



Imperfect Health: The Medicalization of Architecture

Edited by: Giovanna Borasi and Mirko Zardini

Publisher: Canadian Centre for Architecture and Lars Müller Publishers

ISBN: 978-3-03778-279-8

Language: English

Year: 2012

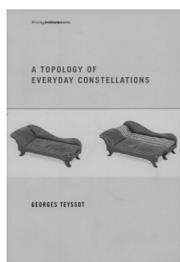
“We live in a state of pervasive anxiety.”

Giovanna Borasi and Mirko Zardini open this book with the expression and concern that they will develop over 400 pages. With eight essays, *Imperfect Health: The medicalization of Architecture* displays a vast investigation into the connection between health, design and environment.

Published to accompany the exhibition with the same name (Canadian Centre for Architecture, 25 October 2011 to 1 April 2012), the book presents various and different architectural approaches to the theme of health. Through different notes, the relationship between architecture, body and cure is explored, addressing and connecting themes like nature (with small details such as the relationship between the study of trees and asthma or biodiversity, for example), cancer, industrial landscape, disease, drugs, and others. Being a compendium that makes us think about the past, the present and the future (before it concludes with “dark skies”, the theme of the unknown) the exposition presents the quest, sometimes obsession, that accompanies humanity: the unlimited life (with an example of the *Città ideale*).

This selection represents a variety of proposals (complemented with images, drawings and diagrams) with its central focus on different approaches and solutions presented by architecture, urbanism and landscape design. When it comes to architectural concerns, the treatment for the “pervasive anxiety” involves changes when approaching these solutions. By demystifying and bringing to light preformed cultural ideas, architecture and urbanism will be able to change the idea of cure to care.

Silvio Alves



A Topology of Everyday Constellations

Author: Georges Teyssot

Publisher: The MIT Press

ISBN: 978-0-262-51832-1

Language: English

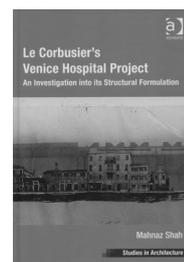
Year: 2013

Today, spaces no longer represent a bourgeois haven; nor are they the sites of a classical harmony between work and leisure, private and public, the local and the global. The house is not merely a home but a position for negotiations with multiple spheres – the technological as well as the physical and the psychological. In *A Topology of Everyday Constellations*, Georges Teyssot considers the intrusion of the public sphere into private space, and the blurring of notions of interior, privacy, and intimacy in our societies. He proposes that we rethink design in terms of a new definition of the practices of everyday life.

Teyssot considers the door, the window, the mirror, and the screen as thresholds or interstitial spaces that divide the world in two: the outside and the inside. Thresholds, he suggests, work both as markers of boundaries and as bridges to the exterior. The stark choice between boundary and bridge creates a middle space, an in-between that holds the possibility of exchanges and encounters.

If the threshold no longer separates public from private, and if we can no longer think of the house as a bastion of privacy, Teyssot asks, does the body still inhabit the house – or does the house, evolving into a series of microdevices, inhabit the body?

From the publisher



Le Corbusier's Venice Hospital Project. An Investigation into its Structural Formulation

Author: Mahnaz Shah

Publisher: Ashgate

ISBN: 978-1-409-44277-6

Language: English

Year: 2013

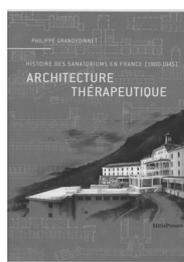
While Le Corbusier's urban projects are generally considered confrontational in their relationship to the traditional urban fabric, his proposal for the Venice hospital project remained an exercise in preserving the medieval fabric of the city of Venice through a systemic replication of its urban tissue. This book offers a detailed study of Le Corbusier's Venice hospital project as a plausible built entity. In addition, it analyses it in the light of its supposed affinity with the medieval urban configuration of the city of Venice.

No formal attempt to date has been made to critically analyze the hospital project's design considerations in comparison to the medieval urban configuration of the city of Venice. Using a range of methodologies including those from architectural theory and history, using archival resources, on-site analysis, and interviews with important resource persons, this book is an interpretation of the conceptual basis for Le Corbusier's understanding of the structural formulation of the city of Venice as mentioned in *The Radiant City (1935)*. In doing so, it deciphers the diagrammatic analysis of the city structure found in this work into a set of coherent design modules that were applied in the hospital project and that could become a point of further investigation.

Architects and other architecturally interested laypeople with an interest in Venice will find the book a valuable addition to their knowledge. For architectural historians the book makes an important link between Modernism and the historically grown Venice.

From the publisher

BOOK REVIEWS



Architecture Thérapeutique. Histoire des Sanatoriums en France (1900-1945)

Author: Philippe Grandvoinnet
 Publisher: Métispresses
 ISBN: 978-2-940406-77-7
 Language: French
 Year: 2014

The Sanatorium is the core of a medical and social project in response to a social scourge which was tuberculosis. The content presented by Philippe Grandvoinnet is the result of an extensive and exhaustive survey revealing a comprehensive view of the Sanatorium in France and its history. Scrutinizing systematically the local archives and comparing 40 projects, his work is more than a building tale but a pivotal chapter on architectural history. This investigation brings to light unknown projects which are essential in understanding the evolution of *Architecture Thérapeutique* and the hygiene-climatic cure.

The author presents the construction of a “cure *d’air*” culture, the origins of the anti-tuberculosis movement in France and the constitution of a building typology through the 19th century not withstanding the focal point of the book being the first half of the 20th century. From WWI to WWII, a mass plan and a spatial organization started with the exploration of the sanatorium typology and three elements were highlighted: “the patient’s room” as the project constitutive unit, “the galleries” as a space to heal, and the “terrace” as an esthetic appeal defining a recurrent type.

More than an exhaustive study of buildings with a therapeutic vocation, their living and care spaces, their architectural audacity and their singular destinies within an enlarged historical horizon, Grandvoinnet’s book invites a reflection on memory and heritage preservation, which involves historians, architects, patrimony specialists as well as the community as a whole.

Carolina Chaves



L’Ospedale degli Innocenti di Firenze La Fabbrica Brunelleschiana. Gli Innocenti dal Quattrocento al Novecento. Il Nuovo Museo

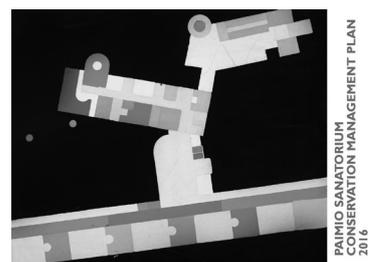
Editor/Author: Marco Mulazzani
 Publisher: Mondadori Electa
 ISBN: 978-88-918-1081-6
 Language: Italian
 Year: 2016

This publication is dedicated to the conversion project of the *Ospedale degli Innocenti* (Florence, Italy, 1419) a former shelter for homeless and abandoned children into the *Museo degli Innocenti*, carried out from 2008 to 2016. It contains several contributions, all of them well-illustrated, accompanied by details of archival documentation of impeccable quality. Each of these essays unveils different dimensions of the built complex throughout its existence, from the genesis of *L’Istituto degli Innocenti* to Filippo Brunelleschi’s project and the transformations and investigations that have taken place ever since.

The structure of the book allows the reader to follow a chronological thread and build up a rich log of information about Brunelleschi’s building up until the moment when, in the 21st century, a plan is laid out to enhance the value and usage of this heritage site, turning it into a more accessible and open place - the *Museo degli Innocenti*. The book then opens a new section examining the new life of the complex focusing on the refurbishment project, analyzing the challenges and the solutions developed during the design process, thoroughly documented.

Publications such as this makes one reflect on the multiple lives a building can actually have and the fundamental role architects have in unveiling and exploring solutions that make possible the transition of these buildings into the modern world with its modern standards.

Beatriz Agostinho



Paimio Sanatorium Conservation Management Plan 2016

Edited by: Nina Heikkonen
 Publisher: Alvar Aalto Foundation
 ISBN: 978-952-5498-44-8
 Language: English
 Year: 2016

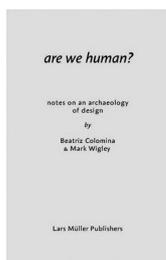
Given its outstanding cultural and historical values, the Paimio Sanatorium (1932, Paimio, Alvar Aalto) clearly embodies not only the essence of modernist visions and demands, but also the strict hygienic requirements of its time for curing tuberculosis. The building has received national significance and international recognition thanks to its representative significance of pure functionalism, leading to an attempt to be nominated on the World Heritage List, however without success.

The book provides an in-depth analysis of the property and its history including architectural features, physical analysis and the knowledge of the buildings performance over time to create a long-term strategy for decision-makers, contractors and users regarding conservation and maintenance.

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP, 2016) described here contributes as a guidance for the future interventions, conservation and management of the building’s site by establishing the boundaries of protected areas and by defining land use monitoring. It also examines the current authenticity of the building to document its present state and explains the protection designation and principles for the restoration and use of the site. Two appendices are included to this CMP exploring further research. Despite the failure of its tentative nomination to the World Heritage List, this book offers a relevant and crucial endeavor for its potential inscription while maintaining the property.

Régis Dumoulin

BOOK REVIEWS



Are we human? Notes on an Archaeology of Design

Author: Beatriz Colomina, Mark Wigley
Publisher: Lars Müller Publishers
ISBN: 978-3-03778-511-9
Language: English
Year: 2016/2018

Are we human? Notes on an Archaeology of Design digs into the symbiotic relation between human and design.

As mentioned by the authors humans are like a spider shaping the world from inside their own bodies.

Apparently simple, the strong yellow pocketbook assembles the dense and stimulating curatorial process for the 3rd *Istanbul Design Biennale* in 2016.

It proposes an intriguing reflection on how design is everything and everywhere throughout a multi-layered reading established in the 16 chapters connecting diverse themes. From spiderwebs to self-design, it discusses plasticity, prehistory, techno-fossils, brain, curiosity, useless things, mechanical life, morality, functionalism, nerves, smile, X-ray, autoimmune, burnout, self-destruction, biotechnology, libido, voyeurism, protohumans, shadows, prosthetics, chimera, intimacy, selfie, shelter, surveillance, avatar...

The book demonstrates how design expresses the human, and how human expresses itself by design trying to reach the outside world or the inside of body and mind. It expands our existence and simultaneously it can destroy us.

Beatriz Colomina and Mark Wigley propose an understanding of the world inside and around us. The sense of future is all through the book, driving us to connect dots and challenging what, how and why we design.

Daniela Arnaut



Construction and Design Manual Hos- pitals and Medical Facilities

Author: Philipp Meuser
Publisher: DOM publishers
ISBN: 978-3-86922-674-3
Language: English
Year: 2019

This manual illustrates how architectural factors might enhance human health. In fact, “Is there an architecture that helps you to live?” It is scientifically proven that architectural quality leads to a better psychological recovery by reducing the stress in the patient. The idea of architecture and interior design as instruments capable in leading its users to a sense of well-being and consequently support the recovery process is a topic that has been debated for a long time.

It highlights how the history of hospital architecture goes hand in hand with the history of technological progress in medicine, and how complex it is to design a hospital and any other medical facility, taking into account the large number of regulatory requirements involved.

The Construction and Design Manual Hospitals and Medical Facilities documents around 50 projects – hospitals, medical practices and pharmacies where, in addition to each case study having large photographs, true to scale floor plans, and colored diagrams, in the beginning of each chapter, the reader can find an architectural history, scientific contributions and typological classifications, essential to those interested in planning the best design possible of hospitals and medical facilities, making this publication an indispensable reference for everyone in the field.

Andreia Gonçalves



X-Ray Architecture

Author: Beatriz Colomina
Publisher: Lars Müller Publishers
ISBN: 978-3-03778-443-3
Language: English
Year: 2019

In this book, Beatriz Colomina explores the technologies in the development and representation of modern architecture. It contests the standard way of understanding the architecture of the early 20th century and proposes it was shaped by the dominant medical hygienic obsession: tuberculosis and its key diagnosis tool, the X-ray.

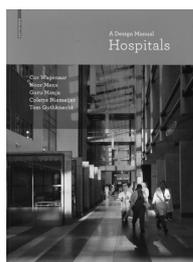
X-Ray Architecture confirms that architecture and medicine have always been tightly connected, the book is full of examples of the influence of tuberculosis in the emergence of the Modern Movement. The sanatorium was, for Beatriz Colomina, at the beginning of the modernist imagination, the starting point of its great principles.

The X-ray changed the concept of what is visible and what is invisible. Modern buildings started to look like medical images with transparent glass walls that revealed the inner structure. Its discovery transformed the perception of space and, in particular, the relation between inside and outside.

Beatriz Colomina explores, not only the historical idea of the hygienic speech at the beginning of the 20th century, but also the current concern about the role of design in the “age of neurological disorders”.

Joana Nunes

BOOK REVIEWS



Hospitals. A Design Manual

Authors: Cor Wagenaar, Noor Mens, Guru Manja, Colette Niemeijer and Tom Guthknecht
Publisher: Birkhäuser
ISBN: 978-3-03821-475-5
Language: English
Year: 2019

Healthcare buildings are essential for the well-being and progress of our society, the right to health being a fundamental right. So, these buildings must follow the developments in science, technology and medicine, and they need to be continuously adapted to new functional requirements. Mainly since the last century, there have been great transformations in healthcare buildings, which have been enhanced in the past years. Not only changes due to technological and medical evolution, but also to evidence-based medicine, healing design and aspects of healthcare efficiency, give new challenges to architects. As architecture affects people, the architecture of the hospital has a great influence on patient's well-being and healing process, when designing a hospital, function and beauty have always to work together.

In this sense, *Hospitals. A Design Manual* is an important contribution to the integrated planning of healthcare buildings. Furthermore, in an international case study section, the book documents 40 outstanding projects of six typologies: general hospitals, children's hospitals, university hospitals, specialized hospitals, outpatient clinics and health centers, and rehabilitation and support clinics.

Joana Coutinho



A Modernidade na Arquitetura Hospitalar – contribuições para sua historiografia

Edited by: Ana M. G. Albano Amora and Renato Gama-Rosa Costa
Publisher: PROARQ
ISBN: 978-65-81518-00-4
Language: Portuguese, Spanish and English
Year: 2019

This book presents the history of hospital architecture.

A Modernidade na Arquitetura Hospitalar [**Modernity in Hospital Architecture**] offers the reader a consistent introduction to the history of health facilities architecture, enabling the understanding of its transformations together with those of medicine.

Two moments can be highlighted. The first one is when there was the application of the typology of horizontal pavilions apart from each other and distant from the cities to comply with the medical strategy to isolate the sick. The emergence of new medications enabled the insertion of hospitals in urban areas. Architects developed new project parameters aligned with the principles of the modern vanguard. Thus, the second moment is that of vertical buildings for better localization, flow control for contamination avoidance, new environmental comfort devices for heat control and air purification, appropriate environments for equipment and the psychological welcoming of patients. Modern hospitals became exemplary of architects' roles as coordinators of various knowledge disciplines, as highlighted by Ana Amora when citing Rino Levi in her chapter.

The book is the outcome of an international seminar held in Rio de Janeiro in 2014, with chapters by authors from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Mexico. It offers a panorama of the social modernization process through the development of medicine and its architecture – its challenges, theories, procedures and facilities – in surmounting the colonial condition and the formation of independent nations in South and North America. Thus, modernization is understood in a broader period than the architectural

and artistic production in the framework of the vanguards. The geographic position is of interest because climate and political conditions outlined the challenges faced by medicine and architecture. Those conditions required the adjustment of European theories and the creation of research centers.

Therefore, specificities emerge within national and regional contexts: variations in periodicities, public policies, institutions and priorities.

The Brazilian case is more predominant in the book. There are studies on the impact of microbiology theories in hospital projects in Rio de Janeiro at the end of the 19th century; the role of Oswaldo Cruz and his architect Luís de Moraes Junior; the transition of philanthropic institutions of the First Republic into hospital networks spreading throughout the national territory as from Getúlio Vargas' first administration, with the decentralization of quality hospital architecture, revealing works that reach far beyond the contribution of Luis Nunes in Pernambuco.

There are two case studies on territorial occupation drawing on delimited historical-geographic situations representing Chile (Antofagasta during the Pacific War) and Colombia (Agua de Dios lazaret).

Modernization periodization varies from one country to another. Urban vertical hospitals in Canada precede vanguardist architecture, following historicist styles of the USA East Coast. The Mexican Revolution inaugurated large-scale public policies in 1920, years before Brazil under Vargas.

Besides mastering the specific knowledge of the history of architecture, several authors find support in the main critical theories of medicine as a means of social control. Published at this moment of a new pandemic when, in the absence of effective medications, isolation is once again the central strategy, this book enables reflection on the temporariness of scientific certainties in this area.

Renato Anelli