

architecture beyond

EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE BEYOND EUROPE

Sharing research and knowledge on dissemination processes,
historical data and material legacy (19th-20th centuries)

 **cost**
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COST ACTION IS0904

Introduction



"Balloon House" in the quartier Tshamilemba, Lubumbashi, DR Congo. Based on an invention of the American engineer Wallace Neff, this particular concrete housing type arrived in Lubumbashi after having been seen applied on a massive scale in Dakar, Senegal (source: photo Johan Lagae, 2006)



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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 technolo-

gies, the Action will stimulate the sharing and cross-searching of the available, but dispersed and poorly indexed, documentation. Exploring the development of accurate **digital resources** on the topic as a first step towards the building of a research infrastructure, the action seeks to 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.

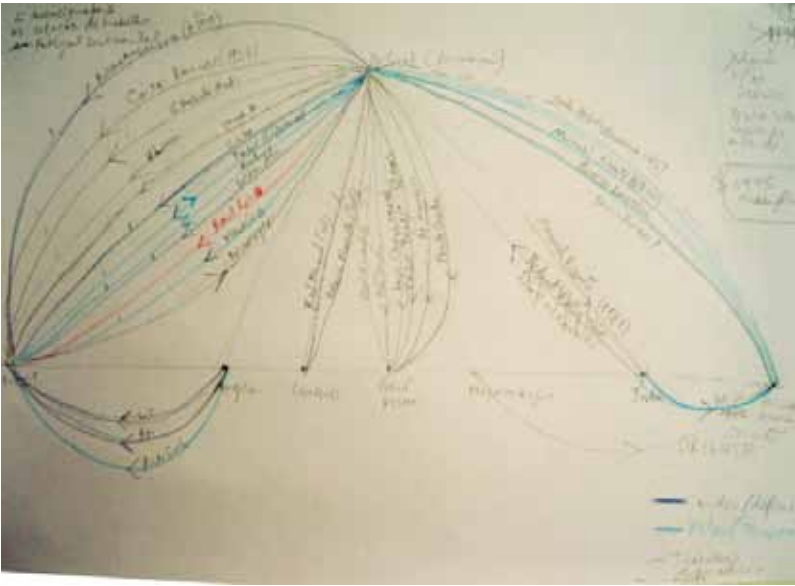
The Action will be developed along four thematic lines, each one explored by a particular **Working Group** within the network.

working group 1

Actors and networks of expertise

Coordinator : Johan Lagae (BE)

Co-coordinator: Madalena Cunha Matos (PT)



Preliminary sketch of the research project 'Recapturing the network. Developing a social network analysis on Portuguese architects in the colonies', Madalena Cunha MATOS and Tânia Beisl RAMOS



Eugenio Palumbo presenting drawings of his project for the Ecole Nationale de droit et administration, Kinshasa, Congo, ca. **** (source: Fund Eugenio Palumbo, Archives d'Architecture Moderne, Brussels).

For a long time architectural historians have studied to so-called "diaspora of 19th and 20th century architecture" as the exclusive result of an export of ideals, models and practices from the "center", being Europe and the United States, to the "periphery". If they turned their gaze to Africa, Latin America, Asia or Australia, they did so only by following the footsteps of prominent western architects. Le Corbusier, whose "wanderings were equaled only by those of Tintin" as Jean-Louis Cohen once aptly put it, is the case in point of the "global architect". This Working Group is interested in gaining a more nuanced understanding of how architectural ideas, models and practices got disseminated worldwide. It posits that this occurred not only through an export from Europe but along more complex trajectories and flows that cross national, colonial and linguistic boundaries, with exchanges sometimes being multidirectional as the "periphery" also influenced the "center" at times. Furthermore, this research track look at the multiplicity of actors that shaped the transfer of European architecture overseas, thus going beyond an

chitects' history.

The global/nomadic expert

The travelling architect, who operates in various geographical areas, is of course a phenomenon with a long pedigree. The industrial expansion of the second half of the 19th century, for instance, offered opportunities for European architects to work abroad. Forced exile of designers from Germany and Austria in the 1930s, bringing them not only to the US, but as far as Africa and Australia, was another important catalyzing force for the dissemination of European architecture. The postwar era, roughly from 1945 to the mid-1970s, induced a changed geopolitical landscape in which a new sort of



Le Corbusier and Vladimir Bodiansky discussing a preliminary drawing of the project for the UN Headquarters in New York, 1947 (source: Official United Nations photo, Department of Public Information, print in Fondation Le Corbusier, Paris, L4-4-29)



Commonwealth Conference, 1960. Delegates outside the RIBA headquarters, London. In the middle stand the Nigerian architect Oluwole Olumuyiwa (source: Special Collections and Archives, University of Liverpool)



United Nations Low Cost Housing Mission to South East Asia, 1951. Group outside new housing scheme in India, including Robert Gardner-Medwin, Professor, Liverpool School of Architecture, Jacob L. Crane, advisor to the housing and home finance agency in the US, Antonio C. Kayanan, Chief Planning of the national urban planning commission Manila, Philippines, ir Jac. (Jacobus) P. Thijse, Government Planning Officer, Indonesia. (source: Special Collections and Archives, University of Liverpool)

architect/planner emerged: the international development expert, operating in a variety of geographical and cultural contexts. A part from research on figures like Michel Ecochard, Constantin Doxiadis and Otto Koenigsberger, we also intend to demonstrate the important impact of overlooked figures such as Eugenio Palumbo, Olivier-Clément Cacoub, Max Lock, Robert Medwin-Gardner, Robert Matthew or Leo De Syllas. While some continued to work within the geographical realm of the former empire, architects from countries without a colonial past (Israel, Poland, Scandinavia) also entered the scene in the context of development aid programs. Finally, we intend to bring to the fore European-trained designers of non-Western origin, that have remained “off radar” in current architectural historiography.

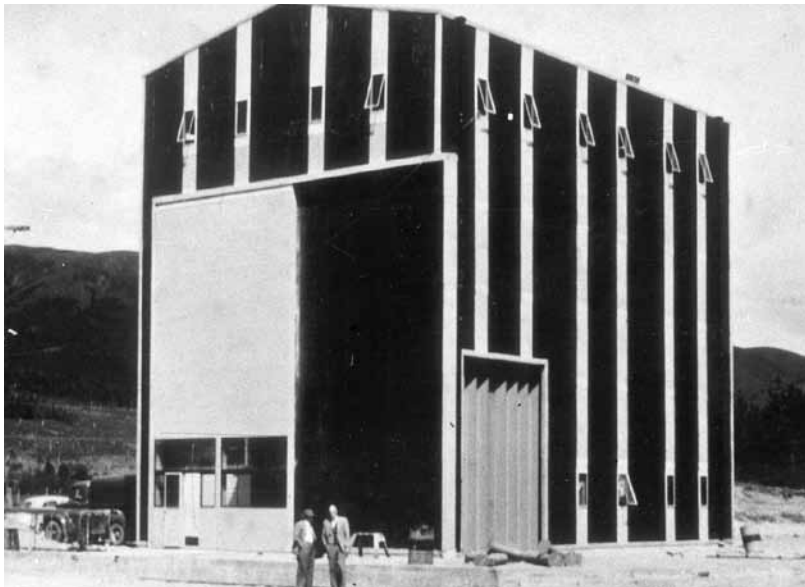
Mapping networks

While architectural historiography has often focused on the architect as an individual actor, we intend to map the networks in which designers and planners navigated, in order to trace how models, ideas and practices travelled. This includes looking at a variety of vectors of such transnational flows of expertise. Schools like the AA School in London, but also the Liverpool School of Architecture or the Technion in Haifa, Israel, for instance, were important centers of dissemination, although their impact has yet to be charted in detail. The

same holds true for professional networks such as the Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA), which has been less studied than the CIAM even though its impact should not be underestimated. International conferences form a particular point of interest of this research track, as they constitute particular moments in which the transfer of expertise crystallizes. Cases in point are the 1931 Paris Congrès sur l'Urbanisme aux Colonies or the Conference on Tropical Architecture, held in London in 1953, but attention will also be paid to lesser known events in which experts of various countries were involved. As such, we aim at going beyond an analysis that remains limited to particular national or linguistic boundaries. By tracking networks underlying the development of knowledge on tropical hygiene from the late 19th Century in countries like Britain, France and Germany, for instance, the emergence of “tropical architecture” will be reassessed beyond the Anglophone sphere.



Richard Neutra being interviewed as president of the jury for the architectural competition for a cultural center in Kinshasa, Belgian Congo, 1959 (source: archives family Leloup)



F.H. Newman, Kikiwa Transfer Station, Buller, New Zealand, 1956 (source: Andrew Leach, Frederick H Newmam: Lectures on Architecture, A&S Books, Ghent University, 2003)



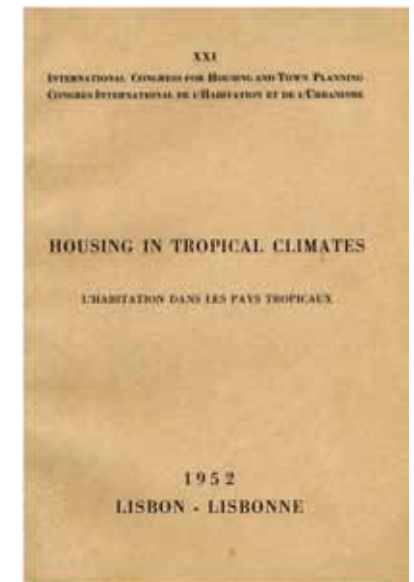
St. Philip's mission church (Anglican), Grahamstown, South Africa, 1865-67. Designed by the noted British Architect William White, it counts among the best specimens of High Victorian architecture on the African continent (source: Albany Museum (History) collections, Grahamstown).

Beyond an architects' history
While architects of course occupy a central in the designing and building process, we will also look at other agents involved in the dissemination of European architecture outside Europe, such as engineers, contractors and patrons. Moreover, we intend to bring also bring to the fore specific mechanisms underlying circulation flows of actors and of expertise such as colonialism, migration or missionary activity and their interaction. Indeed, technological transfer indeed did not necessarily follow the same trajectories as that of architectural or planning expertise. Similarly, the built production within the missionary realm also came into being via other modes of production and transfers of expertise, that followed particular channels and logics not necessarily intersecting with those at work in colonial architecture as such. Indeed, missionary networks do not remain limited to the boundaries of colonial territories but are, by definition, more global. Charting the role of institutional players at work on an international scale during the era of development aid, such as Unesco, the European Development Fund or the World Bank, forms another way of mapping transnational flows of actors and expertise that will help us gain

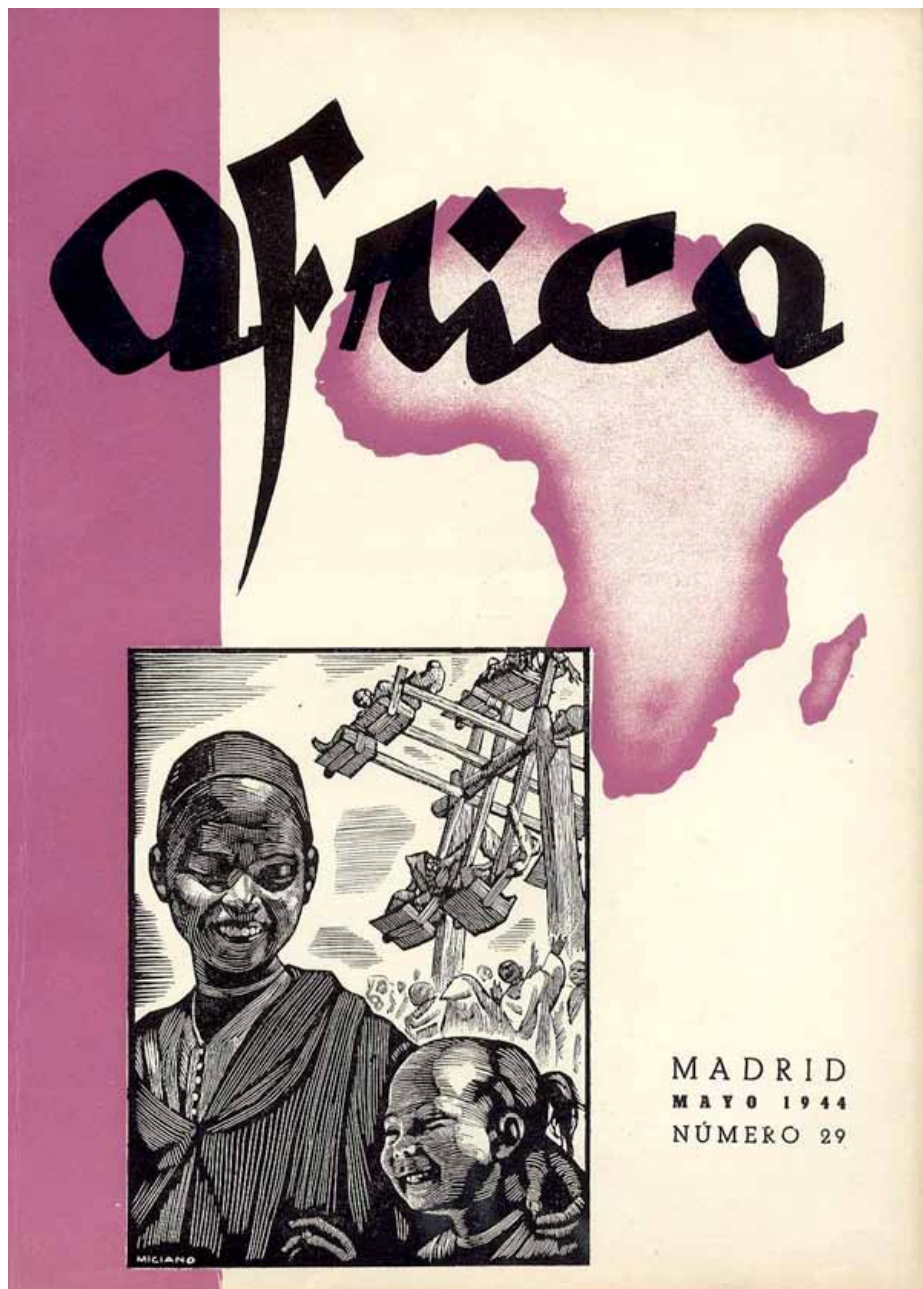
a better insight in the multiplicity of agents involved in the constitution of European architecture beyond

Europe.

From a methodological perspective, this working group is interested in testing and using particular research approaches (prosopography, Actor Network Theory), and will give particular attention to methods for visualizing networks. A major outcome of this working group will consist in a number of theme issues of the ABE-journal that is linked to this action (see further). Currently three issues are planned: one on global experts, one on tropical architecture and one on architecture and exile.



Housing in Tropical Climates. XXI International Congress for Housing and Town Planning, Lisbon, 1952. (coll. Library Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University)



Africa, n° 29, May 1944. Africa is a Madrid based journal.

working group 2

The printed media and the construction of a canon

Coordinator : Ezio Godoli (IT)

Co-coordinator: Tom Avermaete (NL)

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. The attention paid to the architectural production in Africa or Latin America by the French journal *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui* is worth comparing to what appeared in the *Anglo-Saxon Architectural Review* or *Architectural Record*. This working group also ambitions to investigate the often overlooked local publications, either in European or non-European languages. Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon experienced an active architectural press from the 1930s onward partaking in the outreach of European architecture in the Middle East, while the architectural debate in Latin America to a large extent was fueled by local magazines in which ideas of the European avant-garde were reviewed and, at times, critically assessed.

Content analysis of such publications offers indications on the reception of European architecture outside of Europe. Local periodicals, such as the French press in Maghreb or Italian journals in the Eastern Mediterranean, also represent important sources to be considered. Exploratory surveys of local newspapers, as well as of missionary magazines and colonial propaganda sources for particular territories such as Central Africa, show that only a very limited part of what was actually built overseas made it to the metropolitan architectural press. By identifying these gaps, together with much mediated designs, the expectation is to retrieve a clearer picture of the circulation of architectural images and the making of the "colonial" and modernist canon(s). The research actions of this working group are pursued along three lines:

inventory of alternative vectors

A first line of research of this working group probes into the role that the printed media have played in the formation of our knowledge on European architecture beyond Eu-



L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui, n° 20, October 1948. Theme issue on Tunisia



Jeune Afrique, nr. 22, 1956. Cover showing a drawing of the theatre building in Lubumbashi, DR Congo, designed by the architectural office Yenga in 1953.

rope: it investigates how they have placed certain approaches, projects and realizations at the centre of critical and historiographic attention, while leaving others bluntly out of sight. The construction of this canon did not only proceed through well-known vectors such as Western architectural journals as L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui, Architectural Review and Architectural Record but also through publications that are more local in character (regional or national publications) or with a different focus (cultural and popular magazines, periodicals on building construction and materials, professional or expert reports). A first research perspective aims for the inventory of these alternative publications that played an important role in the articulation of a canon (period 1930s-1960s). A list of alternative publications is being composed and made digitally available to participants in the COST action and

other international scholars (second phase). An important first step consists of gathering the information and data (inventory and collection of dispersed information) that is held by the different participants in the COST action and their respective research centers. This process is started and in cooperation with WG4 an online tool is being developed to make this database digitally available. A second step will consist of 'filling in the gaps' (complementing the available information) so that continuous series of periodicals can be composed. For this second step the members of WG2 will rely on the expertise and networks of the different COST participants. The expected result is a catalogue raisonné of alternative publications.

a theoretical framework on the role of the printed media

Our understanding of the role of professional and non-professional,



Marg, vol. 1, n° 4, July 1947, summary. Marg is a quarterly Indian art magazine, based in Mumbai. It was first published in 1946

canonical and non-canonical, printed media in architectural culture remains limited. One of the ambitions of this working group is to compose a theoretical framework on the role of the printed media in architectural thinking and practice. A first step encompasses assembling existing scholarship and making that available through the COST website for participants in the action. A second step consists of devising a critical theoretical framework for understanding the logics of the printed media in architectural culture, taking into consideration the often charged geopolitical contexts from which they emerged. This framework will deal with issues such as the relationship between international and local canons of modern architecture, the characteristics of the vectors of canonization and the particular perspectives that are opened on architectural and urban projects.



Le Maroc du Nord au Sud, Casablanca, November 1935

an alternative canon? anthology of new themes and perspectives

Texts that appear in alternative publications are not only of interest because they open up a wider horizon of projects and realizations, but also because they offer alternative viewpoints on European architecture by focusing on different issues and themes –leading eventually to the construction of an alternative canon. One of the ambitions of the working group is to compose an anthology of texts that is illustrating the different viewpoints on modern architecture and urbanism that emerge from the investigations of alternative vectors of information. The working group continuously works on an annotated anthology of texts that complements the received anthologies and histories on European modern architecture in the period 1930s-1960s.

working group 3

Documenting transnational architecture

Coordinator : Ralph Bodenstein (DE)

Co-coordinator: Claudine Piaton (FR)

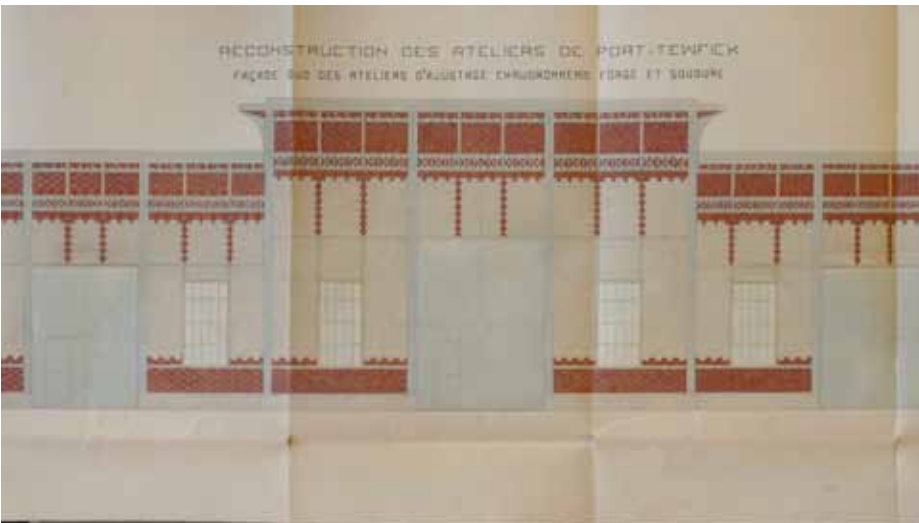


Workshops of the Canal authorities, Port-Tawfiq, Suez, Egypt (source : © Arnaud du Boistesselin, 2010)

This third research track focuses on the mapping of the built environment itself as a key to document and study the evolvement 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.

Geographical scope and focus
Experimental attempts at carrying out such crossings and analyzing their empirical and theoretical results are implemented for selected and significant cases. Given the expertise of the researchers in this working group, there is a large fo-

cus on the Mediterranean region, with work being done on industrial architecture in Egypt, the townscapes along the Suez canal and modern architecture in the former French North-Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia). Some members of the working group are working on other areas, being confronted with different conditions of doing fieldwork or collecting local archival data. This is particularly the case for the research being done on Lubumbashi, a mining city in the former Belgian Congo, today Democratic Republic of the Congo. Combining fieldwork with archival research and oral history is carried out in order to map the various actors that shaped the urban landscape of what was during the colonial era a particularly cosmopolitan city, with important communities of Greeks, Italians and Jews. Still other members focus on lesser studied regions in India, mapping the more mundane architecture that was produced under British colonial rule, thus developing a theoretically embedded research methodology for tackling the study of buildings that have hitherto been neglected by architectural historians yet pro-



Workshops of the Compagnie de Suez, Port-Tawfiq, Suez, Egypt, 1930. Drawing of the south façade. Architect Paul Albert of the firm Baume & Mercier (source: © ANMT Roubaix, Fonds Cie de Suez)

vide novel insights on the spatial aspects of colonial governance.

(Re)discovering architects, craftsmen & contractors

Fieldwork and the study of local archives allows to (re)discover architects whose work is not included in the conventional sources of architecture history research. Hence, the research of this working group brings an important contribution to the database of European designers active outside of Europe. Such research also brings to the fore other actors such as craftsmen, firms specialized in applied arts or contractors. As such, the research within this working group ties in with that of working group 1. A special attention within the group is given to the built production of contracting firms, as these often have been an important vector of producing European architecture outside Europe.

European contractors in the south-east-Mediterranean

One particular project of the group, that will lead to a theme issue of the ABE-journal (see further) builds upon a previous study carried on by 7 members of the COST Action from both sides of the Mediterranean whose main goal was to gather data and study the archives of European contractors active in the south-east-Mediterranean between 1860 and 1970. This project investigated new sources for the history of European architecture

beyond Europe which were until now underestimated by historians of architecture. The findings were promising. Contractors' archives are not only rich with iconography (construction sites photos, technical plans, architects' plans, sketches) but also prolific with notes documenting technical innovations or correspondence between the buildings' protagonists. Three case studies are yet identified: First, the works of the French and Belgium firms Five-Lilles and Baume & Marpent in Egypt (mainly metal construction), whose archives are housed in France and Belgium; second, the works of the Hennebique agency (reinforced concrete) in Algeria, based on company archives kept in France; third, the works of the Italian firm Savigliano in Greece and Turkey, with archives kept in Torino. The working group expects to attract British scholars in order to enlarge its case studies to some



Synagogue, Lubumbashi, DR Congo, 1929. Architect Raymond Cloquet (source: photo Johan Lagae, 2005)

Scottish enterprises (cast iron production) in South America and Egypt.

The cases studied chosen according to a large typology of commissioning circumstances (by public authorities, corporate agencies, private developers, etc.) and political contexts (direct and indirect colonial rule) will highlight the complexity of the exchange between the both sides of the Mediterranean as well as the pragmatism of the companies involved.

Involving non-European researchers

Having a strong participation of researchers from non-European countries is one of the specific points of attention of this working group. It profits from the sharing of resources that have been unearthed in and outside Europe by the entirety of researchers engaged in the Action. In order to renew our vision of the urban fabric, it is in fact indispensable to cross-check unedited or untapped source material coming from, or being kept in, local municipal and state institutions (such as buildings permits, land registry archives, etc.) with the information collected on extant buildings on site and source material available in Europe. The input of and collaboration with local researchers is crucial in this respect. With this in mind, the working group envisages to conduct experiments in data exchange with the Algerian researchers participating in one of its projects.



Koninklijke Natuurkundige Vereniging, Bandung, Indonesia, 1956. Ingenieurs Bureau Ingenegeren Vrijburg (source: P.K.M. van Roosmalen, Amsterdam)



Former housing of the employees of the Société des phosphates, Kosseir, Egypte (source: © Arnaud du Boistesselin, 2010)



Diar Mahçoul housing project, Algiers, 1955. Architect Fernand Pouillon (source: © Cl. Piaton, 2012)



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working group 4

Conceptualizing an infrastructure for collaborative research

Coordinator : Thierry Lochard (FR)

Co-coordinator: Pauline van Roosmalen (NL)

Established to facilitate the participants of the other working groups to share their knowledge, expertise and documents, the main objective of Working Group 4 is to identify and implement a digital tool (infrastructure) that supports the research-related requests and ambitions of the other working groups.

Sharing data

After participating in several meetings of the various working groups and thus learning the various needs of the scholars – and given the fact that the COST-programme is aimed at building and strengthening a professional scholarly network rather than constructing an entirely new tailor-made infrastructure – Working Group 4 suggested to implement Mendeley, an existing open source network tool to share data among the members of the Action. Although Mendeley requires a fair amount of input from its users in terms of scanning and uploading material, once the database starts filling up it will offer its users an excellent tool to openly or confidentially share information and data online.

Training in digital humanities

As it is important nowadays to master research and publishing online, Working Group 4 organises a Training School in April 2013. The Training School, entitled 'Architectural history research in the digital era' is an intensive five-day gathering that will introduce and familiarise COST-members and non-members with the many aspects involved in online research and publishing, such as copyrights, leaving digital traces on the internet. By doing so, the Training School aims at providing scholars in the humanities a common basic culture in Digital Humanities.

A particular focus will be given to available tools for visualizing data, as these can help to create an insight into the various regional and global networks and trajectories at play (people, projects, journals, meetings). In this respect, Working Group 4 assists the other working groups in detecting and applying useful mapping tools to visualize these networks and trajectories and share online via open sources applications.

Website

Since the beginning of the Action two members of Working Group 4 have taken care of the development, implementation and updates of the Action's website: www.architecturebeyond.eu. The website contains information about the COST-action: objective(s) of the action, topics studied by and research tracks uncovered by the various working groups, members and images of European architecture beyond Europe.

Related project

The activities of Working Group 4 are closely linked to a project initiated by Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands: the development and construction of a digital research environment for European colonial built heritage between circa 1850 and 1970. The digital research environment – a multi-

lingual, open access and worldwide accessible tool – seeks to combine digital library expertise with the expertise of international scholars and other professionals specialising or interested in European colonial architecture and planning after 1850. By providing scholars, policy makers and a culturally interested lay public internationally with access to previously geographically isolated sources (printed material, images, maps, archives), the digital research environment will generate comparative and trans-national research and facilitate a greater exchange of knowledge. As such it will be a useful and essential tool in defining and conducting comparative and trans-national research and will assist in determining policies regarding European colonial architecture and planning.



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ABE journal & publications

As a major instrument of outreach this COST-action will mount in the course of 2013 an online journal, entitled ABE-Journal (Architecture beyond Europe), in which the research of its members, as well as of scholars working on related topics, will be published. It will follow the guidelines and format for online publication established by the French platform revues.org. Each contribution to this journal will be double blind peer reviewed in order to guarantee an outstanding academic quality. While the main language will be English, contributions in other languages (French, Spanish, German,...) will be accepted. The journal will work with theme issues, initiated and edited by members of the different working groups. Currently a number of theme issues are under preparation on the following themes: global experts "off radar" (WG1), re-assessing tropical architecture (WG1), architecture and exile (WG1), architecture and applied arts beyond Europe (WG1/WG3), Europeans contractors in the south-east-Mediterranean (WG3). Working Group 2 will produce a number of books related to its theme. Working Group 4

will produce a manual on the theme of architectural history research and digital humanities. At the end of the Action, a more general book explaining the work of the action and defining relevant research questions for future research in this domain will be published.



Prefabricated metallic church, Boma, DR Congo, 1889. Design: Forges d'Aiseau (source: photo Johan Lagae, 2009)

Short term scientific missions

Via Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM), the Action provides its members the opportunity to travel within the network in order to (1) enhance collaborative research and stimulate the writing of joint articles and paper; (2) deepen one's knowledge in a particular field of expertise by spending from 5 days up to 3 months in a host institution; (3) provide opportunities to study particular archival collections held by one of the partners in the network or other relevant collections; (4) allow for fieldwork in one of the countries linked to the Action.

While the STSM are primarily meant for members of the Action, depending on the available budget and quality and relevance of proposals, STSMs can also be granted to non-members, who conduct research relevant to the theme of the Action. When submitting an application applicants need to specify to which of these thematic working groups the proposed mission belongs and how the planned activities and the selection of the hosting institution contributes to this aim. Applicants can use the online-registration tool to <https://e-services.cost.eu/w3/index.php?id=91>. Com-



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pleted application forms together with a detailed work plan (max. 5 pages) and a curriculum vitae should be send to dr. Tom Avermaete, STSM coordinator of COST Action 'European architecture beyond Europe' (t.l.p.avernaete@tudelft.nl). The application it will be assessed by the STSM Assessment Panel, consisting of the STSM coordinator, the chair and the vice-chair of the Action. Applications can be submitted continuously.

Events & activities

Twice a year, the members of the different Working Groups meet to discuss and coordinate ongoing research. Each year, the Action also organizes an annual workshop, on a particular theme. During this annual workshop, members of the Action present their ongoing research in relation to the particular theme of the event and also discuss with invited experts and keynote speakers.

In April 2013, the Action will also organize a training school in Ghent entitled 'Architectural history research in the digital era', which will help its members to get acquainted with best practices in the digital humanities relevant for their research.

Previous events

First Annual Workshop, Turin, 19-20 April 2011

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

Second Annual Workshop, Edinburgh, 9-11 February 2012

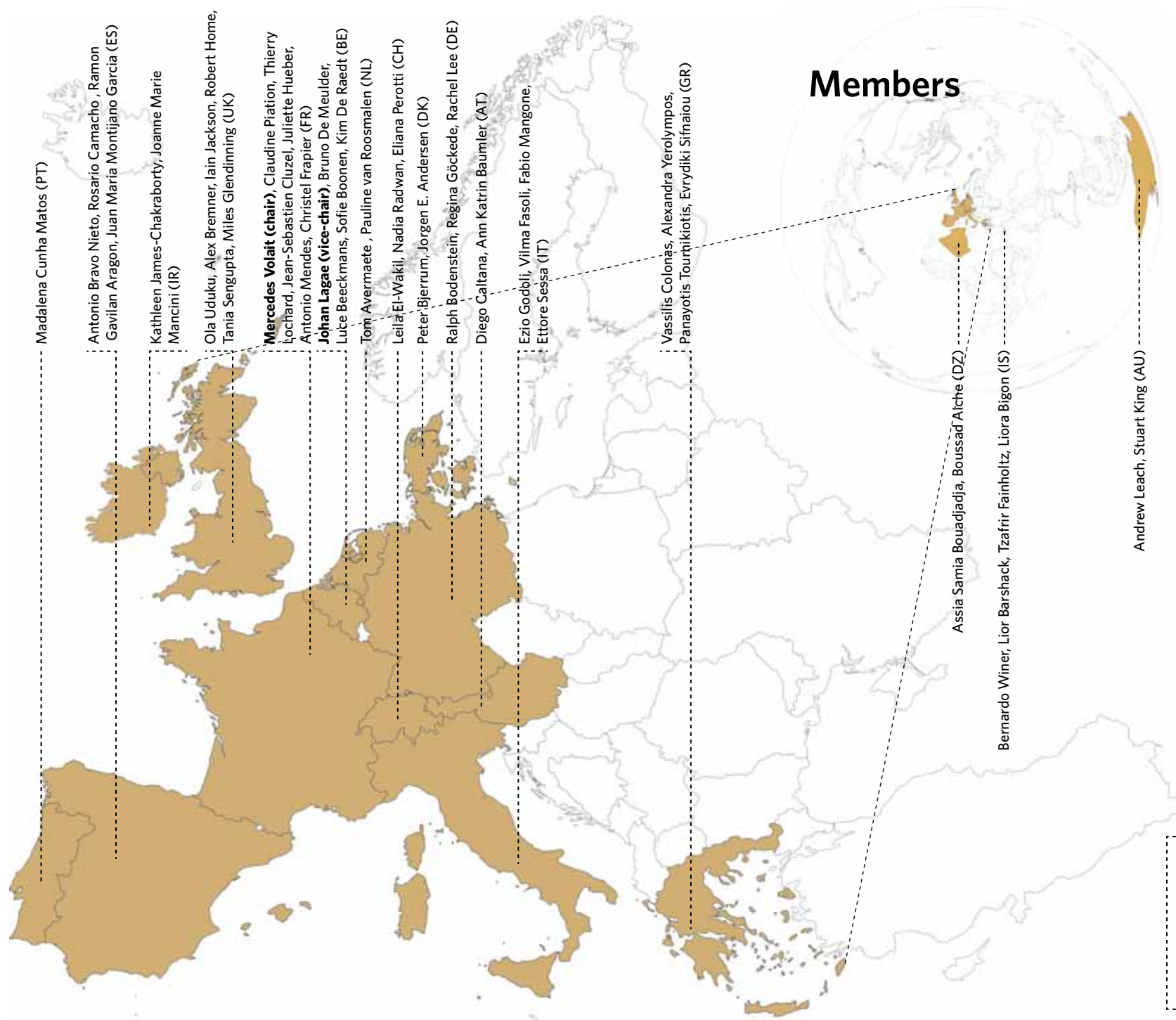
Colonial, imperial or corporate architecture? (architectural diversity or uniformity across time, agency or geography)

Planned events

Third Annual Workshop, Lisbon, 18-20 February 2013

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

Concluding conference, 2014:
"What's next?"



Members

So far **fourteen countries** (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom) have joined the Action. Researchers from Algeria and Australia are also actively participating. Scholars from Argentina and South Africa may join soon.

Members belonging to the Management Committee (MC) represent their country within the Action. The network of the action further includes Working Group members (WG) and invited experts, drawn from the extensive international networks of the members, also participate during activities and events organized by the Action.

Researchers willing to join the Action have to send an application with motivation, résumé and bibliography to the chair of the Action (mercedes.volait@inha.fr). Applications for new **membership** need to be approved by the Management Committee.

Further Information

For further questions, please contact the Chair of the Action Mercedes Volait at mercedes.volait@inha.fr or consult

www.architecturebeyond.eu

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Résumé

L'Action COST "L'architecture européenne hors d'Europe" s'est donné pour objectif de produire une connaissance élargie de la diffusion de l'architecture européenne à travers les empires durant les XIX^e et XX^e siècles, en portant attention à ses vecteurs, ses mécanismes, ses rhétoriques et sa matérialité dans un large éventail de contextes géographique et linguistique, qui impliquent à la fois des environnements occidentaux et non-occidentaux. Le projet part du postulat que le modèle colonial de diffusion bilatérale (métropole-colonie) ne représente que l'une des multiples facettes d'une histoire plus vaste. En combinant les méthodes de l'histoire de l'architecture avec les connaissances apportées par les savoirs propres aux « aires culturelles », l'Action vise à cartographier et analyser des modèles de diffusion plus complexes ainsi que des réseaux de relations qui transgressent les frontières conventionnelles. En utilisant et en testant les nouvelles technologies de l'information pour collecter, partager et visualiser les données, l'Action souhaite aussi contribuer à renouveler les méthodes de recherche dans le domaine des sciences historiques. L'Action rassemble des chercheurs européens ainsi que des chercheurs non-européens, et s'organise en quatre grands axes thématiques, dont chacun est animé au sein du réseau par un groupe de travail spécifique.

Resumen

El proyecto COST "Arquitectura europea fuera de Europa", se ha fijado como objetivo generar un conocimiento más amplio de la difusión de la arquitectura europea en todo el mundo durante los siglos XIX y XX. En él se presta especial atención a sus vectores de acción, sus mecanismos, su discurso y materialización, en una amplia gama de contextos geográficos y lingüísticos, que implican tanto entornos occidentales como no occidentales. El proyecto parte de una premisa: que el modelo colonial de la difusión bilateral (metrópoli-colonia) representa sólo una de las muchas facetas de una historia más amplia. Combinando la metodología de la historia de la arquitectura con las aportaciones obtenidas de los conocimientos específicos a las disciplinas culturales, se pretende como objetivo identificar y analizar modelos de difusión más complejos y redes de relaciones que sobrepasan los límites convencionales. Por otra parte, la acción también podría renovar los métodos de investigación en el campo de las ciencias históricas utilizando nuevas tecnologías de información para recopilar, compartir y visualizar los datos. El proyecto reúne a investigadores tanto europeos como no europeos, y está organizado en cuatro ejes temáticos principales, cada uno de los cuales está dinamizado por un grupo de trabajo específico.