

THE FUTURE OF OPEN BUILDING conference

PAPER & POSTER CALL

How can we design large projects without necessarily imposing uniformity and rigidity where variety and adaptability over time are desirable? (Habraken 1967, 3)

The origins of 'open building,' a term coined by Age van Randen at TU Delft in the eighties, developed from the ideas of N. John Habraken, the Dutch architect and the director of the Foundation for Architects' Research (SAR), whose work had the specific aim of energizing housing industrialization through a research agenda focused on the relationships between the profession of architecture and the housing industries, emphasizing the role of users in the process (Bosma et al. 2001). Specifically in his 1962 book, *Supports: An Alternative to Mass Housing*, Habraken combined many forward-thinking perspectives that are now widely accepted in the research and practice of architecture, urbanism and the social sciences such as:

- designing for openness, which involves not only capacity, but inclusivity;
- the recognition that many actors influence design and construction processes;
- the ongoing transformative properties of the built environment.

Comparatively no longer a radical alternative to many approaches emerging to analyze and organize the design and construction processes which shape the built environment, THE FUTURE OF OPEN BUILDING conference asks participants to critically consider what the notion of 'open building' continues to offer. The aim of this provocation is to encourage participants to challenge how collaborative synergies amongst the design professions and those impacted by design choices, are often made, unmade and transformed within every scale of the built environment.

Subsequently, the conference organizers would like to invite participants to clarify how these core perspectives come together within empirically grounded case studies of various development typologies, as well as challenge scholars and practitioners to consider how their paper and poster case studies inform which directions 'open building' should take in the twenty-first century. Designed to be relevant and accessible to both academics and practicing design professionals, the conference is structured around keynote speakers and themed panels in the morning sessions and academic paper sessions in the afternoon.

Submissions on topics relevant to the built environment are encouraged from fields, which are not limited to: architecture, urban design, urban planning, geography, public policy, facilities management, sociology, as well as science and technology studies. Using the templates provided on the conference website, 300 word paper abstracts and poster proposals should foreground a conference theme (1, 2 or 3), and additionally, highlight one of the subthemes (A, B or C). The authors of accepted paper abstracts will be asked to submit 3,500 word articles (excluding references, captions and footnotes) for peer review. Authors of accepted poster abstracts will be asked to submit one A1 size board in landscape format.

Theme 1: Designing for openness	Theme 2: Actor networks that shape design	Theme 3: Transformations of the built environment
A. Building & Site Technologies	A. Building & Site Technologies	A. Building & Site Technologies
B. Architecture	B. Architecture	B. Architecture
C. Urban Design & Planning	C. Urban Design & Planning	C. Urban Design & Planning

KEY DATES

January 30, 2014 - Paper Abstracts & Poster Proposals Due
February 27, 2015 - Authors Informed & Payment Options Open
May 1, 2015 - Full Papers & Posters Due for Review
June 1, 2015 - Review Comments Distributed
July 1, 2015 - Final Papers & Posters Due
August 1, 2015 - Registration Closes
September 9-11, 2015 - Conference at ETH Zürich, Hönggerberg Campus

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.openbuilding2015.arch.ethz.ch