Landscape as Urbanism in the Americas

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NESS and Lots of Architecture – publishers are pleased to present the second issue of our monographic series NESS.docs 2: Landscape as Urbanism in the Americas. The issue reflects on the project of Landscape as Urbanism in the Americas, led by Charles Waldheim and the Office for Urbanization at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and was done with the support of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. Curated together with Mercedes Peralta and Jeannette Sordi, it explores the potentials for landscape as a medium for urban intervention in the specific contexts of Latin-American cities.

It is the first publication to put together so many Latin American practices working in the field of landscape. These are grouped in five different themes: Biological Environments, Resilient Grounds, Performative Systems, Revealed Protocols, and Assembled Natures. Finally, a conversation between Charles Waldheim, Florencia Rodriguez, and Luis Callejas deepens the discussion of academic curricula, drawing as representation, political spaces, and the general sensitivity around landscape.
Editors

**Florencia Rodriguez**

Florencia Rodriguez is an architect and has devoted her career to writing and editing. She was a Loeb Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Design between 2013 and 2014. In 2010, Florencia founded PLOT, a publication about architecture which she continued to direct until 2017. Under her stewardship, PLOT quickly became one of the leading publications in Latin America. In early 2017 Florencia embarked on a new project with Pablo Gerson, the editorial platform Lots of Architecture – publishers, whose main product is the periodical publication NESS. On Architecture, Life, and Urban Culture. Florencia has lectured, curated several exhibitions, and organized international symposia in different institutions. She was a Professor of Landscape Theory and Technology Theory in the Torcuato Di Tella University graduate programs and has taught theory courses at other universities such as Universidad del Litoral or The Boston Architectural College. She has received awards for her editorial work and published a number of articles in books and specialized media such as Domus, Oris, Summa+-, Arquine, a+u, and Uncube. Florencia is now working in a book that compiles and revises her work, and has been invited to co-edit the 48th issue of the Harvard Design Magazine together with Mark Lee.

**Mercedes Peralta**

Mercedes Peralta is an architect and researcher currently working with Professor Charles Waldheim as a Research Associate at the Harvard Graduate School of Design's Office for Urbanization. She holds a Master of Architecture and a Certificate in Media and Modernity from Princeton University (2017), in addition to her professional diploma in architecture from University of Buenos Aires(2012). Before Harvard, Mercedes worked in New York (2017-18). She was part of the Princeton-Columbia research team for Beatriz Colomina’s and Mark Wigley’s Istanbul Biennial “Are We Human?” (2016) and a presenter for the 2017 ECAADE conference at Sapienza Università di Roma. Between 2010 and 2015, she worked in Buenos Aires in different design initiatives. Mercedes was a designer for Claudio Vekstein’s Monumento al Grito de Alcorta, represented in the last Argentinian pavilion at the 2018 Venice Biennale. Her teaching experience includes Harvard, Princeton, and University of Buenos Aires. Her writing appears in Summa+. Her current research focuses on the intersection of architecture, landscape, and urbanism. Her latest projects include design research and editorial work on the re-use of obsolete infrastructure, mobility design, branding proposals for new cities, identity systems, and the design-curatorship of Future of the American City platform initiative.

**Jeannette Sordi**

Jeannette Sordi is an architect and urban planner based in New York City. Until 2018 she was Associate Professor of Landscape and Urbanism at Adolfo Ibañez University in Santiago de Chile. Her PhD (UNIGE, 2013) focused on the genealogy of landscape urbanism was published as “Beyond Urbanism” (List, 2014; Sacabana, 2017, Spanish edition). She is part of the Landscape as Urbanism in the Americas initiative since its beginnings in 2015 and co-organized conferences in Medellín, Santiago, Brasilia, Mexico, and Buenos Aires. Her main publications include the books "Andrea Branzi. From Radical Design to Post-Environmentalism" (ARQ, 2015, with Felipe Vera), “The Camp and the City. Territories of Extraction” (List, 2017, with Felipe Vera and Luis Valenzuela), and “Part-time Cities” (ARQ, 2018). She currently teaches at NYIT and is a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank on projects in Uruguay and Argentina.
“In NESS.docs 2, there is a very conscious effort to take a critical distance from the usual readings of Latin American projects. We intended to force a degree of reflexive abstraction and encourage new understandings of these practices, posing them as part of a much wider scenario.”

Pablo Gerson & Florencia Rodriguez
Co-founders, NESS and Lots of Architecture –publishers

“Over the past quarter century landscape has been claimed as model and medium for the contemporary city. During this time a range of alternative architectural and urban practices have emerged across Latin America. Many of these practices explore the ecological and territorial implications for the urban project.”

Charles Waldheim
Director, Office for Urbanization, Harvard Graduate School of Design
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Landscape as Urbanism in the Americas in Review

The –NESS.docs Interview
A Conversation Between Charles Waldheim, Florencia Rodriguez & Luis Callejas
This project represents a unique opportunity to create a sympathetic balance between new and existing buildings, while also offering new recreational spaces for residents and visitors. It provides public spaces, which include pedestrian-friendly streets, open plazas, and green spaces. The design also promotes a more environmentally sustainable approach to urban development in the region, providing space for energy generation and distribution, and contributes to a recovery of landscape in the city.

—Matt Ebner, Landscape

Punta Pita

TERESA MILLER LANDSCAPE STUDIO

Punta Pita is known for its designed remoteness. The project’s context is characterized by its landscape, which includes a coastal area that is open to the winds of the wind.
The issue will be launched online on July 30th 4pm EST with our first Webinar

- NESS Talks

WELCOME
4:00 Pablo Gerson (CEO and Co-founder, Lots of Architecture –publishers) and Magdalena Tagliabue (Managing Editor, NESS.docs 2)

4:10 Marcela Ramos (Arts Program Manager, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University)

KEYNOTE
4:15 Charles Waldheim (Director, Office for Urbanization, Harvard Graduate School of Design)

PANEL DISCUSSIONS
4:30 Mercedes Peralta (Harvard Graduate School of Design) in conversation with

Ana María Durán (Yale School of Architecture / University of California, Los Angeles / Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador) and

Martin Cobas (Princeton University School of Architecture)

5:10 Jeannette Sordi (Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez / New York Institute of Technology) in conversation with

Elisa Silva (Enlace Arquitectura) and

Alfredo Ramírez (Architectural Association / Groundlab)

5:50 Florencia Rodriguez (Editorial Director and Co-founder, Lots of Architecture –publishers) in conversation with

Luis Callejas (LCLA Office)

+ Voices from the practices featured in Ness.docs 2

Closing Remarks & Toast
NESS.docs is Lots of Architecture’s monographic series. Each issue features one practice or subject for in-depth analysis: interviews, texts, and a variety of graphic pieces cooperate to unveil singular work that can globally inspire modes of thought about architecture and landscape.

About NESS.docs

The first NESS.docs features the work and thoughts of Hashim Sarkis, Dean of the School of Architecture + Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 2014 and curator of the 2020 Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia. Hashim Sarkis Studio has worked in rural and urban locations ranging from the United States to the Middle East in the fields of landscape, urban design, and mixed-use, institutional, and residential architecture. NESS.docs is the first comprehensive monograph on his brilliant career. Professors Felipe Vera and José Mayoral Moratilla acted as special co-editors, and it includes texts by Stan Allen, Angelo Bucci, Kenneth Frampton, Gabriel Kozlowski, Luca Molinari, and Nader Tehrani.
NESS is a printed publication about architecture, life, and urban culture launched in 2018. We are in continuous dialogue with provocative designers, users, developers, and thinkers to expand and diversify our conversations and to be open to new visions and ideas.

The first issue of NESS: *Between Cosy History & Homey Technics* features the work of Bruther, SO - IL, objects of common interest / LOT, Lena Wimmer, a report on Detroit, and a series of conversations between Stan Allen, Jesus Vassallo, Enrique Ramirez, Mimi Zeiger, Emanuel Christ, Camilo Restrepo, Sharon Johnston, and Florencia Rodriguez.

About
Lots of Architecture – publishers

Lots of Architecture – publishers is an independent publishing company founded by Florencia Rodriguez and Pablo Gerson in 2017. It creates formats for the dissemination of thoughts, images, products, and dialogues that thrive on cultural agitation and the promotion of great design and groundbreaking ideas.

The complexity of our world, and the diversity of voices that compose it, have created a multiplicity of formal expressions, interpretations, and desires that reflect the way people live, define, and inhabit spaces.

Lots of Architecture – publishers is a media platform about architecture, life, and urban culture.

For more information write to hello@nessmagazine.com