

**Architecture Anthology I:  
Architectural and Urban History  
and Historiography**

**Edited by**

**Arthur Chen  
Stavros Alifragkis**

Athens Institute for Education & Research (ATINER)  
2015



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# Preface

*Stavros Alifragkis and Nicholas Patricios*

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The papers contained in the series *Architecture Anthology I* are selected from those presented at the Conferences in Architecture, Urban Studies & Planning, Construction and Civil Engineering organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) held in Athens. The chosen papers have been divided into categories and published in five separate volumes: 1 - Architectural & Urban History & Historiography; 2 - Architectural and Urban Theory; 3 - Architectural Construction, Materials & Building Technologies; 4 - Architectural Education, Research & Practice; and 5 - Sustainable Design. Further series will be published from papers presented at future ATINER Architecture Conferences. The selected papers are those that have been peer reviewed and approved for publication by referees, editors of each volume, and the general editors. It is hoped that the series will be both of interest and of value to academics, scholars, researchers, and practitioners.

The work of the referees and editors is much appreciated for without their volunteer efforts and time expended on reviewing papers and the re-writes by authors the *Architecture Anthology I* series would not be possible. Sincere thank you to the editors of Volume 1: Arthur Chen & Stavros Alifragkis; Volume 2: Nicholas Patricios; Volume 3: Jamal Khatib; Volume 4: Judith Urbano; and Volume 5: Fatih Rifki.

Thank you also to the referees for Volume 1: Stylianos Giamarellos, Mark Breeze, Simone Shu-Yeng Chung; Volume 2: Bahga Surinder, Amanjeet Kaur, Aarti Grover, Pankaj Chhabra; Volume 3: Marta Molina Huelva, Hugo Rodrigues, Elisabetta Carattin, Ksenia Piatkowska, Antonella Violano; Volume 4: Sergiu Petrea; Volume 5: Adrian Moleavin, Nirmita Mehrotra, Elham Madadi Kandjani, Christian Kersten Hofbauer.

The process of producing the volumes could not have been undertaken without the valuable assistance of Olga Gkounta, Research Assistant at ATINER.

## **General Editors**

Stavros Alifragkis

Nicholas Patricios



# **Architectural and Urban History and Historiography: An Introduction**

*Arthur Chen and Stavros Alifragkis*

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The first volume of the *Architecture Anthology I* series entitled Architectural & Urban History & Historiography comprises an edited selection of papers presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference on Architecture, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference on Urban Studies and Planning and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Visual and Performing Arts held in Athens in June 2013. The nine very well researched papers included in this edited volume correspond to potent and extremely current studies in the fields of history and historiography of architecture and the city. The breadth and wealth of subject-matters and methodological approaches represented in this volume –despite the occasional and momentary overlaps and intersections–testify to the unfailing interest in the academic community for the meticulous reworking and the continuous sharpening of the research tools employed in the writing of contemporary architectural and urban histories.

Current methodological trends in the history of architecture and the urban form signal the gradual but nevertheless definite abandonment of the construction of general historical narratives to the benefit of micro-historical accounts. These developments acknowledge the multiplicity, the simultaneity, the complexity and the fluidity of contemporary stories about the city and its architecture as integral elements in our quest for critical reconstructions of the past. The papers in this edited volume participate in the on-going discussion and exchange of ideas and approaches with nine penetrating analyses in the form of rigorous and focused case study researches. The inspiring contributions to this edited book are grouped into two major categories –architectural histories and urban histories– that indicate a shift of focus from the intricacies of the individual building or set of buildings to the complexity of the phenomenon of urban development.

Part I of this edited collection of papers refers to the critical reappraisal of the material evidence of the recent or distant architectural past. Gevork Hartoonian in ‘Tectonic Modalities in Baroque Architecture: An Alternative Historiography’ opens this section with an exceptional exploration of the historiography of the Baroque. Hartoonian’s novel reading of the architecture of the Baroque utilizes Gottfried Semper’s theory of tectonics as a starting point and the relevant writings of art historians Heinrich Wölfflin and Alois Riegl as intermediate stepping stones in order to bridge the historicity of the 1930s with the culture and principles of the age of Humanism. Eduardo Fernandes in ‘The Cognitive Methodology of the Porto School: Foundation and Evolution to the Present Day’ provides a comprehensive, well-defined and analytical account of the School of Porto, its genealogy and its legacy. Fernandes’s insightful account of the Porto School traces its various phases of development as the school evolved through time, from the 1940s and the

publication of Fernando Távora's *O Problema da Casa Portuguesa* to the critical regionalism of the 1980s and, eventually, the Portuguese architecture today. Catarina Gomes Sampaio in 'Alvar Aalto and Álvaro Siza: The Link between Architecture and Nature in the Construction of Place' produces a compelling interpretation of the works of Alvar Aalto and Álvaro Siza by introducing their attitude toward nature and the landscape as the common denominator of her analyses. Sampaio researches in considerable depth the various analogies that Aalto and Siza draw between the processes of conceptualization and design and the formative processes in nature. Bengi Su Ertürkmen in 'The Architectural Analysis of Tabernacle, Temples I and II' provides us with a detailed study of the origins of Temples I and II, whose unique typology can be traced back to the Egyptian temples and the Tabernacle. Ertürkmen draws widely from her close reading of the Torah and the Talmud, which provide valuable and unique information on the Temples. Finally, Carlos Machado in 'Álvaro Siza and the Fragmented City' discusses in depth Siza's work in relation to the artificially constructed ruin and the ruinous monument. Machado's thorough investigation of the way Siza appreciated architecture and urbanism as complementary and closely interrelated phenomena functions as an excellent transition between part I and part II of this volume.

Part II of this edited book tackles aspects of urban growth and development in its various manifestations around the world. Jan Fugl in 'The Future of a Metropolis - Planning 100 Years Ahead? Were the Predictions and Considerations of Constantinos Apostolou Doxiadis about the Future of Copenhagen only Academic?' carefully examines Doxiadis's 1963 proposal for the future development of Copenhagen by taking into balanced consideration the intentions of the urban planner, the realities of the city and the criticism that these 'few abstract considerations' received. Furthermore, Fugl critically reconsiders Doxiadis's 'Science of Ekistics' and 'Delos Declaration' in the context of contemporary city planning. Riitta Niskanen in 'How to Save the Memory – The Case of the Round Tower in Vyborg' addresses aspects of uniqueness and originality in this well-research case study of the famous round cannon tower in Vyborg –the second biggest town in Finland– and the prospect of its duplication at the city of Lahti. Niskanen looks into the history of the tower and its various transformations over the centuries. Mahalaya Chatterjee in 'Urbanization Trends and Urban Planning in West Bengal, India' studies the trends, processes and patterns of urbanization over a period of sixty years for the state of West Bengal. Chatterjee's comprehensive account contributes greatly to the mapping of the politics and the strategies of urbanization in India. Finally, Inès Hassen in 'British and French Urban Policies: Two Different Approaches, 1980-2008' draws our attention to the changing mentalities of the 1980s –namely neoliberalism and globalization– with regard to urban policies for medium-sized cities in the UK and France. Hassen focuses her innovative research on Leicester in Britain and Reims in France and observes how differently local authorities and local communities respond to global challenges.

The first volume of the *Architecture Anthology I* series by ATINER was made possible through the strong commitment of our authors, to whose generous exertions we are highly indebted. Furthermore, the editors would like to thank our referees Dr Simone Shu-Yeng Chung, Mark Breeze and Stylianos Giamarelos for their invaluable aid in the process of reviewing the papers included in this volume. Finally, ATINER administrator Olga Gkounta's undiminished enthusiasm and hard work in the background has contributed greatly to the successful completion of this publication. We hope that the final result –the edited book on Architectural & Urban History & Historiography– is worthy of their efforts.

Minneapolis and Athens, May 2015