



INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
23-24.02.2026

ADDRESSING
INTERIOR
VIOLENCES

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— HEAD
Genève

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ADDRESSING INTERIOR VIOLENCES

23-24 February 2026

HEAD – Genève, Avenue de Châtelaine 7, 1203 Geneva, The Cube

To address spatial violence from within a school of interior architecture is to acknowledge interior spaces as more than politically neutral backgrounds. They should not be understood as mere décors for the everyday lives of predefined identities, but rather as materially situated conditions that actively participate in shaping social and political interactions. *Addressing Interior Violences* follows Michel Foucault's reflections in *Discipline and Punish* (1975) by considering interior architecture as a set of biopolitical techniques of control over bodies and subjectivities—techniques that uphold the construction of the “normal” subject: that is, the able-bodied, white, young, human, bourgeois, heterosexual, male subject. At the same time, the symposium questions the mirror image of this figure: the spatial production of the monstrous, the excluded, and the dehumanized. Building on the writings of Lennard J. Davis (2002), the symposium seeks to interrogate the role of interior spaces in perpetuating power structures organized around the Western and modern notion of normalcy.

The symposium is structured into **three panels**, each corresponding to a thematic half-day. The first panel, ***Learning Histories of Violence***, examines the historical construction of bodily and spatial norms in interior architecture and the ways in which these norms have produced and legitimized exclusion. The second panel, ***Questioning Weaponized Interiors***, focuses on contemporary interior conditions as technologies of regulation and boundary-making, exploring how they sustain power relations while also opening possibilities for resistance and negotiation. The third panel, ***Visibilizing Dissident Practices and Projects Involving Interiors***, highlights practices and projects that translate critical thought into spatial action and research methodology, proposing alternative tools aimed at countering interior violences and fostering emancipatory, caring environments.

23.02.2026

8h00 - 12h30

Learning Histories of Violence

During this session, the authors trace contested histories of bodily and spatial norms. They examine how normalcy, together with its ideals of the body and environment, as well as its disciplinary tools, is deeply rooted in specific temporal, territorial, and political contexts, and translated into standardized design practices. This session explores minor narratives emerging from non-dominant perspectives, understood as urgently needed to uncover the power structures inscribed in interior spaces and their effects on bodies and territories. While several contributions adopt a critical stance toward dominant narratives and instruments of interior architecture, others investigate, through historical case studies, the forms of violence produced by Western normalcy as it operates on governed bodies and intimacies.

8h00

Welcome

8h30

Javier Fernández Contreras
Paule Perron
Valentina De Luigi

General Introduction

8h45

Paule Perron

Panel 1 Introduction

9h00

Allan Mensah

On Violent Lines

9h25

EDIT Collective

Standard Interiors

9h50

M.C. Overholt

'Sex & the Single Family Home': The Suburban Romance of Sexology and Architecture

10h40

Romain Curnier Mercury

The Bathtub and the Dragon's Source

11h05

Janus Lafontaine Carboni

Racial and affective biopolitics of polyamory in San-Francisco, 1971 - 1991

11h30

Lindsey Krug

A Condominium, a Museum, and the Violent Nuisance of the Gaze

11h55

Q&A

23.02.2026

13h30 - 18h00

Questioning Weaponized Interiors

This second perspective addresses interior architecture as a contemporary practice of boundary-making that can be understood as weaponized, through case studies organized around three categories: domestic, institutional, and common/public interiors. Such boundaries regulate the distribution of bodies in space, determining who and what can gain access to particular environments. The capacity to resist order -to construct, negotiate, or dismantle these limits- is unevenly distributed. Building on the critical frameworks introduced in the first session, the contributions in this panel develop situated reflections through case studies that examine the concrete effects of normative and regulatory power structures of interior spaces on inhabited bodies. The authors examine how spatial conditions operate as technologies of regulation that produce and sustain power relations, and how bodies are subjected to, yet may also renegotiate, these structures within specific social, political, and cultural contexts.

13h30 Valentina De Luigi

Panel 2 Introduction

domestic interiors

13h45 Lisa Maillard

The Domestic Interiors of Crisis Pregnancy Centres

14h10 Lola Jutzeler

Le Carnotzet

14h35 Hugo Maia Schmitt

Architecting the Obsolete: The Maid's Room

institutional interiors

15h20 Emily Vargas Soto
Rebeca Woodbridge

Tropical Taxonomies: architecture, climate and segregation in the United Fruit Company Hospital. Limón, Costa Rica, 1890-1930.

15h45 Christina Conti
Giuseppina Scavuzzo
Alberto Cervesato

The Absence of Furniture as a Dehumanizing Process in Psychiatric Hospitals. The Lesson of Franco Basaglia in Friuli Venezia Giulia

16h10 Özüm Karadag

Weaponized Silence: Interior Violence and the Architecture of Well-Type Prisons

common/urban interiors

16h50 Anastasiia Noga

Interior of Control, Interior of Commons

17h15 Evan Saarinen

The Walled Interior: Spatial Violence and Migrant Enclaves in Urban China

17h40 Maevia Griffiths

The Practice of Hope: Spaces of Reincorporation for former FARC-EP Combatants in Protracted-Conflict Colombia - a critical and visual Inquiry

18h00

Q&A

18h30

Book launch: *Nothing About Interior Architecture*

24.02.2026

8h30 - 12h50

Visibilizing Dissident Research and Project Practices

This third perspective elaborates on practices that translate critical analyses into research methodologies, spatial interventions, and the production of alternative spatial narratives. Through completed, speculative, and experimental projects, the contributions address questions of power, narratives, and boundaries in interior architecture. This final section foregrounds emancipatory and subversive practices that challenge dominant epistemologies, design methodologies, and modes of spatial production. Drawing from scientific as well as artistic perspectives, these practices bring invisibilized bodies and subjectivities to the fore and enable spatial practitioners to actively engage in reshaping the power structures through which interior architecture produces and sustains forms of violence.

8h30	Javier Fernández Contreras	Panel 3 Introduction
8h45	Lucía Jalón Oyarzun Aitor Frías Sánchez	<i>Eerie environmentality: the spatial violences of an invisible hand milieu</i>
9h10	Adéla Vavríková	<i>SOUDSCAPE</i>
9h35	Gauri Bahuguna	<i>Hostipitable Architectures: A Parametric Inquiry into US Migrant Detention</i>
10h	Serena Langdon-Dimidjian	
10h40	Michela Bassanelli	<i>Care Work Beyond the Domestic Sphere</i>
11h00	Lily Blanchard	<i>What if Dirt came back ?</i>
11h25	Tumelo Mtimkhulu	<i>On going...</i>
11h55	EVERY ISLAND	<i>Discomfort Zone</i>
12h20		Q&A