

EAAE 2010 Charter for architectural research

For approval during the EAAE AGM, September 6, 2010

This charter is intended as a reference document for the use of universities, architecture schools, research institutions and practices that are undertaking architectural research. It specifies the character and objectives of architectural research, confirms the variety of valid methodologies and supports the development of a vibrant, internationally recognized and well funded research community.

Declaration

Architecture is about the creation, transformation and interpretation of the built environment and the articulation of space at various scales. It is a discipline involving art, design, planning, management, construction and representation, addressing issues of ethics, aesthetics, culture, society and the environment. The discipline of architecture engages with the cultural, socio-economic and environmental conditions affecting our quality of life.

Architecture is facing challenges of climate change, globalisation, urbanisation and social transformation that necessitate vital research. In parallel, the horizons of architectural experimentation are expanding with the rapid development of new technologies and media. If we are to understand, explain and anticipate the consequences of these phenomena, research is essential. Moreover, research is essential for the continued expansion of the discipline's knowledge base and improvement in teaching, learning and practice of architecture.

The EAAE confirms that architectural research has a particular knowledge base, tools and methods. We confirm the trans-disciplinary nature of architectural research and the legitimacy of a wide range of approaches. Architecture tackles various dimensions of the built environment in a specifically integrative way and we call for recognition of all appropriate modes of research and better definition of its context and scope. We acknowledge research by design as part of the diversity of valid methods with which to research, practice and study architecture.

The generic expectations of originality, rigour and significance apply to all genres of architectural research. Valid architectural research outputs are as varied as the constantly growing range of research approaches and so the EAAE recognises installations, experimental projects, proposals, models and actual buildings as such, in addition to written and graphic research outputs. Peer review, communication and dissemination are crucial and should relate to the nature of the research. The EAAE recommends that all outputs include *written argumentation*.

The EAAE advocates stronger links between theoretical and practice-based research and therefore between academia and the profession in the establishment of an expanded arena of architectural research.

NOTA BENE: It is proposed that the EAAE Charter comprise a declaration + a framework.