

[TRANS-]performance

Across, beyond, through :: process, production, and presence

[TRANS-] Journal 2021 proposes the examination of PERFORMANCE across, beyond, and through architecture and the allied arts. While technological quantification of built environments may be the dominant framework through which performance is understood and conceptualized, performance spans the processes, productions, and presencing of architecture. Building per (through) -form (process) -ance (action) goes beyond the prototypical "high performing" building typology, across normative modes of production, and through architectural agency. This volume seeks work that documents, analyzes, critiques, and expands the notion of performance in architecture.

Consider::

Performance as PROCESS:
methodologies of learning, designing, and curating

What are the architect's processes of practice? Are these methods visible or invisible? How do the processes of design relate to the built, virtual, and natural environments? What are the impacts of processes on communities and climate? How can processes of design and curation change paradigms of labor, productivity, and product?

The organization of architectural education, the methods of design, and the curation of architectural documents evidence social and economic structures of architectural labor and thought. While architectural education can expose students to emerging theories and techniques, young designers enter into established professional processes. With few opportunities to change traditional paradigms of architectural documentation, social organization, productivity, and automation in practice, and processes change gradually. Turning attention toward the methodologies of learning, design, and curating, however, can lead to greater understanding about the effects of design on environments, communities, and labor forces. This volume asks contributors to challenge and revise typical architectural models of academia and praxis.

Performance as PRODUCTION:
critiques of producing under environmental,
economic, and political regimes

How are approaches to architectural production organized under environmental, economic, and political conditions? What can change about architectural production to better respond to scarcity, abundance, social inequities, and climate change? Can sustainable design evolve to better the built environment and our future?

Architecture's part in the environmental emergency is explicit, yet building performance becomes, in extremes, the sole barometer to the overall 'success' of architecture. On one hand, new production methods for building modules and materials have enabled architects to provide living and working spaces for more people at a lower cost. On the other hand, sustainable design calls on architects to take greater agency in the climate crisis. This volume asks contributors to critique the "high-performing" building ethos and intersections with the political and economic systems that allow for 'greenwashing'.

Performance as PRESENCE:
speculations on architectural agency and responsibility

How can architecture break from canonical ties to formal building artefact and trend towards a broad application of architectural thinking in the real world? Should architecture claim greater agency in social and environmental problems? What is architecture and the allied arts responsibility for revealing, mapping, illustrating extant problems? How can any person or group of people participate, take agency and responsibility through the spatial arts?

One could argue that modernization has alienated the architect from the work, and that time diminishes the connection between the object and the one who makes it. Yet, agency is needed to address social and economic problems to which architecture contributes to the built environment. This volume asks contributors to consider the ways in which architecture can 'perform' outside of the traditional architectural cannons to facilitate change in the built environment through social collaboration, cooperation, and citizen participation, employing methods of performance art and critiques of public space to leverage new meaningful spatial/material conditions and social experiences.

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