



THEATRES OF ARCHITECTURAL IMAGINATION

FRASCARI
SYMPOSIUM



May 27-29, 2021

Centre de design, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM)
Limited in-person and online

Architecture is protean. If asked directly to reveal herself, she will offer instead some disguise, a personification by which to elude us. However, if we remember that the role of the architect is to make tangible what is intangible, we can solve the puzzle and rediscover the image embodied in it, the corporeality of theater and the theater of corporeality.

Marco Frascari, "A Heroic and Admirable Machine, the Theater of the Architecture of Carlo Scarpa, Architetto Veneto"

In theatre, as in architecture, meaning is construed through situated, shared and embodied experience. Both theatre and architecture gather community in shared settings to experience events simultaneously familiar and strange, prosaic and profound, anticipated and unexpected, mantic and mnemonic. These shared encounters – involving complicity, conflict and change – open renewed understandings of the human condition and humanity's interdependence with the world.

Theatrical and architectural representation have intertwined origins in ancient Greek performance. In spite of some significant changes, their essential modes of bodily enactment and social exchange have remained fundamentally unchanged over the last 2500 years. The present-day pandemic and lingering mandates for social distancing, pose serious challenges for both public theatre and public architecture. Yet, these ancient artforms have endured past pandemics and the human desire for in-person collective transformative experience will resume – potentially with renewed vigour.

This symposium seizes the present opportunity to renew theatrical and architectural modes of imagination by exploring the mnemonic, performative and participatory aspects of architecture. We specifically invite paper proposals and Entr'actes exploring theatres of architectural imagination through the creative lens of three themes: Memory, World, Action. Abstracts due December 18, 2020. See website for details.

<https://www.marcofrascaridreamhouse.com/future-events>

MEMORY WORLD ACTION

Co-chairs: Lisa Landrum, University of Manitoba
and Sam Ridgway, University of Adelaide,
in collaboration with Louise Pelletier, UQÀM, and
Alberto Pérez-Gómez, McGill University