

Practices in Research #05 Demolitions and Deconstructions

Journal for practice-based research in architecture

Conference in May 2024

Call for Contribution



*Illustration by Tomasz Świetlik and Michał Kulesza
in "Practices in Research #04 – Beyond the Mandate", In Practice, 2023*

Practices in Research

In Practice is an interuniversity research group of practising architects engaging their practice(s) at the heart of their research. In Practice explores the multiple ways in which architects can engage their professional architecture practice in academic research and reciprocally. “Practices in Research” (PiR) is an online journal for practice-based research in architecture and related disciplines, based on a selection of contributions to a conference. PiR explores the ways in which these practices engage or relate to research.

For PiR, the practice is thus never reduced to an illustration of theory. Inversely, the research is not reduced to the observation of practice. It aims at contributions in which research and practice mean mutual enrichment. PiR aims at research in which the practice is essential as a subject, as a modality or as a perspective and combinations thereof. The contributions are expected to stay in close contact with the practice, but they are not limited to the presentation or documentation of a practice. The contributions take a step beyond the reality of the practice in the way they present, explore, reveal a question or reflection in the field of architecture.

PiR also searches for creative forms of communication, questioning the usual hierarchy between text and image. For PiR, visual and written narrations relate to each other in multiple ways. Images are more than illustrations, and text is more than an explanation. Hence, the provided template is to be considered as a toolbox or set of rules, which can be used creatively.

Practices in Research #05

Demolitions and Deconstructions

Moving towards a more ecological and sustainable building culture many architects commit themselves to caring and maintaining our existing building stock. To reduce the consumption of resources, the production of waste and emissions, the aim is to first look at what is already there, before adding any new constructions.

At the same time, our built environment is a manifestation of social ideas, hierarchies, norms, and standards which do often not match the values, priorities, and expectations of today's society. Lifestyles have diversified, family structures have evolved, modes of transportation have changed. Our buildings are based on anachronistic spatial patterns.

How do architects deal with this ambiguity? How do they decide on what can stay and what must go? When does demolition become unavoidable as a part of critical repair? How do architects negotiate between existing qualities and contemporary norms and expectations?

Partial demolitions often involve a series of artefacts: supporting structures, technical adaptations, material juxtapositions. They create a language as much as they question the nature of project itself. Indeed, they cannot be reduced to operations based on patrimonial or technical considerations. Demolitions and deconstructions are deliberate choices, they are decisive in the design process, in its economy. They influence both the materiality and the spatiality of the project. Beyond a pragmatic approach to what is already there, how do partial demolition and supporting elements change the nature, the

ambitions, the process, and the authorship of the project? And how does it then radically change the use of space afterwards?

What methods and processes do architects use when approaching an existing structure? How do they carefully and critically examine an existing building and how do they reveal its potential? What knowledge do they gain in the process of assessing what can stay and what must go? And finally, how can they afford to do so, given that architects' fees are still generally tied to construction costs, i.e., material and energy consumption?

Does the status of a caring architectural practice diverge from its ecological and social importance, as it does for many other caring professions?

PiR 05 – “Demolitions and Deconstructions” is looking for contributions reflecting on these questions related to careful yet experimental transformations. The contributions are expected to report about critical practices through which these questions are examined, staying close to its documents and outcomes.

Submissions to the conference will be examined for participation by the editorial committee, based on a short abstract. Extended abstracts will be published online in the proceedings of the conference (unreviewed). After the conference, invited contributors will be asked to follow a double-blind peer review for publication in the upcoming issue of the journal. The editors may include unreviewed contributions upon invitation such as visual essays. The review process of all contributions will be clearly identified.

Deadlines and Modalities

Calendar

1st of December 2023	call for contributions
26th of February 2024	submission of short abstracts
4th of March 2024	notification of acceptance (conference)
29th of April 2024	submission of extended abstracts
22nd of May 2024 (tbc)	conference in Brussels
3rd of June 2024	invitation for publication
22nd of July 2024	submission of full articles for peer review
16th of September 2024	double-blind peer review available
28th of October 2024	submission of final article
25th of November 2024	publication of PiR#05

Call for Abstracts

One PDF file containing max 300 words and the necessary illustrations in order to explain your contribution. The format is otherwise free. Multiple submissions are not accepted.

Deadline for abstract submission: Monday 26th of February 2024.

By the 4th of March 2024, the editorial committee selects contributors to develop their contributions to the conference and to provide an extended abstract. The selection is made based on the adequation with the goal and topic of the conference and journal.

The extended abstract is due for 29th of April 2024. Text max 600 words + illustrations following the provided template. The book of abstracts will be made available online (not peer-reviewed) in the form of conference proceedings.

Conference: May 2024

The exact date of the conference will be confirmed together with the invitation to participate.

The conference will consist of a series of short presentations (max 15 minutes) followed by a moderated debate with peers and panel members. These presentations and the debate may be recorded. The modality of the presentation is totally free in the limits of feasibility, from linear computer presentation to performances or an exhibition. If needed, please contact the organising committee in time to ensure the feasibility. Remote digital participation is not possible. Airplane travel is strongly discouraged.

The detailed program and book of abstracts (proceedings) will be communicated one week prior to the conference. The conference will be hosted in Brussels.

Required registration by email. The participation is free of charge and does not include any accommodation and catering cost.

Publication

After the conference, the editorial committee will select contributors to develop their extended abstract for the fourth issue of Practices in Research, the annual online open access double blind peer reviewed journal for practice-based research in architecture.

The selection will be notified by the 3rd of June 2024.

All complete articles need to make use of the InDesign template file available on the website of the In Practice interuniversity research group:

www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal

Max 25 pages in pdf format, starting with a single title page and ending with a full spread. Please save image as JPG (no PNG, between 150 and 300dpi, RGB), and avoid rasterized versions of vectorial documents.

Pay attention to the correct referencing of all visual and text content. Contributors are free to use the reference style of their election but need to do so consistently.

Important: Mention any potential conflict of interest with members of the scientific committee (such as assessors, promoters, contractual or private relationships, etc.).

All contributions will be anonymised by the editors for the double-blind peer review.

Deadline for submissions: 22nd of July 2024. There will be no deadline extension.

Double-Blind Peer Review

Two written double-blind peer reviews will be provided to the authors. Each contribution will be reviewed by two members of the scientific committee or invited experts. Anonymity is strictly maintained and all information in the paper that identifies the author is removed. The editorial board acknowledges that the work of the involved practices may benefit from public recognition in the professional or cultural field through prizes, exhibitions, lectures, etc. The anonymity of the contribution does not address the practice itself but the authors of the contribution. The anonymity of the reviews is also ensured. The reviews investigate the methodological rigor, the artistic quality, the relevance, the originality and the clarity of communication of the contribution. The review also involves an open comment on the contribution. If accepted (no negative review out of two), the author is asked to resubmit the contribution according to the reviews and editorial comments. The editorial team makes the final decision on whether the submission is rejected or accepted.

The reviews will be available on 16th of September 2024.

The deadline for the submission of approved contributions, modified by the contributors according to the reviews is the 28th of October 2024.

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Registration

The contributions are made available through the website of the journal as separate pdf files and as a single pdf file containing the complete issue of the journal.

www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal

Additionally, the contributions are uploaded on the Zenodo platform, a EU-funded Open Access platform providing a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for each published article. The contributions to the Practices in Research journal are uploaded in the “Practices in Research” community of Zenodo.

www.zenodo.org/communities/practicesinresearch

Originality

By publishing their work in Practices in Research, the authors declare that their contribution is original and has not been published before. The authors also declare that the contributions do not infringe third party rights (ie. the contribution, texts, images, etc.) and bear this responsibility. In case of doubt the editors may make use of a plagiarism detecting service.

Charges

The online publication is free of charge. Practices in Research do not apply publishing fees such as: submission fees; editorial processing charges; article processing charges (APCs); page charges; colour charges.

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Scientific committee

The scientific committee is composed of established practicing architects and senior academic staff from a variety of universities. Members of the Scientific Committee may also be chosen for their relevant expertise. For the sake of anonymity, the double-blind peer review will not be realised by panel members of the conference.

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In Practice

In Practice is an interuniversity research group of practicing architects – and related disciplines – engaging their practice(s) at the heart of their research. In Practice explores the multiple ways in which the professional practice can be engaged in academic research and reciprocally. In Practice seeks to open a space for architecture practices in research through the development of doctoral and postdoctoral research projects, conferences, publications, and pedagogic projects.

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