



EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY NETWORK  
PALAIS DES ACADEMIES

# EAHN

SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING  
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 31 MAY - 3 JUNE 2012

## “DEVELOPMENT” FROM THE PERIPHERY. ARCHITECTURAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BEYOND US/ SOVIET BIPOLARITY, 1950S-1980S

SESSION PROPOSAL

This session aims to put into question the concept of “development” by focusing on the post-WWII exchanges of architectural knowledge between the “peripheries” struggling for alternative scenarios of modernization rather than subscribing to one model promoted by the centres: the United States or the Soviet Union. Even if this period cannot be understood without accounting for the Cold War polarities, this session challenges the reduction of postwar architecture and planning practices to the US or Soviet political domination and postulates a more differentiated view on alliances among professionals from modernizing countries away from central hubs.

Focused on post-colonial modernization and nation-building processes, this session will review global knowledge exchange from the 1950s to the 1980s in order to unpack and expand the concept of “development.” With possible case studies including Yugoslav architects working in Nigeria, Israeli architects delivering projects in Iran and Tanzania, or Polish planners designing cities in Iraq, this session will address networks of professional knowledge transfer in order to offer a differentiated view on the agency of experts serving their countries as much as their own professional and personal goals.

How and on what institutional bases have professional networks been set? How did they mediate local nuances of geopolitical contexts within the postwar global division of architectural labour and the flows of “development aid”? What were the interactions between such networks and governmental organizations, educational systems, and local communities? How did competition and cooperation between professionals affect the production of new architectural knowledge? In what ways did global knowledge transfer influence and challenge architecture practices and discourses of post-WWII modernisms?

The focus on global knowledge exchange draws attention to the role of architecture and architects in world affairs: while this session challenges the historically entrenched vision of architecture knowledge flow from “developed” to “developing” countries, it also affirms a very contemporary call for contextual cosmopolitanism and rooted universalism.

### SESSION CHAIRS:

Rachel Kallus, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology  
[E: [arkalus@tx.technion.ac.il](mailto:arkalus@tx.technion.ac.il)]

Łukasz Stanek, Institute of History and Theory of Architecture, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology [E: [ls@henrilefebvre.org](mailto:ls@henrilefebvre.org)]

The complete Call for Papers and Discussion Positions can be downloaded at the meeting website: [www.eahn2012.org](http://www.eahn2012.org) — or at EAHN website: [www.eahn.org](http://www.eahn.org).

### CONFERENCE CHAIR

Hilde Heynen

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Jorge Correia, University of Minho  
Krista De Jonge, K.U.Leuven  
Adrian Forty, UCLondon  
Hilde Heynen, K.U.Leuven  
Mari Hvattum, AHO Oslo  
Susan Klaiber, independent scholar  
Dietrich Neumann, Brown University  
Edoardo Piccoli, Politecnico di Torino  
Belgin Turan, METU Ankara  
David Vanderburgh, UCLouvain

### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Thomas Coomans, K.U.Leuven  
Dirk De Meyer, UGent  
Els De Vos, Artesis Hogeschool Antwerpen  
Rika Devos, UGent  
Jean-Louis Genard, ULB, Faculté d'architecture La Cambre-Horta  
Janina Gosseye, K.U.Leuven  
Hilde Heynen, K.U.Leuven  
Ruth Hommelen, St. Lucas  
Bernard Kormoss, Université de Liège  
Judith le Maire, ULB, Faculté d'architecture La Cambre-Horta  
Piet Lombaerde, Universiteit Antwerpen  
Anne-Françoise Morel, UGent  
Sven Sterken, St. Lucas  
Francis Strauven, UGent  
Koenraad Van Cleempoel, UHasselt  
Jean-Louis Vanden Eynde, UCL

### IMPORTANT DATES

September 30, 2011:  
submission of abstract to session chairs

October 31, 2011:  
notification of acceptance

March 15, 2012:  
submission of full papers

May 31- June 3, 2012:  
2nd EAHN international conference in Brussels