

RL3 – Emerging Architecture

Vision

To contribute in reducing the growing gap between global and local societal challenges related to space and architecture on one hand and the present decline of the profession on the other.

Lab description

Lab 'Emerging Architectures' focuses on research in the relationship between growing and changing societal and environmental challenges for producing space and the competences, mind sets and methods of the architectural profession to address these challenges.

Cultural, social, economic, environmental, aesthetic and technological developments of the recent past as well as the evolution of advanced design tools and transdisciplinary demands for connecting all scales of our environment have radically changed the way designers work, classify, evaluate, communicate and disseminate content.

Architecture today is the result of successful collaborations and cooperation, both on an extremely competitive ground in conventional professionalism and by entering the emerging fields of new practices. The varieties of architectures require strong research and discourses on the foundations of the discipline. The goal is to overcome the paradox of enormous societal challenges for working with space on all scales and simultaneous the present shrinking impact, low professional relevance and precarious economic situation of large sectors of the discipline.

Many conventional architectural practices have changed outdated working modes, revolutionized team constitutions and some have built up own research departments. Parallel to this development, alternative practices address and investigate spatial problems which initially have no client by applying very different methods. Both, advanced conventional and emerging alternative practices complement in their goals for a better environment and the research in the lab equally connects to both tendencies.

Accordingly to these professional developments, research and education in architecture are in need for adaptation and transformation. The Lab 'Emerging Architectures' conducts research into theories, histories, aesthetics, concepts, skills, tools, practices, networks and interdisciplinary constellations for raising the professional fitness of future architects. Theory building, practice based research and research by design are different and intertwined pillars of this Lab and it actively looks for strong collaborators in practice and academia in and outside Denmark.

Coordinator – Prof. Walter Unterrainer