CURRENT MEMBERS

Mercedes Volait, chair (FR)
Johan Lagae, vice-chair (BE)

(AT) Vittoria Capresi
(AT) Diego Caltana
Bruno De Meulder (BE)
(CH) Leila El-Wakil
(CH) Nadia Radwan
Ralph Bodenstein (DE)
Regina Göckede (DE)
(DK) Peter Bjerrum
Antonio Bravo Nieto (ES)
Rosario Camacho (ES)
Ramon Gavilan Aragon (ES)
Juan Maria Montijano Garcia (ES)
(FR) Emilie d'Orgeix
(FR) Claudine Piaton
(FR) Thierry Lochard
Vassilis Colonas (GR)
Alexandra Yerolympos (GR)
Evrydiki Sifnaiou (GR)
Panayotis Tournikiotis (GR)
Alexandra Yerolympos (GR)
(IL) Bernardo (Dov) Winer
Ezio Godoli (IT)
Vilma Fasoli (IT)
Fabio Mangone (IT)
Ettore Sessa (IT)
(NL) Tom Avermaete
Madalena Cunha Matos (PT)
(UK) Ola Uduku
(UK) Alex Bremner
(UK) Iain Jackson
(UK) Robert Home

So far thirteen COST member states (Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Portugal) have joined the Action. Researchers from the following countries have expressed interest in contributing to the Action: Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Morocco, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey.

All photographs by Arnaud du Boistesselin (Tunis & Ismailia) / Logo by Fatiha Bouzidi/ Lay-out by Luce Beeckmans

---

architecture beyond

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE BEYOND EUROPE

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The members of the different Working Groups will meet twice a year to discuss and coordinate ongoing research. The Action will also organize three annual workshops and a concluding conference, the themes of which have been defined as follows:

2011
Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture
(on the impact of extra-colonial agency in the making of "colonial" architecture)

2012
Dissonant architectural heritage in the postcolonial age
(on the changing perceptions of "colonial" architecture in the last decades)

2013
Colonial, imperial or corporate architecture?
(architectural diversity or uniformity across time, agency or geography)

2014
Final conference: "What's next?"

The Action will provide funding for a number of short term scientific missions that will allow in particular young researchers to gain expertise spending a research period in one of the institutions involved in the network. The launching of an electronic, peer-reviewed journal on the topic of the Action is being considered.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Memorandum of Understanding of this COST-Action can be downloaded via the official COST-website http://w3.cost.esf.org/ or from the Action's website www.architecturebeyond.eu.
For further questions, please contact the chair of the Action Mercedes Volait at mercedes.volait[at]inha.fr.

---

cost

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COST Action IS0904

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE BEYOND EUROPE

SHARING RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE ON DISSEMINATION PROCESSES, HISTORICAL DATA AND MATERIAL LEGACY
(19TH-20TH CENTURIES)

architecture beyond

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE BEYOND EUROPE

ABSTRACT

This Action aims to produce a broader understanding of the worldwide spread of European architecture across empires during the 19th and 20th century by focusing on its vectors, connections, semantics and materiality in a large range of geographic and linguistic contexts engaging both Western and non-Western environments. It posits that the bilateral colonial channel (e.g. French architecture in Algeria or British architecture in India) represented but one aspect of a larger multifaceted history. By combining architectural history with area studies' knowledge, the intention is to map and analyze more complex dissemination patterns and border-crossing relationships.

Beyond architecture, the challenge is to contribute to the writing of a global history of modern European culture, including overseas expansions and transnational dynamics in its scope. To that end, this Action will join efforts at European level in collaboration with non-European researchers. By disseminating new information technologies, the Action will stimulate the sharing and cross-searching of the available, but dispersed and poorly indexed, documentation. A major outcome will be the development of accurate digital resources on the topic, as a first step towards the building of a research infrastructure. It will contribute new working methodologies in Humanities research.

The main goal is to create a global network of researchers active in the field. During a four year-period, running until May 2014, the Action will create opportunities for both senior and junior researchers to exchange ideas, disseminate knowledge and stimulate new research venues. The Action will be developed along four thematic lines, each one explored by a particular Working Group within the network.

WORKING GROUP 1
ACTORS AND NETWORKS OF EXPERTISE

The objective of this research track is to look at the multiplicity of actors that shaped the transfer of European architecture overseas. Research in architectural history traditionally focuses primarily, if not exclusively, on the activity of architects. While a central place will be given to this particular actor of the designing and building process, the Action will also look at other agents involved in the dissemination of European architecture outside Europe, such as engineers, contractors and patrons, but also at specific mechanisms such as colonialism, migration or missionary activity and their interaction. Attention will be given to European-trained designers of non-Western origin. Apart from mapping distinct networks based on education, socio-religious identity or corporate activity, and their possible intersections, this WG aims at developing a theoretical and methodological framework for studying such circulation flows.

WORKING GROUP 2
THE PRINTED MEDIA AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CANON

European architecture outside of Europe has been mediated and circulated via publications and public events (gazettes, magazines, journals, exhibitions, conferences). Systematic analysis of a range of these media should help identify canonical designs. Research across a number of European titles can contribute to reveal and question national specificities, or conversely similarities across national contexts. This research track also ambitions to investigate the often overlooked local publications, either in European or non-European languages. Content analysis of such publications will offer indications on the reception of European architecture outside of Europe. In order to identify gaps within the professional gaze, local periodicals and newspapers, as well as missionary magazines and colonial propaganda sources will be taken into account in order to retrieve a clearer picture of the circulation of architectural images and the making of the "colonial" and modernist canon(s).

WORKING GROUP 3
DOCUMENTING TRANSNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

This third research track focuses on the mapping of the built environment itself as a key to document and study the coming into being of European architecture outside of Europe and the transnational issues at stake. In comparison with the second research track, which starts from printed media, the focus here is on assembling data that does not privilege the highly mediated individual design or building, but rather seeks to highlight more large scale significant entities or ensembles. Architectural histories are generally built either on periodical literature or on field surveys; this research track posits that both sources represent complementary data that need to be studied in conjunction rather than in isolation, as evidence to be cross-checked and further confronted with local archive material.

WORKING GROUP 4
CONCEPTUALIZING AN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RESEARCH

The fourth research track is transversal and interdisciplinary. It will offer support to the researchers involved in the three above-mentioned tracks. It will implement the digital means to be used in order to ensure a continuous and interactive communication among participants in the Action and help to create tools to stimulate transnational and comparative research. The aim is to set up an open source infrastructure by making use of the wealth of information already available in digital format, despite their heterogeneous structuring. It will help to construct the research tools that will result from research coordination within the four WGs: (1) a digital biographical dictionary of actors, highlighting connections and networks of expertise based on a variety of vectors; (2) a large research bibliography on the topic, that will open up a wide array of new sources for researchers; and (3) an infrastructure to map the built environment and link it to an array of historical/contemporary sources (texts, images,…).