

EDITORIAL

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The changes and the paradigm

2025 opens the public debate, turning the world upside down. The stable has become unstable. One is entering murky waters. The compasses, nervously maddened, look for where to fix a north to which to cling. The truth became false, and falsehood became true. Important governments and markets have installed boldness and even fear. In the same way, at this time, wars on the other side of the world, once more, remain unfinished and prolong their spasms until they become a habit, a spectacle. Latin America, on the other hand, circulates along individual paths, without a collective project.

The experience of modernity, that maelstrom so well understood by Marshall Berman, does not hesitate to impose, for the time being, one of its greatest contradictions, in its quest to change everything. It kills everything to phagocytose it and make it reborn with the idea that now, for real, it will be better; and we assume that idea domestically. The appeal of modernity remains a seductive idea that seems to breathe life into it.

In this dust devil, and against the current, in our editorial field, the stillness, the tranquility of space, and the serenity of the simple come to mind. On this occasion, we first present two pending articles on enhancing architectural spaces and their alternatives for teaching spaces. In this field, educational spaces have traditionally been protected by public policies, both in their reform plans and the construction of their campuses, which have given various responses in democratic states for more than a century. Inspired by their societies' education for the benefit of nations' progress, they have inspired responses that have become paradigms of contemporary architecture. The text, *Adapting existing school buildings to new pedagogy approaches* by Alfredo Peláez, Maximiliano García, and Fabricio González, which considers an American environment, comes precisely to explore the alternatives of adapting these premises to the new demands and relations between educational communities. Its approach focuses on the manipulation of spatial limits, the adaptation based on the intestinal incorporation into the academic space of larger objects, macro-objects, and their ability to transform into a living space that stresses their immediate environment, and the educational reprogramming that imposes on their furniture arrangements. The results, among others, advance beyond growth or expansions in reviewing the contemporary formative use of school space.

In the same way, another article complements our incessant learning from the projectual didactics as a mode of analysis and project. The pedagogy of architecture and urbanism has, in the article *Universal design and active methodologies: a practice in postgraduate studies*, by the authors Sabine De Paris and Vanessa Goulart, a study based on the Postgraduate program in Architecture, Urbanism and Landscaping (PPGAUP) of the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM). The research examines active methodologies to encourage dynamic participation in the learning process. The text shows the final exercises developed in three stages. The result shows furniture, gamification, tactile maps, and signage, which are useful for diversifying accessibility in the academic environment.

A second group consists of texts dedicated to heritage analysis. In this case, when the structure of a work is damaged, it is usually a complex issue in the hands of architects; if you add that the work is a neo-Gothic church, the matter is serious. The case study is the Santa Filomena church (1892-1894), designed by the renowned architect Eugenio Joanon Croizer in the city of Santiago, which the 1928 Talca Earthquake damaged. In this case, the dilemma of its structural stabilization is explained with exquisite clarity. The article, *"Reinforcement using reinforced concrete at the beginning of the 20th century in a simple masonry neo-Gothic temple within a seismic context"* by Santiago Sáenz Muñoz and Gabriela Muñoz, is one of those texts that academically confront the alternatives to such a severe problem, but whose simple explanations make the difficult, feasible. The understanding of the work and its timely restoration becomes total until the architecture, in its forms, representations, and structures, becomes unitary and total.

Multiple factors call for rehabilitation on the subject of restoration. Luciana da Silva Florenzano and Rosina Trevisan Martins Ribeiro confirm this in the article *"What color considerations could be used for architectural restoration?"* The text addresses the problems of color and, consequently, the issues of perception and memory with the chromatic reality of three urban centers in Brazil. The results present the debate on architectural production and theory in coherence relations for cultural heritage and its identity derivations.

In a similar sense, the text *Documenting Republican Architecture in Arequipa. Spatial, Constructive, and Stylistic Assessment of three Emblematic Casonas*, by Daniel Málaga, Fernando Cuzziramos, Tatiana Medina, Sergio Coll, and Denis Mayta, investigates the use of new technologies closely in Republican patrimonial constructions of Arequipa, Peru. These are neoclassical mansions whose construction alternatives highlight construction traditions such as ignimbrite masonry structures, barrel vaults, etc. The actions validated the original spatial structures.

Research on the topic of typology is inexhaustible. From the considerations made by Giulio Carlo Argan and Rafael Moneo (CA No. 35 of 1983), to name a couple of outstanding theorists, it is evident that their analysis is still valid. Marcelo Vizcaíno presents in the article *Centennial theater buildings in San Juan, Argentina: Between lyrical typology and alternative spaces*, the case of two theater halls, the Coliseo and the Bicentennial Theater, which are compared and valued, in their similarities and differences, as part of the local heritage.

Also focused on the theatrical performance, Edison Gastón Segura-Arias shows us in *Intrinsic juxtapositions of the facade of the Alhambra Theater, Taltal, Chile*, the particular study of building facades. A thorough investigation examines its intrinsic orders and volumetric coherence, the distribution, and the complexities of the program, which mixes a commercial and a residential role. These questions reveal contents and structural geometries that highlight a unique work of northern heritage.

Also in the north of Chile, the Public Services of Antofagasta case, analyzed by Damir Galaz-Mandakovic Fernández in *Modernization and rationalism in institutional architecture. The case of Public Services and the Antofagasta Regional Government Building (1889-1963)*, presents the transition from an eclectic architecture to a modern language. The intervention of Edwin Weil, architect of the Architecture Department in the 1950s and 1960s in Chile, offers a case of exceptional contemporary maturity capable of reflecting how institutional policies adopt the ideology of modern architecture with total solidity for state architecture, which has implications for the urban image.

Finally, architecture on land appears in this issue as a recurring subject in the Latin American context. The article “*Assessment of Sustainability in Earth-Based Construction and Architecture*”, in Santa Catarina, Southern Region of Brazil, by Cecília Heidrich Prompt, Julio Cesar Lopes Borges, and Lisiane Ilha Librelotto, examines six buildings located in agricultural communities in Santa Catarina, in the Southern Region of Brazil. The methodology, based on the VerSus Project, is specific and relevant. It has been adapted to the Brazilian context and its corresponding regulations, and the results have paid special attention to the socio-economic field.

Arquitecturas del Sur presents, in this issue, the disciplinary interest in the heritage-identitarian debate and the pedagogical modes of operation that allow us to affirm that debate, examination, and criticism are components of constant academic progress. Changes are inherent to all evolution; the paradigm imposed by discipline assists us.

