

Practices in Research #06

Re-Mediating Practices

Exploring Circularity's Impact on Representational
Instruments and Design Processes in Architecture

Journal for practice-based research in architecture

Conference 21st of May 2025, Brussels

Call for Contribution



*Illustration by Niklas Fanelsa, in "With and Within the Collaborative Practice of Kura Workshop"
published in "Practices in Research #05 – Demolitions & Deconstructions", 2024*

Practices in Research

In Practice is an interuniversity research group for 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 peer-reviewed journal for practice-based research in architecture and related disciplines, based on a selection of contributions to a conference and possibly on invited contributions. PiR explores the ways in which these practices engage or relate to research.

For PiR, the practice is not 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. In PiR#5 Demolitions and Deconstructions, a series of authors were invited to contribute in the form of peer-reviewed “visual essays”, literally reversing the usual hierarchy between image and text. Interestingly, one article

spontaneously proposed a similar format, while not informed about this specific format. PiR looks forward to enabling and facilitating this diversity in formats, inviting authors to experiment with reflective, observational and explorative formats.

Practices in Research #06

Re-Mediating Practices

In the pursuit of an actual and pertinent attitude, architects are increasingly committed to working with the materials and structures that already exist. This practice—rooted in re-use, reclamation, harvesting, and urban mining—challenges architects to embrace the unpredictability of what is available. Whether reimagining a structure or harvesting materials from demolition sites, they must navigate fluctuating quantities, variable qualities, and unexpected dimensions, colors, textures, and technical performance.

This unpredictability demands a mindset of resilience and adaptability, or agility, from designers. Re-use is not just about what remains of the material world but also about how architects reimagine their own practices, relinquishing certainty and control in favor of experimentation and resourcefulness. To engage meaningfully with these constraints, designers must let go of traditional aesthetic ideals as dominant drivers, instead embracing imperfection, irregularity, and serendipity.

How do architects thrive in this space of uncertainty? What instruments, methods, and processes enable them to work creatively within the flux of material availability? How do they reframe constraints—such as limited supply or inconsistent quality—not as barriers but as opportunities to uncover unexpected potential in existing resources? And what new aesthetics and spatial practices

emerge when beauty is no longer defined by precision or uniformity, but by adaptability and responsiveness?

Urban mining, harvesting, and reclamation require architects to think in terms of flows: flows of materials, energy, and information. The availability of materials is contingent not only on demolition or deconstruction schedules but also on logistical challenges, evolving regulations, and the inherent unpredictability of what is salvaged. How do architects design for this variability? How do they incorporate flexibility into their processes to align with what is available, when it is available?

Re-use and reclamation are as much about unlearning as they are about learning. Architects must challenge established conventions of material perfection, the dominance of newness, and even the notion of authorial control over the design process. This work involves an ongoing negotiation between material realities and design ambitions, between available resources and project goals. How does this negotiation transform the role of the architect and the authorship of the project?

PiR #06 – Re-Mediating Practices

This issue builds on **PiR #05**, which broadly addressed circular architectural practices. As Urszula Kozminska (Arkitektskolen Aarhus) and Bie Plevoets (UHasselt, As Found Network) observed in their reflections on **Practices in Research #05: Demolitions and Deconstructions** (<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14537154>), circularity and re-use strategies engage with aesthetic and graphical language in distinct ways, using it as both an explorative and representative instruments.

Therefore, PiR #06 will explore how architectural practices addressing adaptive reuse, with a focus on the challenges and opportunities of working with uncertainty, employ representational and explorative instruments—drawings, models, simulations, photography, maybe even poetry or installations—to respond to unpredictable material flows.

Contributors are encouraged to critically engage with different themes, while always focusing on the representational and explorative design tools at work in their approaches.

Material Uncertainty: How do architects represent and navigate the variability of salvaged materials in terms of quantity, quality, performance, and appearance?

Processes of Reclamation and Contextual Mining: What design methods and media are emerging to integrate salvaged materials into the built environment?

Re-use Aesthetics: How does relinquishing traditional aesthetic ideals transform design outcomes? Which new approaches emerge from the nature of Re-Use strategies? In both cases, which representational tools are engaged to feed them?

Resilience in Design Practice: How do architects creatively cultivate adaptability and responsiveness in processes marked by unpredictability?

Circularity and Flows: How do architects design with and for material flows, balancing immediacy and future reuse potential? Do these approaches impact the (visual) production of a practice?

Human-centered Practice Shift

How do architects represent and navigate collaboration with diverse stakeholders—owners, users, builders, and ultra-local experts—within circular practices? What tools and methods foster dialogue and integrate these perspectives into design processes?

De-normed and De-categorized Approaches: It is probably impossible to propose an exhaustive thematic list. If your contribution does not fit any of the above categories, please include it here and propose a category title.

Submissions should reflect on these critical practices through concrete examples, staying close to the methods, documents, and outcomes of this work, with a clear focus on the observational, explorative and creative media nourishing the practice. Contributions can range from case studies and reflective essays to visual narratives and experimental documentation. Please feel free to engage freely in the modalities of your contribution, while paying attention to explain and situate your approach.

The editorial committee will review submissions based on short abstracts. After the selection process, extended abstracts will be published online as part of the conference proceedings (unreviewed). After the conference, selected contributors and possibly additional guests will provide their complete contributions subjected to a double-blind peer-review, to be published in the upcoming journal issue: *Practice in Research #6 – Remediating Practices*. Unreviewed contributions may also be included upon invitation, with review statuses clearly identified.

Deadlines and Modalities

Calendar

13th of January 2025	call for contributions
28th of February 2025	submission of short abstracts
7th of March 2025	notification of acceptance (conference)
28th of April 2025	submission of extended abstracts
21st of May 2025	conference in Brussels at CIVA
9th of June 2025	invitation for publication
8th of August 2025	submission of full articles for peer review
29th of September 2025	double-blind peer review available
31st of October 2025	submission of final articles
28th of November 2025	publication of PiR#06

Call for Abstracts

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

Deadline for abstract submission: Friday 28th of February 2025. Please do not forget to mention the editorial theme you suggest your proposal would fit.

By the 7th of March 2025, the editorial committee communicate their selection to authors 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 editorial board will also notify and explain in case of non-selection.

The extended abstract is due for 28th of April 2025. 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: 21st of May 2025

The conference on the 21st of May and its location in Brussels 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 check and ensure the feasibility.

Remote digital participation is not possible, except in the case of mixed media including a partial physical presence. Airplane travel is strongly discouraged if avoidable.

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

Required registration by email to info@architectureinpractice.eu. 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 9th of June 2025.

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: 8th of August 2025. 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 possibly editorial comments. The editorial team can make a final decision on the acceptance of the submission.

The reviews will be available on 29th of September 2025.

The deadline for the submission of approved contributions, modified by the contributors according to the reviews is the 31st of October 2025.

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Registration

The contributions are made available through the website of the Practices in Research 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 (Turnitin software - www.turnitin.com).

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 or colour charges.

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The editorial committee is partially supported by the FNRS-financed contact group “In Practice” and other contributions.

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.

Composition of the Scientific Committee on the date of the open call for contributions:

Typhaine Abenia (ULB); Céline Bodart (ULiège, ENSAPLV); Stijn Cools (aNNNo architecten, KU Leuven); Niklas Fanelsa (TU München); Pauline Fockedey (Nord, UCLouvain); Liesbeth Funck (Oslo School of Architecture and Design); Lidia Gasperoni (Bartlett School of Architecture-UCL); Christoph Heinemann (ifau, Universität Kassel); Nikolaus Hirsch (CIVA); Urszula Koźmińska (Arkitektskolen Aarhus); Fabiano Micocci (NE A R architecture, University of Thessaly, UTH Urban Design Lab), Bie Plevoets (UHasselt, As Found Network), Cristian Ștefănescu (A-Works, BAS Bergen School of Architecture); Guillaume Vanneste (vww, UCLouvain, ULiège).

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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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