Practices in Research - Journal for practice-based research in architecture

Practices in Research #04
Beyond the Mandate

Journal issue to be published in September 2023 + Conference in March 2023

Call for contributions

Illustration by Thibaut Barrault and Cyril Pressacco
in "Practices in Research #03 - Explorations and Cartographies", In Practice, 2022

Practices in Research

In Practice is an interuniversity research group of practising architects engaging their practice(s) at the heart of their research. In Practice explores the multiple ways in which architects can engage their professional architecture practice in academic research and reciprocally. Practices in Research" (PiR) is an online journal for practice-based research in architecture and related disciplines, based on a selection of contributions to a conference. PiR explores the ways in which these practices engage or relate to research.

For PiR, the practice is thus never reduced to an illustration of theory. Inversely, the research is not reduced to the observation of practice. It aims at contributions in which research and practice mean mutual enrichment. PiR aims at research in which the practice is essential as a subject, as a modality or as a perspective and combinations thereof. The contributions are expected to stay in close contact with the practice, but they are not limited to the presentation or documentation of a practice. The contributions take a step beyond the reality of the practice in the way they present, explore, reveal a question or reflection in the field of architecture.

PiR also searches for creative forms of communication, questioning the usual hierarchy between text and image. For PiR, visual and written narrations relate to each other in multiple ways. Images are more than illustrations, and text is more than an explanation. Hence, the provided template is to be considered as a toolbox or set of rules, which can be used creatively.

Practices in Research #04 – Beyond the Mandate

For all projects, architects receive a mandate, be it explicit or implicit. There are expectations and results to be obtained: programs to fulfil, budgets and timelines to respect, regulations and norms to obey or to negotiate, authorization to obtain and works to assess. But these mandates also come with a freedom, the possibility to address individual or collective ambitions, pleasure, sensibility or responsibility. Additionally, designing architecture is a public matter. It entails engagements and societal duties that reach beyond the immediate interest of a commissioner. Moreover, practicing architecture is a cultural performance, involving a larger public than the individual commissioner. Maybe this margin, this freedom of proposals, but also this societal duty, is at the same time what lies beyond the mandate, and what enables the mandate.

What do architects do for free, which is not asked for explicitly? What drives them beyond the expectations inherent to their mandate? What is the motivation of their work? Which implicit or explicit duties?? Dispositions and inclinations in their designing? Reflections and inspirations that feed their design practice? This space beyond the mandate, the freedom or the unexpectedness in responding to the expectations, is what moves any reflective or inquisitive practice. It is a condition of the relevance of a practice to the discipline itself, society, culture, theory and pedagogy. It is where a claim, an assertion or an observation can be made. In a word, what makes a practice worth sharing with an audience resides beyond the mandate.

Similarly, research related to practice always covers a space that goes beyond this practice. Independently of the multiple models of research by, for or in practice, research is never a simple account or

description of undertaken actions. Research creates and explores a margin around the reality of the practice. While focussing on specific topics, it embeds the practice in a broader field. Is research relating to a practice then also about its motivations? Is it then exactly about understanding what goes beyond the mandate?

PiR 04 – "Beyond the Mandate" is looking for contributions exploring this field of motivations which nourish the freedom of proposition. The contributions are expected to investigate this space while staying close to the practice, its documents and outcomes.

Submissions to the conference will be examined for participation by the editorial committee, based on a short abstract. Extended abstracts will be published online in the proceedings of the conference (unreviewed). After the conference, invited contributors will be asked to follow a double-blind peer review for publication in the upcoming issue of the journal.

For PiR 04, the editors ambition to open up the audience of the conference and of the journal to political, administrative, market-related and cultural actors in the field of architecture, by inviting them to participate as respondents in the conference and reviewers of the contributions. They may be invited to propose reflections on the topic and content of the journal.

The conference will include a round table on the topic of "audiences", with invited personalities. By bridging practice and research a layered audience appears, potentially constituted by the academic and research community, practitioners and theorists, cultural audiences, economic stakeholders and other people interested in the field of architecture. The round table aims at discussing the opportunities and challenges of such multiple

audiences. The results of the round table will be included in a specific section of the journal.

The editors may include unreviewed contributions upon invitation such as visual essays.

The review process of all contributions will be clearly identified.

Deadlines and Modalities

Calendar

14th of October 2022	call for contributions
2nd of December 2022	submission of short abstracts
16th of December 2022	notification of acceptance (conference)
5th of February 2023	submission of extended abstracts
7th of March 2023	conference in Brussels (ULB)
10th of March 2023	invitation for publication
30th of April 2023	submission of full articles for peer review
15th of June 2023	double-blind peer review available
31st of August 2023	submission of final article
30th of September 2023	publication of PiR#04

Call for Abstracts

One PDF file containing max 300 words and the necessary illustrations in order to explain your contribution. The format is otherwise free.

Deadline for abstract submission: Sunday 2nd of December 2022.

Multiple submissions are not accepted.

By the 16th of December 2022, the editorial committee selects contributors to develop their contributions to the conference and to provide an extended abstract. The selection is made based on the adequation with the goal and topic of the conference and journal.

The extended abstract is due for 5th of February 2023. Text max 600 words + illustrations following the provided template. The book of abstracts will be made available online (not peer-reviewed) in the form of conference proceedings.

Conference: 7th of March 2023

The exact date will be confirmed together with the invitation to participate.

The conference will consist of a series of short presentations (max 15 minutes) followed by a moderated debate with peers and panel members. These presentations and the debate may be recorded. The modality of the presentation is totally free in the limits of feasibility, from linear computer presentation to performances or an exhibition. If needed, please contact the organising committee in time to ensure the feasibility. Remote digital participation is not possible. Airplane travel is strongly discouraged.

The detailed program and book of abstracts (proceedings) will be communicated one week prior to the conference. The conference will be hosted by ULB – Faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta in Brussels (Flagey) and at CIVA (www.civa.brussels)

Required registration by email. The participation is free of charge and does not include any accommodation and catering cost.

Publication

After the conference, the editorial committee will select contributors to develop their extended abstract for the fourth issue of Practices in Research, the annual online open access double blind peer reviewed journal for practice-based research in architecture.
The selection will be notified by the 10th of March 2023.

All complete articles need to make use of the Indesign template file available on the website of the In Practice interuniversity research group:
www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal

Max 25 pages in pdf format, starting with a single title page and ending with a full spread. Please save image as JPG (no PNG, between 150 and 300dpi, RGB), and avoid rasterized versions of vectorial documents.

Pay attention to the correct referencing of all visual and text content. Contributors are free to use the reference style of their election but need to do so consistently.

Important : Mention any potential conflict of interest with members of the scientific committee (such as assessors, promotors, contractual or private relationships, etc.).

All contributions will be anonymised by the editors for the double blind peer review.

Deadline for submissions: 30th of April 2023. There will be no deadline extension.

Double-Blind Peer Review

Two written double-blind peer reviews will be provided to the authors. Each contribution will be reviewed by two members of the scientific committee or invited experts. Anonymity is strictly maintained and all information in the paper that identifies the author is removed. The editorial board acknowledges that the work of the involved practices may benefit from public recognition in the professional or cultural field through prizes, exhibitions, lectures, etc. The anonymity of the contribution does not address the practice itself but the authors of the contribution. The anonymity of the reviews is also ensured. The reviews investigate the methodological rigor, the artistic quality, the relevance, the originality and the clarity of communication of the contribution. The review also involves an open comment on the contribution. If accepted (no negative review out of two), the author is asked to resubmit the contribution according to the reviews and editorial comments. The editorial team makes the final decision on whether the submission is rejected or accepted.

The reviews will be available on 15th of June 2023.

The deadline for the submission of approved contributions, modified by the contributors according to the reviews is the 31st of August 2023.

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Registration

The contributions are made available through the website of the journal as separate pdf files and as a single pdf file containing the complete issue of the journal.

www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal

Additionnaly, the contributions are uploaded on the Zenodo platform, a EU-funded Open Access platform providing a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) for each published article. The contributions to the Practices in Research journal are uploaded in the "Practices in Research" community of Zenodo.

www.zenodo.org/communities/practicesinresearch

Originality

By publishing their work in Practices in Research, the authors declare that their contribution is original and has not been published before. The authors also declare that the contributions do not infringe third party rights (ie. the contribution, texts, images, etc.) and bear this responsibility. In case of doubt the editors may make use of a plagiarism detecting service.

Charges

The online publication is free of charge. Practices in Research do not apply publishing fees such as: submission fees; editorial processing charges; article processing charges (APCs); page charges; colour charges.

Editorial board and Organizing committee

Scientific committee

The scientific committee is composed of established practicing architects and senior academic staff from a variety of universities. Members of the Scientific Committee may also be chosen for their relevant expertise. For the sake of anonymity, the double-blind peer review will not be realised by panel members of the conference.

Preliminary (non-exhaustive) composition:

Ido Avissar (List, EAV&T Paris-Est), Lisa De Visscher (A+ architecture in Belgium, ULiège), Annelies De Smet (KU Leuven), Michaël Obrist (feld72, TU Wien) Bram Aerts (Trans architectuur & stedenbouw, KU Leuven), Asli Çiçek (Asli Çiçek, OASE, U Hasselt), Arnaud Hendrickx (KU Leuven), Karen Kesteloot (Studio Bont, KU Leuven), Johannes Kuehn (Kuehn Malvezzi, Bauhaus-Universitaet Weimar), Nel Janssens (KU Leuven), Eric Le Coguiec (ULiège), Claus Peder Pedersen (Arkitectskolen Aarhus), Robin Schaeverbeke (KU Leuven), Xavier Van Rooyen (ULiège), Caroline Voet (Voet architecten, KU Leuven), Eric Lecoguiec (ULiège), Martina Barcelloni (ULiège), Rolf Hughes (KU Leuven), Karen Kesteloot (Studiobont, KU Leuven), Wouter Van Acker (ULB), Emilie Morales (Morales Finch, ULB), Johan De Walsche (UAntwerpen), Juliane Greb (UAntwerpen), Wannes Peeters (UAntwerpen), Christine Fontaine (UCLouvain), Martin Outers (UCLouvain)

Contact
www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal
info@architectureinpractice.eu
contact person: prof. Harold Fallon
Rue des Palais 153 – 1030 Brussels
+32 (0)2 244 44 36

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