

# *the project of theory*

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## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SUMMER SCHOOL: PHILOSOPHY AND ARCHITECTURE



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Book of Abstracts  
**The Project of Theory**

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# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

5th Summer School: THE PROJECT OF THEORY

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# 5<sup>th</sup> Summer School “The Project of Theory”

*The 2022 Summer School “Architecture & Philosophy” raises the question of the projective character of theory. Genuine innovation in architecture, we argue, is always a project of theory. By making visible the immanent deficits, the social conditions and paradoxes of architecture, critical theory opens up architecture to the new.*

*This is all the more important today, when under pressure of debates about sustainability, energy balances and certifications, architecture practice is increasingly dominated by instrumental, technical reason. There is even a belief that theory can be dispensed with altogether. This, however, must be countered with the assertion that there is no institution of architecture without theory. Echoing the philosopher Christine Blättler, it can be said that theory directs the “gaze from metaphysical sense to material intrinsic meaning.” This also means that theory makes architecture possible in the first place: there is no true innovation without theory.*

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## Architectural Objects as Persons

In everyday language, people tend to spontaneously personify buildings and there are certain reasons for this inclination. Analogies between architecture and the human body are a phenomenon reflected in theoretical discourse. Buildings are indeed capable of acting on those who observe, work and live in them. This issue can be considered from at least two points of view. From the perspective of law, the thesis that an architectural object can be understood as *persona ficta* is debatable. On the other hand, buildings are aesthetic objects able to arouse an emotion or other kinds of response with their structure and appearance. If buildings were treated as non-human persons then the question arises as to whether these objects, or even “subjects,” are capable of autonomously “speaking” on their own behalf, or whether they need a human being to represent them, such as their tenants, architects who designed them, or theorists and other authors who write about them.



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