

That architecture is a multidisciplinary practice is not novelty. In western history, architects describe their profession as an assemblage of expertise which, one might think, can hardly be performed by just one individual. This is the case in Vitruvius' The Ten Books on Architecture where he stated that an architect has to be conversant in matters related to geometry, history, philosophy, music, medicine, jurisprudence, astronomy, and the theory of the heavens.

This is repeated today in the Article 46 dedicated to "Training of Architects" included in the EU's Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36/EC where an architect should understand fine arts, technology, human sciences, environmental issues, building regulations, just to name a few. What complicates matters though is that an architect is not only to be versatile in a variety of different disciplines other than architecture, but that the profession of architecture is to exist "in society," mediating "between people and buildings, and between buildings and their environment," responding to "human needs and scale," as the Directive states. What this being "in society" means and demands is at the core of architecture remaking today. Society has been renamed at any turn of architecture thinking, such as in the early 20th century modernism with "masses" or the 1960s CIAM discussions with "the greatest number" and today's use of "communities." The discussion of who is the user has also brought the problem of the relationship between user and space maker. Discussions on modes of collaborations and participation have been central to architecture at least since the 1960s.

This research focuses on the modes of collaboration between architects and users, what the Directive calls "society." It does so by critically addressing and comparing modality of collaborations within four main paradigms: experiences of feminist collectives; socialist corporativism; environmental care; and racial displacement and discrimination.

Multidisciplinarity in Action: Defining Collaborative Design

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