

AR-671

The Fifth Typology

Aureli Pier Vittorio, Korbi Marson

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture and Sciences of the City		Opt.

Contact language	English
Credits	2
Session	
Exam	Oral presentation
Workload	60h
Hours	50
Lecture	16
Exercises	28
Practical work	6
Number of positions	21

Frequency

Only this year

Remark

04.-05.04.2023

Summary

A PhD workshop and symposium on the issue of type and its use in the study, critique and practice of architecture.

Content**The Fifth Typology****A symposium about Type and Architecture**

Rafael Moneo once said that to talk about type in architecture is to talk about the essence of architecture. Indeed, when conceiving a building is almost impossible not to start from an existing type, no matter how strange or peculiar this building may look like.

A type is not a model or an image to be copied, but the deep structure of how things are put together. Although typology is a recent concept, to think and build architecture *typologically* goes back to immemorial times. Yet, in the neoliberal economy, where uniqueness, newness and competition are considered indispensable values for architecture, the concept of type appears anachronistic, as it understands uniqueness not per se, but as the product of sameness. The symposium revisits the concept of typology by critically reading its previous definitions and by offering a new interpretation of this rather elusive concept. The main thesis that will be discussed is that typology should be reconsidered as one of the most productive ways to teach, study, criticize and above all politicize architecture. Rather than considering type as the stronghold of the discipline of architecture, the symposium will debate how this concept could offer a precise understanding of the politics that produce architecture through architecture itself. Contributions will reconsider typology with concrete case studies such as the concept of typological transfer, feminist critique of type, the idea of copy in medieval architecture, the rise of "non-typological" architecture in Japan, typology as the "common ground" between architecture and the city, the politics of typological researches in the 1970s.

Invited lecturers:

Alfredo Thiermann, EPFL, Lausanne

Brendon Carlin, Technische Universität, Vienna; Architectural Association, London

Christoph Gantenbein, ETH, Zurich

Christopher C.M. Lee, Harvard GSD, Cambridge (MA)

Davide Sacconi, Syracuse University, London

Enrica Mannelli, Architectural Association, London

Gili Merin, Technische Universität, Vienna

Maria Shéhérazade Giudici, Royal College of Art, London

Marson Korbi, EPFL, Lausanne

Sophie Delhay, EPFL, Lausanne

Keywords

type; typology; architecture history and theory; domestic space

Learning Prerequisites

Important concepts to start the course

Knowledge of the history and theory of typology

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Understand different interpretations of type through concrete and theoretical case studies.

Resources

Bibliography

Martí Arís, Carlos. *Variations of Identity: Type in Architecture*. [English translation] 2021.

Moneo, Rafael. "On Typology" *Oppositions* 13 (1978): 23-45.

Quatremère de Quincy, Antoine. "Type" in *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, vol. 3, 1788.

Rossi, Aldo. *The Architecture of the City*. 1982.

Ressources en bibliothèque

- [The Architecture of the City / Rossi](#)
- [Variations of Identity: Type in Architecture / Martí Arís](#)
- [Oppositions, no 113\(1978\), p. 23-45](#)
- [Type, in Encyclopédie Méthodique, Architecture, vol. 3, p. 543-545](#)

Websites

- <https://cosamentale.com/produit/variations-en/>