Practices in Research #03

EXPLORATIONS & CARTOGRAPHIES

Thursday 21st of October 2021 - Brussels

Call for contributions

L’Ermitage, BE, AHA - Aurélie Hachez Architectes, 2018

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Practices in Research

“Practices in Research” (PiR) is a series of online open access double-blind peer-reviewed publications and research seminars and conferences for practice based research in architecture and related disciplines.

PiR explores the ways in which these practices engage or relate to research. Practices in Research addresses the mechanisms and the frameworks that confer consistence and coherence to a practice. PiR provides a space for practices to interrogate the world, and for the world to interrogate the practices in return.

For PiR, the practice is thus never reduced to being the simplistic illustration of a theory. PiR aims at research in which the practice is essential as a subject (practice-based), as a modality (practice-led) or as a sounding board (bridging practice and research). The contributions are expected to stay in very close contact with the practice. Inversely, they are not limited to the presentation or documentation of a practice. The contributions take a step beyond 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 dominating hierarchy between text and image. In the framework of PiR, visual and written narrations can relate to each other in multiple ways. Images can be more than illustrations, and text can be more than an explanation. Hence, the provided template is to be considered as a toolbox or set of rules, which can be used creatively.
PiR #3 – EXPLORATIONS & CARTOGRAPHIES

1580s, "to investigate, examine," a back-formation from exploration, or else from French explorer (16c.), from Latin explorare "investigate, search out, examine, explore," said to be originally a hunters' term meaning "set up a loud cry," from ex "out" (see ex-) + plorare "to weep, cry." Compare deplore. De Vaan notes modern sources that consider "the ancient explanation, ... that the verb explorare originally meant 'to scout the hunting area for game by means of shouting'" to be "not unlikely." Second element also is explained as "to make to flow," from pluere "to flow." Meaning "to go to a country or place in quest of discoveries" is first attested 1610s.

[Link to Etymology Online](https://www.etymonline.com/word/explore?ref=etymonline_crossreference)

"Cartography, the art and science of graphically representing a geographical area, usually on a flat surface such as a map or chart. It may involve the superimposition of political, cultural, or other nongeographical divisions onto the representation of a geographical area."

([Britannica](www.britannica.com/science/cartography accessed 20/01/2021)

PiR#03 will follow two tracks.

1. **Explorations** is open to any proposal by the contributors, following the ambitions of PiR#02 – *Tour d’Horizon* (published on [www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal](www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal)). As the etymology suggests, exploration is maybe a process of discovery which is fueled by expression *(plorare)*, addressing the inquiry of forms of communication. Exploration is maybe also about the unveiling of inner dispositions and mechanics *(pluere)*. This is about close observation, articulations, and in-depth reflection.

2. **Cartographies** is an invitation to investigate the practices and the related research as a territory. Reflection on architectural practices is often carried from the outside: the realized works and available material are seen as an autonomous given, subject to interpretation and speculation. When considering things from the inside, however, things appear differently for several reasons.
First, an architectural practice is a loosely defined field consisting of and embedded in a network of actions, reflections, urgencies, interests, and observations, which are difficult to trace from the outside. The practice is motivated by exhibitions, books, travels, muses, theories, and references. Parallel practices play a role too. Exploring the boundaries of such a field is a welcome step towards a state of affairs, somehow similar to a practice’s state of the art.

Second, architectural designs relate to other projects inside the same practice, to thoughts, to theories. A genealogy is to be traced: familiarities, influences, differences, articulations, antagonisms, and juxtapositions. This can happen from the outside, by the observation of the available objects and documentation, or from the inside from the point of view of the designer.

Third, and this is maybe something happening on another level, the modalities of the interactions between theory and practice in the research and the practice can also to be traced in these field. This is maybe about overlaps, distinctions, methods, subjects, strategies.

The space of a practice, as a comprehensive and multiple whole, can be considered as a temporal geography. According to Ptolemy, geography is “a representation in pictures of the whole known world together with the phenomena which are contained therein.” As practices develop through time, temporality is probably a necessary dimension of such geography.

For Cartographies, contributors are invited to provide a visual representation of their practice as a whole. These representations are expected to be given the form of a document or container supporting the diversity of its content. This content is made of projects, references, experiences, readings, and in general anything
relevant to the practice. The cartographic nature of the document reveals the genealogies, the relationships, the ruptures. The format itself is flat and unitary, as the idea is to enable the contemplation of the practice as a simultaneous whole. The dimensions however are free: it could be 118,9 x 84,1 cm or 6 x 6 m or even 0.30 x 15 m. Please feel free to explore the most useful format.

**Deadlines and Modalities**

**Calendar**

27th June 2021: submission of abstracts  
18th of July 2021: notification of acceptance (conference)  
23rd of September 2021: submission of extended abstracts  
21st of October 2021: conference in Brussels  
31st of October 2021: invitation for publication  
5th of December 2021: submission of full article  
9th of January 2022: double-blind peer review available  
13th of February 2022: submission of final article  
April 2022: publication PiR#03

**Call for Abstracts**

One PDF file containing Max 300 words + illustrations in order to explain your contribution.

Deadline for abstract submission: Sunday 27th June 2021

Please mention if your contribution fits in the *Explorations* or *Cartographies* track. The editorial committee may assign your contribution to one track or the other.
By Sunday 18th of July 2021, the editorial committee selects contributors to develop their contributions to the conference and to provide an extended abstract. The extended abstract is due for Thursday 23rd of September 2021. Text max 600 words + illustrations following the provided template. The book of abstracts will be made available online (not peer-reviewed).

Conference: Thursday 21st of October 2021

The conference will consist of a series of short presentations (max 10 minutes) followed by a moderated debate with the participants and panel members. These presentations and the debate may be recorded. The modality of the presentation is free, from linear computer presentation to exhibitions. If needed, please contact the organising committee in time to ensure the feasibility. The detailed program and book of abstracts will be communicated one week prior to the conference. The conference will be hosted by CIVA in Brussels (KANAL or Ixelles). Online attendance may be possible, but hybrid sessions will be avoided. [www.civa.brussels](http://www.civa.brussels) – [www.kanal.brussels](http://www.kanal.brussels)

Required registration by email, free of charge. Please mention if on-site attendance is not possible.

Publication

After the conference, the editorial committee will select contributors to develop their extended abstract for the third 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 Sunday 31st of October 2021.
Explorations
Following the template available on www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal
please max 25 pages in pdf format

Cartographies
Dimensions and layout of the main cartographic document are free +
explanative text of about 1000 words.

Please pay attention to the correct referencing of all visual and text
content. For Cartographies, this referencing can be provided in the
main document or as addition to the accompanying text. Take care of
the anonymity of the contributions. Mention names, titles, and
affiliations of the authors in the submission e-mail.

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

Deadline for submissions: Sunday 5th of December 2021

Double-Blind Peer Review

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. Anonymity¹ is strictly maintained and
all information in the paper that identifies the author is removed. The
anonymity of the reviews is also ensured. The reviews investigate the
scientific rigor, the artistic quality, and the clarity of communication
of the contribution. The review also involves an open comment on

¹ 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.

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the contribution. If accepted (no negative review), the author is asked to resubmit the contribution following 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 Sunday 09th of January 2021.

Approved contributions will be finalised by the contributors according to the reviews, before Sunday 13th of February 2022.

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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](http://www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal)
Additionnaly, 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.
Editorial and Organizing committee

Benoît Burquel (AgwA, ULB), Harold Fallon (AgwA, KU Leuven)  
Benoît Vandenbulcke (AgwA, ULiège)

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.

Preliminary (non-exhaustive) composition:

Conference
Ido Avissar (List, EAV&T Paris-Est), Jean-Marc Besse (EHESS), Lisa De Visscher (A+ architecture in Belgium, ULiège), Annelies De Smet (KU Leuven), Rolf Hughes (KU Leuven), Michaël Obrist (feld72, TU Wien)

Publication
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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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