



Architecture, Reason and "the Passions"

The quality of empathy in research, education, and design

EAAE/AEEA architectural theory workshop #6

*Paris, November 2012*

*The heart has its own reason which reason does not know.*  
B. Pascal, *Pensées* (1670)

Does the heart indeed have "its own reason which reason does not know"? Are then reason and emotion sealed off from one another, each struggling for dominion? Recent work in many disciplines suggests another reading, showing their intimate interdependency and implying an altogether different way of considering how architectural design fits into the human project.

Much is made of reason's role in architecture, while the affective is relegated to the reception of works, or at worst to some sort of unknowable creative spirit. One might argue instead that emotion is a condition of possibility for the existence of reason itself. The austere scaffolding of symbolic operations appears constantly troubled by the shifting mass of what were once known as "the passions". But these latter may not be, as is often affirmed, embarrassing or dangerous forces to be contained. Maybe they are, instead, indispensable faculties that enable those others that we associate with reason : discernment, rigor, consistency. Indeed, research in human development and cognition tends to show that without emotion we cannot make choices, adopt strategies, or even identify the goals that reason helps us to pursue. In contradistinction to the idea of "cold reason", it seems that the very ability to reason is rooted in empathy, that is, the capacity to "feel the feelings" of some other living being. Reason, one might say, is "hot" or it is not.

The goal of this workshop is to gather together a small number of researchers in architecture, philosophy and neighboring disciplines, in order to work toward a possible re-framing of the sources, processes and products of architectural theory. The organizers and invited scholars will engage in intensive work with selected participants in a round-table format. All selected participants are expected to produce a paper and to be prepared to comment on those of the others. The workshop will be bilingual (English/French).

Potential participants are requested to submit an abstract in English or French (500 words max.) and a short cv to: [david.vanderburgh@uclouvain.be](mailto:david.vanderburgh@uclouvain.be) and [cyouunes@clermont-fd.archi.fr](mailto:cyouunes@clermont-fd.archi.fr) on or before February 15, 2012.

## Calendar:

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|---|---------------------------|
| <u>Abstract</u> (500 words) + cv :              | .....February 15, 2012    |
| <u>Notification of acceptance</u> :             | .....March 1, 2012        |
| <u>Draft papers</u> due (15p. max., + illust.): | .....April 30, 2012       |
| <u>Comments on papers</u> :                     | .....July 15, 2012        |
| <u>Revised papers due</u> :                     | .....September 15, 2012   |
| <u>Workshop</u> :                               | .....November 16-17, 2012 |
| <u>Proceedings published</u> :                  | .....December, 2012       |

<b>Abstract + CV:</b>	15 February 2012	Notification of acceptance:	15 March 2012	First preliminary draft:	30 April 2012	Comments from referees (max. 15 pages horz. list):	30 August 2012	Final manuscript:	15 September 2012	Comments from referees (max. 15 pages horz. list):	30 October 2012	Submission:	16-17 November 2012	Review deadline:	15 October 2012	Publication date:	December 2012
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Tout participant potentiel est invité à soumettre un abstract en français ou en anglais (max. 500 mots) ainsi qu'un cv court à : [David.vanderplagh@ulg.ac.be](mailto:David.vanderplagh@ulg.ac.be) et à [www.cemmois-lab.be](http://www.cemmois-lab.be) avant le 15 février 2012.

1. a) une de ces disciplines est de recherche sur les petits nombres spéciaux, qui dépassent les limites classiques des mathématiques. Les méthodes utilisées sont les méthodes probabilistes et les méthodes combinatoires. La théorie des probabilités joue un rôle important dans l'étude de ces disciplines car elle permet de déterminer la probabilité d'obtenir un résultat donné dans une situation donnée.

La carte à-t-il l'objectif, ces raisons que je raisons ignore ? La raison est l'absorption dans les sphères, chacune limitant plus ou moins notre liberté ? Des travaux récents dans ce qui concerne les disciplines suggèrent une autre lecture : nous trouvons tout d'abord un certain nombre de personnes qui envisagent l'adaptation du projet archéologique au projet humain.

*Le cœur des passions que la prison ignore.*

6. EAEE/AEFA workshop en théorie de l'archéologie  
7. EAEE/AEFA workshop en théorie de l'archéologie  
8. EAEE/AEFA workshop en théorie de l'archéologie  
9. EAEE/AEFA workshop en théorie de l'archéologie  
10. EAEE/AEFA workshop en théorie de l'archéologie

## **La qualité d'empathie en recherche, enseignement et conception**

