

# NO SPACE WITHOUT TRAITS

## Using Interdisciplinary Perspectives to Explore Spatial Character

**#perception #interdisciplinarity #identity #visualisation &  
representation #design process  
#cultural context #physical context**

This theme studies the characteristics of current, real-life manifestations of spatial conditions and their scales, drawing from research, fieldwork and practice in the arts and humanities, the sciences and design.

## INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

**Space, from the scale of the room to the scale of the city and beyond, is the currency of architecture, urban design and spatial planning. Yet, both research and practice in these fields work with arguably out-of-date conceptual understandings of space. The prevailing, inherited lexicon is rarely reviewed for completeness, relevance or accuracy in describing the spatial conditions of today. Space also plays a fundamental role in the sciences and humanities, with each field using its own terminology, sometimes similarly unchallenged but often constantly evolving, as in cultural geography and the arts.**

*In order to evolve more a robust and up-to-date lexicon on space for contemporary urban practice, and to improve the general public's ability to recognise the character of places, this theme draws from activities – research, fieldwork, and practice – in the arts and humanities, the sciences and design, to study the characteristics of current, real-life manifestations of spatial conditions and their scales. What do the spatial conditions of today reveal about the experience and functional scales of space? By learning from the arts, can a discourse on perception be generated, linking space to its political and social dimensions? Could the concepts evolved in cultural geography discourse stimulate new types of visualisations capable of depicting the fluid, rather than static, nature of present-day space? Can the enquiry methodologies of design be combined with those from the sciences and humanities to reveal characteristics of contemporary spatial experience?*

## ANCB FORMATS

### **Public Debates**

Key figures from a range of disciplines take on questions within the framework of the theme. Short and provocative presentations jumpstart the discussion between peers, involving a public audience.

### **Symposia and Workshops**

Thematic focal points are brought together and reflected upon in a symposium. Defined questions are then drawn out as a basis for closed and intensive professional workshops.

### **Design Studios**

University tutors and their students explore an aspect of the theme through case study sites. The studios are enriched with tailored lectures and urban tours.

### **Publications and Archive**

All outcomes are collated by theme in the ANCB archive and in project publications.

## NEXT EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Symposium: **Extrovert Interior: Publicness and the Contemporary Museum** with KTH Royal Institute of Technology **26 January 2019**

### **2018 - 2021**

Collaborative Reserach. **Knowledge Spaces. Reaching out – Sharing – Understanding: Spatial Expansion of Education and Culture**

## COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PAST EVENTS

### 2018

Public Debate: **Drawing on Sketchbooks**

Exhibition Talk: **Speaking Through Sketchbooks**

Public Debate: **Premio Berlino Fellowship 2017-2018** with the Italian Cultural Institute

### 2017

Film Screening: **La Cupola** from Dante Bini

Symposium: **Australia now Germany 2017. MUSEUM AS ACTIVATOR: Strategies for Public Space and Access**

Conversation: **Space On Demand** with **Elizabeth Diller**, Director, Diller Scofidio + Renfro and **Chris Dercon**, Director, Volksbühne Berlin

Dialogue: **Hand-drawn Future. Architectural Drawing in the Digital Age**

Symposium: **Constructing Culture. Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District**

Exhibition Talk: **Design Cultures. Urban Research and Design Methods in Europe and Asia**

Conference.: **"ColourID" – Farbstrategien in Architektur und Kommunikation**

### 2016

Exhibition: **Architecture of Embodiment: an aesthetic research dispositive**

Symposium at the Venice Architecture Biennale: **Museums and Cultural Spaces as Motor of Urban and Social Progress** in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Moscow. Part of the ANCB Collaborative Research **The Museum of the 21st Century. Content - Form -Image**

Exhibition Talk: **Zai Xing Tu-Mu. Sixteen Chinese Museums Fifteen Chinese Architects**, with Zumtobel, Dornbirn. Part of the ANCB Collaborative Research **The Museum of the 21st Century. Content - Form - Image**

Symposium: **Museum Revisited**, with Claudia Perren, Bauhaus Dessau. Part of the ANCB Collaborative Research **The Museum of the 21st Century. Content - Form -Image**

### 2015

Dialogue: **Daniel Libeskind and Tim Renner talk about Berlin**

Podium Discussion: **Jenseits der Architekturpornographie. Über die Möglichkeiten und Grenzen des Auditiven in Zeitschriften und Wettbewerben der Architektur**

### 2014

Public Debate: **homecomings, etc. - Return and Delineation in Artistic Practice**

Public Debate: **Dancing about Architecture. On the Critical Reflection of Body, Sound and Space in the City**

Symposium: **Perception in Architecture. Here and Now**

Public Debate: **Silence as Everyman's Right**

Symposium: **Architectural Display - Aktuelle Positionen zur Architekturausstellung**

Series: **In-Between. Spatial Discourse in Visual Culture. On Cultivating Spatial Incertitudes in the City (2014 -2015)**

### 2013

Public Debate: **On Contemporary Polish Architecture**

Collaborative Research: **Region as City: The Spatial Interdependencies Beyond the City**

### 2012

Book Presentation and Podium Discussion: **Sketch, Script, Score. Figures of Architectural Thinking**

Reading: **Blickwechsel. Begleitend zur Ausstellung „agps clues“ im Aedes Architekturforum. Architektur und Literatur**

Dialogue: **Thomas Sieverts and Lars Lerup: Lacunas - The Middle Landscape. A dialogue moderated by Wolfgang Schäffner and Gunnar Hartmann**

### 2011

Dialogue: **Koolhaas - Sloterdijk. An architectural-philosophical dialogue moderated by Stephan Trüby**

Book Presentation: **„Amster“ by Juan Guillermo Tejada and Berlin Waterfronts 2011 Workshop Results**

Lectures: **City and Region: Learning from Berlin, Melbourne and Limerick**

**2010**

Podium Discussion: **The Third Degree: Migration and Space Manifesta 8 - New Topologies and Journeys Between Southern Europe and the Maghreb Region. With Bassam el Baroni and Jeremy Beaudry**

## **ABOUT ANCB**

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory is a unique cultural and educational platform focusing on the future of our cities. Building upon three decades of expertise in the communication of architecture culture - through exhibiting and publishing the work of internationally acclaimed and pioneering architects and urban planners - Aedes Architecture Forum established, in 2009, an additional urban research and workshop programme - ANCB.

It is from these foundations that ANCB positions itself as the hub at the centre of an extensive international and interdisciplinary research network, based on a structure of cultural exchange and knowledge transfer. ANCB is uniquely placed to bring together key figures from different fields to debate the most pertinent urban questions of international concern and to search for new potential to improve global urban living conditions. Through interdisciplinary idea exchanges and workshops with international university partners, ANCB brings together social, cultural and technical research with governance processes, industry products and the proposals of the urban design and planning professions, generating the cross-sector collaborations necessary to offer innovative insights, positions and visions.

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