

Twenty-one years of arq

This issue concludes the twenty-first volume of **arq**. The age of twenty-one traditionally represents coming of age in most Western cultures. So we've taken the opportunity to reflect, in this issue, on changes in architectural research since the first **arq** was published. We've asked various members of our distinguished Editorial Board either to look back on the last twenty-one years, or to speculate about the next twenty-one years of architectural research, under our customary thematic headings: 'design', 'criticism', 'theory', 'history', 'environmental design', 'digital', 'materials', 'urbanism', 'practice', 'education', and 'research'. Board members' insightful reflections provide most of the articles collected here. We also asked two Board members to review the book from the last twenty-one years they found most influential. And we solicited a handful of additional contributions concerning some of the early and continuing preoccupations of **arq** – like research-by-design, and practice-based research – to review methodologies and fields that have, at least to some extent, come of age in the pages of **arq**.

Peter Carolin, the journal's Founding Editor, reflects here (pp. 315–320) on the motivations for setting up **arq**, ostensibly prompted by the first government-led 'Research Assessment Exercise' held in UK universities, but also rooted in longer cultures of research for-, into- and through-design (to use Christopher Frayling's tripartite categorisation, published shortly before the first **arq**). Carolin's article leads a group of articles under the thematic heading of 'research'. These include Joshua D. Lee and Steven A. Moore's coding of **arq**'s preoccupations (pp. 321–327), and Rowena Hay, Neal Shasore, and Flora Samuel's study of foundational research strategy at the Royal Institute of British Architects (pp. 328–337). These studies are supplemented by Francisco Brown's survey of specialist research units in four architecture studios in New York (pp. 393–396).

Broader reflections on research in our multi- and inter-disciplinary field include: Peggy Deamer's questioning of whether current definitions of 'research' are stifling 'ideas' relevant to the discipline (pp. 344–346); Silke Kapp's consideration of 'central' and 'peripheral' positions in architecture in relation to globalised scientific and economic methods (pp. 311–314); Jianfei Zhu's championing of architectural research

as a field of relations spreading locally and trans-locally across a vast geography (pp. 383–386); Michael J. Ostwald’s longitudinal analysis of research themes in the last twenty-one years of digital research (pp. 351–358); and Timothy Hyde’s proposal that architectural history should forge bigger ambitions, of broader scope and more varied techniques (pp. 347–350). Jonathan Sergison, meanwhile, reviews the ‘search’ in Sergison Bates’s practice-based ‘research’ (pp.298–309).

This issue presents a collection of thought-provoking and informed reflections on current, past, and future directions and priorities in architectural research. The articles represent original, significant and rigorous work, valuable to both practitioners and academics, mirroring the contents of **arq** for the last twenty-one years and, we hope, the next twenty-one.

THE EDITORS

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