



The journal of *studies in History and Theory of Architecture*, published by the Department of Architectural History & Theory and Heritage Conservation at 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest, Romania, invites international submissions for the 2014 issue

Indigenous Aliens MEDIATORS OF ARCHITECTURAL MODERNITY

The theme of the 2014 sITA volume is related to the inspiring title of the 14th Architecture Biennale in Venice, calling for insights into *Absorbing Modernity: 1914 – 2014*. The curators' assumption is that the last century witnessed a progressive erasure of local and national characteristics, which were replaced by a universal modern language. This obvious observation creates however too crude an image of modernity, which is worth looking into more attentively.

That is why this next sITA volume suggests annotating the reflection stirred by the Biennale, by slightly shifting the viewpoint. We propose to simultaneously restrain and enlarge the perspective, as follows:

1. If we admit that modernity is exclusively a Western concept, it is also possible to distinguish between 'source-areas', that engendered and disseminated modernity, and 'receiver-areas', where the modernising message of the source was cast over different cultural environments, not necessarily prepared to receive it, and sometimes even unwelcoming.

The new sITA volume zeroes in on these *receiver-areas* as places of an acculturation process that may be considered both a dangerous shortcut and a thrilling negotiation, a process in which the magnetism of the 'source' confronted the local *habitus*, eventually fostering new architectural identities. We invite contributors to reflect on this 'transmission' that has since spread throughout the world.

2. Within these receiver-contexts, generally bereft of economic and social support, modernity has been first adopted by the 'elites'. In architecture, individuals or small groups acted as vectors of modernity through interventions that often turned out to be decisive. We embrace the working hypothesis that the farther away the territories were from the source, the more important a role these figures played in modelling the local absorption. One might say that they were 'indigenous aliens' who had a double sense of belonging – intellectually committed to the spirit of the source, while deliberately acting *in and for* their particular context –, translating the modernising message into the local idiom. They are little known abroad, as their importance is more often confined to their national borders, where their role was sometimes obscured by the twists and turns of history. We expect to bring their role into the spotlight.

We invite contributors to investigate the validity of these hypotheses by presenting national or regional seminal personalities or groups (architects, urban planners, schools, professors, theorists, writers, etc.), figures who played such roles in their local contexts by opening specific channels of *absorbing architectural modernity* and building it.

In order to obtain a nuanced picture of the process and the role that such personalities have played, we discourage strictly monographic studies of individual destinies. However, since we acknowledge the undeniable association that links people to specific local/regional expressions of urban or architectural modernity, we anticipate careful contextualization of their work and limited biographical notes.

The timeframe is not limited to the last hundred years. Contributors may feel free to address a more distant past or to focus on certain moments regarded as significant for the local absorption of modernity.

The contributions should follow the guidelines below. A preliminary abstract of 150 – 200 words will be submitted by **April 30th, 2014**. Selected contributors will be notified by e-mail on **May 15th**. The final article should be submitted for reviewing by **July 1st**. Contributions will undergo a double-blind peer review procedure. All correspondence will be addressed to sita@uauim.ro, to the attention of Dr. Arch. Toader Popescu (the managing editor of the current issue).

Guidelines for authors (please see detailed guidelines at sita.uauim.ro)

All papers are to be submitted in English. Research papers should range between 5,000 and 8,000 words, including notes, references and tables. We also expect reviews of current events (conferences, recently published books or journals, exhibitions), which are of interest for the fields of architectural history and theory. Reviews should range between 1,000 and 2,000 words and may be directly submitted by July 1st. Contributors are asked to send a Microsoft Word compatible document, 1.5 spaced, with minimal formatting.

The title page should include the contributor's name, affiliation and e-mail address, 5–7 keywords as well as an abstract of 150–200 words. An extended summary ranging between 700 and 1,000 words (to be published in Romanian) will also be submitted. Romanian authors are kindly asked to send in the extended summary in Romanian; our staff will insure the translation for foreign authors. Reviews will not be accompanied by abstract, summary or keywords.

Notes (presented as footnotes) and references should use the 'notes and bibliography' system provided by The Chicago Manual of Style (for details and examples, see http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

A reference list will be included at the end of the paper. Illustrations (.tiff or .jpg format, min. 300 dpi at printed size), tables and charts are to be provided separately, and their position needs to be indicated throughout the paper. A full list of figure captions must be provided at the end of the article (including figure number, description and source). Authors are responsible for securing the rights to reproduce and publish all graphic material.