

(mega)structures structural imagination e new spatial visions 1945-1970

International seminar
Politecnico di Milano, November 24-25, 2011

call for papers

Since the second world war the increased speed of technological progress brought about by the conflict, a phase of rapid redefinition of the international setting for a political and social utopia, the new dimensions taken on by the culture of leisure time and the centrality of the debate on the synthesis of the arts create the conditions for a new and fertile season of design culture. The contributions from countries which until then are considered peripheral, but which are the theatre for extraordinary experiences in the very years of the war and are quickly noticed by European and US culture, the international and universal expositions, the multidisciplinary interest in natural forms and structures, the pressure for prefabrication and, a few years later, the myths and rhetoric associated with the space race, favour the extensive circulation of original imageries and models of architecture and settlement. The intensity of such exchanges, also articulated through curtains that were often described as rather impermeable from the reconstructions of the post-war international political context, are increased by the major international success enjoyed by certain leading exponents of engineering culture, from Konrad Wachsmann to Richard Buckminster Fuller, from Pier Luigi Nervi to Félix Candela.

This seminar proposes to explore the international design culture in the period from 1945 to 1970, which, in the heterogeneity of its approaches and themes, has a powerful unifying element in its megastructural tendency, from France to Japan, from Austria to the Soviet Union. We are seeking contributions devoted to individual works or projects, to a national or local context, to the peculiarities of the various schools of design or to a significant hub in the international network of exchanges. Special attention will be paid to the relationship between technological developments, structural conceptions and new imageries of design culture.

Organized by Alessandro De Magistris and Federico Deambrosis.

Paper proposals should be sent (in English or Italian) to federico.deambrosis.uni@awn.it and have to be accompanied by a short CV.

schedule

- september 19** > deadline for reception of abstracts (max. 400 words)
- october 3** > deadline for approval of papers.
- october 31** > deadline for reception of papers (max. 3500 words)