

IS ARCHITECTURE ART?

ONGOING PROJECT (2016-2019)

A HISTORY OF CATEGORIES, CONCEPTS AND RECENT PRACTICES

Funded by a Discovery Grant of the Australian Research Council, "Is Architecture Art?" is a research project of the Centre for Architecture, Theory, History and Criticism (ATCH), at the School of Architecture, University of Queensland in partnership with Ghent University.

The recurring question of whether architecture is an art does not allow for a simple answer. The posing of it, however, usefully exposes many of the ways in which the concept of architecture has changed and is changing. In some circumstances and settings today architecture is considered an art, and in others not. This situation has also varied historically as architecture professionalised over the twentieth century, and the concepts of 'art', 'the arts', of culture and the creative economy have shifted. The project does not attempt to answer the question of whether architecture is an art, but rather to look at the points and moments at which the question arises and if this affects the concept of architecture as a practice and a discipline. It aims to identify the overlaps and misalignments between concepts and institutional categories, and to trace the impact of the latter on the ways that art and architecture are valued.



Team:

- Professor John Macarthur
- Dr. Susan Holden
- Professor Wouter Davidts (UGent)
- Dr. Ashley Paine
- Annalise Varghese (PhD Candidate)
- Rosemary Willink (PhD Candidate)

Outcomes and Related Publications:

Journal Articles

Macarthur, John and Susan Holden. "Is Architecture Art?." *Architecture Australia*, Vol. 105, No. 2, Mar/Apr 2016: 46-47, 49-50.

Macarthur, John. "Architecture, HEAT and the Government of Culture." In *Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand: 32, Architecture, Institutions and Change*, edited by Paul Hogben and Judith O'Callaghan, 366-377. Sydney:SAHANZ, 2015.

Book Chapter

Leach, Andrew, and John Macarthur. "Architecture, Disciplinarity, and the Arts: Considering the Issues." In *Architecture, Disciplinarity, and the Arts*, edited by Andrew Leach and John Macarthur, 7-15. Ghent: A&S Books, 2009.

Conference proceedings

The conference Inside | Outside: Trading between Art and Architecture was the inaugural event of the 'Is Architecture Art?' research project, held at KASK/ School of Arts, Louis Pasteurlaan 2, 9000 Ghent, between 4-6 May 2017.

The SAHANZ conference will be held at the University of Canberra, Australia between the 5-8th of July 2017. The 34th Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand will be attended by several faculty members including Prof John Macarthur who will present a paper on *The Semblance of Use: Function and Aesthetics in Contemporary Art Pavilions and the Longer History of Ornamental Buildings* and Dr Ashley Paine will present a paper on *Rethinking Replicas: Temporality and the Reconstructed Pavilion*.