

As Found

International colloquium on adaptive reuse

5-7 September 2023

📍 Hasselt & Antwerp, Belgium

Hasselt University &
Flanders Architecture Institute

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



Vlaamse
overheid

fwo

Research Foundation
Flanders
Opening new horizons

Vlaams

Architectuur

instituut

IMAGE: Castelvecchio Museum Verona by architect Carlo Scarpa (cc) presso Archivio Paolo Monti

AS FOUND INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON ADAPTIVE REUSE
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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Organized by the Faculty of Architecture and Arts of Hasselt University and
Flanders Architecture Institute

5-7 September 2023 in Antwerp & Hasselt

Conference Chairs and editors: Bie Plevoets, Hülya Ertas, Sofie De Caigny



THE SCOPE

The work of architects nowadays increasingly consists of intervening in already existing buildings or (urban) structures. The modern dichotomy between architecture and historic preservation, with the former concentrating primarily on the design of new buildings and the latter on the restoration of existing buildings in a state of the past, seems to have given way to a new approach today. A more experimental approach in which the narratives and traces found in the existing are the inspiration for contemporary interventions. This changing approach to the built environment - the 'heritage' in the broadest sense - has also been extensively addressed in architectural and academic research.

Fred Scott's seminal monograph *On Altering Architecture* and the volume *Experimental Preservation*, edited by Jorge Otero-Pailos, Erik Langdalen and Thordis Arrhenius are just a few examples.

Additionally, architectural schools give increasing attention in their curricula to assignments concerning densification, redevelopment, renovation and reallocation, with some schools even offering specialized programs on the subject.

The colloquium aims to discuss how contemporary architecture deals with the existing built environment 'as found' from four different angles. The program will be composed of sessions, keynotes and a PhD seminar.

1 | ARCHITECTURAL EXPERIMENTS TO INTERVENE IN THE AS FOUND

This session aims to reflect on experimental spatial strategies to intervene in the existing. While modernism focused on new constructions since the 1970s architects have become more interested in working with existing buildings. Architects like Giancarlo di Carlo, Hans Döllgast, Carlo Scarpa, Sverre Fehn, or Lina Bo Bardi dedicated a significant part of their oeuvre on transformation and reuse. And more recently, offices like Herzog & de Meuron, Lacaton & Vassal, Caruso St John, Harquitectes, 51N4E and noAarchitects, etc. are focusing on adaptive reuse as much as on new buildings.

Many of the projects developed nowadays by renowned offices or by young architects challenge modern conservation principles as well as architectural dogmas. In this session, we aim to conceptualize such experimental, innovative, or controversial architectural strategies to reuse and transform existing buildings, structures and landscapes. Questions that are addressed include, but are not limited to: What is the relation between the interior and exterior of a building; can the shell and the interior each tell their own story? What is the meaning of emptiness as spatial experience and as functional space? Can removal be a method of 'preserving' heritage? Can the dismantling of buildings and interiors and the reuse of their fragments be a way of passing on our heritage to future generations? Can architects today continue the design language of a predecessor; can we designate the architectural language itself as heritage? What is the meaning of the 'architectural citation' in contemporary architecture? Is the protected status of a building a constraint for its adaptation or reuse; or can the protected status steer innovative spatial practices? In this session, we are looking for new theoretical and operational approaches that question both the existing architectural practice and the conventions in how to deal with the existing built environment and heritage. We aim for this session to present a powerful range of experiments.

2 | TRANSLATING THE AS FOUND: NARRATIVES AND MEANING

Remodelling historical sites often show interventions changing initial meanings and introducing new ones. Sometimes specific narratives and associations become part of sites independent from their original program and use. Rudolph Machado used the metaphor of a marked canvas to visualize this hermeneutic process; how the past becomes a package of sense, of built-up meaning to be accepted, maintained, transformed, suppressed, or refused. It seems attractive to link this with adaptive reuse as designers seek to enter into dialogue with the past and envisage its fragile continuity. This dialogue exists on formal grounds and relates to questions of style, materialization, plan, typology etc. But also on the level of meaning associated with concepts, narratives, rituals, and associations.

Are architects like translators who transfer the meaning from an existing structure into a new one? How do we deal with buildings whose traces of the past are ambiguous or reveal a controversial or contested history? What to do with sites that have no material traces left but carry values and meanings that have a longer history but were erased over time? What is the value of narratives and immaterial heritage for contemporary interventions? How to document, research and secure these immaterial dimensions of spaces? Who's immaterial values are taken care of, and who is made invisible?

3 | AS USED: SUSTAINING THE EXISTING USE

Numerous historical building complexes accommodate a variety of uses on account of their general usefulness, affordability and spatial flexibility. Typically, when they go through a process of re-planning and transformation, the overall purpose changes and the availability of affordable rental spaces is lost. How do you transform buildings without displacing current functions and users? Is there a potential to develop adaptive reuse strategies with the existing program in mind — 'as used' instead of 'as found' — to consolidate present use and local community value?

This session is an invitation to consider all forms of existing use and reuse, including squatting and other forms of bodily presence as a form of resistance as well as more conventional methods for trying to stay put in a building, like formal involvement in planning, political networking, organized protests and community rallies. The main purpose is to conceptualize the possibilities at hand and discuss potential alternatives to the normative discourse of displacement. Prospective papers could also explore these matters from a developer's perspective, in order to get a clearer understanding of why the existing program seldom survives and to examine the incentives that may be needed to change the default approach.

4 | EDUCATION FOR REUSE - REUSE FOR EDUCATION

This session starts from the observation that, starting from the 1970s, notions such as ‘recycling’, ‘environmental retrieval’, ‘adaptive reuse’ and ‘retrofitting’ found their way into architectural education through educational experiments and curriculum reforms. Today, specialized MA and BA curricula and laboratories increasingly frame the attention to the past in terms of notions such as ‘sustainability’ and ‘ecology’. They often seek ‘citizen-driven’ design answers for the revitalization, redevelopment and adaptive reuse of the built environment. For this session, we solicit contributions that, through case studies, explore 1) which pedagogical tools and methods enable and achieve an education for reuse and 2) how reuse projects have impacted educational models and curricula. Authors may thus first identify and critically analyze the pedagogical tools and methods that have been developed since the 1970s to read the built environment beyond conventional strategies such as typology, morphology, analysis of image quality and figure-ground studies. How are tools and methods to read and interpret the existing built environment applied in design education today? Which tools and methods are needed to equip a future generation. Authors may secondly consider how adaptive reuse of existing structures, sites and buildings can meet increasing demands for educational spaces and infrastructure. Which design approaches are needed for a learning process to occur, and how can refurbished sites and structures increase flexibility, spontaneity and interconnectivity in a learning trajectory? How is education organized in existing frameworks and structures (contrary to purpose-built schools), and how do these ‘frames’ impact curriculum formation and educational processes?

AS FOUND: EXPERIMENTS IN PRESERVATION

Colloquium Programme

5 SEPTEMBER 2023, DE SINGEL, ANTWERP (Desguinlei 25, 2018 Antwerpen)

Time	Agenda
19:00	Free visit to the exhibition As Found
20.00	Opening lecture by Anne Lacaton
21.30	Bus from Antwerp to Hasselt
22.30	Arrival in Hasselt

**Please note that there will be no dinner served. There is a restaurant in De Singel, or opportunities to eat in the neighbourhood.*

6 SEPTEMBER 2023, OLD PRISON, HASSELT (Martelarenlaan 42, 3500 Hasselt)

Time	Agenda
09:00	Registration & possibility to visit the building, adaptive reuse project by noArchitecten
10.00	Welcome and introduction to parallel sessions <i>auditorium 2: Louis Roppe</i>
10.30	Parallel Sessions (Presentation (P) /Pecha Kucha (PK)):

Architectural Experiments I | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe* moderator: Stephanie Van de Voorde

- (PK) The WVDM Living Lab. Reconciling heritage with sustainability
Stephanie Van de Voorde, Ine Wouters, Waldo Galle
 - (P) Surplus Reappropriation: adaptive reuse of incidental and accidental construction waste
Craig Stott, Simon Warren
 - (P) Toward a Contemporary Spolia and the Poetics of Re-imagination in the Constructed Environment
Aleksandr Mergold
 - (P) A New Generation of Architects-Repairers
Baboulet Luc, Landauer Paul
 - (P) Reuse or renew – office building conversion under four different scenarios in Brussels EU district
Dorothee Stiernon, Morgane Bos, Anders Böhlke
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Translation the As Found I | *Room Fr1.11* moderator: Koenraad Van Cleempoel

- (PK) Site Values: how they are established, how they are engaged, how they can endure
Hugh Campbell, Dervla MacManus
 - (PK) Creating a Dynamic Narrative: Intervention design as a tool to create a dynamic narrative in the Praetorium of Hadrian's Villa
Nasim Shiasi, Mahmood Panahy
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Time	Agenda
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- (PK) Translating the Immaterial
Ana Šverko
- (P) Stained Glass in Reuse. How to Adapt Church Windows 'As Found'
Zsuzsanna Böröcz
- (P) A Shrine in the Landscape. Re-Activating Marc Dessauvage's St Rochus' Memorial Chapel in Aarschot.
Charlotte Ardui, Saidja Heynickx, Sven Sterken

Education for Reuse I - Pedagogies for Climate Emergency - Circular Materials |

auditorium 1: Louis Verhaegen

moderator: Elke Couchez

- (PK) Crafting Circularity – Reuse and Availability-Based Design in Architecture Education
Mario Rinke, Frederik Vandyck
- (PK) SuperReuse: A Pedagogic Manifesto
Graeme Brooker, Steve Jensen
- (PK) Doing as a learning strategy – Questioning design interplay between artefact, architecture and history in education and/on reuse with Lina Bo Bardi as inspiration
Karen Lens
- (PK) Zero Waste Church: Education for Circular Reuse of Religious Buildings
Joana dos Santos Gonçalves, Wido Quist, Olga Ioannou
- (PK) Teaching Value: Attention and Care in Reuse Pedagogy
Simone Ferracina

Roundtable discussion

12.00 Lunch | *Foyer*

13.30 Parallel Sessions (Presentation (P) /Pecha Kucha (PK)):

Architectural Experiments II | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*

moderator: Wouter Van Acker

- (PK) Karreveld school, from temporary occupation and reuse strategies to permanence and a layered identity?
Benoit Burquel, Harold Fallon, Benoît Vandenbulcke
 - (P) Negotiating space in an ongoing dialogue: how practices of adaptive reuse redefine authorship
Colm mac Aoidh
 - (P) As Found. At Hand.
Sam De Vocht, Joana dos Santos Gonçalves
 - (P) Restoration as 'Curatorial Practice': A New Lease of Life for the As Found
Florina Pop
 - (P) Carlo Scarpa's Restauo Critico and Lina Bo Bardi's Historical Present: Comparing conceptual strategies and key projects for interventions with the As Found
Koenraad Van Cleempoel
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Time	Agenda
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PhD Seminar I | *auditorium 1 Louis Verhaegen*

critic: Markus Berger

moderator: Maria Gil Ulldemolins

- (P) As Found : Collective Complexity and Circumstantial Contradictions
Els Van Meerbeek
- (P) The role of paper design, re-reading canonical essays of architectural theory as design method
Marie Moors
- (P) Architects' Methodology in Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Buildings
Fatemeh Hedieh Arfa, Wido Quist, Barbara Lubelli, Hielkje Zijlstra

15.00 Parallel Sessions (Presentation (P) /Pecha Kucha (PK)):

Architectural Experiments III | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*

moderator: Bie Plevoets

- (PK) Monumental Ordinary: Almost as Found
Guillaume Eckly, Barbara Fischer, Elisa Monaci, Alberto Petracchin, Mathias Roustang
- (PK) Structural Typologies
Floris de Bruyn
- (P) Common Abilities: Reintroducing the Commons in Redundant Infrastructures
Martha Kennis
- (P) Adaptive Reuse as social practice
Francesca Murialdo

Translating the As Found II | *auditorium 1 Louis Verhaegen*

moderator: Koenraad Van Cleempoel

- (P) Ariadne and Architecture: Hesitation and Instauration as Architectural Strategies.
Elias D'hollander
- (P) Re-reading the values of the existing
Nadin Augustiniok
- (P) Learning from the farmhouse "as found" – continuity of use in existing buildings
Ines Lüder

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 **Keynote lecture** | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*

As Found 02: Towards Sustainable Design Futures
Markus Berger, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence (USA)

18.00 Reception

7 SEPTEMBER 2023, OLD PRISON, HASSELT (Martelarenlaan 42)

Time	Agenda
09.00	Parallel Sessions (Presentation (P) /Pecha Kucha (PK)):

Architectural Experiments IV

moderator: Nadin Augustiniok | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*

- (PK) Informing heritage conservation through experiences of diverse bodies and minds. The case of Stadhuis Leuven
Negin Eisazadeh, Peter-Willem Vermeersch, Ann Heylighen, Claudine Houbart
- (PK) The Brazilian Fortress of “Nossa Senhora da Conceição de Araçatuba” - new interventions to provide use
Liliane J Nizzola, Letícia Nardi
- (PK) Adaptive Reuse as an approach for conserving values through transformation: The experience of conversion of historic Bagheri’s house into Haft Paykar boutique hotel, Iran.
Mahdiar Nezam, Fatemeh Mollazadeh, Laleh Ramezani
- (P) Facadism - A compromise between Historic preservation and demolition in old cities facing contemporary development.
Naveed Iqbal
- (P) How heritage buildings respond to contemporary needs. Review of case studies in Sydney, Australia
Shabnam Yazdani

Translating the As Found III | *auditorium 1 Louis Verhaegen*

moderator: Koenraad Van Cleempoel

- (PK) Naughty heritage: how the most hated building in Barcelona turned into a friendly place in spite of its painful past
Alessandro Scarnato
- (PK) Re-Building Memory: The Adaptive Reuse of Indian Residential Schools in Canada
Amara Goodwin
- (P) The Future of the Already Built
Sally Stone
- (P) As Found Attunement - Architectural Meaning in the Age of Ecological Crisis
Nicolai Bo Andersen
- (P) Meaning in life, morality and built heritage
Chris Bessemans

As Used | *Room Fr1.11*

moderator: Hülya Ertas

- (PK) Obstacles in Canadian Adaptive Reuse Practice
Dana Mastrangelo, Melissa Lengies, Taylor Quibell, Mariana Esponda, Federica Goffi
 - (PK) Acknowledging the informal in adaptive reuse - evaluating the designer’s role in user-led adaptations
Nusrat Kamal Ritu, Bie Plevoets, Asli Cicek
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Time	Agenda
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| (P) | Self-Organized Actions for the ‘Slow and Incremental Adaptation’ of Heritage Places: Learning from Pilavoglu Han in Ankara, Turkey
E. Miray Kısaer Koca, Pınar Gökçınar Balkan, Pınar Aykaç, Sibel Yıldırım Esen, Neriman Sahin Güçhan |
| (P) | The Foundlings of B. Joint Ventures for Quasi-Heritage Objects
Hanne De Vos, Wouter Van Acker, Brecht Van Duppen |
| (P) | The Caring Landscape: The potential of adaptive reuse in residential healthcare
Regis Verplaetse, Nikolaas Vande Keere |
| (P) | Scandinaviëblokken : from condominium towards a vertical neighbourhood
Harold Fallon, Tomas Ooms, Tim Vanhooren, Benoît Vandenbulcke, Benoît Burquel |

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Parallel Sessions (Presentation (P) /Pecha Kucha (PK)):

Architectural Experiments V | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*
moderator: Sofie De Caigny

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| (PK) | On the Traces of the Old: Adaptive Reuse of British Oil Mill
Seray Türkay Coskun, Onur Yüncü, Esatcan Coskun |
| (PK) | Adaptive reuse of industrial heritage for housing purposes in Brazil: possibilities for the Fluminense Mill, Rio de Janeiro
Rafaela Simonato Citron |
| (P) | Life in the ruins of barns
Pavel Fuchs, Matyáš Gál |
| (P) | Preserving, restoring, and creating values: Adaptive reuse of steam and power buildings of a textile factory in Turkey
Erkan Kambek, Gülsün Tanyeli |
| (P) | Adaptive reuse of an abandoned rurality; reclaiming lost identities of the past.
Mo Michelsen Stockholm Krag |

Education for Reuse II - Pedagogies for Reading the Existing – Unlocking (Hidden) Urban Layers | *auditorium 1 Louis Verhaegen*
moderator: Elke Couchez

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| (PK) | Unlayering realities. Uncovering identities / Discovering scenarios in the north
Maria Luna Nobile |
| (PK) | Reading sites, building stories
Leeke Reinders, Paul Vermeulen |
| (PK) | Atelier Reconversion Uliège: rethink, resettle, reconfigure. Pedagogical tools and methods
Lisa De Visscher, Benoît Vandenbulcke |
| (PK) | NIT Urban Heritage Lab: A multi-disciplinary platform for teaching transformation and reuse of water heritage
Ozgun Ozcakir, Aysel Arslan, Fokke Gerritsen, Mariette Verhoeven, Gerdy Verschuure-Stuip |

Time	Agenda
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- (PK) Reuse for Change: Learning about the social and political role of adaptive reuse
Nikolaas Vande Keere
- Roundtable discussion

PhD Seminar II | *Room Fr1.11*
critic: Markus Berger
moderator: Maria Gill Ulldemolins

- (P) Introducing tolerance. Strategies for operating on the 'as found' in self-built settlements of Caracas
Josymar Rodriguez Alfonzo, Stefan Gzyl
- (P) Reuse of façade components: uncovering lessons from heritage for conventional practices
Ruben Van Vooren, Esther Geboes, Waldo Galle, Niels De Temmerman
- (P) From Temporary to Permanent. Rising ambitions to sustain uses, even after demolition.
Gabrielle Kawa, Waldo Galle, Niels De Temmerman

12.30 Lunch | *Foyer*

13:45 **Keynote lecture** | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*

Re-Thinking Preservation; the Shoemaker and the Cobbler
Thordis Arrhenius, School of Architecture, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)

15.00 Coffee Break

15.30 -
17.00 **Closing Remarks** | *auditorium 2: Louis Roppe*



Fig.1, Upper isotropy: land reserve – rights: Ludmilla Cerveny

Fig.2, Lower isotropy: middle age – rights: Ludmilla Cerveny

MONUMENTAL ORDINARY: ALMOST AS FOUND

Guillaume Eckly, Barbara Fischer, Elisa Monaci, Alberto Petracchin, Mathias Roustang
Gens architectes, Università Iuav di Venezia, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

The contribution reflects on the as found combining a theoretical vision on reuse by two Italian researchers with the operational praxis by the French architecture office GENS. Peripheral contexts, far from the big historical cities, are full of plural and minor histories. Reuse in these places requires a strategy to design new imaginaries and desires to reconfigure artefacts and the cultural context. It is a question of building legacies that collect past memories, translating them into a space for the future [1]. The project uses narration as a tool for operating on the objet trouvé with precise but pungent actions: the narrative welds together tradition and pastiche, amnesia and memory, industrial and agricultural tone, ornament and essentiality [2]. GENS has been working with the ordinary to construct new identities. The Chapiteaux project (2018) in Avricourt turns the dailyness into a monument to the dailyness (“Art is what makes life more interesting than art”, Robert Filiou): a derelict barn is taken from its likely destruction to be converted into the village bakery. The strategy consists of inventing a story by using elements of traditional architecture: portico, colonnade, capitals supporting a wooden coffered ceiling, hypostyle hall. Past architectural figures are brought into play to blur old and new and set up ambiguity: from barn to the big hall, scattered with “capitals” as if they would have always been there, “a new order capable of generating heresies” [3]. However, if the architecture aspires to the ennobling of space through the facetious “reuse” of history, the bakery housed within it brings us again to the power of the ordinary to become a monument itself. The overlapping of languages and tones that continually contaminate “high” and “low” becomes the design modality to construct new legacies of the contemporary [4], [5]. Chapiteaux, while remaining concealed in the intérieur, reconfigures the relationship between ordinary and monumental, between building and territory [6]. The project gives us a space as a new hollow symbol, able to host, to make itself available, to reconnect “space and society” [7]. New “capitals” as architectural symbols creep silently into the found places to indicate possible trajectories of the architecture of contemporary reuse, almost as found.

- [1] Sara Marini, Giovanni Corbellini (eds.), *Recycled Theory: Illustrated Dictionary*, (Macerata: Quodlibet, 2016)
- [2] GENS, *Rusticité. Ruralités*, (Nancy: GENS, 2018)
- [3] Cf. Massimo Cacciari, “Nomadi in prigione”, in *Casabella*, no. 705, (2002): 4-7
- [4] Cf. Robert Venturi, *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, (New York: Moma, 1966)
- [5] Sylvia Lavin, *Architecture Itself and Other Postmodernization Effects*, (Leipzig: Spector 2020)
- [6] Franco Minissi, “Territorio, città, monumenti”, in *Studi Romani*, no. 1-2, (January-June 1990): 179-180
- [7] Giancarlo De Carlo, “Editorial”, in *Space & Society*, no. 1, (January 1978): 3

Elisa Monaci, Architect, PhD, Research Fellow at Università Iuav di Venezia. Alberto Petracchin, Architect, PhD Student at Politecnico di Milano. Their research focus on theory of contemporary architecture, they are members of the editorial staff of the scientific journal “Vesper. Journal of Architecture, Arts & Theory”, Iuav.

Guillaume Eckly, Barbara Fischer and Mathias Roustang, Architects, are founding members of the architecture office Gens. Focusing on a cultural approach to architecture, their work is largely published in French and international reviews. Gens has been awarded AJAP in 2012. Their project bunker was nominated for the EUMiesaward 2022.