

PROMISES UPON REQUEST.

KIT – Karlsruhe Architecture Symposium – 2023

20-21 October, 2023

Karlsruhe, 21 September 2023 – The KIT Karlsruhe Department of Architecture will be hosting the first KIT – Karlsruhe Architecture Symposium, titled **PROMISES UPON REQUEST**, from **October 20th to October 21st, 2023**. Twenty renowned practitioners with a strong commitment in teaching will engage in a two-day conversation on the current demands to the discipline and the correspondent promises architects are able to perform. The event is organized by the Planning and Design Chair at the Department of Architecture at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, prof. Simon Hartmann, Federico Coricelli, and Mariana Santana. It is open to the public and will be available on live-streaming.

STATEMENT

Growing climate awareness puts architects in a position to comply with more and more specific demands from society, targeting the core of the profession from the outside. In response to these demands, positions emerged within the discipline, promising sustainable approaches to ecological resilience, social inclusion, and economic responsibility:

The Promise of Participation

Participation challenges the idea of the architect as sole author. Built upon the idea of "Nothing about us without us," architects no longer serve as the principal decision-makers; instead, they act as mediators of the interests negotiated by others. To what extent can this shifted role still produce what was formerly known as architecture? Does the promise of participation lead to "Architecture without Architects", or rather to "Architects without Architecture"?

The Promise of Climate Design

Advancements in scientific research have opened up new avenues for designing and controlling climates. Data production and collection become key to evaluating architectural projects. The emergence of new models questions the adaptation and updating of past architectural constructions. Does the promise of climate design narrow the discipline to aspects that can be simulated, measured and controlled?

The Promise of Circularity

If we consider buildings as temporary configurations of components to be reused or designed for future disassembly, we risk reducing buildings to nothing but the sum of their parts. Does the promise of circulation and a known afterlife for all components of a building fall in the same trap as previous attempts to control the future of a man-made system? Do we really want to extinguish decay and prevent the ruin?

The Promise of Agency

Professionalized developers drain a substantial amount of money from construction and project development, enticing architects to promote self-initiated projects and identify alternative funding strategies. To shift agency to those outside of the conventional power structures that shape the built environment promises political and social relevance for architecture.

Does this promise of agency really change how architectures are produced, or does it produce a tokenized new value to overcome the traditional competitive structure?

The Promise of Form

The current change of shared values comes with a catalog of objective forms deduced from best practices directly impacting architectural expression. Is this how we want architecture to look? How can architectural form free itself from this new functionalism without denying the changed conditions? What about form can be discussed without slipping back (or forward) into meaningless formalist clichés?

The symposium brings together experts from practice and academia to establish a platform for dialogue and debate: we want to investigate the challenges these promises face rather than the promises themselves. We want to get behind and ahead of assumed value changes and new conventions. The symposium will be live-documented, and a final protocol transcript will be released shortly after its closing.

PROGRAM

The program of the Symposium is structured as a continuous conversation spanning over two days. During six sessions dedicated to six different "promises", invited **speakers** will interact with **respondents** mainly from the KIT architecture Faculty. The sessions will consist of a back-and-forth between the pair of speakers short presentations and the pair of respondents reactions. The speakers and the respondents will build the theoretical background in conversations beforehand.

20 October – DAY 1

10:00-10:30

Intro

10:30-12:30

Promises Upon Request

Simon Hartmann, [HHF](#) / KIT – *Why Promises?*

Mariana Santana, [HHF](#) / KIT – *Promised*

Federico Coricelli, KIT – *Promises of Symposia*

Marc Angélil, [AGPS](#) / [ETHZ](#) (M)*

Anna-Maria Meister, KIT

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-16:00

The promise of participation

Jane Hall, [Assemble](#) / EPFL

Tiago Mota Saraiva, [ateliermob](#) / FAUL

Anna-Maria Meister, KIT (M)

Maroje Mrduljaš, [University of Zagreb](#)

16:00-16:30

Intermezzo

Dirk Hebel and Ludwig Wappner

Book presentation "Sortenrein Bauen"

Moderated by Christian Inderbitzin

17:00-19:00

The promise of climate design

Philippe Rahm, [Philippe Rahm Architectes](#) / GSAPP

Charlotte Truwant, [Truwant + Rodet +](#) / EPFL

Joaquín Medina Warmburg, KIT (M)

Georg Vrachliotis, [TU Delft](#)

21 October – DAY 2

10:00-12:00

The promise of circularity

Jan de Vylder, [AJDVIV](#) / ETHZ

Kerstin Müller, [baubüro in situ](#) / [Zirkular](#) / KIT

Mariana Santana, [HHF](#) / KIT (M)

Marc Frohn, [FAR](#) / KIT

12:00-12:30

Intermezzo

Marc Angélil *On errors*

12:30-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-16:00

The promise of agency

Dijana Vučinić, [DVARP](#) / KIT

Nanne de Ru, [Powerhouse Company](#)

Angelika Hinterbrandner, [KNTXTR](#) / ETHZ

Federico Coricelli, KIT (M)

16:00-16:30

Intermezzo

Lars Lerup *on his forthcoming book “Distance”*
with Marc Frohn and Simon Hartmann

17:00-19:00

The promise of form

Christine Binswanger, [Herzog & de Meuron](#)

Mark Lee, [Johnston Marklee](#) / GSD

Marc Angélil, [AGPS](#) / [ETHZ](#)

Simon Hartmann, [HHF](#) / KIT (M)

19:00

Closing Party

*(M) = Moderator

PARTICIPANTS

Organizers

Simon Hartmann, [HHF](#) / KIT

Mariana Santana, [HHF](#) / KIT
Federico Coricelli, KIT

Scientific Board

Marc Angéllil, [AGPS](#) / [ETHZ](#)
Georg Vrachliotis, [TU Delft](#)
Anna-Maria Meister, KIT

Participants

Jane Hall, [ASSEMBLE](#) / EPFL
Angelika Hinterbrandner, [KNTXTR](#) / ETHZ
Mark Lee, [Johnston Marklee](#) / GSD
Christine Binswanger, [Herzog & de Meuron](#)
Tiago Mota Saraiva, [ateliermob](#) / FAUL
Dijana Vučinić, [DVARP](#) / KIT
Maroje Mrduljas, [University of Zagreb](#)
Kerstin Müller, [Zirkular](#) / KIT
Philippe Rahm, [Philippe Rahm Architectes](#) / GSAPP
Charlotte Truwant, [Truwant + Rodet +](#) / EPFL
Jan de Vylder, [AJDVIV](#) / ETHZ
Lars Lerup, [RICE School of Architecture](#)
Nanne de Ru, [Powerhouse Company](#)
Simon Hartmann, [HHF](#) / KIT
Marc Frohn, [FAR](#) / KIT
Joaquín Medina Warmburg, KIT
Anna-Maria Meister, KIT
Christian Inderbitzin, [EMI](#) / KIT
Dirk Hebel, KIT
Ludwig Wappner, KIT / [allmanwappner](#)
Federico Coricelli, KIT
Mariana Santana, [HHF](#) / KIT
Marc Angéllil, [AGPS](#) / [ETHZ](#)
Georg Vrachliotis, [TU Delft](#)
Anna-Maria Meister, KIT

Live-documentation

Nele Rickmann, [archithese](#)

Coordination

Moana Ühlein, KIT
Anne Losansky, KIT

CORE DATA

Dates: October 20-21, 2023

Venue: Fritz Haller lecture hall
Englerstraße 7
76131 Karlsruhe
Germany

POSTER is available for download at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1URSdmPvQPwFOQwC2DsO7XjRwfg8dJvYk/view?usp=drivesdk>

Website: https://www.arch.kit.edu/aktuelles/PROMISES_UPON_REQUEST.php

Streaming link: https://www.arch.kit.edu/aktuelles/PROMISES_UPON_REQUEST.php

Social media: [Instagram](#)

About the department: The history of the department dates back to the founding of the University of Karlsruhe in 1825. The tradition of the Karlsruhe department of Architecture includes numerous well-known names: from Friedrich Weinbrenner and Johann Gottfried Tulla to Heinrich Hübsch and personalities such as Egon Eiermann, Fritz Haller and Dieter Kienast. Today, 22 professors and a broad-based teaching staff guarantee practice-oriented and contemporary teaching for the approximately 1,000 students.

CONTACTS

Organizing committee – Chair of Planning and Design at KIT: bauplanung@kit.edu.

Press and communication of the Department of Architecture at KIT: frank.metzger@kit.edu