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# The Archive and the Field Ethnographic Research in Architectural Theory

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## Abstract

In the twentieth century, architectural theory has shown difficulties to deal with the sphere of knowledge that is occupied, both in method and content, by so-called architectural anthropology. The emergence of architectural anthropology itself can be understood as an outcome of a conceptual omission in architectural theory as it evolved since the 1960s—this is the central thesis of this paper. To support this thesis, I will, in a first step, recall the historiographical self-understanding of architectural theory; in a second step, I will sketch the early field of architectural anthropological research in order to name forms of differentiation of this field. Finally, I will explain what can be described as the today's legacy of architectural anthropology: Beyond its occupation with the material culture of popular architecture, it is a field-research practice through which empirical methods have entered into architectural research.

## Keywords

Architectural Theory, Architectural Anthropology, Fieldwork, Gottfried Semper, Gaudenz Domenig