

Construire l'architecture, aujourd'hui : la théâtralité

Parmi les legs du XX^e siècle à l'architecture, la théâtralité est certainement devenue l'un des thèmes dominants de l'édification. Elle est dorénavant autant fonction que symbole : ainsi, pendant que plusieurs nouveaux projets — cinémas, théâtres, centres multimédias, etc. — appellent très directement une expression théâtrale, d'autres constructions récentes ont aussi vu l'architecte se transformer en metteur en scène, au fil d'une recherche architecturale dominée par les effets théâtraux. « Faire voir », « voir et être vu » comptent parmi les déclinaisons les plus fréquentes de la conceptualisation contemporaine de paysages architecturaux qui, dans le discours à tout le moins, ne sont pas sans évoquer quelque résurgence néo-baroque ; cet atelier invite les architectes ainsi « scénographes » à présenter ou à interroger leurs mises en scène, de l'homme dans la ville, du bâtiment dans la ville, ou de l'homme dans le bâtiment.

Les villages de l'Amérique : le paysage urbain gai

L'avenir des quartiers centraux, qui a occupé de larges pans de la réflexion sur la ville pendant les dernières décennies du siècle, a finalement été le fait d'une consécration apparemment spontanée, qui fait aujourd'hui du mouvement gai et lesbien l'un des piliers déterminants de la revitalisation des quartiers centraux en Amérique du Nord. Les villages — du « Village gai » de Montréal au faubourg Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Québec, en passant par Greenwich, à New York, pour ne nommer que ceux-là — se multiplient dans l'imaginaire géographique pour témoigner de ce phénomène. Au-delà de la curiosité touristique ou de la rectitude politique qui conduisent les autorités à y investir présence et argent, cette territorialisation et l'incontournable dynamisme qu'elle apporte interrogent les formes d'appropriation de l'espace : sommes-nous témoins d'une nouvelle forme de marquage ? Par comparaison avec les communautés culturelles ou avec les groupes économiques qui ont caractérisé l'urbanité du XX^e siècle, la présence gaie et lesbienne dans la ville s'assortit-elle d'un paysage, voire d'une architecture gaie et lesbienne qui consacrerait l'identité de ces nouveaux hauts lieux de l'Amérique du Nord ?

Travaux du XXI^e siècle : les histoires de l'architecture, demain

Écrire ou construire l'architecture, dans le Canada du XX^e siècle, ne fut pas un vain exercice. Par-delà le bilan s'ouvrent aujourd'hui de nouvelles perspectives, celles qui, dans la pierre ou sur le papier, feront l'histoire de l'architecture de demain. Cet atelier, consacré aux « travaux en cours », invite spécialement les jeunes chercheurs et les chercheurs établis qui œuvrent à un nouvel axe de recherche, à une problématique ressourcée dont ils souhaitent partager leur exploration.

Envoyer votre proposition à :

CONGRÈS ANNUEL DE LA SÉAC

CÉLAT - Faculté des lettres

Université Laval, Québec, Québec G1K 7P4

COMITÉ SCIENTIFIQUE DU CONGRÈS :

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Writing and Building Architecture in 20th Century Canada

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA (SSAC)

Université Laval, Québec, June 6-10, 2001

CALL FOR PAPERS

After a round of consultation and collecting ideas, the Scientific Committee of the 2001 Annual Conference submits the following list of workshops to the members of SSAC and to everyone interested. Although the deadline for the submission of papers is January 15, 2001 (see address below), manuscripts will be evaluated upon receipt and candidates will be notified accordingly without delay. The final program of the Conference will be published on February 15, 2001.

Writing on Canadian Architecture: Themes and Perspectives

The historiography of Canadian architecture stresses the analysis of periodization, representation, and regionalization. Consequently, is there a particular form of Canadian architecture that writers of history would or would not be inclined to reveal? This consideration raises several concerns that are of interest both to the practitioner and to the historian. Accordingly, the main themes and influences behind the history of Canadian architecture should be examined, retracing the constituent ideas as well as the gaps of historiography. Such an expanded field of research might consider such problems as the small place given to 20th century architecture, even though it alone might be designated pan-Canadian, or even the near absence of immigrant communities and native peoples. The multi-dimensional aspect of a Canadian architectural identity will be the subject of this workshop.

The Key Contributions of Historiography

Many meaningful contributions punctuate the study of Canadian architectural history in the 20th century. Individuals such as Eric Arthur, Ramsay Traquair, Gérard Morisset, and Alan Gowans, for example, all dedicated their careers to the discovery of trends and landmarks. Moreover, government agencies and institutions — for example, Parks Canada, the Ministry of Culture, and the Canadian Centre for Architecture — have portrayed the historic landscape from specific vantage points and with particular approaches. Either through the conservation of artifacts, the broadening body of knowledge, the selection of examples, or the identification of specimens, their contributions are now interwoven in the history they have written and built. Working within the context of the boundaries of the constructed landscape that these parties helped to consecrate, this workshop will explore the place, realizations, framework and contributions of all parties involved.

Applied Historical Knowledge: the National Historic Site of Grosse-Île-and-Irish-Memorial in Québec

Among the Canadian sites recently recognized as official monuments, that of the Grosse-Île-and-Irish-Memorial in Québec holds a favoured place as much for its significance in the collective imagination as for the huge efforts it has necessitated. A former quarantine island, this part of the built environment is now seen as a critical site for the intersection of history and architecture as it abounds in commemorative thematics and challenges. It is of interest to the specialists, historians, archeologists, museologists, architects and engineers who have contributed to its preservation and promotion, from the identification of architectural features to the development of mechanisms and infrastructures that made this site accessible to visitors. This workshop will expound on the sciences and techniques employed by the professionals of Parks Canada to ensure the protection and valorization of this landmark.

Projects of the Centennial (1867-1967) and the Representation of History

Upon the celebration of the first Canadian Confederation Centennial, the Federal Government in conjunction with the Provinces initiated an ambitious commemorative program in order to identify cultural, sports, or community landmarks and sites that would best represent both the past and the future of Canada. This activity brought an incredible effervescence in the architectural fields. From the patronage of the State to the revival of schools of architecture and architectural competitions, this era has witnessed a quintessence of creative achievements — culminating with the event of Expo'67 — that invested Canadian architecture with a certain aura. Careers were produced and the landscape was covered with new landmarks. From the representation of history to the creation of expressive forms, however, this expansion of architecture on the Canadian scene has brought up questions about cultural identity. In that regard, this workshop will enable the presentation and comparison of projects of the Centennial and the evaluation of their impacts.

From History to Architecture: Old Buildings Reconverted

Architectural projects of today are increasingly concerned with the existing stocks of buildings and, in the foreseeable future, these concerns are bound to monopolize a large part of the architectural production. This problem is of relevance not only to architects but also to historians. The overwhelming presence of existing structures — such as the more than 2000 extant churches of Québec, or the commercial and industrial buildings of any city centre — could certainly stimulate the preservation specialist to develop fresh ideas about function and method. As a result, however, the expanding history field will soon also be concerned with aging residential areas, where once rejected bungalows and commercial buildings, for example, will hence be included into the corpus of preserved monuments. This legacy of the 20th century now addresses, more than ever, the notion of traditional landmark preservation. This workshop will explore the conjunction of conservation uses and the criteria for selection that will inevitably be confronted with this new recognition.

The Making of Architecture Today: Theatricality

Among the legacies of the 20th century to architecture, theatricality has most certainly become one of the major topics of edification. It is now a function as well as a symbol. While several new projects — including cinemas, theaters and multimedia centres — specifically require theatrical expression, other contemporary buildings have thus transformed architects into stage directors obsessed with a theatrical form of architecture. “Show” and “see and be seen” are now some of the most frequently used terms in the modern conceptualization of architectural landscapes that, at least in theory, suggest a certain resurgence of neo-baroque architecture. This workshop invites “scenic artist” architects to present or question their plays of “people in the city,” “the building in the city,” or “people in the building.”

Villages of America: the Gay Urban Landscape

The question of the future of central neighbourhoods has dominated the reflections relative to the city for the last decades of the 20th century. A new chapter in this discussion is the apparently spontaneous recognition of these areas that now makes the gay and lesbian movement one of the major pillars of North American central neighbourhood revitalization. As proof of this phenomenon, Villages — from the Montreal Gay Village to the faubourg Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Québec, and the Greenwich Village in New York, for example — multiply in the geographic imaginary. Beyond tourists' curiosity and political correctness that compel authorities to invest resources and funds, this territorialization and the unavoidable dynamism it brings about address forms of space appropriation: are we witnessing a new form of marking? As compared to cultural communities or economic groups that contributed to the urbanity of the 20th century, is the presence of gays and lesbians in the city accompanied by a landscape or even a gay and/or lesbian architecture that would characterize the identity of these new North American Meccas?

Realizations of the 21st Century: Histories of Architecture of Tomorrow

Writing and building architecture in 20th-century Canada have not been futile exercises. Beyond these proceedings, emerging new perspectives will “make” tomorrow's history of architecture — be it in stone or on paper. Dedicated to “ongoing realizations,” this workshop is of particular interest to young or experienced researchers who seek to explore new ways of looking at Canadian architecture.

Please submit proposals to:

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