

1st Annual Workshop of COST Action IS0904

Turin, April 19th-20th, 2011

Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture: on the impact of extra-colonial agency in the making of “colonial” architecture

Workshop organizers: Johan Lagae and COST Action IS0904 Core Group, in collaboration with Vilma Fasoli

Theme and general concept of the first Annual Workshop

The first Annual Workshop of the Action focuses on the impact of extra-colonial agency in the making of “colonial” architecture. Through a series of case-studies, it will highlight mechanisms and vectors of the transnational transfer of knowledge, expertise and practice that were not necessarily linked to those engendered by the colonial enterprise. Presentations will be organized along three thematic sessions that, while partially interrelated, nevertheless bring to the fore particular forms of agency that underlay such transfers. Each session will consist of three 20 minute-paper presentations and one work-in-progress presentation in which members can briefly present recently started research. In that way, information on ongoing research will be easily and quickly communicated within the network, allowing for productive collaborations or information exchanges even at an early stage of research.

Subtheme 1: “Nomadic experts and *émigré* architects”

Knowledge and expertise travel often via the medium of the professional individual. Le Corbusier, whose “wanderings were equaled only by those of Tintin” as Jean-Louis Cohen once aptly phrased it, is a case in point. The presentations in this session will focus on the sometimes complex and unexpected trajectories of individuals across the globe. They will discuss the logics underlying these trajectories, such as forced migrations or the globalization of the profession of architecture and urban planning, and how such movements impacted the ideas and practices of the “nomadic expert” considered. The idea is to focus on those experts whose relevance goes beyond the individual case. Rather, we invite contributions that use a particular biography to reflect upon more general issues and questions related to the transnational transfer of expertise.

Subtheme 2: “Cosmopolitan encounters”

In architectural history, some schools have had a reputation for having been centers of knowledge and expertise attracting students from far and away, and thus constituting places for “cosmopolitan encounters” while also being instrumental in the transnational dissemination of ideas, models and practices. The Paris *Ecole des Beaux Arts*, or the *Bauhaus* belong to the most well known examples; the impact of the Architectural Association School in London on architectural practice in postwar Africa has been the subject of research in recent years. This session aims to bring to the fore some lesser known examples, discussing the role of educational institutions, of individual professors, of the curricula of particular departments in the “center” and/or of groups of students in relation to the larger theme of the Action. One case will discuss the networks of an individual architect, highlighting how such a figure can also become the focus point for cosmopolitan encounters that shape future practice.

Subtheme 3: “Diasporic communities”

19th and 20th century have seen a wide spread phenomenon of migration of large groups of people, all across the globe, for a variety of reasons. Often the urban realm has been the place per excellence attracting such flows of people from far and away, thus creating complex and heterogeneous urban societies. Inhabitant groups of various origins have often tried to mark their presence and collective identity through the practice of building. The presentations in this session will focus on particular cases dealing with the way in which “diasporic communities” have inscribed themselves in the urban landscape through architecture. Combining architectural history with social history and the history of migration, this session seeks at highlighting a particular mechanism of the transfer of cultural ideals, models and practices that often occurred in “colonial cities”, yet were not necessarily linked directly to the colonial enterprise.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Tuesday April 19 th	Location: Valentino Castle, Faculty of Architecture - Viale Mattioli, 29 Room: Sala delle Cacce
14h00 – 17h30	Session 1: “Nomadic experts and émigré architects”
<p>Chair: Johan Lagae (Ghent University, Belgium) Respondents: Regina Göckede (Brandenburgische Technische Universität Cottbus, Germany)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrew LEACH (Griffith School of Environment, Australia): <i>Neumann to Newman, Vienna to Wellington: Architecture and Change across Two Generations of Practice</i> 2. Robert HOME (Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom), <i>Planning and architectural consultants in the British Empire: 1900-1960</i> 3. Francesca B. FILIPPI (Politecnico di Torino, Italy), <i>Working abroad and returning home: Annibale Rigotti in Turkey and Siam</i> 4. Alexandra YEROLYMPOS (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), <i>The itineraries of Constantin Doxiadis</i> 	
19h00	Evening event (to be confirmed) Opening of the exhibition on Pier Luigi Nervi, guided by Carlo Olmo, curator Pavilion C of Palazzo di Torino Esposizioni

Wednesday April 20th	Location: Politecnico di Torino, main campus, Faculty of Engineering Corso Duca degli Abruzzi, 42 Room: Sala del Consiglio di Facoltà
9h00 – 12h30	Session 2: “Cosmopolitan encounters” & “Nomadic experts and émigré architects”
<p>Chair: Ralph Bodenstern (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut Kairo, Egypt) Respondent: Madalena Cunha Matos (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leila EL-WAKIL (Université de Genève, Switzerland), <i>The networks of Hassan Fathy</i> 2. Iain JACKSON (University of Liverpool, United Kingdom) & Ola Uduku (Edinburgh College of Art, United Kingdom), <i>The influence of Professor Charles Reilly and the Liverpool School of Architecture abroad</i> 3. Vilma FASOLI (Politecnico di Torino, Italy), <i>Le Politecnico di Torino et la pratique des architectes italiens en dehors de l'Europe</i> 4. Zvi EFRAT (School of Architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, Israel), <i>The Work of Israeli Architects in Africa and Asia during the 1960s and 70s</i> 	
12h30-13h30	Lunch on campus
13h30 – 14h15	Introduction to session 3
Maddalena TIRABBASI (Centro Altreitalia sulle Migrazioni Italiane, Globus and Locus) <i>“Diasporic Communities: Italian signs in the world”</i> (10mn film following the talk)	
14h15-14h30	pause
14h30 – 18h00	Session 3: “Diasporic communities”
<p>Chair: Tom Avermaete (TU Delft, the Netherlands) Respondents: Claudine Piaton (InVisu, CNRS/INHA, France)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mercedes VOLAIT (InVisu, CNRS/INHA, France): « <i>Cosmopolitan</i> » <i>Heliopolis (1905-1960)</i> 2. Vittoria CAPRESI (Vienna University of Technology, Austria): <i>A new town planning model for Libya: the colonial Italian rural centres, 1934-1940</i> 3. Ezio GODOLI (Università di Firenze, Italy): <i>Colonies agricoles allemandes en Amérique latine</i> 4. Vassilis COLONAS (University of Thessaloniki, Greece): <i>The building activity of Greek communities and the participation of Greek engineers/architects in the urban modernization in the countries of Central Africa (1950-1970)</i> 5. Sofie BOONEN (Ghent University, Belgium): <i>Tracing European communities in the urban landscape of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic Congo (1910-1939)</i> 	

Transportation

To Valentino Castle: Tram n°9 or 16, stop in front of the castle

To Politecnico: Tram n°10, stop Politecnico

Received abstracts

Subtheme 1: “Nomadic experts and *émigré* architects”

Andrew LEACH

Griffith School of Environment, Australia

Neumann to Newman, Vienna to Wellington: Architecture and Change across Two Generations of Practice

This paper will consider the various translations from Europe to New Zealand at stake in the life and work of two Vienna-trained architects, Alexander Neumann (1860-1945) and his son Friedrich Neumann (1900-1964, later Frederick Newman). The work of these two architects spans the development of late-19th-century architecture for the middle-class and nascently modernist city through to the overtly modernist stance available to the social democratic programs of New Zealand's post-war housing and energy agencies. The paper will consider the scope of this work with a view to understanding the nature of the intellectual, technical and cultural migration it represents.

Robert HOME

Anglia Ruskin University, United Kingdom

Planning and architectural consultants in the British Empire: 1900-1960

With the British Empire at its greatest extent from about 1900 until about 1950, de-colonisation from both central and local colonial administrations drew upon the services of specialist consultants in a range of areas in urban development. Typically they were hired for regional visits of a few weeks or months, culminating in reports to the local administration where local expertise was lacking, sometimes on longer term contracts. Pre-eminent among these were H.V. Lanchester (India 1912-37 and elsewhere in Asia and East Africa), Lutyens in New Delhi, and Sir Patrick Abercrombie. Less well-known figures included Albert Thompson (South Africa and Nigeria 1920-32), Clifford Holliday (Palestine, Ceylon and Gibraltar 1922-47), while the period of Commonwealth Development and Welfare after 1940 brought a new generation of consultants, such as Maxwell Fry (West Africa and India 1943-54), RJ Gardner-Medwin (West Indies 1944-47) and Otto Koenigsberger (creator of the Development Planning Unit at University College London). Among non-architect town planning consultants one can mention Patrick Geddes (India and Israel 1914-30) and Charles Reade (Australia, Malaya and South Africa 1914-1933). Other professions were important in urban development, notably the tropical health specialist Simpson (India 1886-97, then widely in tropical Africa and Asia until 1929), the land surveyor Dowson (Middle East 1900-40), and civil engineers McLean (Sudan and Palestine 1906-26) and Temple (India 1907-36). The paper will explore these consultants' place in British colonialism (particularly in the physical ordering of different racial groups) and the present state of academic research and archive sources.

Francesca B. FILIPPI

Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Working abroad and returning home: Annibale Rigotti in Turkey and Siam

Annibale Rigotti (Turin 1870-1968) was a man of modest family background and great ambition. He studied as an architect at Turin Fine Arts Academy where he cultivated internationalism both as a way of being modern and a professional perspective. Few months after his diploma he left for Constantinople in the wake of Raimondo D'Aronco, with whom he worked to the Ottoman National Exhibition project. Since his return to Turin in 1896, while working as a teacher in Drawing, he concentrated his efforts towards the international recognition of his projects. Nevertheless, after having played a protagonist role in 1902 International Exhibition of Modern Decorative Arts, Rigotti found hard to affirm himself in Turin, where he almost never had occasions to build in the first two decades of the 20th century. In 1907 he left Italy again in search of better opportunities. This time he went to Siam, where he designed the new Throne Hall and other important buildings such as the Siam Commercial Bank. Back to Turin in 1909, he left once more for Bangkok in 1925.

In Rigotti's biography temporary emigration clearly emerges as a professional strategy. On the one hand it testified to the difficulties of being an architect graduated in the Academy and without any familiar connection in early 20th century Turin. On the other hand it casts new light on a way of being modern, and international, which was peculiar to a wide group of European professionals working abroad at the turn of 19th and 20th century.

Alexandra YEROLYMPOS and Athina VITOPOULOU

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

From Chandigarh to Islamabad. K. Doxiadis' diaries of travels to India and Pakistan

The well-known Greek planner Konstantinos Doxiadis travelled extensively to India and Pakistan in the years 1954-1956, examined the housing programs that were under construction and commented on the different urban layouts and building typologies that had been proposed by local and foreign architects. His reports were submitted to the United Nations and to the government of India. His 'diaries' – as he calls them – cover hundreds of pages of notes and are richly illustrated with black and white photographs, croquis etc. They include a host of information as well as recurring comments on an impressive variety of issues related to planning ventures. Among them a long report on Chandigarh, with ample photographic documentation, contains his thoughts and reaction to the implementation in progress of this seminal planning achievement. Through the 'diaries' one can detect some evolving patterns in Doxiadis' planning theory as formulated in the early post-colonial era.

Subtheme 2: "Cosmopolitan encounters"

Leila EL-WAKIL

Université de Genève, Switzerland

Le(s) réseau(x) de Hassan Fathy

Longtemps célébré comme le champion du retour à la tradition vernaculaire, Hassan Fathy (1900-1989) a construit lui-même sa légende, celle d'un héros d'une contre-culture en porte-à-faux avec son temps et son pays. Or, la légende de l'anachorète, réfugié dans son appartement des terrasses de Darb el-Labbana, ne résiste pas à l'examen. Le refuge du vieil homme est un centre et en aucun cas une périphérie ; il nous manque un livre d'or pour retracer une par une les innombrables visites faites par les architectes du monde entier à l'heure du thé, selon une sorte de protocole de cour, qui consistait à gravir les trois étages de la maison ottomane pour présenter ses respects à cette légende vivante et l'entendre raconter l'architecture, la philosophie, la vie.

L'étude des archives de Hassan Fathy, conservées à l'Université américaine du Caire dévoile le parcours d'un homme parfaitement inséré dans la société de son temps. Les nombreux échanges épistolaires qu'il entretient inlassablement font état de l'important réseau de relations qui est le sien tant en Egypte qu'hors de l'Egypte.

Nous examinerons donc dans cet exposé Hassan Fathy sous l'angle de son inscription dans le monde social et professionnel de son temps. Nous passerons en revue le réseau de l'Ecole des beaux-arts (1937-1957), le réseau des égyptologues rencontrés à Louxor lors du chantier de Nouveau Gourni (1946-1952), le réseau professionnel international de sa période grecque chez Konstantinos Doxiadis (1957-1961), le réseau politique égyptien, le large réseau intellectuel et professionnel d'après *Construire avec le peuple* (1971).

Iain JACKSON & Ola UDUKU

University of Liverpool & Edinburgh College of Art, United Kingdom

The influence of Professor Charles Reilly and the Liverpool School of Architecture abroad

The Liverpool School of Architecture, under the leadership of Prof. Charles Reilly (1874-1948) played a pivotal role in the export of British neo-classical and later modernist architecture. Reilly's pedagogy sought to equip his students with brash, provocative and monumental architectural solutions that could be deployed throughout the Empire and beyond. Prior to his conversion to modernism he fostered a "neo-classical-moderne" approach, pretentiously known as the 'Liverpool Style', and students from the UK confidently obtained influential positions in architecture and planning throughout the world, their buildings frequently conveying an imperialist message. In addition, students from abroad (Egypt, Sri Lanka, India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries) studied at the school before returning 'fully equipped' having studied a strictly European historical approach to design. Later, the adoption of modernism at Liverpool contributed to the development of 'tropical architecture', and a generation of students graduated who were more sympathetic to non-European contexts.

The development and significance of the school can be succinctly expressed through the work of eleven key graduates, who will be discussed in this paper:

William Holford (1907-1975) Planner, Architect, originally from South Africa: Produced plan for Durban, judged the Brasilia competition and also worked in Australia and Canada.

Frederick Williamson Johannesburg and University of Witwatersrand.

Harold Clayforth Mason (1892-1960) – Iraq and Iran (Anglo-Iranian Oil Company) Town Planning in Abadan, Basrah Airport, St. Georges’s Church Baghdad.

Maurice Lyon (1887-) Government Architect, Ministry of Works, Cairo, Egypt and worked for H V Lanchester (who had also worked in India) prior to that. Classical Post & Telegraph building in Cairo.

Robert Gardner-Medwin (1907- 1995) Set up an architecture school in West Indies, as well as in Ghana.

Srinivasarao Lakshminarasappa (c.1885) Mysore Public Works Department

Robert Pearce Steel Hubbard (1910-1965) University of Accra, Ghana, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Aden.

Aly Labib Gabr Prof at Dept of Arch, faculty of Engineering University of Cairo. Also completed a number of properties in Cairo

Albert Clifford Holliday (1897-1960) Civic Advisor to the City of Jerusalem, Private practice in Palestine.

Philip Capes Harris (1891-) Government Architect, Zanzibar

Maxwell Fry (1899-1987) worked in West Africa, Chandigarh, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Singapore

Subtheme 3: “Diasporic communities”

Vittoria CAPRESI

Vienna University of Technology, Austria

A new town planning model for Libya: the colonial Italian rural centres, 1934-1940

Besides the colonial buildings realised in the main cities, the most interesting phenomenon regarding Italian colonial planning in Libya concerns the construction of 28 new towns for Italian families who were transferred to the colony for the agricultural development of the land. These rural centres decisively marked and transformed the territory, imposing a new territorial pattern and management system. On the other hand, Italian architects developed a particular hybrid stylistic mix between “Mediterranean” and Italian forms, complemented by a tepid but still imaginative rationalism. This short presentation will analyse and discuss the most-used town planning solutions and stylistic choices, exploring the mutual influences between imported and local forms.