



EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY NETWORK

PALAIS DES ACADEMIES

# EAHN

SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM 31 MAY - 3 JUNE 2012

## CLERICAL TIES: ARCHITECTURAL NETWORKS AND NETWORKING IN THE COLONIAL MISSION FIELD, C. 1500-1950

SESSION PROPOSAL

The first EAHN International Meeting in Guimarães (2010) hosted a Roundtable session entitled “Setting a Research Agenda for Colonial Architecture and Urban Planning: Current and Emerging Themes and Tools.” One of the key points to emerge from this session was the need to investigate further notions of agency and networking in relation to architectural production in European empires. It was acknowledged that the tendency of post-colonial theory had been to homogenise and/or essentialise the “coloniser,” leaving little if any indication of the precise motivations, agendas, and allegiances (even nationalities) of those involved in the European colonial project. However, there were many different and oftentimes conflicting agencies bound up in the imperial enterprise, including missionaries, merchants, soldiers, administrators, educators, and explorers. Although these agencies had overlapping interests, they did not necessarily view empire or colonisation in the same way. This often led to conflict and division within the colonising power itself. A more complex and nuanced understanding of these agencies (and actors) vis-à-vis architecture is now required.

Among the more prominent if understudied of these agencies was Christianity in the guise of missionaries. Operating at what was considered to be the frontier of European civilisation, missionaries worked to transform the non-European world in very specific and identifiable ways. Architecture was nearly always instrumental in this process. Such men often relied upon local and extended ecclesiastical networks as conduits through which to exchange architectural knowledge. For example, the networks through which Anglican clergymen communicated ideas about architecture during the nineteenth century were global in extent, giving their buildings a remarkable degree of consistency wherever they were found. The transmission and maintenance of this knowledge then became crucial to how the colonial Church of England as an organisation signalled its purpose and intent.

This session seeks contributions dealing specifically with networking and its effects within colonial church and missionary organisations in European imperial contexts—i.e., how networking was fundamental to the spread and consolidation of particular architectural forms and spaces. Submissions from all periods and places in European missionary and colonial church history are invited. Applicants are asked to consider how global and missionary Christianity acted as a form of agency in its own right, thereby both complicating and stratifying our understanding of the “coloniser” and colonial society through built form.

### SESSION CHAIR:

Alex Bremner, School of Arts, Culture and Environment, University of Edinburgh  
[E: [alex.bremner@ed.ac.uk](mailto:alex.bremner@ed.ac.uk)]

The complete Call for Papers and Discussion Positions can be downloaded at the meeting website: [www.eahn2012.org](http://www.eahn2012.org) — or at EAHN website: [www.eahn.org](http://www.eahn.org).

### CONFERENCE CHAIR

Hilde Heynen

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Jorge Correia, University of Minho  
Krista De Jonge, K.U.Leuven  
Adrian Forty, UCLondon  
Hilde Heynen, K.U.Leuven  
Mari Hvattum, AHO Oslo  
Susan Klaiber, independent scholar  
Dietrich Neumann, Brown University  
Edoardo Piccoli, Politecnico di Torino  
Belgin Turan, METU Ankara  
David Vanderburgh, UCLouvain

### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Thomas Coomans, K.U.Leuven  
Dirk De Meyer, UGent  
Els De Vos, Artesis Hogeschool Antwerpen  
Rika Devos, UGent  
Jean-Louis Genard, ULB, Faculté  
d'architecture La Cambre-Horta  
Janina Gosseye, K.U.Leuven  
Hilde Heynen, K.U.Leuven  
Ruth Hommelen, St. Lucas  
Bernard Kormoss, Université de Liège  
Judith le Maire, ULB, Faculté d'architecture  
La Cambre-Horta  
Piet Lombaerde, Universiteit Antwerpen  
Anne-Françoise Morel, UGent  
Sven Sterken, St. Lucas  
Francis Strauven, UGent  
Koenraad Van Cleempoel, UHasselt  
Jean-Louis Vanden Eynde, UCL

### IMPORTANT DATES

September 30, 2011:  
submission of abstract to session chairs

October 31, 2011:  
notification of acceptance

March 15, 2012:  
submission of full papers

May 31- June 3, 2012:  
2nd EAHN international conference in  
Brussels