

Contemporary Aesthetics

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Notices

CA welcomes notices of interest to our readers. These include announcements and reviews of conferences, news items, forthcoming events, etc. Please send them using the submission guidelines

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CALLS FOR PAPERS

Culture, Nature, Semiotics: LOCATIONS IV

September 23-26, 2004

Tallinn-Tartu, Estonia

The 4th international conference on environmental aesthetics and semiotics will focus on the changing relations between the environment and human experience and activities, the transformation of places and the practices of their signification over time, and the analysis of changing processes in the environment. The conference is organized by the Research Group of Cultural and Literary Theory at the Estonian Literary Museum, the Department of Semiotics at the University of Tartu, and the Institute of Art History at the Estonian Academy of Arts.

Place and Location: One of the aims of this section, centered on environmental aesthetics, is to examine places in terms of the changing elements of the dynamic environment, as narrative nodes, rather than as fixed conditions.

Places and Processes: This section focuses on the semiotic processes active in the creation and transformation of cultural environments, the semiosis of the location, and the temporal and spatial conditionality of the cultural environment. Semi-natural/semi-artificial types of environment are considered.

Deadlines: We welcome the submission of paper titles by February 1, 2004. Abstracts (200-500 words) are due May 1, 2004. Each presentation will be 20 minutes long with 10 minutes for discussion afterward. The proceedings of the conference will be published.

Contact information: locations@eki.ee or <http://www.eki.ee/km/locations>

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International Seminar: THE MEDITERRANEAN MEDINA

June 17-19, 2004

Pescara, Facoltà di Architettura

Francavilla, Museo Michetti

The seminar aims at the study of the particular physical characters and the main transformations of the Mediterranean city. Such an urban structure is the result of different overlapping historical traces. The Mediterranean city has built up its identity through the reuse and modification of the previous urban remains. The medina of the eastern and southern Mediterranean regions is also the result of the coexistence and work of different ethnic and religious groups with their heritage of civic and religious institutions, typologies, building materials and techniques.

The peculiar physical characters of the Mediterranean medina are revealed in the compact urban fabric, in the genuine use of building materials and architectural pieces, "spolia," of the Roman city found on the site, as well as in the invention of clever techniques of climatic and environmental control. The loss of the complex identity of the Mediterranean city is mainly caused by the lack of maintenance in the historical urban sectors, the emigration of ethnic groups due to dramatic events and the introduction of new building systems and new environmental control techniques. The study of the structure of the Medina should lead to a better understanding and control of its transformations, aiming at the preservation of a precious heritage that is, to this date, still a vital part of the contemporary city.

The program of the conference includes the following thematic sections:

- the marginal areas echoing the urban Mediterranean identity
- the role of the archaeological remains in the formation of the Mediterranean Medina
- urban analysis case studies focussing on the historical traces, the ethnic groups, the building technologies and the rehabilitation strategies
- the Mediterranean courtyard house

Submission Requirements

All abstracts (short, one-page, not to exceed 300 words) must be written and presented in English. Do not place your name on the abstracts. Rather, attach a one-page curriculum vitae with your name and address. Specify in which of the thematic sections you would like your paper to be included. Authors must submit their abstract and c.v. at the same time by e-mail (within the body of the e-mail and not as an attachment) to this address:

mediterraneanmedina@yahoo.it

Deadline: March 30, 2004

Paper Submission Process

Abstracts will be selected in a blind, peer-review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance for publication and conference presentation by April 15, 2004.

Full-length papers of 4,000 words or fewer (each graphic and table counts for 250 words) will be due May 15, 2004 . Authors must pre-register for the conference at this time for their papers to be included in the proceedings and in the conference schedule.

The registration fee is 150 Euro. Please note registration fees do not cover hotel accommodations and travel.

Organizing Committee and Conference Conveners

Ludovico Micara, Conference Director

Attilio Petruccioli, Conference Director

Keynote Speakers

Doris Behrens Abouseif

Heinz Gaube

Renata Holod

André Raymond

Scientific Committee

Doris Behrens Abouseif

Claudio D'Amato

Giangiaco D'Ardia

Heinz Gaube

Renata Holod

Mauro Mezzina

Ludovico Micara

Rosario Pavia

Attilio Petruccioli

André Raymond

Conference Sponsors

Dipartimento IDEA - Infrastrutture Design Engineering Architettura -
Università "G. D'Annunzio" - Pescara - Italy

ICAR - Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ingegneria Civile e
dell'Architettura - Politecnico di Bari - Italy

Regione Abruzzo

Provincia di Pescara

Comune di Francavilla al Mare

Comune di Pescara

Conference Site

The conference will be held at the Faculty of Architecture of Pescara, on the Adriatic coast, 180 Km east of Rome.

An exhibition of models and drawings concerning the Mediterranean Medina will be organized in the Museo Michetti in Francavilla al Mare, a lovely summer resort 10 Km from Pescara.

Questions

Contact Ludovico Micara - l.micara@tin.it

BDP 2004 Biennale de Paris 2004

February 20 - March 15 in Paris, in France and abroad

The Paris Biennale 2004 [BDP 2004] is the continuation of the Paris Biennale launched by Raymond Cogniat in 1959 and set up by André Malraux when he was Minister of Culture. That Biennale ended in 1985. It presented an overview of young creativity worldwide and created a place of experiences and meetings. The Paris Biennale is an association under the law of 1901. The study of its program has started in June 2000. A supporting committee made of 170 organizations or people including twentieth-century art references has been established. The BDP differs from all the other art events in the world, Venice Biennial, Documenta, Lyon Biennale, Münster, . . . and benefits from a worldwide known cultural heritage.

The Paris Biennale fosters a dynamic to enhance today's art and its newest forms. Immaterial art works and advanced art forms are works of the mind embedded in the real world, which generate opportunities for thinking and awareness, or else belong to the realm of private, collective and social experience. Free from today's overwhelming aesthetics, immaterial art works and advanced art can be defined as free thinking, asserting itself.

The BDP aims at giving back to Paris a major role on the global art scene in the network of major art events. Its other assets are its working as a large network, with core groups and interconnections, and also its stretching far beyond its host cities and countries. The BDP renews itself entirely; today's reality is its reference.

The form of the each artist's participation in the BDP 2004 will depend on the nature his or her project requires. The works presented may be as diverse as a dinner party, a charity meal, a debate, a colloquium, a conference, a movie, a display shelf on which have been placed in formation leaflets hinting at the existence of an art work, a place or a participant in the BDP, a rendezvous, by-products such as a sticker or a postcard, a running race, a chat, a service, a tasting session, an encounter, a concrete nothing

BDP2004 Partners

Openay, Archistorm - journal d'architecture et de design, Batofar, Staminium, Aliasys, Etnoka, 3dweave, Pulpe, G2j, 2 Pièces cuisine, Soussan Ltd., Paris Art, Art Process, Espace SD, Charly's bar, Radio FG, Galerie Librairie Edition Philippe Pannetier.

Contacts

BDP [biennale de Paris]

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CALLS FOR PAPERS

Beauty and the Way of Modern Life

The Chinese Aesthetics Society and Wuhan University are inviting papers for the aesthetics conference, "Beauty and the Way of Modern Life", to be held on May 14-16, 2004 at Wuhan University, Wuhan, China. The main theme of the conference will be the place of beauty in modern life. Areas to be discussed include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Aesthetic Ideas about the Way of Modern Life
2. Aesthetics of Design
3. Environmental Aesthetics
4. Modern Reflections on Ancient Wisdom in Eastern and Western Philosophy and Aesthetics

International participants should submit 200 US dollars to the conference committee. This will cover the costs of meals and travel in the city of Wuhan during the conference. The committee will help to arrange two travel routes after the conference: one to the Three Gorges along the Yangtze River, another to the national forest park, Zhang Jia Jie in Hunan Province.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is March 15, 2004. For more information please contact the conference committee directly.

Contacts:

Prof. Chen Wangheng (Chairman), Mr. Deng Yangzhou(Secretary)

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Contemporary Aesthetics

Contemporary Aesthetics encourages scholarship that pursues theoretical issues, develops applications of aesthetic ideas, and explores the range of aesthetic interests. Material published here need not be bound by the constraints of traditional disciplines, nor will it be judged by philosophical orientation or narrow standards of what constitutes good work. Its goals are openness, collaboration, and the communication of aesthetic ideas both within and among disciplines. Strong scholarship that makes a constructive contribution to aesthetic inquiry is welcome. So too, is original philosophical writing of high quality. *Contemporary Aesthetics* extends a warm invitation to scholars to submit their work.

There is no deadline for submissions. This is a continuously published online journal. Submit articles for review according to the submission guidelines.

For information, contact *Contemporary Aesthetics* or fill out our [information request form](#).

The Undead and Philosophy

Abstracts are sought for a collection of philosophical essays on the theme of the undead. The deadline for submitting 100- to 750-word abstracts is December 15, 2003.

Richard Greene and K. Silem Mohammad, the editors of the collection of essays, are in discussion with Open Court Press (publisher of *The Simpsons and Philosophy*, *The Matrix and Philosophy*, and the forthcoming *The Sopranos and Philosophy*) regarding the inclusion of this collection in a new book series dealing with philosophy and various cultural topics. Potential contributors may want to examine other volumes in the Open Court series.

Anyone who has already written an unpublished paper on this topic may submit it in its entirety. Contributors are also welcome to submit abstracts on any topic of philosophical interest that pertains to the theme of the undead.

We define "the undead" as that class of corporeal beings who at some point were living creatures, have died, and have come back and are not "at rest." This includes supernatural beings such as zombies, vampires, mummies, and other reanimated corpses. The editors are especially interested in receiving submissions that engage the following perspectives: philosophy of mind; the metaphysics of death; political and social philosophy; ontology and other topics in metaphysics; ethics and bioethics; aesthetics; cultural theory and globalization studies; race and gender; epistemology; philosophy of religion; phenomenology and existentialism. Possible topics might include, but are not limited to, the following: zombie-based critiques of functionalist theories of mind; historical treatments of the undead in philosophy; the films of George Romero, Danny Boyle, and Joss Whedon; the novels of Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, Anne Rice, Bruce Campbell, and Poppy Z. Brite; critical writing by Julia Kristeva, Jalal Toufic, and Slavoj Zizek.

Please submit a resume or CV for each author or coauthor of the paper. Initial submission may be by mail or e-mail (we prefer e-mail with MS Word attachment). Mail: Richard Greene, Department of Political Science and Philosophy, Weber State University, 1203 University Circle, Ogden, UT 84408-1203. E-mail: rgreene@weber.edu or ksilem@ucsc.edu

Deadline: December 15, 2003

Dresden International Symposium of Architecture-Aesthetics and Architectural Composition

The Dresden International Symposium of Architecture will be held in Dresden, Germany, from June 16 to 19, 2004. The theme of the symposium is "Aesthetics and Architectural Composition" and addresses not only architects, urban designers and planners, but also scientists, artists, philosophers, practitioners and theoreticians from related fields. The deadline for submitting abstracts of papers is February 1, 2004.

The symposium is organized by the Chair for Spatial Design at Dresden University of Technology, which is especially concerned with the psychological foundations of architectural design, as well as with theories of proportion and mathematically based ordering systems of design. This focus is rooted in the work of Fritz Schumacher and Otto Schubert who both taught in Dresden and, after World War II, laid the foundation for a scientific description of the correlation between optics and architectural design.

The symposium is organized in sessions with presentations and discussions. The presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes to allow for a 10-minute discussion afterwards. There will be poster-sessions where presentations can be made on posters in A0-landscape-format. A detailed schedule of events will be available at the conference and it will be sent to participants two weeks before.

Please send your abstracts and papers prior to February 1, 2004 via e-mail to: AAC@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

The conference languages are English and German.

This call for papers addresses not only architects, urban designers and planners, but also scientists, artists, philosophers, practitioners and theoreticians from related fields. Themes around which we would like to organize work-groups include:

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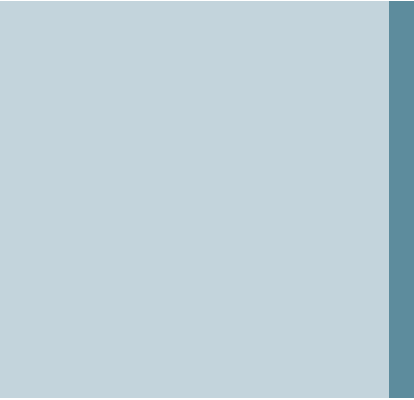
The role and relevance of architectural aesthetics in a field that is currently dominated by economic factors on the one side and short-lived architectural fashions on the other. Is there a contemporary need for a discourse on building and urban design for which transcend these aspects, and can such a revitalized focus improve the overall qualities of our built environment?

* Which are the central, scientific findings to be identified for the development of an understanding of architectural and urban form?

* Are there systems of visual order that have gained importance in the design field both in history and the recent past? Are there new theories on the horizon?

* What is the role of proportioning systems in contemporary architecture and urban design. Can a rediscovery and further development of such systems have an impact on the perceived visual qualities of architecture?

* Digital tools for visualization and form generation: Order and harmony generated by computerized algorithms.



* Virtual realities as a test for spatial cognition. Shape grammars and form metamorphosis.

* Psychological aspects of aesthetics and architectural design. The role of perception and cognition in the process of form finding.

For more information, please contact us by phone (+49-351-4633 4473), fax (+49-351-4633 5006) or e-mail at AAC@mailbox.tu-dresden.de

Deadline: February 1, 2004