Forschung in Architektur : die Charta der EAAE

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HOCHSCHULE LUZERN

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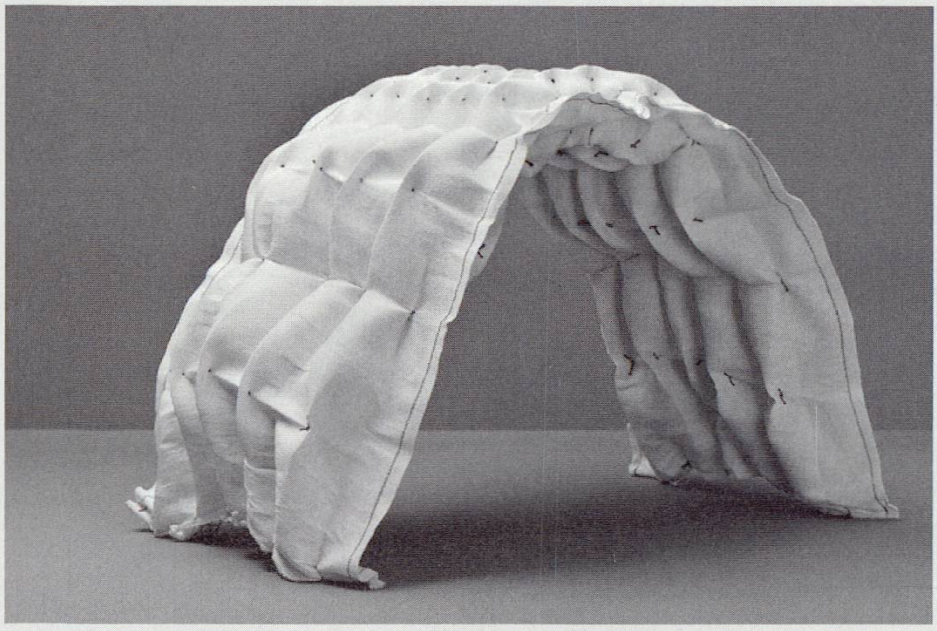

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Forschung in Architektur – Die Charta der EAAE

Die EAAE, European Association for Architectural Education, ist eine Vereinigung von Architekturschulen an einer Vielzahl von Hochschulen und Universitäten in Europa. Im Rahmen der zum Teil polemischen Diskussion darüber was Forschung in der Architektur sein kann, ob es eine solche überhaupt geben kann oder ob der Entwurf in sich die Forschung sein könnte, wurde versucht eine gemeinsame Basis zu definieren, von der aus sich die architektonische Forschung entwickeln sollte. Damit stellt die Charta auch für die Schweiz eine Diskussionsgrundlage zur Verfügung, um der Forschung in Architektur ein Profil zu verleihen, das auch von den geldgebenden Instanzen anerkannt werden sollte. So bestünde die Hoffnung, dass in Zukunft der Kernbereich der Architektur, der Entwurf nämlich, als Forschungsfeld anerkannt würde. Dies bedeutet allerdings nicht, dass Entwurf an sich schon Forschung ist, was mit einer gewissen Überheblichkeit öfters in Architektenkreisen zu vernehmen ist. Dazu bedarf es einer systematischen Reflektion und einer Nachvollziehbarkeit, beides Aspekte die im Entwurfsprozess der gängigen Berufspraxis kaum anzutreffen sind.

Vom CC Material Struktur Energie in Architektur der Hochschule Luzern – Technik und Architektur erschien zu diesem Thema in der Reihe «Laboratorium» des Quart-Verlages das Buch «Forschende Architektur».

Forschende Architektur; Andri Gerber, Tina Unruh,
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Laboratorium Band 2, Quart Verlag Luzern

Deutsch ISBN 978-3-03761-019-0
Englisch ISBN 978-3-03761-023-7

Charter for Architectural Research

This charter is intended as a reference document for the use of universities, architecture schools, research institutions, funding agencies, and professional practices that are undertaking architectural research. It specifies the character and objectives of architectural research, confirms the variety of valid methodologies and supports the development of a vibrant, internationally recognized and well funded research community.

DECLARATION on Architectural Research

Architecture is about the creation, transformation and interpretation of the built environment and the articulation of space at various scales. It is a discipline involving art, design, conservation, planning, management, construction and representation, addressing issues of ethics, aesthetics, culture and society. The discipline of architecture engages with the cultural, socio-economic and environmental conditions affecting our quality of life.

Architecture is facing challenges of climate change, globalisation, urbanisation and social transformation that necessitate vital research. In parallel, the horizons of architectural experimentation are expanding rapidly with the development of new technologies and media. If we are to understand, explain, anticipate and influence the consequences of these changes, research is essential. Moreover, research is essential for the continued expansion of the discipline's knowledge base and improvement in teaching, learning and practice of architecture.

The EAAE confirms that architectural research has a particular knowledge base, tools and methods; it confirms the trans-disciplinary nature of architectural research and the legitimacy of a wide range of approaches. Architecture tackles various dimensions of the built environment in a specifically integrative way; the EAAE calls for recognition of all appropriate areas and modes of architectural research, for better definition of context and scope and acknowledges research by design as part of the diversity of valid methods with which to research, practice and study architecture.

The generic expectations of originality, rigour and significance apply to all genres of architectural research. Valid architectural research outputs are as varied as the constantly growing range of research approaches and the EAAE recognises installations, experimental projects, proposals, models and actual buildings as such, in addition to written and graphic research outputs. Peer review, communication and international dissemination are crucial and should relate to the nature of the research.

The EAAE advocates stronger links between theoretical and practice-based research and therefore between academia and the profession in the establishment of an expanded arena of architectural research.

FRAMEWORK on Architectural Research

architectural research

Architectural research is original investigation undertaken in order to generate knowledge, insights and understanding based on competencies, methods and tools proper to the discipline of architecture. It has its own particular knowledge base, mode, scope, tactics and strategies.

research by design

In architecture, design is the essential feature. Any kind of inquiry in which design is a substantial part of the research process is referred to as research by design.

In research by design, the architectural design process forms a pathway through which new insights, knowledge, practices or products come into being. It generates critical inquiry through design work. Therefore research results are obtained by, and consistent with experience in practice.

connection to other disciplines

Architecture reaches out to and incorporates knowledge of other disciplines. Architectural research therefore is fertile for trans- and inter-disciplinary endeavors.

By embracing aspects of rationality and intuition, objectivity and inter-subjectivity, technique and emotion, logic and creativity, architectural research enriches the understanding of the world.

contexts

Architectural research takes place in a broad societal and cultural context, connecting academy, practice, and (continuing) education. A clarification of this position is necessary, stimulating stronger links between theoretical and practice-based research and between academic and professional arenas.

By its nature, architecture also connects to a variety of industries, including the cultural sector, the construction sector, the environmental sector, the public, private and social sectors. Moreover, architecture has its own industry which is professional practice. Much of the most innovative and relevant architectural research inevitably emerge from and contributes to this industry of professional practice.

architectural research and education

In both contexts, academia and practice, architectural research supports education both directly, through research training of future architects, and indirectly, by providing for the continual advancement of the discipline.

Students in architecture are taught at the highest level of academic education. The aim of architectural higher education is to develop a research disposition in students. As future architects they need to be able to establish basic premises, perform critical analysis, conduct intensive research and propose syntheses independently. The architectural school as a whole and the design studio in

particular are places for research practice par excellence.

output

Valid architectural research outputs are as varied as the constantly growing range of research approaches. It includes installations, experimental projects, proposals, models and actual buildings as such, in addition to written and graphic research outputs.

criteria and characteristics for quality

Architectural research meets the general criteria of originality, significance, and rigour. It produces forms of output and discourse proper to disciplinary practice, to make it discussable, communicable and useful to peers and others. It is validated through panels of experts who collectively cover the range of disciplinary competencies addressed by the work.

The following characteristics could guide architectural research to a high level of quality and open up new horizons:

- the research is meaningful and relevant for practice, for the discipline, and for society; it explores limits and expands them;
- it contributes to design practice, to the exploration of spatial understanding and/or the creative design process;
- it contributes to knowledge through intellectual work that is characteristic of architecture and design practice;
- the results are consistent with experience in practice;
- the research endeavors to make its processes and foundations as clear and explicit as possible;
- method, context, process and results are communicated and submitted to regular peer review; they refer to the work of peers;
- the research explores emotional, intuitive and/or artistic aspects of the domain, it engages architectural competences and experience in practice;
- it creates and exploits trans-disciplinary connections.

ethics

Ethicality requires the researcher to adopt a posture that manifests integrity, tolerance, acceptance of difference, and honesty regarding the participants in and the subject of research. Respect for existing ethical codes and for the freedom of researchers is fundamental. Architectural research must take into account its direct impact on society and nature.

funding

Funding policies need to be structured in accordance with the variety of modes, scope and contexts of architectural research.

To guarantee ethical integrity architectural research must have adequate financing: a variable combination of public and private financing, depending on the aims of the research.

For these reasons besides existing short-term financing, a solid basis is needed for assuring a continuity of the research and its long-term quality.