

Program URBAN CULTURES

International Symposium



Time and Locations :

Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine

April, 27 and 28, 2017 / 9h – 19h30

La Courneuve/Moulin Fayvon

April, 29, 2017 / 9h – 12h30

ENSA Paris La Villette

April, 29, 2017 / 14h30 – 17h30



Section West-East of White Building Bassas (2015) © Pen Sereypagna

In Between Slabs

A global ethnography of the transformation of large collective housing projects by their dwellers

The construction of social housing after the Second World War was one of the first acts of urban globalization¹. By means of geo-political channels (Soviet Union, colonialism), exportation (from Camus prefabrication to Soviet *microraiion*²) and the soft power of industrial standardization of multinationals, this form of housing and urbanization flourished across Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and America. Public housing became the backdrop of the contemporary urban landscape. What is the experience of the imposition of this hegemonic formatted model of housing for the residents? And how have the residents themselves transformed these neighbourhoods in response to societies, governance, climate, law and the flow of migration? Fifty years after Bernard Rudofsky's publication *Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-pedigreed Architecture* (1964), the colloquium "l'Entre-deux barres" ('In Between Slabs') contributes a chapter on Urbanism to this ode to the anonymous builder by considering the residents who work in the margins for the construction of the Modernist city.

¹ Social, public and low-cost housing in France are referred to as *grands ensembles*, in which there are *barres* (bars) and *tours* (towers). Their names refer to their shape, i.e., large horizontal (bar) and vertical (tower) structures. The title of the colloquium—*l'Entre deux barres* (Between Two Bars/Slabs)—hence is understood within this context.

² *Camus prefabrication* refers to the housing solution developed by the French engineer Raymond Camus in the late 1940s when France was faced with limited skilled labor and building materials after the Second World War. The mass produced loadbearing floor and wall panels in reinforced concrete were later exported and employed internationally. *Microraiion*, otherwise known as microdistricts, is an urban planning concept that emerged during the 1920s in the Soviet Union and in post-Soviet and former Communist states as an answer to rapid urban growth.

The trajectory of the modern project of imposed urban forms—Public Housing—has more often provoked resistance, appropriation and adaptation amongst the inhabitants than acceptance. The city prior to this was capable of resisting and re-emerging, sometimes in spectacular demonstrations of popular initiatives. A number of the modern public housing developments thus evolve as a pendulum, with the production of living areas by the inhabitants and their subsequent destruction by authorities.

This disruptive production of space has developed in response to the globalized model of Modernity. 'L'entre-deux barres' examines the space-time paradigm of popular resistance to this Modern project, of social and spatial inventions that contradict the principles of the project to correct the errors and miscalculations.

Today, the discourse and the majority of the interventions in relation to this architectural and urban heritage is concerned with two approaches—conservation (renovation, restoration, patrimonialization) or destruction. In the case of urban developments, there is the tendency to re-modernize by erasure: in Mongolia, Vietnam, Senegal, France, and across the globe. The planned city again takes over, reproducing the umpteenth tabula rasa, reordering the disorder of habitual practice that has been produced as a result of urbanity without the urbanist.

Faced with this returning Modernist model of housing, the central theme of the colloquium is to examine the so-called *informal* production of the city—which has developed and continues to develop *between* the walls of the public housing complexes—through the presentation of case studies from the five Continents.

The colloquium thus questions: How do cultural and social practices in public housing produce, rectify, transform? And, what do they say, in their perpetual resistance, of the production of contemporary urban worlds?

Scientific leaders : Maria-Anita Palumbo, anthropologist, teacher at ENSASE, researcher at GRF Transformation and associated with the LAA and Olivier Boucheron, architect (nelobo), teacher at ENSAPLV, researcher member of LAA / LAVUE / CNRS

Coordination : Marie-Hélène Contal

Organizers : Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine ; Maison des Sciences de l'Homme Paris Nord ; ENSAPLV + LAA - UMR CNRS 7218 LAVUE ; ENSASE + GRF Transformations ; BRAUP, MCC ; Programme Erasmus; atelier nelobo

Useful addresses :

Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine (AUDITORIUM)

7 avenue Albert de Mun 75016, Paris

La Courneuve/Moulin Fayvon

47 bis Avenue Roger Salengro, La Courneuve, 93120

ENSA Paris La Villette (Amphi 302)

144 Avenue de Flandre, 75019 Paris



In Between Slabs

A global ethnography of the transformation of large collective housing projects by their dwellers

PROGRAM

Thursday April 27

Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine

Auditorium

9:00 Introduction by Guy Amsellem

9:15 In Between Slabs, Olivier Boucheron and Maria-Anita Palumbo

9:30 : Setting the stage : the Modernity project

Keynote : Philippe Panerai, architect, urbanist, historian and theoretician of urban forms, Paris

10:00 Case studies :

Neighbourhood Unit 3 (UV3), Lima, Peru by Viviana d'Auria

L'OCA, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo by Bruno De Meulder

HLM and SICAP, Dakar, Senegal by Monica Coralli

Chaoyang Xincun, Shanghai, China by Chen Yang and Françoise Ged

Micro-ray of Chilanzar, Tashkent, Uzbekistan by Lucile Pierron and Justine Bissierier

12:30 Discussion with the participants and the public

Moderator : Marie-Hélène Contal

14:30 : Immoderation - Moderation

Keynote : Olivier Rey, mathematician and philosopher, researcher at the CNRS, educator at University Paris 1

15:00 Case studies :

First Micro District, Ulan Bator, Mongolia by Amgalan Sukhbaatar and Camille Rouaud

La ZEN, Palermo, Italy by Ferdinando Fava

The 'trains' of Michenzani, Zanzibar, Tanzania by Annelies De Nijs

Superblocks, Caracas, Venezuela by Viviana d'Auria and Katharina Rhode

HautePierre, Strasbourg, France by Barbara Morovich

Balta Alba, Titan and Drumul Taberei, Bucharest, Romania by Florina Pop

18:30 Discussion with the participants and the public

Moderator : Marie-Hélène Contal

Friday April 28

Cité de l'architecture & du patrimoine

Auditorium

9:15 Introduction of the day by Olivier Boucheron and Maria-Anita Palumbo

9:30 : Making a City

Keynote : Michel Agier, ethnologist, anthropologist, director of studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris

10:00 Case studies :

Scampia, Naples, Italy by Carolina Marelli

KTT, Hanoi, Vietnam by Olivier Boucheron

Ayn al-Sira, Cairo, Egypt by Bénédicte Florin and Florence Troin

Pedregulho housing complex, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by Clara Passaro

The Habitat of El Hank, Casablanca, Morocco by Hiba El Youssefi

12:30 Discussion with the participants and the public

Moderator : Christiane Blancot (APUR)

14:30 : Dwellers

Keynote : Lucien Kroll, architect, Brussels

15:00 Case studies :

Tioplyj Stan, Rjazan'skij prospekt, Perovo, Moscow, Russia by Sarah Carton de Grammont

Osiedle Rataje, Osiedle Lecha, Poznan, Poland by Anna Szczasiuk

Gldani, Tbilisi, Georgia by David Gogishvili

White Building Bassac, Phnom Penh, Cambodia by Pen Sereypagna

Nuovo Corviale, Rome, Italy by Maria-Anita Palumbo and Andrea Ferreri

The Micro-Ray of the City of Varna, Bulgaria by Faurisson Florian

18:30 Discussion with the participants and the public

Moderator : Christiane Blancot (APUR)

Saturday April 29

From Banlieue 89 to the ANRU program, return to the French case

The third day of the international symposium is dedicated to the French situation. A collective fieldwork workshop will bring together the international researchers with French researchers, practitioners, institutions, politicians and inhabitants, followed by a round-table discussion on the current situation of large-scale projects in France, bringing together research, actions and renewal processes carried out by the institutions.

9h –12h30 « 4000 North and South », La Courneuve, France

9:00 Welcome by **Moulin Fayvon** at La Courneuve, managed by the association FACE

9:30 Walk/Workshops in the « 4000 »

14h30 –17h30 Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-La-Villette ENSAPLV

Roundtable and debates moderated by Pierre Chabard (Criticat et ENSAPLV), Olivier Boucheron et Maria-Anita Palumbo