

Throughout history nation states and many national institutions have built on foreign soil. They did so on several occasions and for several reasons: to ensure political representation, to facilitate cultural exchange, to foster economic relations, to shape a national identity or to cement diplomatic ties. Embassies, legations, consulates, national, cultural and scientific institutions such as the academies in Rome are just some of the examples that fit this description.

The process of building such projects is impacted by a multitude of actors across the sending and receiving states and is often challenging. It involves navigating different and less familiar bureaucracies, local building regulations and administrative procedures and a conscious assessment of whether or not to 'export' architectural expertise, constructional knowledge or building materials.

In the decision-making process, different and sometimes conflicting interests are at play, resulting in buildings that more often than not can be described as hybrid constructs – somewhere in between a national export product and a locally embedded spatial entity. In many cases the final product can be described as a negotiation of the ambitions of the organisational committee of the sending state, and the political, economic, cultural and technical reality of the host country. Although the impact of local actors and mechanisms on these national building projects abroad is immense, they have been neglected for too long.

This colloquium discusses the challenges of building for the nation abroad with a particular focus on the process of negotiation between the many actors involved. The contributors interpret and analyse long-term building structures and interventions from the 19th century until the present, addressing a wide range of scales, going from the urban to the interior. As a whole the colloquium aims to propel new insights in these architectural productions, to deconstruct the sometimes heroic depictions of the nations involved and to untangle the underlying signifiers of race, gender, labour and power.

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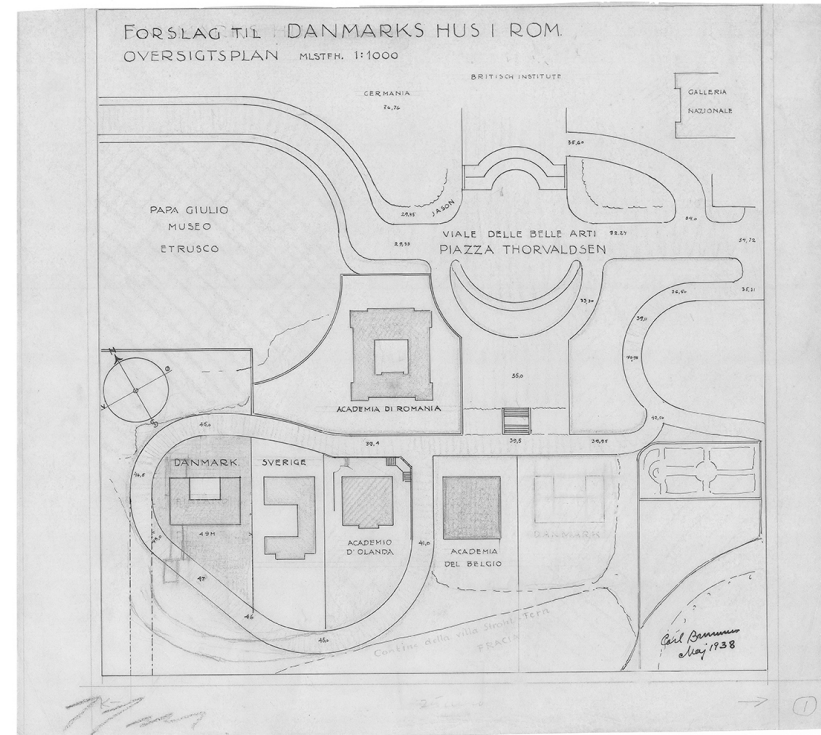
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BUILDING FOR THE NATION ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Rome, September 21-22, 2023

ACADEMIA BELGICA | DANISH ACADEMY IN ROME



The foreign academies in Valle Giulia, Rome, Italy. Drawing by Carl Brummer, May 1938. Courtesy: Danish Academy in Rome

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

ACADEMIA BELGICA - VIA OMERO 8

- 09.00 Registration and Welcome coffee
- 09.30 Opening of the conference by the conference organizers and hosting institutions
- 10.00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE | 'When circumstance and reuse lead: dissecting French diplomatic architecture in Egypt' - MERCEDES VOLAIT, CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE**
- 11.00 Coffee Break

SESSION I - IDENTITIES. THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS

CHAIR ANNE-FRANÇOISE MOREL, KU LEUVEN

- 11.30 'The house of German-Ottoman friendship: capitalist imperialism in wartime' **EVA SCHREINER, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTE FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND SOCIETY**
- 11.50 'Between a palace and an embassy. The reconstruction of the French embassy in Constantinople in the mid-19th century' - **RONAN BOUTTIER, ARCHIVES OF THE CITY OF PARIS**
- 12.10 'Italy on the Bosphorus, Raimondo D'Aronco and the former Summer Residence of the Italian Embassy'- **DIANA BARILLARI, UNIVERSITY OF TRIESTE**
- 12.30 Discussion
- 13.00 Break

SESSION II - AGENCIES. THE AGENTS OF NEGOTIATIONS

CHAIR ANGELA GIGLIOTTI, DANISH ACADEMY IN ROME/ETH ZÜRICH/ARKITEKTSKOLEN AARHUS

- 14.00 'Nation in a nutshell. The French Third Republic's embassy in the Habsburg Empire' - **THOMAS MOSER, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY - VIENNA**
- 14.20 'Reading the Belgian legation building in Paris (1904): international negotiation as a diplomatic strategy' - **CHARLOTTE ROTTIERS, KU LEUVEN - FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE**
- 14.40 'The royal Italian school in Cairo (Shubra): an urban intervention of the fascist Italian Foreign Office abroad with the technical and economic support of the Istituto nazionale delle assicurazioni (Ina)' - **SIMONE CONVERSI, GENERALI HISTORICAL ARCHIVE (HISTORICAL ARCHIVE OF INA-ASSITALIA, ROME)**
- 15.00 Discussion
- 15.30 Coffee Break
- 16.00 Guided visit to the Belgian Academy

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

DANISH ACADEMY - VIA OMERO 18

- 09.00 Welcome coffee

SESSION III - CHALLENGES. THE ACT OF NEGOTIATIONS

CHAIR RIKA DEVOS, UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES

- 09.30 'Diplomacy at its best. Newly built embassies and the parties involved of two German states after 1949' - **CHRISTIANE FÜLSCHER, DORTMUND UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS**
- 09.50 'Sites of encounter: Nordic school-building project in Tanzania' **MARYIA RUSAK, ETH ZÜRICH**
- 10.10 'The Italian red in Japan. Gae Aulenti and the Italian Cultural Institute in Tokyo' **PINA (GIUSI) CIOTOLI, SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME**
- 10.30 'National identity and its architectural expression: New Zealand High Commission at New Delhi in the 1980s' - **MICHAEL DUDGING, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON**
- 10.50 Discussion
- 11.30 Coffee Break

SESSION IV - RE-DEFINITIONS. THE ACTUALITY OF NEGOTIATIONS

CHAIR FREDIE FLORÉ, KU LEUVEN

- 12.00 'From temporary to perennial: the birth of the Korean Pavilion for the Venice Biennale' **HYUNAH LEE, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH**
- 12.20 'Showing the flag on postcolonial ground: an iconological analysis of the Dutch embassy in Paramaribo' - **HÉLÈNE DAMEN, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF EINDHOVEN**
- 12.40 'The embassy of Belgium in China (2015-2023)' - **BENOÎT VANDENBULCKE, ULIÈGE - BENOÎT BURQUEL, ULB - HAROLD FALLON, KU LEUVEN - NICKY VANCAUDENBERG - HÉLÈNE JOOS, ARCHITECTURE OFFICE AGWA**
- 13.00 Discussion
- 13.30 Break
- 14.30 Guided visit to the Danish Academy
- 15.30 Coffee Break
- 16.00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE | 'Building a Third Modernity: 'Neutral' Nordic Architects and the Decolonizing Nations of the Global South' - TOM AVERMAETE, ETH ZÜRICH**
- 17.00 Closing remarks