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*Monika Isler Binz*

# Just a Matter of Time? Plea for an Architectural History of Change

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## Abstract

In addition to an architectural history focussing mainly on new buildings, an examination of the history and theoretical background of conversion and building conservation is currently developing—not least in view of the calls for a so-called ‘building turnaround’. These efforts are mostly limited to the recording and evaluation of selective interventions by experts made at a specific point in time; other forms of structural transformation, such as those characteristic of adaptive, flexible, mobile or participatory architectural concepts that have been increasingly developed since the late 1950s, are not covered. This article first looks at the reasons for this omission and then uses selected examples to highlight some of these less recognised processes of change and their specific characteristics. By naming relevant criteria in this context, it provides the basis for a broader field of vision and an adapted approach. Finally, it discusses whether and how architectural history should in future adapt to such concepts, which are characterised by constant change.

## Keywords

Architectural History, Conversion, Adaptivity, Flexibility, Participation