

# Five Notes on an Architectural History of the Anthropocene

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## Abstract

Architecture is the attempt to make the earth habitable. But the Anthropocene shows that this idea has become obsolete: instead of making the earth habitable, architecture is contributing to its destruction. A new history of architecture is therefore needed that does justice to this—terrifying—fact. As a possible parameter for an initial approach, serves here the generally accepted marker “CO<sub>2</sub> emission”, which brings building typologies that have received little attention to date, such as the power plant or the cement factory, into the focus of architectural history. This new emphasis creates new focal points, as illustrated by the example of the city of Dessau. Gropius’ Bauhaus building would no longer be the city’s central architectural monument, but the Polysius factories located there in the 19th and 20th centuries, where cement kilns were manufactured from 1889 onwards and eventually exported turnkey cement factories all over the world.

A new architectural history that can lay the foundations for a post-anthropocentric architecture should no longer be anthropocentric. For example, consideration should be given to how non-human beings would perceive the world – and how their interests can be taken into account when building the world so that the planet remains habitable for them too.

## Keywords

Anthropocene, Sustainability, Histories of Architecture