

An interdisciplinary five year joint project in
Architecture & Philosophy

3rd Summer School
Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik
Sept. 17–21, 2018

Notation, Algorithm, Criticism: Towards a Critical Epistemology of Architecture

Course description In modernity, there is no place for architecture without critical reflection, just as modern culture without cultural criticism is no better than the barbarism it has replaced. Critique must be at the core of any activity, be it artistic, political, or scientific. In the 1970s, the „crisis of utopia“ led to the concept of “ideological criticism” in architecture. The philosopher Massimo Cacciari maintained that crisis must be produced, thus proclaiming that any intellectual position that does not posit itself as productive in regard to crisis is reactionary. Admittedly, we look back today with a certain nostalgia on a critical theory of architecture as it emerged in the 1960s -- the heyday of critical thought in sociology and philosophy. “The task of criticism has, in fact, changed,” Tafuri wrote as early as 1976, in the introduction to his seminal book *Theories and History of Architecture*. But even more has changed with the advent of digital technology.

The seminar will address the concept of critique in art and architecture. What are the possibilities of critical practice today in the digital age? Is the shift to digital technology of equal importance as Alberti’s 15th century shift to notation? Influenced by Alberti, architectural practice turned into a critical practice when it separated thinking about architecture from building architecture. The potential of graphic notation transformed architecture into a modern, ambivalent, contradictory, and critical cultural practice equal to literature and philosophy. At times, though, it seems as if today’s media technology hollows out architecture’s critical consciousness and returns it to a simple practice of mere physical and material presence.

Participants:

Co-Directors:

PSnježana Prijić Samaržija, University of Rijeka, Croatia
Joerg Gleiter, TU Berlin, Germany
Petar Bojanić, University of Rijeka/University of Belgrade, Croatia
Giovanni Durbiano, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
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Lecturers include:

Snježana Prijić Samaržija, University of Rijeka, Croatia
Sanja Bojanić, University of Rijeka, Croatia
Joerg Gleiter, TU Berlin, Germany
Petar Bojanić, University of Rijeka/University of Belgrade, Croatia
Alessandro Armando, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
Lidia Gasperoni, TU Berlin, Germany
Renata Stih, Beuth University of Applied Arts, Berlin, Germany
Frieder Schnock, Beuth University of Applied Arts, Berlin, Germany
Christoph Engemann, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany

This summer school is open to graduate students in all stages of their studies. Students will be asked to read texts in advance, present presentations about a topic which will be agreed upon with the course directors, and actively participate in the meetings. The students will also take part in a supervised two hours research project in Dubrovnik. Findings of this research will be later analyzed at the classroom.

For further information:

