

Research by Design at the Crossroads of Architecture and Visual Arts: Exploring the Epistemological Reconfigurations

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The paper aims to explore the potentials of research by design in architecture and visual arts. The main objective of the paper is to analyse the different models and epistemological positions advanced in the academic milieus as far as the doctoral research by design is concerned, to explore the differences and similarities between the research by design in the field of architecture and in the field of visual arts. Despite the fact that the research by design in the fields of architecture and visual arts is focused on the production of knowledge through visual, associative and experimental research, the models of research by design in visual arts differ from those prevailing in architectural programs. The paper focuses on a corpus of models of doctoral research by design carried out within different university programs in schools of architecture and art, and various multi-university and supra-disciplinary programs (architecture and visual arts) which share the intention to develop their research projects through creative practice. Series of questions that this paper aims to clarify are the following: Under which circumstances and conditions a work in the field of architecture (drawn, graphic or constructed) or its formulation (verbal or written) can be recognized as active in the constitution of knowledge? What are the modes of inquiry specific to architectural and artistic practices that make it possible to build knowledge that can be transmitted and shared?

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Img. B04 Bernard Tschumi, drawing for the competition for the Parc de La Villette 1982. Dimensions: 74 × 60 cm. Courtesy Bernard Tschumi Architects © Bernard Tschumi Architects.

