



IaaC BITS 9. Black Ecologies

Editors: Manuel Gausa, Areti Markopoulou, Jordi Vivaldi

Size: 20 x 27 cm

Illustrations: Color

Cover: SoftCover

Pages: 152

Publication date: December 2019

Published by: Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia and Actar Publishers

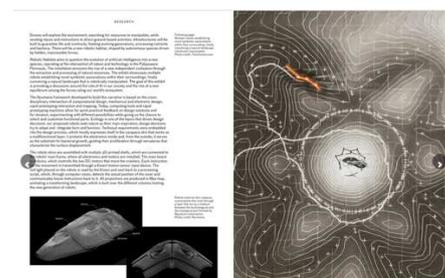
ISBN: English 9788412088502

Price: \$29.95

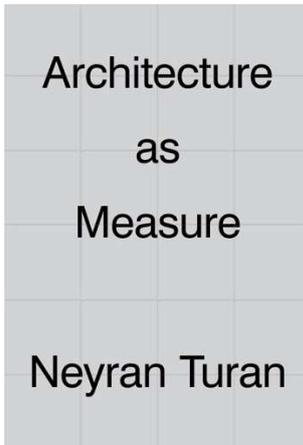
The IaaC BITS journal is a collective container of knowledge developed by the Advanced Architecture Group of the Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia. The journal collects material stimulating, promoting and developing research in the diverse areas of Advanced Architecture through a multi-disciplinary approach. With the 9th issue, IaaC BITS is entering a new editorial phase pushing research, generating dialogue and presenting novel ideas and solutions for the current global challenges.

In the face of a hyper-technified world, we need more technology. In the face of an inhuman world, we need more otherness. In front of a perturbed world, we need more alienation. And above all, in front of an adulterated world, we need more artifice. In this scenario, biological agents, ecological agents, technological agents and cultural agents coproduce a reality that is no longer built from promethean epics, relativist ironies or primitivist nostalgia, but from accelerated hybrids; poly-plural constructs that hurtle towards a post-capitalist world. In the light of this narrative, Black Ecologies displays an architecture based not only on processes and performances, but also on specific, literal and hyperrealist protocols; they do not find shelter in abstraction, history or language, but on the conformation of operative “assemblages”.

This monographic issue – presented with an experimental and proactive foundation and associated to technological and creative innovation – aims at combining inter-disciplinary and multi-scalar exchanges with a new environmental and socio-cultural sensitivity.



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Architecture As Measure

Author: Neyran Turan

Size: 15.9 x 23.5cm

Illustrations: Color

Cover: Softcover

Pages: 300

Publication date: February 2020

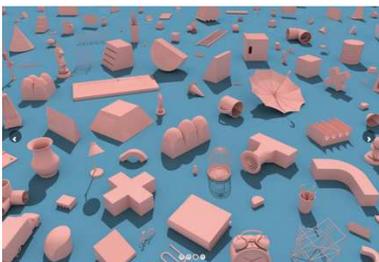
Published by: Actar Publishers

ISBN: English 978-1-948765-29-9

Price: \$39.95

In light of the current political crisis around climate change, what can architecture possibly contribute towards a new planetary imaginary of our contemporary environment beyond environmentalism and technological determinism? Instead of conceptualizing the idea of the environment as purely natural and in need of protection, as solely a problem that needs to be managed, or merely as the Earth, which limits the scope with a scalar bias, can we speculate on architecture as a measure both to assess and to act upon the world? *Architecture as Measure* is an elaboration on this question, and on the disciplinary and cultural potentials of such a provocation. It positions climate change as a cultural and political idea that requires a renewed architectural environmental imagination.

The book takes on this task by presenting a set of unconventional collisions between architecture and climate change, which all extrapolate broader concerns of the city, environment, and geography through the lens of specific architectural questions such as form, representation and materiality. In that way, the book is an invitation to boost architecture's planetary effect by collapsing the centers and the peripheries of the discipline, by colliding its very outside with its very core interior. In addition to the introductory essay, the book consists of nine separate chapters, each of which contains an essay by Neyran Turan and is coupled by a project by her architectural practice NEMESTUDIO. Each essay, and thus the associated project in each chapter, positions certain problems brought by climate change, such as resource extraction, materiality, long time span, representation, geology, and waste etc. in architectural terms. Inherent in the premise of the book is the proposition of a new conception of architecture's engagement with the wider world through a specific focus on architecture's capacity to boost its planetary effect *from within*.



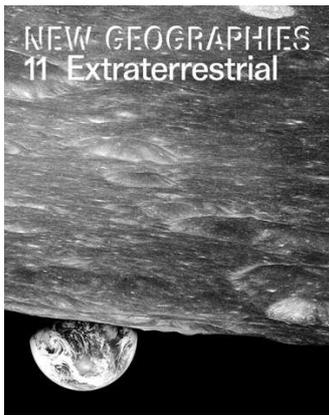
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New Geographies 11: Extraterrestria

Editors: Jeffrey S. Nesbit, Guy Trangoś

Size: 20,3 x 25,4 cm / 8 x 10 inches

Illustrations: Color with some black and white

Cover: Softcover

Pages: 176

Publication date: April 2020

Published by: Harvard University Graduate School of Design & Actar Publishers

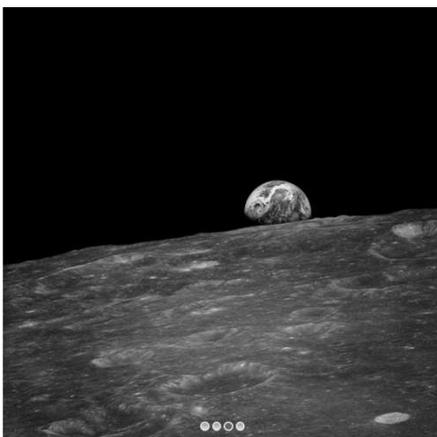
ISBN: English 978-1-948765-50-3

Price: \$ 34,95 USD

New Geographies 11: Extraterrestrial explores the historical and contemporary consequence of our planetary relationship with space. It interprets this duality through the conceptual lens of “extraterrestrial,” which engages an entangled zone of expanding practices in geography, landscape, and architecture, stretching Earth to space, and conversely, space to Earth.

This issue questions the means through which space is forged as a condition *extra* to our own *terra*. Complicit within this imagination resides a deep political and economic logic that serves to territorialize outer space as an exception to, and extension of, Earth. These critical processes are revealed as not *extra* at all, but rather distinctly of *terra*.

Through a series of written, photographic, and representational investigations, this edition of New Geographies builds on earlier studies of outer space from science, technology and society, as well as from the design disciplines, history, and critical geography. It reinforces the need for humanity’s changing relationship with outer space to be recorded, critiqued, and theorized from a breadth of academic traditions and projected within design discourse.



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The Empty Room.

Fragmented Thoughts on Space

THE EMPTY ROOM

FRAGMENTED
THOUGHTS
ON
SPACE

REZA ALIABADI (RZLBD)

Author: Reza Aliabadi / RZLBD

Size: 11 x 18 cm

Illustrations: Black and White (text only)

Cover: Soft Cover

Pages: 112

Publication date: March 2020

Published by: Actar Publishers

ISBN: English 9781948765404

Price: \$19,95 USD

Part aphorism and part manifesto, this book by Canadian architect Reza Aliabadi (RZLBD) references his ideas and thoughts about space. He suggests *'the empty room'* as the very essence of architecture, and *'the spatial experience'* as its highest mandate. Reza revisits architecture –not as the walls that enclose the space– but rather the space in-between the walls. What he calls an “anti-architecture” of invisible voids.

Today architecture has fallen short as a discipline and has instead converted into an industry, part of the commercial establishment. Accordingly it has given up its capacity to offer contributions and has been reduced to being a service. It has become all about a form-making exercise and dressing it up with a fashionable skin. What matters most, is the look of it, and the contest to keep that look relevant in the media — as long as possible. It submits itself to a sick competition for visibility. The more awes it creates, the more viral it becomes. What used to be an autonomous discipline and a source of inspiration, stimulation, and motivation now has become the subject of entertainment, speculation, and show business.

Now, it is necessary or rather urgent to pause, take a moment, go inward, search for the essentials, and hope to rediscover a principle which is at once basic and timeless. Where to begin then! Well, as Kahn always said: “Architecture comes from the making of a room”. This book starts with this, the very desire to dwell in a space in its most basic form — a room. Through short passages and aphorisms, this text revisits space as the only protagonist, the very foundation, and the sole essence of architecture. It affects your perception of space, it makes you to look at architecture differently — most likely to see the invisible.

“Architecture comes from the making of a room.”

— Louis I. Kahn

Humbly, I would add

“And that room is empty.”

The Empty Room

01

The empty room is a refuge — for mind.

The empty room is a shelter — for body.

The empty room is a sanctuary — for soul.

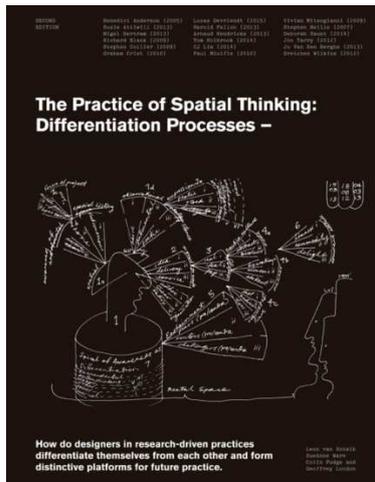
The empty room is, the more visible and responsive it becomes, the more it serves for our mind. It listens to us carefully and reflects our thoughts and thoughts back to us. It enters into a dialogue with us. We hear its voice, and of course, there is no noise or clutter in the empty room.

Fragmented Thoughts

A profound architectural (spatial) experience is always an exchange; I enter the space and the space enters me, I leave part of myself in the building and the building becomes part of my self-image, travelling with me forever.

Reza Aliabadi

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The Practice of Spatial Thinking

Differentiation Processes

Authors: Leon Van Schaik, SueAnne Ware, Colin Fudge, Geoffrey London

Editor: Ian Nazareth

Size: 215.9mm x 279.4mm

Pages: 232

Illustrations: Color

Cover: Softcover

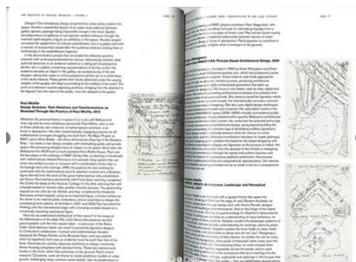
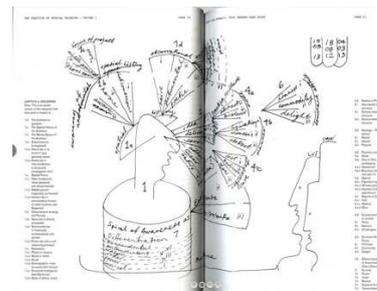
Publication Date: January 2020

Published by: Actar Publishers and School of Architecture & Urban Design at RMIT University

Price: \$29.95 **ISBN:** English 978-1-948765-35-0

How do designers in research-driven practices differentiate themselves from each other and form distinctive platforms for future practice?

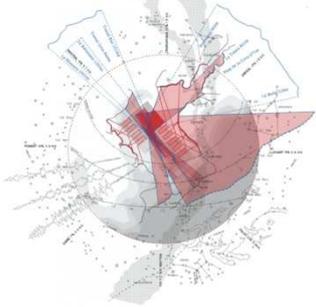
The research presented in this second edition and carried out in Australia as part of an Australian Research Council Discovery Program is of significance for design practice, review, and our deeper understanding of the design of space and spaces. In continuing the exploration of spatial intelligence,” this research further develops our understanding of designers, how they work and what they draw on through their lives that shapes their spatial thinking, and their practice. The research also provides broader insights into a more public understanding and acknowledgement of our collective spatial intelligence. It shows how this could be developed and enhanced to provide more spatial and design literacy in our communities, and how these can engage with their changing environments.



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OPERATIVE MAPPING
 Maps as Design Tools
 ROGER PAEZ



Operative Mapping

Maps as Design Tools

Author: Roger Paez

Size: 21 x 26 cm / 8.25 x 10.25 in.

Illustrations: Color

Cover: Hardcover

Pages: 324

Publication date: September 2019

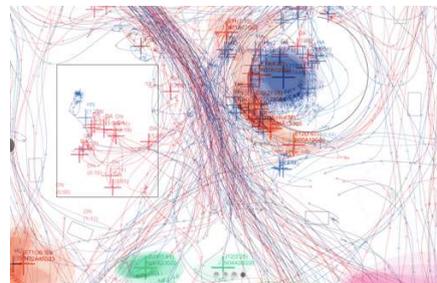
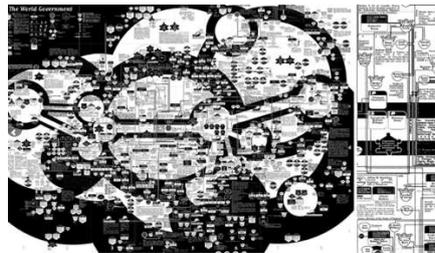
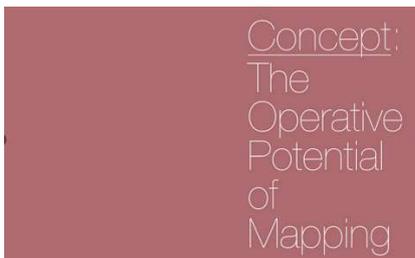
Published by: Actar Publishers, Elisava

ISBN: English 9781948765077

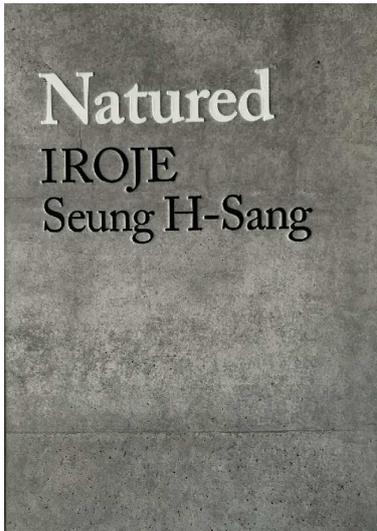
Price: \$49.95

The book's fundamental aim is to offer a methodological contribution to the design disciplines, both in conceptual and instrumental terms. When added to the resources of contemporary design, operative mapping overcomes the analytical and strictly instrumental approaches of maps, opening up the possibility of working both pragmatically and critically by acknowledging the need for an effective transformation of the milieu based on an understanding of pre-existing conditions.

The approach is pragmatic, not only discussing the present but, above all, generating a toolbox to help expand on the objectives, methodologies and formats of design in the immediate future. The book joins together a review of the theoretical body of work on mapping from the social sciences with case studies from the past 30 years in architecture, planning, and landscape design in the interest of linking past practices with future ones.



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Natured – Iroje, Seung H-Sang

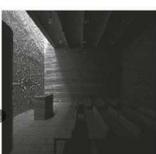
Authors: Seung H-Sang
Contributor: Hyungmin Pai

Size: 19 x 26 cm / in.
Pages: 472
Illustrations: Color
Cover: Hardcover
Publication Date: January 2020
Published by: Actar Publishers
Price: \$49,95
ISBN: English 978-1-948765-49-7

This publication wants to transmit the constant values of the Seung H-Sang's architecture, which has been routed on principles and ideals driven by sensuous and essences of raw materials, echoing the extemporal features of the culture where buildings are placed, discovering the prettiness of scarcity of resources.

IROJE's buildings, landscapes and urban proposals have been always looking for the equilibrium between endurance of the past essence of each place and the freshness of the new life experiences generated by the architecture.

The book proposes to compile the best architectural IROJE's works employing the magnificence of black and white pictures, creative sketches, and elementary plans and drawings to illustrate the permanent values of Seung H-Sang.



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