

## arq at 25

This is the final issue of **arq**'s twenty-fifth volume. Twenty-five years, a quarter century, is frequently understood as a milestone marking both longevity and change. **arq** was instituted in 1996, responding to the UK's first government-led 'Research Assessment Exercise' in UK universities, necessitating new peer-reviewed journals in our field. It also addressed corresponding questions concerning whether, and how, architectural design could comprise research. Significantly, **arq** recognised the importance of research conducted across both practice and universities.

A quarter century later, architectural research is now well established in academe and practice, with numerous means of print and online dissemination, and it is no longer disputed that design can yield original, significant, and rigorous contributions to knowledge. While the issues facing architectural research at the end of 2021 would not have seemed wholly unfamiliar in 1996, their shape and priority have changed over the intervening years. Like society at large, architecture currently faces significant global challenges – for example: combatting our climate emergency; addressing identity and ensuring diversity and inclusion; extending construction technologies and environmental approaches; improving health and well-being; advocating for social justice, community, and civic life; mobilising creativity and innovation for the greater good; celebrating expertise at a time of fake news; and valuing both contemporaneity and heritage. Like architecture itself, such challenges involve cultural concerns as much as they involve technical ones. Change can only be affected by appreciating how established cultural values and habits get produced and mobilised, and by understanding the tools necessary to make change happen.

Typically for **arq**, this issue engages with significant contemporary challenges. Lucas Antonissen's account of the 'open call' architectural competition process in Flanders illustrates how cultures of building procurement are important to achieving high standards of design (pp. 304–323). Jake Robinson and others introduce Microbiome-Inspired Green Infrastructure, offering a bioscience roadmap for human health (pp. 292–303). Sanja Rodeš examines social justice following hurricane Katrina and the rebuilding of New Orleans, reviewing the role of media and image in producing community and society (pp. 337–354). Xi Ye reflects on the significance of cultural identity to the architecture of Wang Shu and Lu Wenyu's Amateur Architecture Studio (pp. 324–336). Gary Huafan He returns to *fin-de-siècle* Paris, to five hundred issues of Antonin Ragueneau's little-known *Matériaux et documents d'architecture et de sculpture*: 'a vast project of architectural taxonomy'. Recognising its contemporary relevance, He shows how this extraordinary project engendered ideas of professional knowledge and expertise (pp. 355–370). Minna Sunikka-Blank and Yumi Kiyono, meanwhile, examine four approaches to sustainable urban regeneration in Japan, analysed in relation to sustainability criteria that include socioeconomic targets and the conservation of townscape (pp. 372–383). These papers illustrate the vigour of contemporary architectural research, conducted across practice and academe, attending to key global challenges, engaging with longevity and change.

THE EDITORS