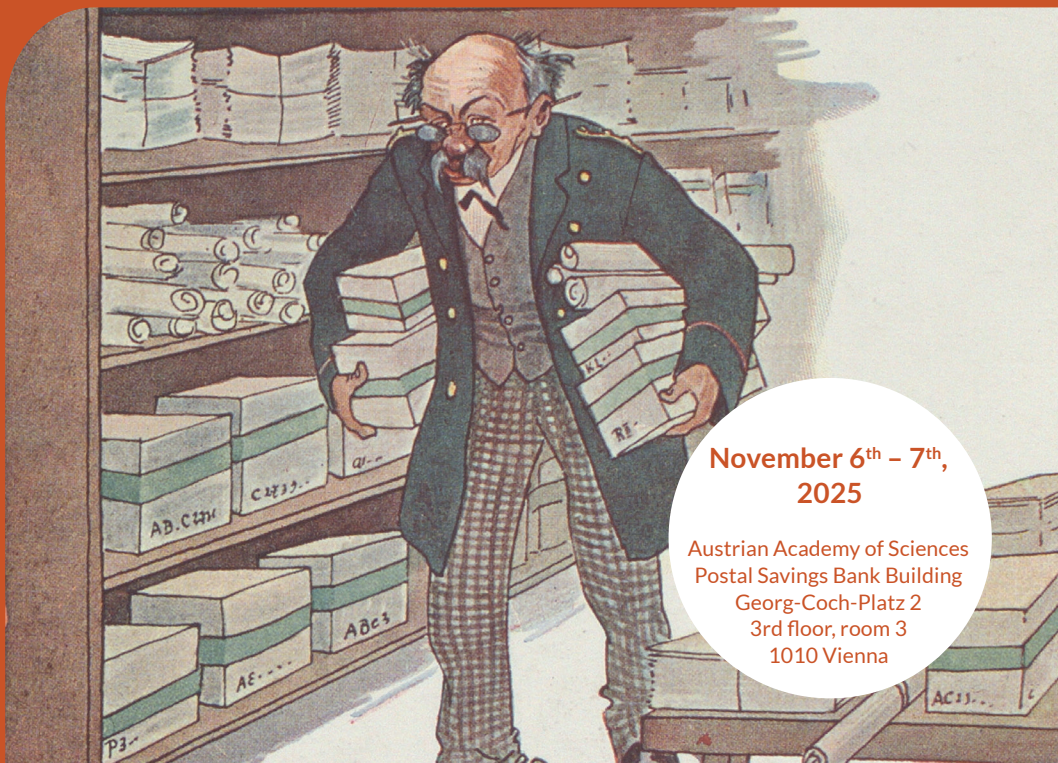
ÖAW Austrian Academy of Sciences | ihb | IAH INSTITUTE OF ART HISTORY CZECH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

International Conference

Architecture and the Power of Bureaucracy



November 6th – 7th, 2025

Austrian Academy of Sciences
Postal Savings Bank Building
Georg-Coch-Platz 2
3rd floor, room 3
1010 Vienna

Architecture and the Power of Bureaucracy

The term “bureaucracy” refers to the organisation of people and processes, as well as paperwork. Bureaucracy is often used as a synonym for inefficiency and disinterest, and is described as the “fifth form of rule by irresponsible officials who are not at risk” (Männle, 2023). However, it can also indicate high efficiency, control and power (Blau & Meyer, 1971). With the advent of the modern state, civil servants commissioned public architecture and urban plans by setting rules and regulations. Although bureaucrats and bureaucracies may perceive their agenda as neutral, its actual impact can be both constructive and destructive. Although bureaucracy is an inevitable part of the development of the built environment, it is not a common denominator in modern architecture.
This conference will explore the material implications of bureaucratic measures, arguing that they have had a significant impact on architectural practice and urban form since the late nineteenth century. This conference aims to incorporate bureaucracy into architectural theory and history discourses as an indispensable and powerful element in the construction process.
Philipp Männle has already asked the question: “To what extent does architecture require a functioning administration, and where is bureaucracy necessary or useful?” The conference aims to find answers and trace arguments that demonstrate the importance of bureaucracy in the realisation of architecture throughout the long 20th century.

The conference is jointly convened by the Institute of Habsburg and Balkan Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Art History, Czech Academy of Sciences.

It takes place on 6 and 7 November 2025 at the Postal Savings Bank Building in Vienna.

This event is part of the FWF project I 6241-G and the GAČR project 23-42260L “Invisible Agents”.
More on the project: https://invisible-agents.eu

Program

6th November 2025

8:30

Coffee and Registration

9:00

Welcome and Introduction

Doris Gruber
Vendula Hnídková, Richard Kurdiovsky, Anna Stuhlpfarrer

9:15–11:15

Panel 1: Processes

Chair: Ruth Hanisch, Dortmund

Matīss Groskaufmanis, Delft University of Technology/Aarhus School of Architecture
Architecture's Other Images: Building Knowledge in the Era of Spreadsheets

Sina Brückner-Amin, KIT Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
California's Calculated Campuses: Bureaucratic Ecologies of Planning, 1947–1959

Tilman Richter, Ruhr University Bochum
The Architecture of the Form

Jiaqi Wang, Yale University
Comprehending the Flow: Systems Theory and the Three Gorges Dam, 1986–1992

11:11–11:45

Coffee

11:45–13:15

Panel 2: Top-Down Trajectories

Chair: Christian Welzbacher, Berlin

Christina E. Crawford, Emory University, Atlanta
Bureaucracy + Quality in the Architecture of Atlanta's New Deal Public Housing

Charlotte Rottiers, KU Leuven / ETH Zürich
Buildings, Budgets, Bureaucrats: Tracing Architectural Agency through Belgian Diplomatic Buildings, 1900–1940

Wladimir Fischer-Nebmaier, OeAW Vienna
Follow the Paper Trail: A Semiotic Approach to the Austrian Work Ministry Archive's Files on the Postsparkasse Construction Project

13:15–14:30

Lunch

14:30–16:30

Panel 3: Contested Transfers

Chair: Andreas Nierhaus, Wien Museum

Angela Gigliotti, Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences and Syracuse University
Good air is as valuable as gold: re-assessing a transnational architecture exploring its least successful thing

Natalia Kvitkova, KU Leuven
Compromised Visions: Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation Berlin in the Postwar Administrative Landscape

Tiffanie Paré, EPF Lausanne
Moving construction: Zschokke and the orchestration of the labor force in the twentieth-century infrastructural landscape

Yahya Sepehri, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran
American Architects in Iran in the 1970s: Great Opportunities amid Bureaucratic Challenges

16:30–17:00

Coffee

17:00–18:30

Keynote Lecture

Introduction: Vendula Hnídková, CAS Prague

Jens van de Maele, KU Leuven
From the Chef to the Clerk: Le Corbusier's Spatial Politics of Bureaucracy

18:30–20:00

Wine and Bread Reception

Postal Savings Bank

7th November 2025

9:00–11:00

Panel 4: Institutions and Power

Chair: Elvira Ibragimová, Belgrade

Helena Mattsson, KTH School of Architecture, Stockholm
Radical Bureaucracy: Women Who Redesigned the World, 1945–1995

Katja Schröck, ZI Munich
Blueprints and Bureaucrats: When Administration Became Architecture

Paula Lacomba Montes, Universitat Politècnica de València
Anonymity and Agency: Bureaucratic Power in Post-War British School Design

Klára Ullmannová and Veronika Vicherková, Czech Technical University, Prague
The Reorganization of Architecture in Stavoprojekt. Creativity and Constraint in Early Socialist Czechoslovakia

11:00–11:30

Coffee

11:30–13:00

Panel 5: Schools Studies

Chair: Tobias Möllmer, University of Innsbruck

Lisa Beißwanger, University of Koblenz
From Drafting Table to Data Flow: The "SFB Hochschulbau" and the Rise of the Cybernetic Bureaucrat

Vladana Putnik Prica, University of Belgrade
Between Tuberculosis and Bureaucracy: The Construction of the Open-Air School in Belgrade (1931–1937)

Azize Elif Yabacı and Melis Acar, TED University
The Positive Power of Bureaucracy in Early Republican Educational Institutions in Türkiye

13:00–14:00

Lunch

14:00–14:30

Tour around Otto Wagner's Postal Savings Bank Building

(incl. the management offices)

14:30–16:00

Panel 6: Actors

Chair: Antje Senarclens de Grancy, TU Graz

Ricardo Costa Agarez, Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon
Negotiated: Public Architecture, Administration and Politics in Portugal

Daniele Pascale-Guidotti-Magnani, University of Bologna
Bologna 1861-1889: from the Unification of Italy to the first masterplan of the city

Marco Ninno, KU Leuven
No one in charge? Bureaucracy and the Architecture of European Integration

16:00–16:30

Coffee

16:30–18:30

Panel 7: The Socialist Perspective

Chair: Jan Galeta, CAS Prague

Marija Drėmaitė, Vilnius University
State Planning Institute as a Tool of Architectural Bureaucracy

Oxana Gourinovitch, Uni Konstanz
Planning Uranium Bureaucracies of Socialist Extractivism in East Germany

Veronika Rollová, MUNI Brno
The UIA and the Shifting Dynamics of Global Architecture: Czechoslovak Engagement with the Developing World

Michaela Janečková, CAS Prague
Can Bureaucracy Change the Level of Architecture? The Case of Czech Chamber of Architects

19:30

Conference Dinner

Book of Abstracts

Panel 1: Processes

Matīss Groskaufmanis
Delft University of Technology/Aarhus School of Architecture
Architecture's Other Images: Building Knowledge in the Era of Spreadsheets

This paper examines the digital spreadsheet as a silent yet central medium in architectural practice. Since the 1980s, they have functioned as operational images, quietly shaping how building knowledge is organized, understood, and acted upon. Drawing on periodicals, manuals, and case studies, the study presents the spreadsheet as both a projective and analytical tool that bridges management and design, highlighting how bureaucratic media form a fundamental part of architectural practice.

Matīss Groskaufmanis is a PhD researcher with the Design, Data and Society Group at TU Delft and a teaching associate professor at the Aarhus School of Architecture. Previously he held positions at University of Michigan's Taubman College, as well as multinational architecture practices OMA/AMO and MVRDV.

Sina Brückner-Amin
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
California's Calculated Campuses: Bureaucratic Ecologies of Planning, 1947–1959

In the 1950s, California's rapidly growing student population spurred bureaucrats to devise the so-called Master Plan for Higher Education (1960–1975), still in use today. The higher education planning study utilized statistical models, reports, and diagrams to apprehend the need of new campuses. The paper shows how these methods functioned both as "rational" tools and rhetoric strategies of self-legitimation, enabling non-architectural experts to transform quantified visions into architectural realities.

Sina Brückner-Amin is an architectural historian and a postdoctoral fellow at KIT Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and the saai Archive. As a researcher, she's interested in the relations between architecture and bureaucracy, the ways in which non-architectural media produce spaces and knowledge, and critical histories of grand-scale and data-based planning.

Tilman Richter
Ruhr University Bochum
The Architecture of the Form

This contribution examines, from a media-theoretical point of view, the interplay between architecture and the bureaucratic form. The form constitutes one of the foundational media of modern administrations, acting as a threshold that transforms individual concerns into administrative cases and persons into data. Drawing on literary and documentary works, my presentation explores the architectural properties of printed forms and the similarities between built infrastructures and these forms.

Tilman Richter studied Philosophy and Cultural Studies and completed his doctoral research as part of the DFG Research Training Group "Documentary Practices. Excess and Privation" at Ruhr University Bochum. Since 2023, he has been working as a Research Associate at the Institute for Media Studies at Ruhr University Bochum.

Jiaqi Wang
Yale University
Comprehending the Flow: Systems Theory and the Three Gorges Dam, 1986–1992

To build or not to build? This paper examines the rise of systems theory behind the Three Gorges Dam—the world's largest power plant. By modeling the environment as a calculable totality for prediction and control, systems thinking reshaped state planning in the 1980s China. The paper traces how large-scale infrastructure projects underpinned the emergence of a late socialist state apparatus oriented no longer toward revolution, but toward equilibrium and development.

Jiaqi Wang is a second-year PhD student in architectural history and theory at Yale University. His current research explores the intersection of architecture, STS and political economy, particularly systems theory, developmentalism, and infrastructure politics in late socialist China.

Panel 2: Top-Down Trajectories

Christina E. Crawford
Emory University, Atlanta
Bureaucracy + Quality in the Architecture of Atlanta's New Deal Public Housing

Atlanta was the site of America's first fully federally funded public housing: Techwood Homes (1936, for white families), and University Homes (1937, for Black families. This paper argues that the architectural design of these projects benefitted from interaction between local designers and the federal bureaucracy. The give and take between Washington DC and the relative periphery of Atlanta resulted in buildings of significantly higher design quality than either a mandated from above or a solely locally gestated project could have produced.

Christina E. Crawford is Associate Professor of Architectural History at Emory University and a licensed architect. Her research focuses on the transnational exchange of ideas about housing and urban form in the twentieth century. She is the author of Spatial Revolution (Cornell, 2022). Her forthcoming book, Model Housing (Yale, 2027), explores the foundation of public housing in the US, with Atlanta as the focus.

Charlotte Rottiers
Catholic University Leuven / Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Buildings, Budgets, Bureaucrats: Tracing Architectural Agency through Belgian Diplomatic Buildings, 1900–1940

Between 1900 and 1940, Belgium's Ministry of Foreign Affairs assumed financial and logistical responsibility for managing its diplomatic buildings abroad. As the Ministry did not yet have an internal building department, it relied on inter-ministerial and local expertise, such as Charles Lagasse de Locht (1845–1937), Alphonse Groothaert (1860–1922) and Jacques Aggiman (1897–1947). This paper examines how administrative procedures shaped architectural agency, distributing power between ministries, governments, and local actors.

Charlotte Rottiers is an architectural historian working on the cultural and political representation and identity formation through art and architecture. She obtained her PhD in Architecture at KU Leuven (2024). Her research is supported by FWO, the Academia Belgica in Rome, and the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship (2024–25).

Wladimir Fischer-Nebmaier
Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna
Follow the Paper Trail: A Semiotic Approach to the Austrian Work Ministry Archive's Files on the Postsparkasse Construction Project.

From a semiotic perspective, public buildings and legislation are a continuum. The latter brings about the former. This continuum is an assemblage of semiotic actions, human actors, physical actions, places, and materials. In order to demonstrate this, we need source material that is as comprehensive as possible. The collection of documents from the Austrian Works Ministry on the 1904 Postsparkasse project is such material, as the presentation will show.

Wladimir Fischer-Nebmaier graduated in Slavic studies and history at the University of Vienna. He has worked on nationalism, transatlantic identity management of migrants, and of elites, historical socio-linguistics, and literature and popular culture in Central and Southeast Europe. Since 2005, he has been co-editing the ÖAW's Ministerratsprotokolle edition series.

Panel 3: Contested Transfers

Angela Gigliotti
Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences / Syracuse University
Good air is as valuable as gold: re-assessing a transnational architecture exploring its least successful thing

By exploring a pars pro toto, as small as a ventilation patent, this paper reappraises the historiography of the Danish Academy in Rome by incorporating previously overlooked individuals, labor, and materials. It investigates the struggles, negotiations, frictions, and limitations inherent in constructing a transnational institution. It reviews unpublished archival sources (1964–69) centered on a technical device, the køleloft, unveiling a prolonged dispute bureucracy vs design between locals and incomers.

Angela Gigliotti is an architect, researcher and educator. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the SNSF-funded project "Aerial Spatial Revolution" and Adjunct at Syracuse University. Her research explores architectural labor and production studies, diplomatic architecture, and transnational modes of production - particularly within the Danish Welfare State, Danish colonialism, and Swiss coloniality.

Natalia Kvitkova
Catholic University Leuven
Compromised Visions: Le Corbusier's Unité d'Habitation Berlin in the Postwar Administrative Landscape

The Unité Berlin (1957) highlights the clash between modernist ideals and bureaucratic constraints. Altered to meet West Berlin's codes, budgets, and politics, the project deviated from Le Corbusier's original vision. Authorities both exploited and restricted his prestige, while the press shaped public perception of these compromises. Ultimately disowned by Le Corbusier, Unité Berlin illustrates bureaucracy as both a limiting and formative cultural force in 20th-century architecture.

Natalia Kvitkova is a doctoral researcher at KU Leuven. Her research investigates the social, cultural, and political entanglements and ramifications of 20th-century architecture, from its medialization, to the production of architectural celebrity, and the conditions dictated by neoliberal logics on urban space.

Tiffanie Paré
École polytechnique fédérale Lausanne
Moving construction: Zschokke and the orchestration of the labor force in the twentieth-century infrastructural landscape

The paper highlights Zschokke, a prominent Swiss construction contractor from the late 19th to 20th century. While architectural histories have overlooked contractors and their bureaucratic systems, this study emphasizes the centrality of "bureaucratic agencies" in shaping twentieth-century built environments. By addressing bureaucracy as a material force— through contract management, workforce organization, and navigation of building codes and regulations—this paper reframes the contractor as a co-author of twentieth-century architectural and territorial construction.

Tiffanie Paré is an architect and researcher. She is currently leading a doctoral research project at EPFL funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). Her research examines the historical role of building contractors in shaping building culture in Switzerland and beyond.

Yahya Sepehri
Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran
American Architects in Iran in the 1970s: Great Opportunities amid Bureaucratic Challenges

In the 1970s, Tehran experienced rapid urban expansion fueled by soaring oil prices, with numerous large-scale residential and commercial projects involving American architects. These mega-projects, including satellite towns for affluent groups, reflected significant opportunities for U.S. professionals. However, architects faced bureaucratic challenges negotiating with the Shah, his relatives, and affiliated foundations. This article explores how government policies influenced these developments, using American and Iranian architectural periodicals as primary historical sources.

Yahya Sepehri is an assistant professor at the Center for Iranian Architectural Studies and Documentation, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Shahid Beheshti University. His research focuses on the history of contemporary architecture and the history of architectural education, especially in the post-World War II era.

Keynote Lecture

Jens van de Maele
Catholic University Leuven
From the Chef to the Clerk: Le Corbusier's Spatial Politics of Bureaucracy

In 2008, Nicholas Fox Weber noted with surprise that, despite nearly 400 monographs on Le Corbusier, no full biography had yet appeared. A similar gap remains today: Le Corbusier's vision of bureaucracy continues to be underexplored. This neglect reflects the nature of bureaucracy itself: as a "background ideology" of modernity, it is both foundational and elusive, shaping mentalities and environments while often evading critical attention. Although Alexandra Lange's 2002 study of Le Corbusier's office furniture and recent research into the architect's Parisian atelier have offered crucial insights, scholarship has yet to examine how managerial norms of bureaucracy were spatialised in his designs. This talk investigates how such norms informed both the urban visions of projects like the Ville Radieuse and the programme-driven layouts of office buildings such as the League of Nations headquarters. It reveals how bureaucracy was negotiated through design – between visionary ambition and institutional formality, between the chef and the clerk.

Jens van de Maele is a postdoctoral researcher at KU Leuven. He focuses on architectural history (with a particular interest in its linkages with politics) and urban environmental history. Recent publications include the monograph Architectures of Bureaucracy: The Politics of Government Office Buildings in Interwar Belgium (2025) as well as two edited volumes: Behind Office Doors: Use and Users in the History of Office Buildings (as editor, in press) and Mediating the Decline of Industrial Cities (as co-editor, in press).

Panel 4: Institutions and Power

Helena Mattsson
Kungliga Tekniska högskolan School of Architecture, Stockholm
Radical Bureaucracy: Women Who Redesigned the World, 1945–1995

Most historical narratives of architectural production overlook the significance of women as driving forces in shaping regulations based on solidarity and inclusion. Highlighting an intermediary sphere in the production of modern architecture between the architect's design phase and the construction site, this paper discusses work related to bureaucracy developed by women in Sweden from 1945 to 1995. Here, bureaucracy is explored as a field for the creation of alternative life worlds.

Helena Mattsson is Professor of Theory and History at KTH School of Architecture, Stockholm. Her research focuses on contemporary architectural history and the interdependency between politics, economy, and spatial organizations. Among the recent publications is the monograph Architecture and Retrenchment: Neoliberalization of the Swedish Model across Aesthetics and Space, 1968–1994 (2023).

Katja Schröck
Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte, Munich
Blueprints and Bureaucrats: When Administration Became Architecture

The case of St. Vitus Cathedral in 19th-century Prague shows how monumental building was shaped as much by bureaucracy as by design. Centering on canon Wenzel Pessina's 1841 Fundamental Guidelines, the paper examines the cathedral's delayed completion and the competing roles of clergy, civic association, and imperial commission. Bureaucracy emerges not only as an obstacle but as a productive, legitimizing, and form-shaping force in architecture, anticipating modern project management.

Katja Schröck is a stonemason and stone sculptor. She studied at the Technical University of Dresden, the University of Bologna, and the University of Paris Sorbonne (Paris IV). Employed at various departments and involved in various research projects, her career took her from Dresden to Bamberg, Innsbruck and Zurich. She now works as a research consultant at the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich.

Paula Lacomba Montes
Universitat Politècnica de València
Anonymity and Agency: Bureaucratic Power in Post-War British School Design

This contribution examines how post-war British school architecture was transformed through state bureaucracy following the 1944 Education Act. Focusing on the Development Group within the Ministry of Education, which was led by Mary and David Medd, it argues that bureaucracy facilitated architectural innovation and collaborative authorship. Drawing on archival sources, the study engages feminist historiography to reassess institutional anonymity, showing how interdisciplinary collaboration enabled a national reimagining of educational space.

Paula Lacomba is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture, Universitat Politècnica de València, specialising in educational architecture. She is currently member of the research group Architecture, Bodies, Others. Between 2021–2024, she worked as a Postdoctoral Margarita Salas Fellow at TU Delft and ETSAM, Madrid. In 2023, she was awarded a SAH Membership Grant for Emerging Professionals.

Klára Ullmannová and Veronika Vicherková
Czech Technical University, Prague
The Reorganization of Architecture in Stavoprojekt. Creativity and Constraint in Early Socialist Czechoslovakia

With the commencement of state socialism in Czechoslovakia, the Stavoprojekt design institute was established in 1948 to centralize architectural practice. Inspired by Baťa's Taylorist management, its internal carefully constructed organisation system influenced legislation, national economic planning, as well as the built environment. The precisely controlled „production process" transformed architectural design into a technical and administrative task. Although initially very successful, its emphasis on control ultimately limited creativity and hindered innovation.

Klára Ullmannová, Ph.D. candidate at the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University. Her research interests include 20th-century architectural heritage, or perspectives in heritage studies. She currently participates in the research project "Stavoprojekt 1948–1953. Collectivization of Architectural Practice and its Imprint on the Memory of Czech Landscape and Cities."

Veronika Vicherková, a graduate of Charles University and the Czech Technical University (Ph.D.), she specializes in 20th-century architectural history, with a focus on heritage protection, ecology, and art in architecture. Currently working at CTU Prague and is a member of the „Stavoprojekt 1948–1953" research project.

Panel 5: Schools Studies

Lisa Beißwanger
University of Koblenz
From Drafting Table to Data Flow: The "SFB Hochschulbau" and the Rise of the Cybernetic Bureaucrat

This paper examines the bureaucratic tendencies that reshaped architectural practice during the postwar decades in West Germany. Focusing on the federally funded *Sonderforschungsbereich (*SFB) *Hochschulbau* at the University of Stuttgart (1969–76), it uses educational architecture as a lens to show how the discipline was redefined—from a creative art to a data-driven planning science. In doing so, it contributes to a critical historiography of bureaucracy as both a means of facilitation and a mechanism of control.

Lisa Beißwanger is Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Koblenz. Her research focuses on 20th- and 21st-century art and architecture, with particular interest in discourses of the body, space, and movement; choreographies of architecture; museum and exhibition studies; and educational architecture.

Vladana Putnik Prica
University of Belgrade
Between Tuberculosis and Bureaucracy: The Construction of the Open-Air School in Belgrade (1931–1937)

During the interwar period, Belgrade was struck by Tuberculosis fatalities, especially among children. This led to the construction of an Open-Air School, and architect Ignjat Popović, who worked for the Belgrade Municipality, designed it. Although the building was completed in 1932, it took an additional five years to equip and open it fully. This paper explores how bureaucratic issues delayed the opening of one of its most significant projects.

Vladana Putnik Prica is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Art History and a lecturer at the Department of Art History, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Philosophy. Her area of research is the history of Serbian and Yugoslav architecture in the 20th century.

Azize Elif Yabacı and Melis Acar
Türk Eğitim Derneği University, Ankara
The Positive Power of Bureaucracy in Early Republican Educational Institutions in Türkiye

In early Republican Türkiye, modernist architecture symbolized state power and a break from the Ottoman past. Educational institutions, such as People's Houses and Village Institutes, embodied bureaucratic authority and the Republic's modernist ideals. Publications like La Turquie Kemaliste and Arkitekt documented and promoted these designs, linking architecture to state ideology. This paper argues how these early Republican educational buildings and media together reinforced political authority through both built form and representation.

Azize Elif Yabacı, PhD., received her B.Arch from Middle East Technical University (METU) in 2009, completed M.Sc. in Graduate Program in Restoration and Preservation of Historical Monuments at Middle East Technical University (METU) in 2012, and completed her PHD studies in Graduate Program in Conservation of Cultural Heritage at Middle East Technical University (METU) in 2018. She continues to conduct research studies on the conservation of modern heritage.

Melis Acar, received her B.Arch (2012–2016) from TED University, M.A in Architectural History (2016–2019) from Middle East Technical University. Currently PhD. candidate in Architectural History in Middle East Technical University, and works as an Instructor at TED University, Department of Architecture. Major research interests include studies on urban history and cultural studies as well as Mediterranean and early Republican architecture in modern Turkey.

Panel 6: Actors

Ricardo Costa Agarez
Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon
Negotiated: Public Architecture, Administration and Politics in Portugal

Architectural and urban history remain incomplete until we engage with political, social and administrative history-making and examine key production aspects: funding, policies, and programmes; networks of power and influence; national, regional and local agency; expressions of need; and built environment-related bureaucracies. Countering established narratives and Portuguese architecture's hagiographic obsession, this paper draws on mid-twentieth-century social-interest facilities and seldom-used administration archives to show such bureaucracies as negotiation grounds for architectural culture(s).

Ricardo Costa Agarez is a Portuguese architect (1996) and architectural historian and theorist (2013). He is Senior Researcher at Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, ERC Starting Grant holder (ReARQ.IB, 2021–2026) and coordinator of the platform Arquitectura Aqui – Community, Proximity, Action: Collective-Use Facilities in Portugal and Spain 1939–1985 (https://arquitecturaaqui.eu/en).

Daniele Pascale-Guidotti-Magnani
University of Bologna
Bologna 1861–1889: from the Unification of Italy to the first masterplan of the city

The case study of Bologna is particularly interesting in the process of the standardization of laws immediately after the Unification of Italy. A fundamental role was played by the municipal architect Coriolano Monti and his technical office. The modern day Bologna owes much to the crucial operations developped in those years, like the street connecting the city center to the railway station and the first general master plan.

Daniele Pascale got his PhD at the University of Bologna (2015), where he is currently a Researcher, focusing his studies on architectural and urban history. Among his latest publications, the monograph *L'opera di Coriolano Monti a Bologna* (1859–1866). *La «saggia architettura» negli anni dell'unità d'Italia* (2023).

Marco Ninno
Catholic Universtiy Leuven
No one in charge? Bureaucracy and the Architecture of European Integration

This paper explores how weak bureaucratic authority can undermine architectural coherence, using the European Commission's office buildings in Brussels as a case study. Limited control over location and fragmented decision-making produced spatial inefficiency, leaving private developers to shape growth informally. Drawing on archives, staff publications, spatial analysis, and interviews, it argues that administrative independence and long-term vision are crucial for coherent architectural strategies in transnational institutions.

Marco Ninno is a doctoral researcher in History at KU Leuven with an international academic background in international and global history. His current research focuses on the relationship between the materiality of European Commission office spaces and its institutional practices and identities studying how EU office interiors shaped institutional culture.

Panel 7: The Socialist Perspective

Marija Drėmaitė
Vilnius University
State Planning Institute as a Tool of Architectural Bureaucracy

Although bureaucracy is an inevitable component in the development of the built environment, under authoritarian and totalitarian regimes it can become a powerful instrument for controlling architectural and urban development across an entire country. This presentation focuses on the State Design/Planning Institute as a form of collective architectural production operating under state control in the soviet-occupied Lithuania in the period from 1940s to late 1950s.

Marija Drėmaitė is a professor in architectural history and cultural heritage at the Faculty of History, Vilnius University. She investigates historical, social and anthropological aspects of architecture of the 20th century. She authored several books including "Baltic Modernism: Architecture and Housing in Soviet Lithuania" (Berlin, 2017).

Oxana Gourinovitch
University Konstanz
Planning Uranium Bureaucracies of Socialist Extractivism in East Germany

This talk explores the bureaucratic structures of the Soviet-German uranium mining company SDAG Wismut, one of the world's largest uranium producers and the main supplier for the Soviet nuclear program. Functioning as a semi-secretive "state within a state" in the GDR, Wismut not only operated vast mining and processing facilities but also created its own social, health, and cultural infrastructure for its workforce. Special attention is given to the company's role in developing its own building norms, advancing standardization and prefabrication, and reshaping the southern districts of the GDR.

Oxana Gourinovitch is an architectural historian, architect, and curator focusing on built environments of the state socialist world. She has been teaching and researching at the TU Berlin and RWTH Aachen, and was the CCA/WRI fellow at the Center for Contemporary Architecture in Montreal. Her PhD was awarded the Tiburtius Prize of the Berlin Universities and published as a book "Raising the Curtain: Operatic Modernism and the Soviet Nations" by Spector Books in 2024. Currently she is the Egon Eiermann Postdoc Fellow at the ETH Zürich.

Veronika Rollová
Masaryk University, Brno
The UIA and the Shifting Dynamics of Global Architecture: Czechoslovak Engagement with the Developing World

The International Union of Architects (UIA) was a key global institution, which served as a source of legitimacy in negotiations between national associations and state authorities. This paper will examine how the relationship between the Union of Czechoslovak Architects and "developing" countries was mediated through the UIA. How did the growing interest of both Western and Eastern Bloc in the Global South manifest at the UIA congress in Prague (1967)?

Veronika Rollová is a research associate in the grant project *Czechs and the Colonial World: Design and Visual Culture after 1848* at Masaryk University in Brno, where she focuses on material culture and export of Czech projects. She is interested in 20th-century architecture and design within broader political context

Michaela Janečková
Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
Can Bureaucracy Change the Level of Architecture? The Case of Czech Chamber of Architects

Czech Chamber of Architects was founded in 1992 after lively debates that had both supporters and critics. The paper aims to present the debates in 1989–1992 and thus make visible the ideas about the role of the profession in society, and to raise the question that was already asked at that time – namely whether it is possible to „change the level of architecture by administration".

Michaela Janečková has been involved in research projects *Prefabricated Housing Estates in the Czech Republic and Architecture and Czech politics in the 19th to 21st century*. Since 2025, together with Karolina Jirkalová, she has been researching *The Challenges of Czech Architecture after 1989*.

ORGANIZER

Institute for Habsburg and Balkan Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and
Institute of Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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Photo: Postcard 'St. Bürokratius' (Brüder Kohn KG after a drawing by Fritz Schönpflug, around 1910; Vienna Museum Inv. No. 75940/5)

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