhaps, future theoretical constructs of architectural aesthetics and its value.

A preliminary abstract of 200 – 250 words should be submitted by **March 23, 2020**. Selected contributors will be notified by e-mail on **March 30**. The final article should be submitted for review by **June 10**. Contributions will undergo a double-blind peer review procedure.

Reviews of current events (conferences, recent publications, exhibitions) which are of interest for the fields of architectural history and theory are also welcome. Reviews should be submitted by **July 1, 2020**.

All correspondence will be addressed to [sita@uauim.ro](mailto:sita@uauim.ro), to the attention of Dr. Arch. Daniela Calciu (managing editor of the current issue).

### Guidelines for authors

Manuscripts are to be submitted in US English and should range between 5,000 and 8,000 words, including references, tables, and bibliography. Reviews should range between 1,000 and 2,000 words.

The title page should include the contributor's name, affiliation and e-mail address, 5 – 7 keywords, as well as an abstract of 200 – 250 words. An extended summary ranging between 700 and 1,000 words (to be published in Romanian) must also be submitted. Romanian authors are kindly asked to send in the extended summary in Romanian; our staff will undertake the translation for foreign authors. Reviews should not be accompanied by abstract, summary, or keywords. Contributors are asked to send a Microsoft Word compatible document, with minimal formatting.

For notes (as footnotes) and reference list, please use The Chicago Manual of Style, “Notes and bibliography” style (for details and examples, see [https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)). A reference list will be included at the end of the paper. Illustrations (.tiff or .jpg format, min. 300 dpi at printed size) must be provided separately, and their location must be indicated clearly throughout the paper. A full list of figure captions is to be provided at the end of the article (including figure number, description, and source). Authors are responsible for securing the rights to reproduce and publish all graphic material.

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