

ANNUAL REVIEW 2011/2012

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Model: House Belvederestrasse, 1959/1989

Review 2011 and 2012 have been eventful years for the Ungers Archive for Architectural Research, UAA. We successfully laid some important cornerstones for its foundation, including the launch of the Circle of Friends in January 2011. The Circle now has about 150 members and actively supports the activities of the UAA. We are thankful for the support we have received, especially from the Chairman of the Board Dr. Georg Thoma, Shearman & Sterling, Düsseldorf, his Deputy Hans-Heinrich Große-Brockhoff former Senator for Culture, Düsseldorf, the Treasurer Gisela Capitain, gallerist, Cologne and Berlin, and Prof. Walter von Lom, architect, Cologne.

The UAA is built on three pillars: the comprehensive library, which encompasses 500 years of architectural history; O.M.Ungers' estate with the complete collection of his designs, drawings and writings; and the Belvederestrasse studio and house complex, which includes the "library cube" constructed in the garden. There are important libraries on architecture, architect's estates and architect's houses, but they are rarely found grouped together in a single "cosmos". As a result the UAA reaches a diverse national and international public. Bibliophiles and historians visit the library regularly while academics and post-graduate students consult the estate in pursuit of their research and studies. Universities and colleges, architects and individuals interested in architecture book guided tours of the Belvederestrasse complex on a regular basis.

These three pillars constitute the basis for a broader public program designed to stimulate architectural discourse via exhibitions, lectures and Ex Libris lectures, providing an opportunity for intensive exchange between past and present, theory and practice. We also facilitate and promote international student exchanges through our summer academies and seminars aimed at training both eye and intellect in all things architectural.

The purpose of this review is to provide a brief insight into UAA's activities over the past two years. It remains a constant thrill to be part of the UAA and, in cooperation with O.M.Ungers' long-time colleagues Anja Sieber-Albers and Bernd Grimm, as well as Hilde Bailer and Heidemarie Schmidt, to participate in its development into an institution that is unique not only in Cologne but also in Europe.

Sophia Ungers

EX LIBRIS 2011 saw the launch of our Ex Libris lecture. The UAA library, spanning as it does 500 years of architectural history, is filled with information. Rather than allowing all this cultural knowledge to lie dormant in the bookshelves, we aim to bring it to the present, to interpret its content from a contemporary viewpoint and



to verify its relevance to today's discourse. For each Ex Libris we invite an architecture historian and an architect each to select a book from the library and present it to the public. This triggers a discussion about the significance of the books at the time of writing - from both a theoretical and an applied perspective - and their relevance to the architecture of today.

Reviewing these Ex Libris evenings, we realize yet again how exciting the topics have been. Drawing on their knowledge and giving their individual interpretations, the speakers presented their subjects with enthusiasm. Each evening was informative and entertaining at the same time. At this point we would like to thank our guest speakers for their participation!

Firma FSB, Brakel, and Friedrich Wassermann Bauunternehmung, Cologne have provided regular support for the Ex Libris events. Martin Premus of the bm - Gesellschaft für Bildung in Medienberufen in Cologne generously provided us not only the necessary audio and video equipment but also the assistance of his students.



30.06.2011

Prof. Dr. Fritz Neumeyer: Leon Battista Alberti, De Re Aedificatoria, Florenz 1485

Prof. Hans Kollhoff: Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Sammlung Architektonischer Entwürfe, Berlin 1828

Fritz Neumeyer (Professor emeritus of Theory of Architecture, Technische Universität Berlin) selected Leon Battista Alberti's *On the Art of*

Building. This classic treatise on Renaissance architecture presents universally valid theses on "beauty" in architecture, the public and the private space, and the design of buildings and plazas.

Hans Kollhoff (Kollhoff Architects, Berlin) chose Karl Friedrich Schinkels' *Collection of Architectural Designs*. The main subject of the presentation was Schinkels's enthusiasm for Southern Italian farmhouses rather than classical architecture during his first Italian journey.



21.11.2011

Prof. Dr. Martin Kieren: El Lissitzky, Von zwei Quadraten, Berlin 1922

Prof. Dr. Paul Kahlfeldt: Andrea Palladio, I Quattro Libri Dell'Architettura, Venedig 1616

Martin Kieren (Professor of the Theory of Architecture, Beuth Hochschule für Technik, Berlin) chose one of the gems in the collection:

El Lissitzky *About Two Squares*. Featuring very little in the way of text it illustrates how a black and a red square restore order to a "chaotic" world. Kieren used the book to demonstrate the significance of the square in the history of architecture.

Paul Kahlfeldt (Petra und Paul Kahlfeldt Architects, Berlin) presented Andrea Palladio's *The Four Books of Architecture*, an architectural treatise setting out the fundamentals of classical and Renaissance architecture that still have a major influence on architecture today.



19.03.2012

Dr. Jasper Cepl: Antonia Sant'Elia, Manifest „L'Architettura Futurista“, Mailand 1914

Prof. Karl-Heinz Petzinka: Paul Wijdeveld, Ludwig Wittgenstein · Architekt, Basel 1994

Jasper Cepl (research associate in the field of architectural theory at the Technische Universität Berlin) selected one of the library's most

slender publications, Antonio Sant'Elia's four-page pamphlet *Futuristic Architecture*, a manifesto written in 1914. Cepl spoke about the idealism and the ideas of the Futurists and followed them through to the present day. Karl Heinz Petzinka (Petzinka Pink Architects, Düsseldorf) chose for his presentation the exciting subject of Ludwig Wittgenstein as an architect. In 1925 the philosopher built a house for his sister in which every detail was determined by the architectural principles of proportion and measurement.



05.06.2012

Prof. Maria Schwarz: Das neue Köln - Ein Vorentwurf, Hrsg. Stadt Köln, 1950

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Pehnt: Fritz Schumacher, Köln - Entwicklungsfragen einer Großstadt, Köln 1923

Wolfgang Pehnt (Professor emeritus at the Institute of Art History, Ruhr University, Bochum) presented Fritz Schumacher's *Cologne - Questions on the Development of a Large City*. The idealism of the 1920s facilitated the development of large-scale building in Cologne and laid the foundations for the development of the city.

In response to and in contrast with Schumacher's ideas, Maria Schwarz (Architekturbüro Schwarz, Cologne) presented Rudolf Schwarz's *The New Cologne - a Preliminary Design*. Schwarz, who headed the planning authority in charge of the reconstruction of Cologne in the wake of the second-world war, had to create a new order for the city.



12.09.2012

Prof. Arno Lederer: Rudolf Kassner, Der Dilettantismus, Frankfurt a.M. 1910

Peter Neitzke: Das Werk des Nicolaus Cusanus, Hrsg. Heinz-Mohr · Eckert, Köln 1963

In September 2012 we took Ex Libris Ex Loco. Invited by our sponsor FSB, we exported the format and organized an Ex Libris in their Berlin office. On this occasion Peter Neitzke (co-publisher of the book series *Bauwelt Fundamente*) presented the well-known 15th century philosopher and theologian Nicolaus Cusanus with his book choice *The Work of Nicolaus Cusanus*. Cusanus was central to O.M. Ungers thoughts and writings on architecture.

Arno Lederer (Lederer + Ragnarsdóttir + Oei GmbH, Stuttgart) selected Rudolf Kassner's work *On Dilettantism* using it to discuss amateurism and dilettantism in architecture.



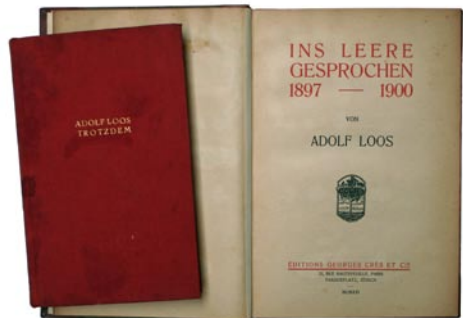
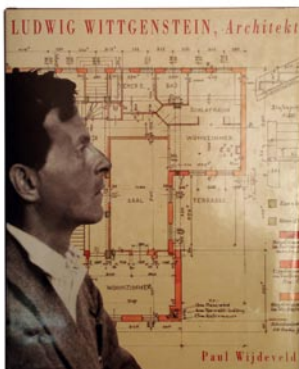
27.11.2012

Prof. Dr. Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani: *Camillo Sitte, Der Städtebau nach seinen künstlerischen Grundsätzen, Wien 1901*

Prof. Adam Caruso: *Adolf Loos, Trotzdem. 1900-1930, Innsbruck 1931 / Ins Leere gesprochen. 1897-1900, Paris/Zürich 1921*

Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani (Professor at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule and Director of the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture Zurich) talked about Camillo Sitte's *City Planning According To Artistic Principles*, a standard work for all architectural students. Lampugnani drew links between Sittes' principles of urban development and the design of public inner-city spaces and the problematic of urban planning today.

Adam Caruso (Caruso St. John Architects, London) presented the writings of Adolf Loos and explained how his ideas were translated into architecture. Caruso also discussed the influence of Loos on his own ideas and buildings.



EXHIBITIONS

The UAA is expanding its program to include exhibitions addressing architecture-related themes. The underlying concept is not only to present the finished product, but to grant equal importance to documenting the creative process by highlighting the preliminary drawings, the sources, the inspiration and the production process.

The Architectonics of Furniture: O.M. Ungers' Designs since 1950 16.01. - 12.02.2012



Furniture design always played an important role in O.M. Ungers' practice. As early as the 1950s he was designing armchairs, tables, shelves and lamps, an interest that was to remain with him throughout his career. Ungers mainly designed furniture for his own buildings, including the German Museum of Architecture in Frankfurt and the reading room of the Badische

Landesbibliothek in Karlsruhe. A good example of integrated interplay between buildings and furniture is the residence of the German Ambassador in Washington and his own homes Glashütte in the Eifel and Kämpchensweg in Cologne. He designed all the furniture for these buildings, allocating it to the individual rooms.

For Passagen12, in tandem with *From Aalto to Zumthor* at the Museum für Angewandte Kunst Cologne, we organized an exhibition featuring Ungers' furniture together with his drawings to illustrate the design process. Center stage was the chair Leonardo from 1991, a chair that stems from pure geometry, from the basic form of the "Vitruvian figure". Different variations of the chair as well as books used by Ungers for reference purposes were on display. In addition, we presented a selection of the furniture designed in 1989 for the residence of the German Ambassador in Washington as well as the exceptional pieces designed by Un-





gers in 1995 for his own house at Kämpchensweg, the proportions and dimensions of which were based on the building's spatial grid.

Dr. Peter Foos, lecturer in art theory at the Institut für Kunst und Kunsttheorie of the University of Cologne, wrote a text for the publication accompanying the exhibition entitled *The Metaphor of Furniture*. Professor Paul Naredi-Rainer, University

of Innsbruck, honored us with his presence at the finissage with a lecture on *The square as Design, Form and Symbol*.

Searching for Traces 02.09. - 28.09.2012

This exhibition, part of the program of the Photokina and Plan12, took the form of a dialogue between the engravings of Giovanni Battista Piranesi and the photographs of Gabriele Basilico. It was based on a section of the exciting monographic exhibition *L'Arte di Piranesi* at the Fondazione Cini in Venice in 2010.

The library of the UAA foundation contains Piranesi's entire oeuvre - in total 27 volumes - so the exhibition was directly linked to the library. We exhibited four of the famous Veduti di Roma (1780) and juxtaposed them with four of Basilico's photographs, part of his photographic interpretation of Piranesi's Veduta dating from 2009/2010.



Whereas Piranesi succeeded in creating a *mise en scène* displaying the aura of architecture, Basilico's photographs are more subdued and distanced from their subject. Piranesi's virtuous handling of the medium of engraving enabled him to expand interior space and change the perspective imperceptibly to produce a coherent whole, thereby elevating architecture to



something almost sublime.

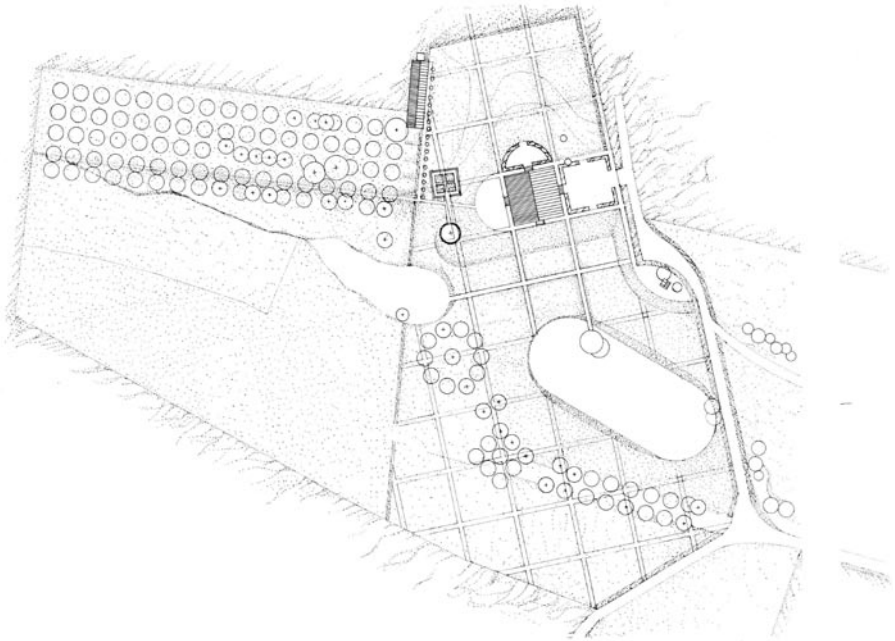
Basilico's approach is very different and it is this that makes the juxtaposition so exciting. His architectural photographs are austere and shot in subdued light; they reproduce exactly what the camera sees. He does not manipulate his photographs; nor does he use a panoramic lens.

A lecture on the architect Giovanni Battista Piranesi by Professor Fritz Neumeyer of the Technische Universität Berlin accompanied the exhibition. In a second lecture, Dr. Thomas Ketelsen, Head of the Graphic Collection of the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum Cologne, discussed the art of engraving in Piranesi's work and drew a comparison with the medium of photography.

Büro Voggenreiter generously was kind enough to integrate us into the program of Passagen12 and Plan12 and the exhibitions were made possible thanks to the Circle of Friends of UAA.

SUMMER PARTY

The summer party in Glashütte has become a much-loved tradition for members of the Circle of Friends of the UAA. It was also the venue for the annual office party to which L. and O.M. Ungers invited their staff to escape the daily work routine, exchange ideas and unwind in a relaxed environment far away from the office. And in a way it is this tradition that we are continuing with our summer party.



In 2011 it was Dr. Bernhard Korte, landscape architect from Grevenbroich, who conducted the tour of the gardens in Glashütte. He designed the gardens in close collaboration with O.M. Ungers in the early 1990s and, drawing on his personal memories, he gave a charming explanation of how they had been designed using a square grid based on the dimensions of the house. Yews were planted at the points of intersection and some of the squares were filled





with flowers or trees.

In stark contrast to the geometric grid is the romantic garden: an existing avenue lined with apple trees, which O.M. Ungers and Bernhard Korte left undisturbed, an existing lake with an island in the middle with a weeping willow, on which in earlier times a punt was anchored - all this a tribute 19th century Romantics.

A further feature of the garden is the Hortus Conclusus with a walnut tree in the centre and an avenue lined with poplars, structurally leading the eye from the existing coach house above the grounds to the landscape beyond. O.M. Ungers commissioned a pillar in carrara marble with the inscription "Et in Arcadia Ego" for the end of this avenue.

In 2012 the destination for the Circle of Friends was Schloss Malberg where the Ungers family used to spend their summer holidays. Following the closure of the guesthouse in the castle in the mid-1980s O.M. Ungers eventually decided to design his own refuge on the site of the old glassworks at Glashütte in the Eifel.



Members of the Circle of Friends reacted enthusiastically to the tour of

the impressive Schloss Malberg with the original fortress dating back to 1597 and, built later in 1714, the Baroque castle and "Arkadenbau", which links the old and the new. The chapel, the "round garden" and the "iron garden" complete the complex.



After the visit the Friends continued on to Glashütte and blessed by glorious weather concluded the day in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere.

GUIDED TOURS Architecture is constructed space that is best mediated through direct spatial experience.

With this in mind our guided tours of the Belvederestrasse house and the library cube offer a unique opportunity to experience architecture first-hand and to come to understand relative spatial proportions.

The uniqueness of the Belvederestrasse complex not only demonstrates Ungers' development as an architect but also reflects the architectural currents of the second half of the 20th century. O.M. Ungers constructed the house in 1959 as a single-family home containing two apartments. Over the decades, however, the building was repeatedly modified, converted and added to, until its last addition - the library cube - was built in the garden



in 1989. Both buildings have now been listed as national monuments: the house in 1990 and the library cube in 2012.

Our private guided tours, offered by appointment only, are designed to provide our visitors with an understanding of architecture in general and of O.M. Ungers' deeper reflections on architecture in particular, as manifested in his writings, his library and his collection of architectural models and artworks.

Not only individuals but also larger groups like the ICAM (International Confederation of Architectural Museums), the FOCA (Fellows of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles) and the BDA (Bund Deutscher Architekten) Rhineland and its Board, have visited the UAA. Numerous professors from various universities, including the Fachhochschule Köln, the North Rhine-Westphalia Technische Hochschule, Aachen, the University of Dortmund, and Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, have visited the UAA to introduce their students to this "cosmos of architecture".

SUMMER ACADEMY

First as professor then dean at the Technische Universität Berlin (1964-1968), then as chair of the Faculty of Architecture at Cornell University (1968-1976) and latterly as professor at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (1986-1991) O.M. Ungers was an influential teacher. The subjects he developed with his students in the course of seminars and summer academies still generate a lively interest and remain of huge significance to architectural discourse today. It is therefore one of the key missions of the UAA to promote the teaching of architecture and to build a network with international institutions.



Summer Academy May 12 - June 15, 2012

When Professor Gerardo Brown-Manrique, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio asked if he could organize a summer academy on UAA premises on the subject of Megaform for a site in Cologne, we realized this was a good opportunity to develop this aspect of our activities. Against the backdrop of O.M. Ungers' 1966 study *Großformen im Wohnungsbau*, the summer academy covered the subject area Urbanism - Monumentality - Functionality. Eight students from Ohio were joined by two students from the Fachhochschule Köln, Prof. i.V. Andreas Denk, two students from the Fachhochschule Bochum, Prof. i.V. Georg Ebbing and one of Prof. Annalisa Trentin's postgraduate students from the Faculty of Architecture "Aldo Rossi" at the University of Bologna. The architects Anja Sieber-Albers und Joachim Sieber (Sieber Architects, Düsseldorf) attended the weekly presentations of plans and drawings as guest critics.

PREVIEW 2013 promises to be yet another exciting year. Since this review is being published a little late, we can tell you about some of our 2013 spring activities that have already taken place.

In March and April we organized some remarkable Ex Libris evenings with Karl Theo Brenner and Michael Mönninger, Olaf Nicolai and Thomas Wagner, and Rem Koolhaas and Stephan Trüby.

Our opening exhibition in January, organized as part of Passagen13, revolved around Alvar Aalto's *Chair 60*. The exhibition was a successful collaboration with the Alvar Aalto Academy and the company Artek.

In February we joined the Iconic Houses Network (www.iconichouses.org), a very exciting forum interconnecting architects' houses worldwide. Drawing on a program initiated by Natascha Drabbe of the Van Schijndel House, Utrecht, UAA will develop a new series of lecture - and exhibition-based presentations of listed architects' houses that are part of the Iconic Houses Network.

It goes without saying that we will again be organizing our annual UAA summer party. This time we plan on looking at O.M. Ungers' buildings in historic Trier. We will visit the Thermen am Viehmarkt (1998-1996), the entrance building of the Kaisertherme (2003-2007) and the Konstantinplatz (1981-1983). While visiting these interventions the ancient history of Trier will play a central role in the tour. We will end the day at Glashütte to relax with "Kaffee und Kuchen" (cake and coffee).

In September we will once more be Ex Loco together with our sponsor FSB. This time we are invited to the Bremer Zentrum für Baukultur in Bremen. Volkwin Marg and Hartmut Frank will be our guests. Louisa Hutton and Peter Cachola Schmal will present their book selections at the UAA in November.

Dynamic programming, lively architectural discussions, research and communication are all part of the goal to establish the UAA as an organization that is sustainable in the long term. It has an integral part to play on the national and international forum of architecture. That said, the UAA would be nothing without its supporters. So why not join as a member, a volunteer, a sponsor or a mediator - your contribution and commitment can help us preserve the unique undertaking that is the UAA. Thank you!

UAA Ungers Archiv für Architekturwissenschaft
Belvederestrasse 60 D-50933 Köln
Tel +49-221-9498360 Fax +49-221-9498366
koeln@ungersarchiv.de www.ungersarchiv.de

Text: Sophia Ungers

Translation: Petra Bungert, Anne Buckingham

Editorial: Susanne Kleine, Anja Sieber-Albers

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