

European architecture beyond Europe: Sharing Research and Knowledge on Dissemination Processes, Historical Data and Material Legacy (19th-20th centuries)

COST Action IS0904

Start date: 10/05/2010

End date: 09/05/2014

Year 1



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Scientific context and objectives

Research area : ISCH (History and Identity)

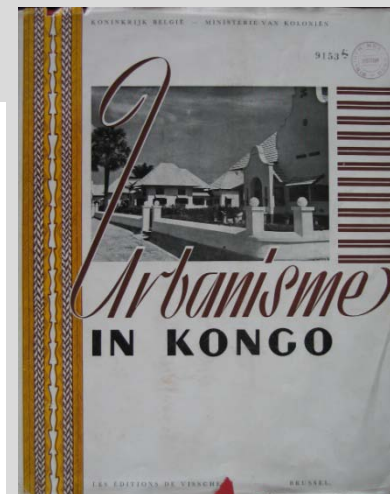
Action's objectives:

New and broader understanding of the worldwide spread and appropriation of European architecture across empires during the 19th and 20th c. , by **expanding, sharing and connecting the empirical data** available to research.

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.

Key words:

European Architectural History, Area Studies, Colonial and World History, Cultural Heritage, Digital Humanities



Scientific context and objectives

Key issues :

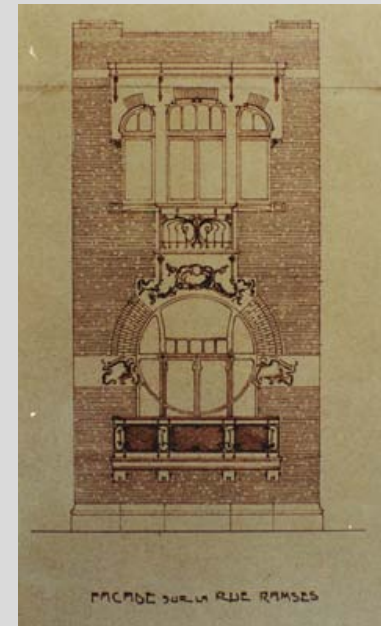
The Action proposes to combine **architectural history with area studies' knowledge**, in order to map and analyze more complex dissemination patterns and border-crossing relationships.

It intends to foster **collaborative work** among European researchers in dialog with researchers based in non-COST countries.

The target is the development of **accurate and innovative digital resources** on the topic, as a first step towards the building of a specialized research infrastructure for the study of European and westernized architecture in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Research directions:

Three themes have been identified as research priorities to understand the mechanisms of dissemination of European architecture abroad during the 19th and 20th c. Although interrelated, each of these themes will be explored in detail within a separate research track. A transversal track will explore methodological and technological issues.



Working plan

4 working groups

WG1 : Actors and networks of expertise (Looking at the multiplicity of channels that shaped the transfer of European architecture overseas.)

WG2 : The printed media and the construction of a canon (Interplay of the architectural press, canonical designs and mainstream European architecture overseas)

WG3 : Documenting transnational architecture (Confronting the built environment to periodical sources and archive material)

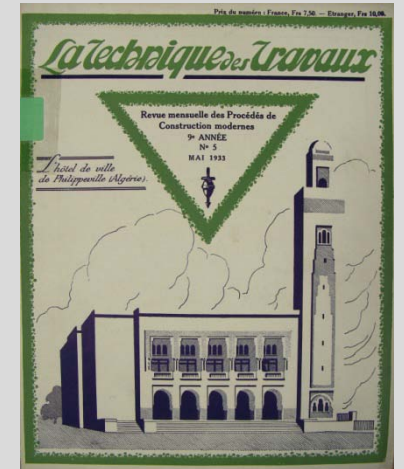
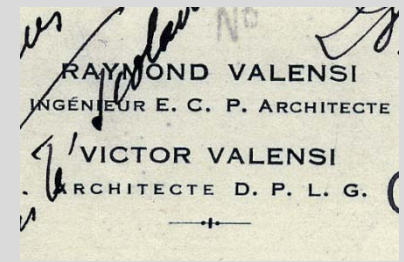
WG4: Conceptualizing an infrastructure for collaborative research (Sharing information already available in digital format, despite its little-structured nature)

3 thematic workshops

- *Cosmopolitanism, diasporas and the transnational dissemination of European architecture* (on the impact of extra-colonial agency in the making of “colonial” architecture).
- *Colonial, imperial or corporate architecture?* (Architectural diversity or uniformity across time, agency or geography).
- *Dissonant architectural heritage in the postcolonial age* (on the changing perceptions of “colonial” architecture in the last decades).

1 Final Conference

European Architecture beyond Europe: Findings & Prospects



Future plans and challenges

Launching a specialized journal and accurate on-line resources on the topic of the Action (bibliography, biographical data, etc.)

Fostering collaboration among researchers working in isolation

Confronting a technological challenge : elaborate a tool able to integrate heterogeneous data (textual, visual, multi-lingual) **without being too normative.**

