

Call for papers  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Architecture of Southeast Asian  
Cities:

*how do architectural and urban expressions of  
modernity relate to heritage?*

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**ENSAPB 60, Boulevard de la Villette, 75019 Paris - June 12-14, 2013**

## **Deadline for submitting abstracts: September 30, 2012**

The conference is organised by the *Contemporary Asian Architecture and Cities: Heritage and Projects* research group, based in Paris. This group consists of departments from IPRAUS, ACS and OCS, and is hosted by the UMR AUSser n°3329 research unit. The conference will take place June 12-14 2013 at the National Superior Architecture School of Paris-Belleville (ENSAPB), where IPRAUS is located.

The conference will deal with recent physical transformations and developments of Southeast Asian cities. This broadly defined geographical area is characterised in part by the diversity of its human settlements, which historically have experienced intense cultural exchanges with each other and with other cultures from beyond Southeast Asia.

These historic interactions have led to the creation of distinctive spatial cultures. Today, Southeast Asian cities are experiencing both rapid urban transformations and increased globalizing influences, which are reflected in the changing nature of the agents, models and tools of urban development. In analyzing these trends, the conference will question the influence of inherited spatial cultures in the shaping of recent projects.

Contemporary debates in urban studies often centre around the idea of a uniform kind of globalizing urbanization which is spreading worldwide. The conference will examine this idea as a hypothesis in light of the history of each city, the persistence of ancient urban morphologies, and heritage policies promoted by various Southeast Asian nations.

The conference is organized around five thematic panels (see more detailed descriptions below), where paper presenters will reflect upon how agents responsible for physical changes, and the operational tools employed in urban development interact in the designing and implementing of architectural and urban projects. They will retrace the circulation of models and their reception by different kinds of agents -- particularly by the inhabitants - who appropriate, transform or contest urban projects imposed "from above".

Papers will also deal with questions such as: Do projects embody a particular vision and expression of architectural and urban modernity and, if so, how? Are these expressions of modernity specific to Southeast Asian cities because they are the results of the encounters between exogenous inputs and locally based cultures? In addressing these and other questions, the papers will analyze the originality of recent projects and spatial solutions in Southeast Asian cities.

The papers will not only focus on architectural and urban creation, but also on projects which aim to conserve and/or enhance inherited urban forms and spaces. In the same way that the design of new projects is likely to be influenced both by international and local models, distinct representations of heritage which inform conservation projects often draw upon external cultural backgrounds while making reference to specific local cultures.

The conference will deliberately focus on Southeast Asian countries, primarily because since the 1970s our research group has mainly conducted research within these countries. Furthermore, recently, analytical backgrounds and operational tools involved in urban development easily circulate among the countries comprising ASEAN, where transnational exchanges are becoming increasingly frequent. The conference will explore the perimeters, parameters and networks associated with these exchanges, which sometimes extend beyond the limits of Southeast Asia, to include China, India, Japan and other nation states. The conference will also

question the role of regionalisation - which has mainly been studied from the historical, geographical and political point of view<sup>1</sup> - in shaping contemporary Southeast Asian cities.

One key objective of the conference is to amalgamate both French and non-French research focusing on contemporary Southeast Asian cities, and to foster interdisciplinary approaches in urban studies which cohere some of the most critical concepts, tools and the methods of architectural and urban analysis with those that are typical of social scientific research. The conference organizers will select some of the best papers from the conference to be edited and included in a book that will be published afterwards.

Papers in both French and English are welcomed. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words and each paper's content should be encapsulated by 1 to 3 key words. Authors should indicate in which panel they would like to speak and they should include a short biography indicating their main publications.

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<sup>1</sup> A number of research programs and publications have dealt with the processes of regionalisation. For example, the program "Transiter. Transnational Dynamics and Territory-making: a Comparative Approach between Central America and South-East Asia (<http://transiter.univ-paris-diderot.fr/>), and the series of edited volumes entitled "The International Political Economy of New Regionalism Series" edited by Timothy M. Shaw for Ashgate.

**SCHEDULE:**

DEADLINE for submitting abstracts: September 30, 2012.

The scientific committee will announce which abstracts have been accepted no later than October 31, 2012.

Authors will send a draft of their full paper (not exceeding 8,000 words, including spaces) no later than April 30, 2013.

Papers can be written in either French or English.

Please, note that registration for the conference is FREE, but that the organizers will not be able to provide any financial support for participants.

For any further information and for submitting your proposal, please contact the conference coordinator:

Dr. Adèle Esposito  
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Website :  
<http://reseaumap.hypotheses.org>

**The conference is organised by:** *Unité mixte de recherche* UMR AUSser n° 3329 (CNRS-MCC)  
*Architecture, Urbanistique, Société : Savoirs, Enseignement, Recherche*  
<http://www.umrausser.cnrs.fr>

The UMR gathers the research groups hosted by three departments:

- *Architecture, Culture, Société XIX<sup>e</sup>-XXI<sup>e</sup> s.* (ACS, ENSA Paris-Malaquais) ;
- *Institut Parisien de Recherche - Architecture Urbanistique Société* (IPRAUS, ENSA Paris-Belleville) ;
- *Observatoire de la Condition Suburbaine* (OCS, ENSA de la ville & des territoires à Marne-la-Vallée).

**Scientific committee :** Jean ATTALI (ACS, UMR AUSser n°3329) ; Emmanuel CERISE (Institut des Métiers de la Ville, Hanoi) ; Pierre CLEMENT (IPRAUS, UMR AUSser n°3329) ; Jeff CODY (Getty Conservation Institute, Los Angeles) ; Adèle ESPOSITO (IPRAUS, UMR AUSser n°3329) ; Manuelle FRANCK (Institut National de Langues et Civilisations Orientales, INALCO) ; Charles GOLDBLUM (IPRAUS, UMR AUSser n°3329) ; Michael HERZFELD (Harvard University, USA) ; Victor T. KING (University of Leeds, UK) ; Nathalie LANCRET (IPRAUS, directrice de l'UMR AUSser n°3329) ; Christian PEDELAHORE DE LODDIS (IPRAUS, UMR AUSser n°3329) ; Philippe PEYCAM (International Institute of Asian Studies, IIAS, Leiden) ; Karine PEYRONNIE (IRD) ; Christian TAILLARD (CASE ; CNRS-EHESS) ; Corinne TIRY-ONO (ACS, UMR AUSser n°3329).

**The conference is organised in partnership with:**

- UKNA, Urban Knowledge Network Asia, funded by the European Union and piloted by the International Institute of Asian Studies. ENSAPB is involved in the program.  
<http://ukna.asia/>
- The network *Métropoles d'Asie Pacifique* funded by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, which has been coordinated by IPRAUS since 1999.

## PANEL n° 1

### **The circulation of spatial cultures: criss-crossed receptions and cultural-mix process**

*Coordinated by: Nathalie Lancret and Corinne Tiry-Ono*

Today in Southeast Asia, the architectural and urban fields are experiencing diversified renewal processes. This panel aims to analyse new situations and resulting changes introduced by architectural and urban projects. The panel will ask the question: do projects shape original expressions of modernity which, simultaneously, relate to local contexts?

The panel will mainly focus on the analysis of projects and the degree to which they provide a full account of the negotiations and the individual decisions through which professionals or inhabitants shape space. The proposals will focus on the spatial cultures which give form to projects. They will investigate the circulation of these cultures, the phenomena of criss-crossed reception, the cultural-mix processes and the introduction of innovative elements, all of which have implications on spatial transformations.

We assume that four categories of objects play a part in shaping built forms: people, urban and architectural types, media and buildings<sup>2</sup>. By focusing on their circulation through different geographic contexts, the proposals will both question their roles and analyze the connections of objects belonging to different categories.

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<sup>2</sup> We make reference to the categorisation established by the anthropologist Michael Guggenheim and the geographer Olda Söderström in the introduction of *Re-shaping Cities. How global mobility transforms architecture and urban forms* (London & New York, Routledge, 2010).

First, **the circulation of people**, especially professionals in the architectural and urban fields, engenders a complex set of dynamics. We can organize those dynamics in three main steps, which may have variable durations:

- the transmission of knowledge and experiences;
- their contact with other cultures and contexts, then locally-based phenomena of reception and dissemination; and
- the transformations of urban forms and inherited architectural and urban practices.

Conversely, agents working in Asia sometimes face unknown contexts and have to adapt their conceptions, models and practices to specific historical, political, economical, technical and legislative situations.

In the first case, we make reference to chosen or sustained travels (e.g., linked to education or academia) and migrations of variable duration. In the second case, the most relevant examples are cooperation agreements, international competitions, and architectural and urban commissions which bring foreign agents to Southeast Asian cities. In both cases, how do displacements of people contribute to the shaping of cities? What are the limits of absorption and dissemination within particular contexts?

Secondly, **the circulation of architectural and urban types** at the global scale, whatever vector has mobilised them, subverts the relations between built forms and social practices. On the one hand, new practices, influenced by the "new" lifestyles disseminated by globalisation, transform inherited (sometimes ancient) local types. These transformations spread over different steps or situations, from

integration to resistance. On the other hand, it is necessary to take into account - when supposed "global" architectural/urban types are imported (e.g., the tower, the shopping mall, the theme park, multimodal transportation nodes, etc.) -- the structural or cyclical conditions, the rooted local practices and inherited environments that remain after the importation occurs.

Do new architectural and urban types emerge from these confrontations? Do new forms come from cultural melting pot or hybridisation processes? Do they renew urban realities and functions?

Thirdly, **the circulation of texts and images** - through architectural journals, international competitions, universal exhibitions and international architecture exhibitions - is favoured and speeded up by the Internet. Ideas, concepts, forms, and icons circulate more and more rapidly and easily. Media network information weaken the traditional connections between the centre and the periphery at the regional, national and international scales. Do they standardise the architectural and urban vocabulary (forms, materials, symbolic values and tools)? Or, on the contrary, do they play an active or even innovative role in the design and renewal of the projects?

Finally, some ephemeral types of buildings circulate in particular contexts. Several forms of mobile architecture, such as temporary housing built in times of emergency, exhibition halls, shelters, tents, caravans, and mobile homes are models that circulate either at the scale of a single territory or from one region to another. Do these forms have an impact on local construction practices? Do architects (who might be specialists in emergency situations) as well as local agents integrate elements of "traditional" forms and techniques in these types of projects? Conversely, do agents having a different culture appropriate these thrifty, sometimes ecological building types?

“Displaced” architecture - famous buildings, works of art, “museumified” monuments saved from destruction or probable disappearance - is another form of direct and physical circulation. Do, for example, “open-air museums” or other hosting places *in situ*, encourage the dissemination of exogenous models? Are they involved in heritage transmission or education?

The proposals will consider one or several spatial scales (the building, the neighbourhood, the city, urbanised areas..), or will study new scalar dynamics created by these circuits.



They will consider three paths of cultural exchange: regional circulations at the Asian scale, from the Asian continent towards Southeast Asia, or circulations inside one singular Southeast Asian country (e.g., from the capital to the provincial towns).

Hilton Hotel, Osaka © Corinne Tiry-Ono

## PANEL n° 2

**Build the Southeast Asian city at the time of internationalization. Cultures of projects, urban ideals and other ingredients of urban reshaping in Southeast Asia**

*Coordinated by: Charles Goldblum*

In the last few decades, Southeast Asian cities have experienced rapid urban development which has dramatically changed their forms, scales and social compositions. Beyond these radical transformations, these cities are still marked, as cultural and social facts, by their diversity, which is one crucial peculiarity of the region.

However, against this background, urban development strategies and the processes of projects' implementation operate in these cities. These projects are often large-scale (mega-projects which activate mega-urbanisation); they are frequently driven by economic rationale and shared professional cultures (conveyed by the same categories of agents, sometimes by the same people, e.g. promoters, international experts, architects, urban planner, engineers, tour operators, etc.). Through their mutual connections, these powerful movements draw on common sources, extend beyond the ASEAN's geographical and political framework and are echoed in both East Asia and South Asia.

This interplay based on exchanges is crossed by hierarchical networks (e.g., international urban cooperation and international donors). In this context, the long distance circuits which exert an influence over urban shaping, such as the dissemination of concepts and techniques, knowledge and know-how of the international cooperation collide with (and not without interference) the short distance circuits which convey models of consumption and images through various

media, including the internet. These dynamics deeply impact urban practices, and especially idealised housing types.

The topic of the panel is situated within the field of comparative urban planning cultures. It will examine new urban shapes established at different scales of metropolitan territories, analyzing the specific conditions in which these shapes emerge in the cities ("grafts", "plating", but also de-foundation, expropriation, elimination or exclusion of certain forms), and relating them to pre-existing urban realities, the phases and the contexts which have preceded urban development.

The papers will cross three introductions to the subject, depending on the cities of reference, the project rationale and the types of strategies: the new architectural and urban forms; the territorial shapes in which these forms are located, or that they contribute to shape; and the agents, organisations and institutions (public, private and others; local, national, regional or international) who act as prescribers, convey forms, influence agents and regulatory agencies.

This panel will address the question of urban models and their assumed standardisation via the detour of techniques, agents and conceptions which play a part in "regular" or normative urban development. It will not neglect eventual confrontations, "spill-over" or combinatorial associations with other circuits of urban development. With regard to this issue, the understanding of real estate mechanisms underlying the new spatial configurations will elucidate the modalities of urban de-foundation / re-foundation in the contemporary metropolis. It will enlighten the system effects engendered by these processes and the deviation from regulations (supposed or imposed) to which these processes expose themselves.

### PANEL n° 3

#### **Heritage and tourist cities, the challenges of safeguard and development** *Coordinated by: Jeff Cody and Adèle Esposito*

In Southeast Asian cities, intense and rapid processes of urban development often coexist with the emergence of heritage awareness. Institutional agents recognise the heritage values of archaeological remains, inherited buildings and urban areas. They shape cultural policies which are involved in the construction of national identities. These policies influence the design of conservation projects and have indirect effects in the territories surrounding the heritage objects and sites: tourism development sometimes engenders spatial transformations and urban development, and either urban or territorial management follows from these spatial transformations.

The papers in this panel will focus on the conception, implementation and reception of policies, planning and projects which aim to safeguard architectural and urban forms in Southeast Asian cities.

They will analyze the role of multiple stakeholders in the design and the implementation of instruments of planning (e.g., politicians, public officers, experts, etc.). They will also examine the forms of resistance exerted by other categories of stakeholders - such as inhabitants and real estate promoters - who contest dominant heritage meanings, regimes of ownership imposed from the top or the implementation of plans and projects, while they propose alternative visions of heritage.

The papers will question the cultural backgrounds associated with plans and projects for heritage conservation, as well as the control of urbanization for the

safeguarding of heritage: heritage representations, tourist images, analytical frameworks (heritage concepts and theories) and operational principles. Lessons from heritage conservation projects are often shared at the international scale, as they are disseminated by UNESCO, ICOMOS and other international organizations. The papers will question the appropriation and the application of these projects and plans in particular contexts where they interact with local societies.

In this framework, a particular attention will be given to UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The papers will explore the challenges associated with overlapping legitimacies in the field of heritage and territorial management, which are sometimes validated by international recognition.

They will analyse the social and spatial transformations of "historic" cities. They will scrutinize the effects of heritage policies. They will also question the role of tourism in these processes and evaluate relevant management proposals and examine spatial configurations created either by inhabitants and/or real estate promoters who benefit from tourism development. Authors will investigate new urban forms and spaces created by projects situated at the margins of heritage sites.

## PANEL n° 4

**Resiliency / Resistance: the city is built, appropriated and defended by its inhabitants**

*Coordinated by: Emmanuel Cerise and Michael Herzfeld*

Is it necessary to remember that the city is made of its inhabitants? The city is often designed and conceived by professionals, politicians, urban planners and architects, but it is also practiced, transformed, adapted and sometimes defended by its inhabitants. If urban residents do not conceive the foundation of the city, they still have the power to build it.

Inhabitants are involved in urban shaping in different ways.

In Western countries, their participation is often limited to political or residential choices. Through the vote, some urban concepts emerge and are employed in policy-making, which sometimes engender short term or long term impacts on the urban reality. Through the residential choice, inhabitants exert an influence on the housing sector. They choose among a relatively narrow range of housing solutions (collective housing, pavilions and intermediary residences...). The relation between the demand and the offer is ambiguous: the demand engenders the offer or conversely.

In Asia, the inhabitants act in several different, sometimes singular or unusual ways, depending on their relation to the power. "Local democracy", the *laissez-faire* admitted by the authorities, or, conversely, policies based on incentives determine the role played by the inhabitants and sometimes encourage their active participation in the urbanisation processes.

The residents are agents in the housing field: they transform, adapt and appropriate their dwellings according to their exigencies. In so doing, they counterbalance inadequate projects which have been conceived in an authoritarian way and without public participation.

The frequency of this kind of transformations show that there is a gap between projects, as they are imagined and realised by architects and decision makers, and realities of daily urban life which are often neglected by experts and politicians (national or local authorities).

Inhabitants also convey the sense of urbanity in some areas of the city, especially in new neighbourhoods which, in Asia, are often planned, designed and built in a short time, to the detriment of the quality of public spaces and architectures. Inhabitants are able to rapidly appropriate these places and bring civilisation and sociability. This is the case of the new settlements created for the relocation of evicted people which maintain their social cohesion and neighbourhood relations despite the displacement.

The resistance to urban projects (public or private) exerted by inhabitants expresses a power which should not be neglected by decision makers. In Vietnam, some projects have been deeply transformed, sometimes abandoned because the power of residents' association (village-based communities, neighbourhood associations...) were minimised. However, this resistance has some limits and can also produce negative effects. Abusive behaviours sometimes occur when the authorities do not set up a clear framework for compensation and relocation. In Hanoi, a number of makeshift constructions (dwellings and/or commercial activities) appear on future public yards. These buildings are built with the aim of negotiating a financial compensation for their inevitable relocation.

In Asia, the role of inhabitants in shaping the city is complex and ambivalent. When it is neglected, the projects' designers are isolated from the inhabitants, and the consequences are negative both in the social and in the spatial field.

## PANEL n° 5

**The city designed at the territorial scale in order to manage its environment: a new field of inquiry and experimentation**

*Coordinated by: Pierre Clément*

Everywhere in the world, because of rapid urbanisation and extension outside of their ramparts and historical frameworks, cities have recently colonised larger territories. This form of colonisation has taken different shapes: urban sprawl and densification of peripheral areas; suburbanisation, which has absorbed villages and created new neighbourhoods; and voluntarist policies, which have tried to manage urban extensions through the creation of satellite towns located a few kilometres away from the main city.

Because of these kinds of urban territorial expansions, architects and urban planners have to face new challenges associated with energy-related crises, the will of responsibly using natural resources (e.g., space, water and materials), climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Urban creations, which until recently had been confined to the field of empiricism and imagination, now require both scientific knowledge and traditional expertise.

The main question posed by this panel is located at the intersection of two methods: traditions which have been adapted to specific local conditions, and the experimentations of new practices which involve other disciplines.

Although the conference will focus on the territory covered by ASEAN, the panel will also accept comparisons between projects situated in Southeast Asia with others located in neighbouring Asian countries such as India, China, Korea and

Japan. This is because we cannot ignore the influences of the projects realised in countries situated beyond ASEAN on the historical and contemporary transformations of Southeast Asian cities.

The papers will analyze the conditions and conceptions under which projects emerge; new spatial scales considered by them and their consequences on urban transformations; the instruments of management situated at the interface of these scales; and the influence of cultural specificities, local models, innovative knowledge and indigenous know-how.