Editorial

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Within the manifold landscape of academic journals, *Dimensions. Journal of Architectural Knowledge* underlines the plurality of methodological approaches and working methods in the field of architecture – scientific and practical, theoretical and applied. By emphasizing the commonalities of methodologies and approaches, it unites different lines of enquiry under the overarching theme of their respective methodology, aiming to foster the reciprocal conditionality of thinking and making in the discipline of architecture. Superordinate topics and research questions are addressed by architectural, theoretical, and trans-disciplinary means, equally contributing to knowledge-creation in architecture. It is the goal of this journal to unravel the anthology of methods and ways of knowing genuine to the discipline. This journal provides a platform for researchers who work with established scientific methods as well as for practitioners that use applied forms of investigation, specifically focusing on the framework of methodologies true to the discipline.

Research Perspectives in Architecture, the inaugural issue, marks the prelude of a journal, presenting the spectrum of methodological focal areas, which will be examined with greater depth in the following editions. It opens the field of investigation within the discipline of architecture, exploring how different perspectives and applied methodologies encourage varying research questions, findings, and ways of knowledge creation. This issue investigates the following lead question: Which methodological approaches are used in research on architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design? Accentuating the methodological framework of research, the journal focuses on genuine methodologies applied in scientific architectural research and particularly on those derived from architectural practice and design. Furthermore, it investigates how established scientific methods from other fields can be adapted for architectural research. The methodologies and

approaches emphasized in this issue form the basis for further development of a methodological spectrum in the discipline of architecture. The overarching aim of this journal is to exploit the methodological plurality in scientific research in architecture, in order to highlight the variety of possible methodological attempts and relate to the originality of genuine architectural methods of knowledge creation – be it conceptual, practical, or scientific.

Introduction

According to the mission statement of the Technical University of Munich, Department of Architecture, »Architectural design (German: »Entwerfen«) is the core of the department and the exploration of complex aesthetic and spatial solutions its primary objective. [...] The academic discipline of architecture involves skills from different backgrounds including engineering, humanities, and social sciences, each of which flows into architectural teaching and research at all levels.«¹ Scientific research in our department has so far focused on the areas of »Integrated Building Technologies«, »Cultural Heritage, History and Criticism«, and »Urban and Landscape Transformation«, namely in three out of four focus areas. In the field of Architectural Design, the number of research projects and PhD candidates are only gradually increasing although this field is referred to as »the core practice, which serves as a common basis for all teaching and research activities.«² The research at the core of our discipline is still fraught with many uncertainties, and the necessary methods cannot be adopted from other disciplines.

The initiation of this journal is driven by the intention to investigate this key question: How can we strengthen research in the core area of architecture?

As an impetus toward answering this question, we submit the following five methods of architectural research for discussion: Design-based research and the process of architectural design, reflexive design and research, qualitative research, experience-based methodologies, and archival forms of research. Various overlaps between these different methodical approaches

1 <https://www.ar.tum.de/fakultaet/wir-ueber-uns/mission>, accessed May 28, 2019.

2 *ibid.*

exist. Their specific characteristics, their adequateness for relating research questions, and their potentials and challenges will be described on a superordinate level in the introduction of the respective chapter. Furthermore, they will be superimposed and proven by exemplary research approaches displayed in the individual contributions. It is the journal's goal to discuss relevant positions in the context of specific research questions and against the background of their methodological approaches and their respective potential for the discourse in architecture.

With the initiation of the international conference »*Research Perspectives in Architecture*« which was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), project number 428316702, and took place at the Technical University of Munich in July 2019, as well as with the initiative of this journal, our aim is to trace architectural ways of knowing. Displaying the diversity of methods in architecture, the first day of the two-day conference focused on different methodologies and research approaches. The methodological spectrum was presented in brief lectures on methods of current research and doctoral projects. The second day broadened the methodological discourse and provided an exemplary insight into methodologically independent research programs in architecture. We were hitherto not interested in completeness, but rather in stimulating discussion, and we conceived of the conference as a first step toward consensus and clarity in the range of research methods in architecture.

In order to contextualize recent research in the discipline of architecture within the greater realm of the history of architectural knowledge creation, we are eager to raise three questions, directed to the past, present, and future state of the discipline:

- Where do we come from?
- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?

Research on a superordinate level on overarching questions has been introduced rather recently to the field, representing a scientific and academic transition within the discipline.