



Lifting The Curtain. Central European Architectural Networks

**Collateral Event of the 14th International Architecture Exhibition
– La Biennale di Venezia.**

short (250 ch.)

The exhibition investigates the role of Central European cross-national architectural networks and circles at different turning points of the 20th century. The exhibition offers a new perspective on the evolution of modernism through mapping actors and different transfers across multiple borders, uncovering dynamic exchanges expanding beyond both western narratives of formative national modernity and cold war territorial boundaries as well as the increasingly established architectural discourse of post socialist countries.

standard description (2000 ch.)

The contribution of Central Europe to the formation and dissemination of modernity is largely unknown or seen as a marginal episode in post-war historiographies of global modern architecture, due in part to its long term isolation from Western discourse. This situation also reinforced the currently dominant national narratives of modernism in post-socialist countries.

This project explores key transitions that formed modernity in Central Europe from a different perspective. Its intention is to highlight cross border and cross disciplinary transfers, which reveal a different understanding of the networks of modern architecture.

The exhibition is the first instalment of a long-term research on the development of architecture as a result of complex interactions between material and immaterial production, where many actors constitute networks and exchange knowledge. In a lateral move between national and object narratives, the exhibition focuses not on the elements but the mechanisms of production. Its initial themes describe networks and agencies who formed and contextualized architectural culture until the socialist states, tracing links between the different national narratives and larger interpretative frameworks. Later phases address the postmodern adaptations during the transformation periods, and the impact of 20th century projects on current unfolding processes.

Through the active process of documentation an open archive will be constructed within the project exhibitions and events in contributing centers. This *modus operandi* will relaunch the exchange between the most active centers of architecture in the region. Thus the project is also an attempt to revive and foster current networks.

Event facts:

Venue: Centro Culturale Don Orione Artigianelli (Sala Tiziano)
Dorsoduro 919, Venezia

Exhibition duration: June 7 – November 23, 2014

Organiser: Polish Modern Art Foundation, Warsaw

Co-organisers: TRACE– Central European Architectural Research Think-tank;
CCEA – Centre for Central European Architecture, Prague;
KEK – Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre, Budapest;
ÖGFA – Austrian Association for Architecture, Vienna;
Platforma 9,81 – Institute for Research in Architecture, Zagreb/Split

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