

ETH Zürich  
D-ARCH Departement Architektur  
Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der Architektur gta

International Conference  
Organizer: gta Exhibitions  
Date : Friday the 1. December 2017  
Location : ETH Zurich, Hönggerberg, HIL E 67 ( Rote Hölle)

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**L'architecture du livre d'architecture**  
**The Architecture of the Architecture Book**

**Conference**

**Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian, Paris, 21–22 November 2017**  
**Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta), ETH Zurich, Hönggerberg, 1 December 2017**  
**Co-organized by André Tavares, ETH Zürich, and the Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian, Délégation en France**

How can we build a book? This two-stage event is designed to explore the different hypotheses that may emerge from architectural reasoning. While architecture has its own specific methodologies and its own precise results, its communication and coverage in the media can build meanings that go far beyond the merely physical nature of construction. And, although ideas are immaterial, they can always be expressed in physical forms, being shaped through drawings, photographs and manuscripts. Books have the capacity to bring together and reassemble multiple media in the form of a new physical object, based on a transition that is reminiscent of the passage from the ethereal world of ideas to the immovable nature of buildings. The relationship between architecture and its books thus becomes tautological and hard to grasp. What is the architecture of the architecture book? New hypotheses arise when the book and architecture are afforded alternative supports, such as film, photography, spoken discourse or the multiple written records often stored in archives. It is by bringing together and comparing the transitions and transcriptions taking place between these multiple supports that we will eventually be able to assess the origins of the magnetic appeal of certain books.

**Tuesday, 21 November**

Paris, Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian

14:00 Welcome

14:15—14:30 Opening session : Miguel Magalhães / André Tavares

**Panel 1: Books as Tools**

**Chair: Laurent Stalder**

14:30—15:00 Andreas Kalpakci : When books become action: CIAM 1928-1961

15:00—15:30 Veronique Patteeuw : Architects without architecture, Paris 1958-1974

Books can be produced for a specific purpose. They are tools for action and for thought. This first section addresses the uses that require books to have a specific material shape, and assesses how, in turn, this affects the initial ideas underlying their creation.

**Panel 2: Handling Digital Materials**

**Chair: Filipa Medeiros**

15:30—16:00 Christoph Schifferli : Collecting Physical Objects in a Digital World

16:00—16:30 Aurélien Bernard & Karine Bomel : Bibliothèque Kandinsky

Books are material objects. This panel will address the nature of different digital archives and libraries, as well as the singularity of architectural content and architectural collections. Its material side has a counterpart in the ever-increasing digital access to content and the new functions of libraries. It will also examine the idea of the collection as a social space.

16:30—17:00 Coffee Break

### **Panel 3: From the Room to the Bookshelf**

**Chair: Ana Barata**

17:00—17:30 Paulo Pires do Vale : Exhibiting the Book?The Book as Exhibition

17:30—18:00 Irina Davidovici : The Size of Tendenza: Between Space, Panel and Page

Exhibitions are often followed by books. The specific formats of these two forms of presentation involve different arrangements of materials, each with their own advantages and disadvantages. This session examines two examples of how exhibitions have developed into books and how books have evolved from exhibitions into different contexts and channels of communication.

### **Book presentation**

18:00—18:30 André Tavares : The Anatomy of the Architectural Book ([Show more](#))

18:30 Aperitif

## **Wednesday, 22 November**

Paris, Fondation Calouste Gulbenkian

### **Workshop: Rebuilding Books**

9:30—12:30 : André Tavares + José Albergaria & Rik Bas Backer (Change is good)

12:30—14:00 Lunch-Break

The workshop will consist in the deconstruction of a selection of architectural books from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, followed by their reconstruction with a different scenario.

### **Film session: S,M,L,XL**

14:00—15:00 Rem Koolhaas, S,M,L,XL, AA Lectures, Wednesday 29 November 1995, 78 min (clipped version 40 min)

### **Panel 4: Procuring the Book I**

**Chair: Pierre Chabard**

15:00—15:30 Ludovic Balland : Typography Cabinet

15:30—16:00 Nikola Jankovic : B2 : un vol habité et furtif, dans le temps et dans l'espace

The making of books involves multi-layered systems of meanings and contexts, for authors, publishers, readers and teachers.

Why and how do architects write and how does such writing acquires a published dynamic.

16:00—16:30 Coffee Break

### **Keynote 1 : Using Books**

16.30—17:15 : Catherine de Smet : Le livre, Le musée, Le Corbusier

## **Friday, 1 December 2017**

**ETH Zurich, HIL E 67 (Rote Hölle)**

09:30 Welcome & Coffee

09:45—10:00 Introduction: André Tavares

**Panel 5: Publishing Frameworks****Chair: Maarten Delbeke**

10:00—10:30 Hans Oldewarris : Kosmos Publishers 1923-1960

10:30—11:00 Anne Hultzsich : John Loudon 1830's

11:00—11:30 Guido Beltramini : Aldo Manuzio 1494-1515

11:30—12:00 Discussion

12.00—14:00 Lunch Break

**Panel 6: One Media Among Medias****Chair: Alfredo Thiermann**

14:00—14:30 Mari Lending : Plaster Chronologies

14:30—15:00 Joaquim Moreno : The University on Air

15:00—15:30 Socks Studio : Digital Atlas

15:30—16:30 Discussion

While books are physical objects, they are often just one among many ways of establishing a bridge between architecture and buildings. There are multiple formats for transmitting architectural ideas, so why is the book still considered to be a privileged medium? Through the analysis of several examples, this panel will discuss the relationship between these different media and the role that books can play in mediating between buildings and readers.

16.30—17:00 Coffee Break

**Panel 7: Procuring the Book II****Chair: Léa-Catherine Szacka**

17:00—17:30 Thomas Weaver : Why printed ?

17:30—18:00 Irma Boom : Biography in Books

18:00—18:30 Discussion

Beyond the work of the authors, books must be chosen, edited, designed, printed, distributed, read, stored and ultimately scrapped. At a time when the digital era has opened up new forms for the production and distribution of architectural ideas, why do architects still insist on the use of the printed form?

**Book presentation**18:30—19:00 Ákos Moravánszky : Stoffwechsel / Metamorphism ([Show more](#))

19:00 Aperitif

The event is co-organized by the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta) and the Paris delegation of Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.