

Uses and Disadvantages of Theory for Architecture

I. Videos of the Symposium

Editorial

Wolkenkuckucksheim | Cloud-Cuckoo-Land | Воздушный замок, International Journal of Architectural Theory (W|C|B), celebrated its quartercentennial in a symposium at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg in May 2022. The journal had been developed by theoreticians of architecture, philosophers, psychologists, urban planners and IT-specialists and was launched in 1996 for the Internet, which had just been opened to all at that time. Since then W|C|B has been published as an access-free, double-peer-reviewed journal edited on a volunteer basis. We published 42 issues in 25 years, all texts are still available on www.cloud-cuckoo.de.

The W|C|B editorial board, the advisory board, and the W|C|B editorial offices in Bielefeld and Berlin, Germany, and University Park, USA, curated the symposium. In preparation of the event, Karsten Harries and Bernhard Waldenfels, both speakers at the 1996 W|C|B inauguration conference, were interviewed. The interviews, conducted by Sebastian Feldhusen and Ute Poerschke, reflect on the celebratory event.

The symposium aimed at addressing two juxtapositions, implicitly and explicitly discussed in architectural theory since the advent of modernity: How do everyday life and architecture interact? How do things and spaces correspond?

Gesine Grande, President of the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, Bernhard Weyrauch, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering, and City Planning, and Sylvia Claus, Head of the Institute of Architectural and Art History, opened the symposium with welcoming remarks. They provided a brief retrospect of W|C|B's past twenty-five years, a contextualization within the academic activities of the university, and an overview of the symposium's schedule.

Two keynotes by Eduard Führ and Arno Lederer framed the following lectures and discussions. The sections, introduced by Sonja Hnilica, Jörg H. Gleiter, Sylvia Claus, and Martin Düchs, offered lectures on “Everyday Life and Architecture” (Elke Krasny, Susanne Hofmann, Sandra Meireis, Tim Kammasch) and “Things and Spaces” (Laurent Stalder, Susanne Hauser, Bettina Köhler, Rainer Schützeichel).

The lectures, seventeen in total, are published here as videos. For us, and likely also for many participants, documenting the symposium in video format has become an experiment, because science and theory normally exist in texts, which, however, often lack the liveliness of a speech. The spoken word, in turn, doesn't allow to scroll back and forth in a text, highlight specific thoughts, or annotate a paragraph. If you want to share feedback on this format, please write to info@cloud-cuckoo.net.

The expanded and revised texts of the symposium talks and additional positions corresponding to the symposium theme will be published in written format as the W|C|B issue 44 in late fall 2023.