

## **Architectural Periodicals in/for Architectural History**

Gaia Caramellino, Paolo Scrivano, Chiara Baglione

Analyzed in their conceptual, theoretical, and material layout, 20<sup>th</sup>-century periodicals are taken as a multifaceted platform for the understanding of the different forms and scales of architectural and urban discourses, reflecting the interactions existing between the different actors involved in the production of knowledge. Taking periodicals as sources and objects of inquiry able to reconfigure the theoretical, technical, disciplinary and discursive frames and to identify their protagonists, the thesis program intends to reflect on the culture of architectural periodicals in an extended geographical and chronological context, crossing perspectives from different disciplinary and historiographic traditions.

Through the investigation of “journal biographies” that inquiry the anatomy of the periodicals, the students will become aware of the complexity of the mechanisms of production, communication and circulation of ideas, questioning the forms of the debate and the recurrent vocabulary, figures and notions that stand so near to the center of architectural thought in specific historical moments.

Addressing architectural periodicals as vehicle of cultural transfer, the theses can also test the cross-reading of diverse periodicals and the undertaking of comparative studies, to “map” the international circulation of projects, authors, ideas and discourses.

Focusing on the places where architectural and urban knowledge is elaborated and the way through which is communicated, the investigation of periodical press brings about a critical re-examination of existing interpretations and narratives.

Students will also have the opportunity to experiment ground-breaking methodologies and innovative technologies applied to the study of history, theory and criticism of architecture, utilizing digital tools for data collection and testing less conventional narrative tools and forms of analysis and visualization (interpretative cartography, thematic maps, multilayered timelines, infographics, etc.).

The thesis program intersects several international research projects centered respectively on the history of architectural criticism, on the investigation of terminology and on the study of processes of knowledge transfer in the history and theory of architecture. It also relies on a methodological approach that was developed and perfected within the seminar “Mapping 20<sup>th</sup> century periodicals”, conducted over the past 6 years, in collaboration with European research projects dedicated to the study of architectural periodicals. Among the possible subjects of investigation are: the “platforms” used by the architectural discourse (from traditional paper magazines to new forms of digital communication); the relationship between specialized and non-specialized (or popular) periodical press; mainstream publications versus “niche products” such as radical or countercultural journals; the investigation of the use of images and photography; etc.

The supervisors from Politecnico and the colleagues (a network of critics, editors, scholars, professors from diverse international Research Centers and Universities) involved as co-supervisors are available to follow works developed and written both in Italian and in English.