

With our best wishes for 2009 we want to thank you for your inputs and commitment: your answers made us feel that we started in the right direction. This newsletter bundles some of the issues addressed.

Form and content of this Newsletter follow the intention and tradition of heuristic and serendipitous steps, «incomplete» as it were, open to the future. Take time to dive into the taster quotes!

If you have still not been resolved to define your interests for IACSA please re-read at the end of this first newsletter the lines we reproduce from our first announcement.

Ways of «walking the built environment»

It is perhaps no hap that the hints we have been receiving with the echoes to our announcement, «walking» appeared like an unexpected, yet highly relevant focus for reflection of cultural and social architectural space. Walking is a way of *producing* environment which has been at the centre of attention of a number of scholars who are representative for Cultural Studies in Architecture.

We have decided to follow the trail into the hillscape of CSA, starting by playing with words, without far-reaching etymological demands. If we feel a strong necessity to have a more «fluid» attitude towards the built environment, we are convinced that this has

to be approached through phenomenological, aesthetic and sensual attitudes, i.e. by encountering the concrete world which challenges our receptive *and* expressive capacities.

The playful assemblage of nothing but «taster quotes» on urban walking give you an idea how we aim at finding the outlines of CSA. They are simultaneously associative and imaginative, but nevertheless accompanied by correct bibliographical references. They point to what we think is the essence of what IACSA serves, with a modest attitude: flooding with our attention the fields between the institutions and disciplines and achieving a miraculous draught of fishes.

Αρχιθέωρος – the Greek way of imagining «architecture»

The network editor had a busy time thanks to the IACSA announcement. Many of you confirmed that there was a desire for this CSA exchange organism. However, many respondents were regretting that they were not *architects*, which is actually the main misunderstanding we have met.

Imagine that *archi* – in the sense the Greek word offers us – is nothing but the prefix of being *temporally* the first to start the reflection and to plan for new thoughts, even though not the first in hierarchy, such as being the masterbuilder or -thinker.

Imagine you were just *archithéors*, pilgrims in humanities and arts, and nobody expected from you anything like having the skills of building.

Imagine you are just *synoptikós*, the one with the sharp eye, capable to catch the situation, to infer and to recognise the state of the world and its different places.

Imagine you being *tektōn*, producing artefacts alongside with *theories*, spectacles for the senses and for the mind.

Imagine you are an *archegétes*, the very author and founder of thoughts and deeds. Let us be all this.

CSA Taster Quotes: «Urban Walking»¹

« Tourists. Newscasters. Consultants. And nowhere a witness. Uninvolved he is, the tourist, even in his own neighbourhood. Here he has not to share responsibility. His presence is the presence of a user. That is why he is not obliged to appreciate the kiosk vendor woman. »

From Adrian Riklin, Ein Brief an Pier Paolo Pasolini. In: *WOZ die wochenzeitung* 48, 27.11. 2008, p. 11. Translation J.W.

« To mingle with the passers-by, incognito, by freely choosing if it was to be a stroll or a route, getting rid of the weight of the role one has played and of the long hours of captivity and even idleness, to feel to be again oneself and simultaneously like the <man who is made by all men and who is like them and like anyone> (Sartre) (...): This is one of the possible definitions of the urban essence, present, among others, in this traffic, where people unknown to each other cross each other. The street is at the disposal of everybody, yet it is unavailable, due to the movement which gives it its life. »

From Colette Pétonnet, Variations sur le bruit sourd d'un mouvement continu. In: Jacques Gutwirth et Colette Pétonnet (eds), *Chemins de la ville*. Paris 1987, p. 247-261. Translation J.W.

« The most important condition for resources optimization is appreciation of the built structure by the user, in particular also through the acceptance of passers-by: only buildings that are loved will achieve a long lifespan. »

From Dietmar Eberle, Odilo Schoch, Resources. In: Winfried Nerdinger (ed), *Baumschlagel-Eberle 2002-2007. Architecture, People and resources*, p. 143.

« The industrial manager walks on the asphalt while appreciating its quality; the old man explores it, carefully, follows its surface as far as he can and remembers proudly that has been a witness when the first sidewalk have been built; the poet ... walks on the asphalt with indifference and thoughtfully, chewing verses; the stock market trader walks on it by estimating the benefits of the recent flour price increase; the absent-minded slips on it. »

From Alexis Martin, Physiologie de l'asphalte. In: *Le Bohème* 1(3), 15.4. 1855. Quoted from a note by Walter Benjamin in *Das Passagenwerk. Gesammelte Schriften* V.1, 530f. [M 2a3]. Suhrkamp, Frankfurt am Main³ 1989. Translation JW.

« Everyday thousands of Palestinians cross Qalandiya checkpoint, which connects Jerusalem with Ramallah and the northern West Bank: workers, schoolchildren, teachers, merchants, peddlers, porters, professionals, shoppers, students, civil servants, clerks, craftsmen, doctors, patients, and so forth. At rush hour, the line stretches into the hundreds. »

From: Tamar Berger, Caliban in Qalandiya. Toward an analysis of a checkpoint. In: Philipp Misselwitz, Tim Rienits (eds), *City of collision. Jerusalem and the principles of conflict urbanism*, p. 250. Birkhäuser, Basel etc. 2006

1. We borrow this formula from David Macaulay, Walking the city. In: Arnold Berleant and Allen Carlson (eds), *The aesthetics of environment*, 100-118. Broadview Press, Peterborough Ont./Plymouth UK/Sydney 2007.

More taster quotes

We would like to ask you to contribute taster quotes for upcoming issues of the IACSA newsletter. One of our correspondents has doubted if taster quotes were an adequate means of advancing the field of CSA. Is he wary of reading? We will continue with presenting quotes, because they serve the associative and imaginative process of creating new perspectives, beyond the pedagogies and other constraints of large institutions.

More news

«Urban walking» has been the chosen thematic tenor of this two-page newsletter. The topic has an enormous potential which goes beyond this microscopic presentation. Its appeal is certainly that it posits the temporal order and motion above the spatial appearance. Help us to identify the fields of burning interest in terms of projects undertaken by you. They will lead to more news.

We prefer having short newsletters and having them more often instead of hard to manage publications.

IACSA - the organisation

IACSA is an association according to Swiss law, founded on September 17th, 2008. In practical terms and pragmatically the association has three levels:

(I) *A Founding Advisors' Board*
a group of personalities from different disciplines whose names stand for the field of Cultural Studies in Architecture.

(II) *A Working Board*
which is open for everyone interested and willing to contribute to build the network.

(III) *A Network Editor*
who maintains and stimulates exchange and prepares the information management. Justin Winkler, who is presently given the task of network editor, is professor for human geography.

How to register as a member

If you sense that the idea of IACSA covers the field of your interest you are welcome to participate as a member of the Working Board. Simply write to

iacsa@mobileculturestudies.com

an informal demand. You will get an electronic version of the bylaws with a electronic registration form. You are free to ask any question concerning IACSA which we will answer within the bounds of our capacities.

Founding Advisors' Board members (in alphabetic order)

Pauline von Bonsdorff, FI; Ingrid Breckner, DE; Catharina Dyrssen, SE;
Elisabeth Katschnig-Fasch, AT; Angela McRobbie, UK; Colette Pétonnet, FR.