

Practices in Research #07

Un-Disclosed

Exposing the Dirty Documents, the Controverses and the Confession, the Back-site of Design Processes in Architecture

Journal for practice-based research in architecture

Conference 20th of May 2026

Call for Contribution



From the series: Cyclopedia of Shitty Repairs: A Love Letter to Kludges, Camilla Fallon, 2025

Practices in Research

In Practice is an interuniversity research group for 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 a peer-reviewed journal for practice-based research in architecture and related disciplines, based on a selection of contributions to a conference and possibly on invited contributions. PiR explores the ways in which these practices engage or relate to research.

For PiR, the practice is not 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. PiR looks forward to enabling and facilitating a diversity in formats, inviting authors to experiment with reflective, observational and explorative formats of dissemination.

Practices in Research #07 Un-Disclosed

In architectural discourse, what is shared is often polished: the final render, the built result, the curated narrative. Yet behind every project lies a dense, messy, and often invisible terrain of effort, negotiation, failure, and persistence. **PiR #07 – Un-Disclosed** invites contributors to turn the spotlight toward this “dark side” of practice—the backstage, the back-office, the back-and-forth.

We call on architects, designers, researchers, and educators to share the unseen labour of their work: the annotated spreadsheets, the marked-up plans, the failed competitions, the internal debates, the moments of doubt and discovery. These are not just remnants—they are critical sites of learning, where practice is shaped, challenged, and redefined.

This issue seeks to uncover the undisclosed processes that rarely make it into publications or exhibitions yet form the backbone of architectural production. We are interested in the documents of struggle and negotiation: the iterations, the revisions, the test models, the internal emails, the contracts, the whispered questions of “are we still relevant?” or “is this still beautiful?”.

At the same time, **Un-Disclosed** opens space for reflection on architectural taboos and tensions: the aesthetics of failure, the politics of visibility, the ‘fashion’ cycles of design, and the emotional labour of staying having a societal impact and surviving in a shifting professional landscape . What do we choose not to show, and why? What does this say about our values, our vulnerabilities, and our ambitions?

Suggested Themes

Contributors are encouraged to engage with the following themes—or propose their own—while focusing on the representational and explorative instruments (drawings, models, sketches, spreadsheet-files, wastebasket content...) that reveal the undisclosed layers of practice:

- **Dirty Documents and Unspoken Aesthetics:** What happens behind the scenes? How do architects document, reflect on, and learn from the messy, iterative, and often frustrating parts of their work? How do spreadsheets, notes, sketches, and internal communications become instruments of design thinking? What visual languages emerge from the unpolished, the incomplete, the unresolved?
- **Failed Competitions and Forgotten Projects:** What can be learned from what didn't make it? How do we archive and represent these moments? How do they inform future practice? What narratives and insights emerge from projects that remain hidden in drawers or lost in digital folders? How do these shape the documents that are produced in design practices?
- **Emotional Labor and Professional Identity:** How do architects navigate the pressure to stay relevant, fashionable even, or “hot”? What instruments and practices help them reflect on or intervene in these dynamics? How do these dynamics shape their sense of identity and influence their innovative decisions? And how do they find their way into the drawings, models,...
- **Controversies and Confessions:** What are the tensions, contradictions, or ethical dilemmas that remain unspoken in architectural practice? How do architects confront or conceal these issues, and what do such moments reveal about the profession's

values, responsibilities, and vulnerabilities? How does this lead to the production of new drawings, models...

And, obviously how all of this contributes to intriguing architectural projects. Submissions should therefore reflect on these critical practices through concrete examples, staying close to the methods, documents, and outcomes of this work, with a clear focus on the observational, explorative and creative media nourishing the practice and informing design.

Contributions can range from case studies and reflective essays to visual narratives and experimental documentation. Please feel free to engage freely in the modalities of your contribution, while paying attention to explain and situate your approach.

The editorial committee will review submissions based on short abstracts. After the selection process, extended abstracts will be published online as part of the conference proceedings (unreviewed). After the conference, selected contributors and possibly additional guests will provide their complete contributions subjected to a double-blind peer-review, to be published in the upcoming journal issue: **Practice in Research #7 – Un-Disclosed Practices**. Unreviewed contributions may also be included upon invitation, with review statuses clearly identified.

Deadlines and Modalities

Calendar

16th of December 2025	call for contributions
14th of February 2026	submission of short abstracts
6th of March 2026	notification of acceptance (conference)
24th of April 2026	submission of extended abstracts
20th of May 2026	conference in Belgium
9th of June 2026	invitation for publication
7th of August 2026	submission of full articles for peer review
25th of September 2026	double-blind peer review available
30th of October 2026	submission of final articles
27th of November 2026	publication of PiR#07

Call for Abstracts

The initial abstract is one PDF file containing predominantly graphical materials with a supporting text of max 300 words to explain your contribution. The format is otherwise free. Multiple submissions are not accepted.

Deadline for abstract submission: Friday 14th of February 2026. Please do not forget to mention the editorial theme you suggest your proposal would fit (Dirty Documents and Unspoken Aesthetics / Failed Competitions and Forgotten Projects / Emotional Labor and Professional Identity / Controversies and Confessions).

By the 6th of March 2026, the editorial committee communicate their selection to authors to develop their contributions to the conference and to provide an updated abstract. The selection is made based on the adequation with the goal and topic of the conference

and journal. The editorial board will also notify and explain in case of non-selection.

The updated abstract is due for 24th of April 2026. Invited authors can choose between:

- **An annotated graphical contribution.**

or

- **A written abstract with maximum 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: 20th of May 2026

The conference on the 20th of May and the venue 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 check and ensure the feasibility.

Remote digital participation is not possible. Airplane travel is strongly discouraged if avoidable.

The detailed program and book of abstracts (proceedings) will be communicated one week prior to the conference.

Required registration by email to info@architectureinpractice.eu. 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 seventh 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 9th of June 2026.

All full 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 15 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, promoters, contractual or private relationships, etc.). All contributions will be anonymised by the editors for the double-blind peer review.

Deadline for submissions: 7th of August 2026. 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 possibly editorial comments. The editorial team can make a final decision on the acceptance of the submission.

The reviews will be available on 25th of September 2026.

The deadline for the submission of approved contributions, modified by the contributors according to the reviews is the 30th of October 2026.

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Registration

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

www.architectureinpractice.eu/pirjournal

Additionally, 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 (Turnitin software - www.turnitin.com).

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.

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The editorial committee is supported by the FNRS-financed contact group “In Practice”.

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:

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In Practice

In Practice is an interuniversity research group of practicing architects – and related disciplines – engaging their practice(s) at the heart of their research. In Practice explores the multiple ways in which the professional practice can be engaged in academic research and reciprocally. In Practice seeks to open a space for architecture practices in research through the development of doctoral and postdoctoral research projects, conferences, publications, and pedagogic projects.

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