

Transnational School Construction

Kick-off Workshop 12 May 2021

Zoom link: <https://tuwien.zoom.us/j/97189252801?pwd=U0YxMkJCZkhxOGoyQlVsQkJcCt1QT09>

Introduction / meet & greet (moderator Maja Lorbek)

02:00 PM – 02:15 PM [15 minutes]

Round of introductions: national team members, international partners

First session **International State of Research I** (moderator Oliver Sukrow)

02:15 PM – 03:15 PM [60 minutes]

Monika Platzer: Cold War and Architecture in Austria

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Kerstin Renz: No Dogmas! School Architecture and Re-education Politics in the 1950s

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Mitja Zorc and Matej Blenkuš: A Short History and Evaluation of School Architecture in Slovenia

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Short break

03:15 PM – 03:30 PM [15 minutes]

Second session: **Transnational School Construction project presentation** (moderator Susanne Rick)

03:30 PM – 04:00 PM [30 minutes]

Maja Lorbek: Transnational School Construction

(project presentation: key research questions and objectives, state of research, timeline as a tool, own research foci)

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Oliver Sukrow: The School and the City: School Building and Urban Planning in the Cold War. Case Studies from Austria, Switzerland, and the two Germanys

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Third session **International State of Research II** (moderator Maja Lorbek)

04:00 PM – 05:00 PM [60 minutes]

Susanne Rick: Building Transnational Relations: transnational practice of Austrian architects in Non-Aligned states during the Cold War

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Andreas Kalpakci: Analysing an International Organization of Architects: The Case of CIAM, 1928-1959

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Christian Kühn: Man and Space: School Building Discourse in the 1950s

(15 Min presentation + 5 min. Q & A)

Short break

05:00 PM – 05:10 PM [10 minutes]

Closing session: **TSC Networking and Dissemination** (moderator Oliver Sukrow)

05:10 PM – 05:40 PM [30 minutes]

Joint Discussion: networking, joint activities, cooperation [25 minutes]

Maja Lorbek: Wrap-up [5 minutes]

Zoom bar and foyer (breakout sessions)

05:40 PM

Bar & foyer: drinks, small talk and publications (hosts Maja Lorbek, Susanne Rick and Oliver Sukrow)

Participants

International partners

Faculty of Architecture of the University of Ljubljana

Prof Dr **Matej Blenkuš** is an associate professor and dean at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Ljubljana. At the same time he runs the architectural studio abiro in Ljubljana. He graduated and received his Ph.D. at the Faculty of Architecture, UL, and received his master's degree at the Helsinki Technical University, Aalto University. For his master's thesis, he received the award for the best study work in 1999. He participated in numerous national architectural competitions, open and invited, for which, along with co-authors, he received several awards and recognitions. He has more than 15 years of experience in design.

Mitja Zorc is an architect. In 2000 he graduated from the Faculty of Architecture, University of Ljubljana. From 2001 to 2012 he worked there as an assistant, and since 2013 he has been working there as an assistant professor. From 2000 to 2005 he worked in the architectural office Bevk Perović arhitekti. Since 2005 he has been working as an independent architect in several author groups. He received several awards and recognitions for his work, including the Plečnik Award (2008) for the School of Economics in Murska Sobota. His research interests include architecture for education and corridor-free school buildings by the Slovenian modernist architect Emil Navinšek.

Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa (GWZO)

Prof Dr **Arnold Bartetzky** was born in Zabrze (Poland). He studied art history, German literature, philosophy and history in Freiburg, Tübingen and Krakow, and briefly architecture at the TU Berlin. In 1998 he completed his PhD in art history on Danzig architecture around 1600 (Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg). Since 2016 he is honorary professor for art history at the University of Leipzig and since 2017 he is head of the department 'Culture and Imagination' at the Leibniz-Institut für Geschichte und Kultur des östlichen Europa (GWZO).

Independent researcher

Dr. habil. **Kerstin Renz** is an architectural historian, author and moderator, she studied history of arts and technology at University of Stuttgart. From 2003 to 2013 she was Senior Researcher and Assistant Professor at the Stuttgart Faculty of Architecture and Urban Design, 2018-2020 Visiting Professor at the University of Kassel. Her postdoc research focused on international post-war school architecture which leads to her latest publication "Testfall der Moderne. Transfer und Diskurs im Schulbau der 1950er Jahre"

Team TSC Project @ TU Wien

Dr Maja Lorbek (principal investigator / senior postdoc researcher)

Maja Lorbek studied architecture at TU Graz and completed her PhD at TU Wien. From 2015-2017 she worked as a project coordinator and postdoc researcher at the Leibniz-Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Research (IOER) in Dresden. Currently, she leads the FWF project "Transnational School Construction" (Research Unit History of Art, TU Wien). She is a member of the Working Group "Residential Buildings and Architectural Design" within the European Network for Housing Research (ENHR). Her research interests include the material, socio-cultural and mediated co-production of the built environment, the transnational history of post-war school architecture and flexible housing theories.

Dr **Oliver Sukrow** (postdoc research associate) studied art history at Greifswald/Germany, Salzburg/Austria, and Colchester/UK. He holds a PhD in art history from the University of Heidelberg/Germany. Between 2016 - 2020, he worked as Assistant Professor at the Research Unit History of Art at TU Wien. Since 2020, he is a postdoc research associate at the FWF project "Transnational School Construction" and member of the project-related advisory board of the Wüstenrot Stiftung.

Prof Dr **Christian Kühn** studied at the TU Wien (Dipl.-Ing.) and at the ETH Zurich (Dr.sc.techn.). Teaching at Vienna Institute of Technology, Institute for Building Theory and Design, since 1989. Professor at TU Vienna since 2001, habilitation in 2001. Chairman of the Curriculum Commission for Architecture at TU Wien from 01/2001 - 06/2006. Chairman of the Austrian Architectural Foundation since 2000. Member of the OECD Working Group for Educational Buildings 2005 - 2012. Dean of Academic Affairs for Architecture and Building Science of the Faculty for Architecture and Spatial Planning at the TU Wien

since 2008. Architectural critic for various newspapers and journals (among them "Architektur- und Bauforum", "Architecture d'aujourd'hui", ARCH+, "Die Presse"). Commissioner and curator for the Austrian Contribution to the Venice Biennale of Architecture 2014. Chairman of the Council for Building Culture in the Austrian Federal Chancellery since 2015.

Team TSC @ Architekturzentrum Wien

Dr **Monika Platzer** studied art history at the University of Vienna. She has worked at the Architekturzentrum Wien since 1998, where she is Head of the Az W Collection and Curator. She has managed numerous international research and exhibition projects, including "Cold War and Architecture. Contributions to Austria's Democratisation after 1945 ", "Vienna. The Pearl of the Reich". Planning for Hitler, "a_show. Austrian Architecture in the 20th and 21st Centuries", "Lessons from Bernard Rudofsky", "Shaping the Great City, Modern Architecture in Central Europe 1890–1937", "Kinetism. Vienna discovers the Avant-garde". Taught at the University of Vienna and at the University of Technology in Vienna and Graz, since 2004 editor of icamprint, the journal for members of the International Confederation of Architectural Museums; 2014 Visiting Scholar at the Center for European Studies, Harvard University; current research is on the subject of transnational architecture history

MPhil **Susanne Rick**, (research associate, AzW) studied art history at the University of Vienna and the University College Dublin. She is a PhD student at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. In her PhD project, she explores the transnational practice of Austrian architects from a postcolonial perspective in the geopolitical context of the global Cold War. Currently, she is an associated researcher at the AzW for the FWF project "Transnational School Construction". Her research interests include Transnational Cultural History, Postcolonial Studies, Contemporary Art, and Middle Eastern studies.

Guest

Dr. **Andreas Kalpakci** works on the relations between architectural modernism and the field of international organizations. In 2017, he completed the dissertation "Making CIAM: The Organizational Techniques of the Moderns, 1928-1959." In it, he conducted an organizational analysis of the CIAM association, probing its role in institutionalizing modernism. The dissertation was awarded the ETH Medal. Prior to that, he studied architecture at the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio, at TU Delft, and at Yale University, where he was a Fulbright grantee. His research has been supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. Currently, he is a lecturer at the Chair of the Theory of Architecture at ETH Zurich.

Abstract:

During the post-war era, schooling was profoundly transformed. As the significance and duration of education expanded in the East and West, schoolhouses were scaled down from large self-contained multi-story buildings to lower, pavilion-like facilities amid green spaces. Founded in 1948 in Lausanne, *l'Union Internationale des Architectes* (UIA)– the 'United Nations of Architecture' – pursued cultural diplomacy and exploited the polarisations of the Cold War (Glendinning, 2009). In 1951, UIA set up the Commission on School Constructions (CSC), dedicated to the international exchange of ideas on school architecture, carrying out comparative research in the Global North and South and setting common standards for school construction and design.

The post-war Modernist school was co-created by the transnational agency and the national delegates to the commission. Architects such as Alfred Roth, Pierre Vouga, Ernst J. Kump, Ernö Goldfinger, Mario C. Celli, Jan Piet Kloos, Ernst J. Kump, Ciro Cicconcelli, Pedro Ramirez Vazquez, Wilhelm Schütte, Oton Gaspari, Helmut Trauzettel, Günter Wilhelm etc. served in the commission. While many of the delegates built schools, their engagement in disseminating the knowledge on school design through conferences and colloquia, exhibitions and books on school architecture often prevailed. In-between the global and the local, the delegates' role was threefold: they carried out comparative research on local solutions and emergent technologies, codified international standards, and acted as local arbitrators. Some commission members were employed in ministries of education and were thus able to influence both school design as well as the organisation of the national school systems.

The conceptual framework of this study is transnational history. The methods include archival research, qualitative content analysis, iconology and comparative analysis. The focus of our research is on the Commission on School Constructions and three of its member states, Austria, German Democratic Republic and Slovenia (during the post-war era part of Yugoslavia). We will use primary historical sources: CSC documents and minutes, publications on the design of educational facilities and historic building regulations, norms, design briefs and building documents. We will analyse prototypical school buildings in different national settings to identify dominant features of spatial organisation, design briefs, and emergent modes of construction of post-war educational facilities. Our interpretive analysis will explore the influence of contextual factors such as educational systems and political regimes on school architecture and identify the impact of regional traditions and historical (dis)continuities. Using a timeline as the focal point and a research tool, we will deliver a coherent overview of actors, networks, events and the creation of the post-war Modernist school against the backdrop of the Cold-War. We will investigate how the CSC recommendations were deployed in the school design of the period and how they were incorporated into the national building regulations, norms, and school building guidelines and design briefs in the local contexts. Once established, normative frameworks and spatial programming stay in place for a long time. As they affect all planning and building processes, these frameworks impact the built environment more than iconic school buildings.

Our project will uncover the entangled process of establishing transnational expertise and the impact of international organisations and school building experts in the context of national institutional regimes of schooling during the Cold War.