



HEAD – Genève International Symposium

Interior Architecture In Words L'architecture d'intérieur en mots

Tuesday April 21 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Wednesday April 22 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

HEPIA Auditorium
Rue de la Prairie 4

Charles Rice
Dieter Dietz
Heike Delitz
Mark Pimlott
Bernd Nicolai

University of Technology Sydney
EPFL, Lausanne
Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Delft University of Technology
Bern University

AUS
CH
D
NL
CH

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Rue de la Prairie 4
1201 Genève

La Vie est rose or Prospective Archaeology of the Domestic, Aurélien Reymond & Gaspar Reverdin,
Architecture d'intérieur, Salon International du Meuble de Milan 2014, © HEAD – Genève, Dylan Perrenoud

As a prelude to the opening of a national Master in interior architecture in Geneva (September 2016) and because we are convinced, that there is a strong need for words, concepts and research to strengthen the discipline of interior architecture as a knowledge, the HEAD's Interior Architecture Department is organizing a 2-day symposium. We would like to question, exchange and discuss the current specificity of its episteme and a plurality of points of view: historical and cultural, philosophical and sociological, urban and architectural, theoretical, pedagogical and, of course, practical.

What importance is given to the interior in the architectural and urban space today? It is the question which the speakers of this symposium will come directly or indirectly to answer.

A quelques mois de l'ouverture d'un Master national en architecture d'intérieur à Genève (septembre 2016) et parce que nous avons besoin d'échanges et de concepts pour affirmer cette discipline comme savoir, l'enseigner, ou produire à son sujet de la recherche, le département Architecture d'intérieur de la HEAD – Genève propose d'interroger l'actualité et la spécificité de son épistémè dans un colloque ouvert à différents points de vue : historique et culturel, philosophique et sociologique, urbain et architectural, théorique, pédagogique et naturellement pratique.

Quelle place accorder à l'intérieur dans l'espace architectural et urbain aujourd'hui ? C'est la question à laquelle les intervenants de ce colloque viendront directement ou indirectement répondre.

Direction scientifique : Nathalie Pierron

Tables rondes en présence de / Round tables with: Heike Delitz, Dieter Dietz, Charles Rice, Bernd Nicolai, Mark Pimlott, Line Fontana, Jan Geipel, Christian Dupraz, Carlo Parmigiani, Nicholas Lobo Brennan, Albert Schrurs et autres / and others.

April 21, 2015

14:00

Welcome

Jan Geipel, Head of Interior Architecture
Bachelor Programme, HEAD – Genève
Introduction

Nathalie Pierron, Scientific Director
of the Symposium, Professor, Interior
Architecture Bachelor Programme,
HEAD – Genève

14:15 – 15:00

Charles Rice, UK, AUS
Professor, Faculty of Design, Architecture and
Building, University of Technology, Sydney (AUS)

15:00 – 15:45

Dieter Dietz, CH
Architect, Associate Professor for Architectural
Design and Director Alice Laboratory ENAC
Faculty, EPFL Lausanne (CH)

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:45

Heike Delitz, D
Chair of Sociology, Otto-Friedrich-Universität
Bamberg /Senior Fellow IKKM Internationales
Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medi-
enphilosophie, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (D)

16:45 – 17:30

Roundtable in the presence of the Interior
Architecture HEAD – Genève professors
(**Line Fontana**, **Christian Dupraz**,
Carlo Parmigiani, **Nicholas Lobo Brennan**,
Albert Schrurs)

April 22, 2015

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome and Introduction

Jean-Pierre Greff, Director, HEAD – Genève
Jan Geipel, Head of Interior Architecture
Bachelor Programme, HEAD – Genève

9:45 – 10:30

Mark Pimlott, CA, NL
Artist, designer, Assistant Professor
in Interior Architecture, Delft University
of Technology (NL)

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:30

Bernd Nicolai, CH
Professor and Chair History of Architecture,
Department of Art History, Bern University (CH)

11:30 – 12:15

Roundtable between the participants and
Line Fontana, **Christian Dupraz**, **Carlo**
Parmigiani, **Nicholas Lobo Brennan**, **Albert**
Schrurs, Professors, HEAD – Genève

12:15 – 12:30

Final Synthesis

Jan Geipel
Head of Interior Architecture Bachelor
Programme, HEAD – Genève

Charles Rice, UK, Australia

Professor, Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building, University of Technology, Sydney (AUS)

Architectural historian, theorist and critic, educated in Australia and the UK, Pr. Dr. Charles Rice's who previously taught at the University of New South Wales, the Architectural Association and the School of Art and Design History at Kingston University London, considers key questions of modern architecture through the interior and across the arts. His 2007 book *The Emergence of the Interior: Architecture, Modernity, Domesticity* (Routledge), analysed the way in which a modern concept of the domestic interior emerged from the beginning of the nineteenth century. This research on the interior's urban appearance has led Rice towards a different era and geographical location: the downtowns of North American cities in the 1960s and 70s. His research charts the emergence of a new and distinct practice which Rice has termed "interior urbanism", recognized as the most important practice of that time, one whose effects are still very present today.

Rice is co-editor of *The Journal of Architecture* (Routledge & RIBA). He has co-edited several collections of essays, and his own essays have recently appeared in *AA Files* (2012), and anthologies including *Intimate Metropolis* (2009) and *Space Reader* (2009)

The Atrium Effect

Currently working on a manuscript entitled *Interior Urbanism: Architecture, John Portman, and the American Downtown* (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2016), which considers Portman's vast urban interiors against the changing developmental landscape of the post-war city, Charles Rice will focus on the seemingly incongruous relationship between spatial exuberance and business systematization which marked Portman's practice of architecture and property development. He will argue that in this relationship the vast atrium became an urban development strategy, and he will discuss some of the ramifications of this way of thinking about and developing cities.

Dieter Dietz, CH

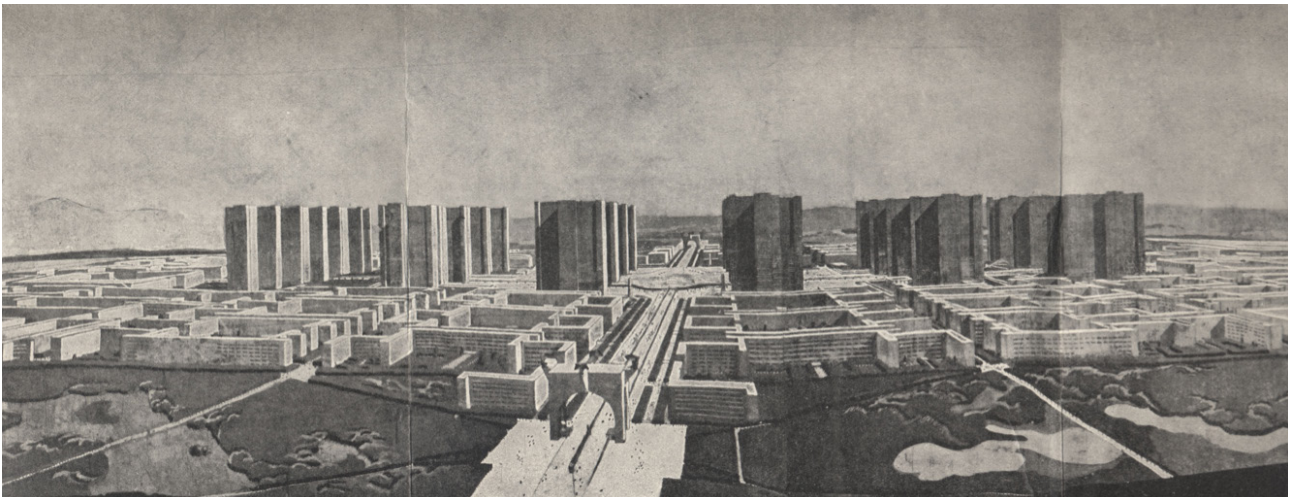
Architect, Associate Professor for Architectural Design and Director Alice Laboratory ENAC Faculty, EPFL Lausanne (CH)

Educated at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (Architecture Degree 1991), Dieter Dietz also studied at the Cooper Union in New York with Diller/Scofidio. In 1997, after working with Diane Lewis Architects, New York, and Herzog & de Meuron in Basel, he founded UNDEND Architecture, a Zurich based architectural practice with award winning entries in national and international competitions.

Currently he is building up dieterdietz.org, a firm engaged in projects in urban design, media and architecture. From 1996 to 1999, he taught as Junior Faculty with Prof. Marc Angélil at ETH Zurich. Since 2006 he is Associate Professor for Architectural Design at EPFL, Lausanne and director of the ALICE laboratory in the ENAC faculty. The [ALICE.LAB] research activities revolve around the manifold question of how we engage in the process of “making” space. ALICE team is also engaged in a project of interior architecture lexicon with the HEAD Interior Architecture Departement.

Inside

In Western culture the architect has often been considered to be a producer of architectural objects—operating from a higher position of privileged knowledge and expertise. Curiously, in such a view space and interior seem to be the automatic outcome of structural constraints, material choices, functional dispositions, management of costs and cultural preferences of the architects and the clients involved. If we shift this viewpoint from a top-down view of the architectural profession towards a position of the architect as an actor within, architectural concepts will approach space from an embodied and enacted perspective. This implies three relevant notions: the processes involved in design production; the embodied experience of the user of the space produced; and the inside as enacted environment. The lecture will start with a short series of well-crafted artifacts, exemplifying a top-down view of architectural production and show historic examples of architectures reconciling structural constraints and space as inhabited environment. A second part will develop the notion of what this shifted viewpoint might imply in an academic environment. A third part will look at practice: What are the questions to be asked in a professional practice focusing on the inside, the interior, on our interiority in our environment?



Le Corbusier, Ville Contemporaine pour trois millions d'habitants



Dominique Casajus, La tente dans la solitude, Paris 1987 Abb. 3 © H. Nové-Josserrand

Heike Delitz, D

**Chair of Sociology, Otto-Friedrich-Universität
Bamberg/Senior Fellow IKKM Internationales
Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medien-
philosophie, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar (D)**

German sociologist interested in sociological theory and history of sociological theory (but also trained as an architect), Heike Delitz's task force since 2007 has been sociology of architecture. In 2009, she obtained her Ph.D. in sociology with a thesis entitled "Architecture as Medium of the Social" (Gebaute Gesellschaft. Architektur als Medium des Sozialen, Frankfurt/New York: Campus 2010). She also contributed to www.architektur-soziologie.de, a website about sociology of architecture, with advices on books and conferences. Her questions within architectural sociology are the following: What social effects do architecture, architectonic activities and knowledge have? Or, in which way architecture is not only a 'mirror' or a 'representation' of an already giving society, but rather constitutes as well as changes societal life in many respects—both in our present culture, and in other cultures? In this way, she is asking the two core questions of sociology in general: What is a society in general, and in which society do we live, actually? To answer both these questions, she is working at the moment on a cross-cultural-matrix, in an interdisciplinary work of sociology, ethnology / anthropology and archeology.

**Architectonic modes of collective existence
(about the social effects of architecture)**

Heike Delitz works on a comparison of divergent architectonic modes in the spectrum between nomadic societies (societies of tents) on the one hand, and urban societies (societies of cities) on the other (in different eras); but also between digged-in-societies on the one hand (without visible constructions, like it is the case of yao-dong in central China, as counterpart to our visible architectonic shapes of the collective) and dispersed societies, nonurban societies of villages, or societies of 'residential atomism' (Philippe Descola for the Achuar) on the other. Beyond the sociological concentration on the modern condition alone, in this way she wants to see common, and basic features of all societies of cities (or of urban, infrastructured, and concentric modes of societies) compared to the other types, as well as the current changes of these societies of cities.



Poînte-Claire, CA, 2013 (© Mark Pimlott)

Mark Pimlott, CA, NL

**Assistant professor, Architectural design/
Interior, Chair of Architecture of the Interior,
Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment
Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands**

Mark Pimlott is a Canadian artist and designer. His work in photography, film, installation, interiors and public art attempts to make the specific characteristics of places visible and available to new uses and understandings. Mark Pimlott is also an educator. He is currently assistant professor in Architecture (of the Interior) at TU Delft, the Netherlands, and leader of the Master of Science course The Architecture of the Interior. His research concerns public interiors, and in particular, very large and extensive or continuous interiors. In 2015, Mark Pimlott published *The Public Interior as Idea and Project* (Heijningen: Jap Sam books).

**The interior, interiority and the possibilities
for an architecture of the interior**

His lecture concerns the definitions of realms of consideration for the interior, a space that is all too often associated with the space immediately connected to the individual, an extension of the human body. Challenging the exclusivity, personalisation and psychologising, that has developed around discussions of the Interior, particularly in education and theory wherein a prevailing notion within considerations of interior design and architecture is that the interior is an extension of the private self, and by interpolation, the body and its clothing, I propose instead to explore the interior, as a subject, an educational programme and a practice in relation to contexts, people and those effects that bring the interior into being.

The interior does not exist in solitude, but in relation to the World; and the scenes that we characterise as private are cluttered with references and connections with that realm we think of as public. It is necessary, therefore, to think of and address a public interior: that constructed place or environment that is taken to be public by its users. Historically, the public interior has provided the most compelling environments in Modernity, offering what may be described as ideal conditions of association, and individual freedom through expanded consciousness of the environment and others.

Bernd Nicolai, CH

**Professor and Chair History of Architecture,
Department of Art History, Bern University (CH)**

With a PhD devoted to Cistercian architecture and a habilitation on “Moderne und Exil. Deutschsprachige Architekten in der Türkei 1925-1955”, Prof. Dr. Bernd Nicolai taught history of architecture in numerous international universities (Berlin, Edinburgh, Trier Istanbul). Developing many SNSF researches (Die Kathedrale von Santiago de Compostela - Funktion und Gestalt ; Reformkunst des frühen 20. Jahrhundert ; Deutscher Werkbund, Schweizerischer Werkbund), he is involved today with “Hybrid Spaces in contemporary Architecture” as sub-project of the Sinergia “The Interior: Art, Space, and Performance (Early Modern to Postmodern)” project, extended until February 2016 and placed under the leadership of the Bern Institute of Art History (see www.interior-unibe.ch). Parallel to the theoretical shift of “heterotopias” (Foucault), this project takes into account particular hybrid spaces that oscillate between interior and exterior (such as atrium and plaza spaces within larger building complexes) for their capacity to reshape and redefine exterior sites.

Interior space—a random category in contemporary architecture discourse and practice

His lecture will examine the public nature of such hybrid spaces and the crucial role that the interior plays in formulating their reciprocal, interactive relationships between interior and exterior.

Organized by the Interior Architecture
Programme, HEAD – Genève
Jan Geipel
Nathalie Pierron
Sibylle Monney
Anh Truong

With the participation of
Anne-Catherine Sutermeister
Lauren Huret
From IRAD, HEAD – Genève
Barbara Lalou
From HEPIA – Genève

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Jean-Pierre Greff, Director of HEAD – Genève
Catherine Trabichet, Adjunct Director
HEPIA – Genève

HEAD – Genève
Bd James Fazy 15
CH-1201 Genève
T + 41 22 388 51 00

Auditorium HEPIA
Rue de la Prairie 4

Press Contact
Sandra Mudronja
T + 41 22 388 51 19
sandra.mudronja@hesge.ch

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