

Database, Network, Interface: The Architecture of Information

Exhibition curated by Mariabruna Fabrizi and Fosco Lucrelli

“Database, Network, Interface” explores architecture’s historical role in representing and organising information and knowledge.

The exhibition analyses architecture’s ability to structure the access to information and physically construct relationships between content through spatial, typological and structural organisation.

The case studies, also incorporating manifestations of architectural thought in other fields (literature, art, gaming, interaction design), belong to a broad timespan, from antiquity to contemporary times and touch on very different conceptions and formalisations of the relationship between space and information.

The selection suggests the existence of a continuous dialogue between immaterial content and space and emphasises the crucial role of architecture in providing a configuration for the abstract process of the construction of knowledge.

The exhibition borrows the notions of “database”, “network” and “interface” from the vocabulary of information technology and interprets them through the lens of the architectural discipline.

Digital logic and architecture

Today, storing, organising and transmitting information is mainly undertaken via digital means: online archives, social networks and new media devices. In the last decades, digital tools have progressively fostered the multiplication of sources of information and ease of access to continuous flows of data. The utopian goal of an infinite availability of collective knowledge finally appears as a definite possibility. Yet, such an achievement comes with a confusing form: an overwhelming mass of information of data, texts, images, videos, sounds appearing too disorganised, fragmented and complicated to comprehend.

The dematerialised nature of digital tools needs logical systems to help the user access, read and interpret the mass of data.

“Database, Network, Interface” delves into the relationship between architectural and digital culture beyond the pure rhetoric of “digital architecture” and its stylistic outcomes. The hypothesis is that the notions of “database”, “network” and “interface”—common in the domain of Information Technology—might have direct architectural configuration (through specific spatial and typological arrangements, plan composition, façade design). In this sense, the exhibition presents a selection of case studies underlining the possible connections between digital and non-digital projects and their architectural counterparts and tentative efforts to spatialise the digital realm thanks to architectural means.

A combinatory exhibition

Ramon Llull’s “Figura Plena”, a drawing consisting of a circle, a square and a triangle sharing the same centre, inspires the exhibition design. The figure and a series of subdivisions are featured in his text “The New Geometry (Liber de geometria nova et compendiosa)” and point to a series of cosmological references. For Llull, geometrical science forms the basis for any knowledge process; hence, to be understood, the entire universe is reduced to simple geometries, further combined and subdivided.

Eighteen wooden pieces of furniture on a regular array display the exhibition’s content. In plan, each one of them is shaped in one of three Llullian geometric figures: the circle, the equilateral triangle, and the square. These pieces of furniture are an allusion to and an abstraction of the fixtures traditionally connected to the access and organisation of information: tables, filing cabinets, libraries, shelves, pedestals, studies, etc.

In the exhibition, the circle corresponds to the database, the triangle to the network and the square to the interface. Each piece of furniture hosts one of the eighteen subjects.

The array of furniture encourages visitors to walk past the subjects without following a specific route, but instead walking from one to another following visual or conceptual affinities. The spatial system of the selection corresponds to a knowledge process based on combinatory logic where the visitor’s spontaneous roaming creates connections between subjects.

Curators and exhibition designers:
Mariabruna Fabrizi & Fosco Lucarelli
microcities / socks-studio <http://socks-studio.com>

Mariabruna Fabrizi and Fosco Lucarelli are architects, teachers and curators. They are currently based in Paris where they have founded the practice Microcities, and the website and visual atlas Socks-studio. They are both associate professors at the School of Architecture EAVT Paris-Est.

Their main topics of research are the spatialisation of mental processes, the relationship between architecture and information, the evolution of the domestic space.

They have been invited curators for "The Form of Form" at the 2016 Lisbon Architecture Triennale, and they curated the exhibition "Inner Space" at the Lisbon Architecture Triennale 2019. They published the book Inner Space in 2019 for the publisher Poligrafa.

Mariabruna Fabrizi and Fosco Lucarelli will be in Switzerland from the morning of Wednesday, 22 September 2021, until the exhibition preview at 6pm on Monday, 27 September 2021.

Related Events

Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 2pm to midnight
Night of the museums of Lausanne, guided tours and animations

Opening Lecture - Vernissage 27 September 2021, 6pm
Mariabruna Fabrizi and Fosco Lucarelli

Conferences on Mondays, October 25, November 8 and November 29 at 18:30

Useful Information

Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 5:30pm
Saturday from 2pm till 6pm. Closed Sundays

Archizoom exhibition space
School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering (ENAC)

SG building (SG 1212), EPFL - 1015 Lausanne

Facebook:
[@archizoom.EPFL](https://www.facebook.com/archizoom.EPFL)

Instagram:
[@archizoomepfl](https://www.instagram.com/archizoomepfl)

Chaîne YouTube:
Archizoom EPFL

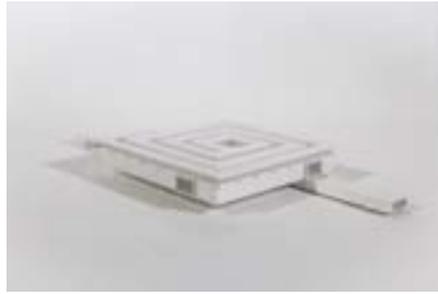
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EPFL



Ken Isaacs, The knowledge Box, 1962
Model by Paul Wang; Photo by Tanguy Auffret-Postel



Le Corbusier, Musée à croissance illimitée, unbuilt project, 1939
Model by Baptiste Bourget and Simon Jeckelmann, Studio Lapiere, EPFL
Photo by Tanguy Auffret-Postel



Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates, Inc., National Collegiate Football Hall of Fame, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States, 1967
Model by Omblin Heili and Clémence Dubuis; Photo by Tanguy Auffret-Postel



Louis Kahn, Study carrels of the Exeter Library, 1965
Model by Clémence Dubuis, l'atelier des maquettes EPFL;
Photo by Tanguy Auffret-Postel



Temples de la Musique, Robert Fludd, 1617



British museum library, W.B. Rye, 19th Century

Link to download the images:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10ReK0jJnhUR4uAnG8Yoe120FsJ0THsB7?usp=sharing>

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