

ISSUE II 2016 – THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY. A PALIMPSEST.

Guest Editors

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call for papers

«Tout est forme, et la vie même est une forme.»

Honoré de Balzac.

By teaching a child how to put little wooden shapes into correspondingly shaped holes, one could consider form as absolutely defined. However, the binary nature of the title, Form of Form, suggests the malleability of form, of which the city represents one of the best phenomenons of its malleability. The city is shape. The city is shaping shapes. But a city is also rules and the defining of rules.

Enough has already been written on the form of the city, and we would not want to reassess its definition in a completely new way. On the contrary, we would like to take the occasion to revisit a book that still seems valid as one of the best treatises on the city and its cosmos. Exactly fifty years ago, Aldo Rossi wrote his seminal book *L'architettura della città* and suggested in a most dedicated, vague and yet convincing way how the city is defined by shape. With his legendary ambiguity, Rossi believed in the permanence of form but also in its obsolescence.

We chose to dedicate this issue of CARTHA to the city, and to its architecture. Paying a strong tribute to Rossi, we will borrow the chapters from *L'architettura della città* as a canvas and attempt to etch their contemporary interpretation. Each author will be attributed one of the thirty-three subtitles of the original book. The contributions shall be as free as possible, the authors are given a *carte blanche* as to the extent their contribution shall directly relate to the topic assigned. The contributions can range from essays, critiques, project descriptions, a pamphlet or even an image. With the hope that the result will be as eclectic and fragmented as its root, while attempting to emphasise the contemporaneity and universality of Rossi's thoughts. Above all, it should be a collective work, which honours the collective form of form, the city.



Francis Alÿs, Zocalo, México City, 1999