

Montenegro at the 17th International Exhibition of Architecture in Venice

Exhibition Catalogue *Towards a Transactive Spatial Perception*

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Call for Interdisciplinary Contributions

*Instead of two ways of perceiving reality, one "objective" and one "subjective",
we have only one – transactive – and
various limitations individuals may put on their transactions with reality.
(Holland, 1976)¹*

Observing from an angle of today's COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, not even remotely present in the architectural realm before 2020, Hashim Sarkis' thematic framework set for the 17th Venice Biennale of Architecture exhibition appears as prophetic. "HOW WILL WE LIVE TOGETHER?"², and indeed – how will we breathe together; walk together; work together; accomplish together? How will we exhibit together; travel, share spaces; create personal relations and change perspectives in mutual discussions in a world of a social distancing progression? What types of collective thoughts we will be needing to overcome this metacondition of limitations, restrictions and separations?

Circumstantially, even more influential than when conceived, the answer in a form of Montenegrin pavilion current topic suggests a possible direction, leading us "TOWARDS TRANSACTIVE SPATIAL PERCEPTION"³. Set as a curatorial answer for the national exhibit, the suggested direction implies that we might find *new spaces* and *new future paths* directly in a *perceptual shift* across disciplines. From an individual and pre-determined collective perception, towards a mobilized collective perception in which multiple agents share and reframe mutual knowledge, this shift is more substantial, than ever before. Relying on a

¹ Holland, Norman N. "The New Paradigm: Subjective or Transactive?" *New Literary History*, vol. 7, no. 2, 1976, pp. 335–346. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/468509. Accessed 4 May 2020.

² Sarkis, Hashim. "How will we live together?" in Statement by Hashim Sarkis:
<https://www.labiennale.org/en/news/biennale-architettura-2020-how-will-we-live-together>

³ Perović, Svetlana K. "Towards a Transactive Spatial Perception" in International call for authors, concept and content of the Montenegrin exhibit at the 17th International Exhibition of Architecture in Venice:
<http://www.gov.me/pretraga/219898/Medunarodni-konkurs-za-izbor-autorskog-tima-koncepta-i-sadržaja-crnogorske-postavke-na-XVII-Medunarodnoj-izložbi-arhitekture-u-V.html>

*transactive memory theory*⁴, transactive spatial perception seeks ways to reinforce the memory-knowledge path into a memory-perception-knowledge lane focused on spatial intelligence. “Simply put, transactive memory is what you know, what I know, what we know, and how we get that knowledge from one another”, as is written in a chapter of a co-edited book by Salas, Fiore and Letsky⁵, but how could we radicalize this definition and include human spatial perception into equation?

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We are looking for contributions from a wider interdisciplinary field (covering architecture and its co-relating disciplines, but not restricted to those), showing interest in the proposed provocation. We welcome essays written in a tone of popular science and theory, rich in personal thoughts and attitudes, discussions, additional provocations or even manifestos, that offer yet another angle on a *perceptual shift* from basic to transactive perception (with all phases in-between).

The contributions should not exceed 1500 words in their main text. A proposal should include up to 12 references and, if needed, up to 3 graphical files (photos, diagrams, ...). Keywords, contact information and a short biography (up to 100 words) should be included in the same .doc or .docx file, with the textual proposal. Additionally, authors should clearly state the scientific or the artistic field they are coming from. If interdisciplinary, the authors should state the overlap of disciplines that formed their view on the subject.

The selection process of proposals submitted on time will be handled by an international team of experts. Authors chosen to develop their ideas further will be included in the official catalogue that follows the Montenegrin exhibition at the 17th Venice Biennale of Architecture. In addition to that, the chosen proposals in a more elaborative form, might be included in a monograph to be published by a leading international academic publisher- Springer.

All proposals for contributions to be sent by August 15th 2020 to the editors’ email addresses: svetlana.perovic@ucg.ac.me, zekovic.miljana@gmail.com, va@interactivearchitecture.org, parker.hey1.14@ucl.ac.uk, rg@interactivearchitecture.org

Important dates:

Submission of the proposals: August 15th 2020

Acceptance of the proposals: August 31th 2020

Final text submissions: September 30th 2020

Catalogue print: November 30th 2020

⁴ Transactive memory theory, as proposed by Daniel M. Wegner in 1985.

⁵ Hollingshead, Andera B., Gupta, Naina, Yoon, Kay, and Brandon, David P. “Transactive Memory Theory and Teams: Past, Present and Future.” In *Theories of Team Cognition: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives*, 421–56 (423). Routledge Academic, 2012.