

PRESS RELEASE
November 3, 2008



Inside Out in the Piazza: Shaping Space, Defining the City

Florence, November 6 – 9, 2008

International symposium at the Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florence

The “Piazza e monumento” research group, led by the current director, Alessandro Nova, is holding a four-day symposium devoted to one of the most characteristic architectural spaces of European cities: The square as a structured space with multiple definitions.

The starting point is the two-way relationship between the square and its city. On the one hand, the square is defined by the city, including its architecture and street layout - the square’s form is often governed by the city’s axes. At the same time, the structure and the decorative elements of the square reflect the social context of the city. As an open urban space with an architectural character, the square consequently becomes an integral part of the city and often represents the focal point of political culture or ritual symbolisations.

The different media that “decorate” the square and organise its space, such as fountains, inscriptions and monuments, but also including the “structured wall” as an architectural boundary of the square, receive particular attention here – they represent the social and political order: What appears to be a self-evident set usually does not arise from a fixed *concetto*, but is the laborious result of the processes of “occupation”, reinforcement and reshaping, during which the various players in the square relate to one another. Therefore, the research group also wants to use the symposium to encourage contemplation of the *longue durée* of squares because they can be used to portray particularly promising models and deformations over the course of time.

The scope of the symposium is not limited to specific historical periods or regions, but wants to initiate a methodologically reflective discussion of the spatial and temporal challenges of squares and thus connect the knowledge about the social and cultural composition of the city and symbolic political achievements with art-historical issues regarding space.

Extract from the program: PUBLIC SPACE – PUBLIC SCULPTURE – CENTRE AND PERIPHERY – INSIDE OUT IN THE PIAZZA – DEFINING BOUNDARIES – PERFORMATIVE INTERACTION. Squares in the following cities will be discussed: NUREMBERG - WURZBURG – FRANKFURT - GENOA - FLORENCE – NAPLES – SIENA – VENICE – VIENNA – PARIS – ROME – PETROGRAD – SYRACUSE - BERLIN – ANKARA.

Innenraum und Außenraum – Wie formt der Platz die Stadt/Inside Out in the Piazza: Shaping Space, Defining the City

November 6 – 9, 2008, Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz, Max-Planck Institut

Conference room, Via Giuseppe Giusti 38, 50121 Firenze

Organised by the “Piazza e monumento” research group: Alessandro Nova and Cornelia Jöchner (academic head), Niall Atkinson, Brigitte Sölch, Stephanie Hanke, and Frithjof Schwarz

Thursday, November 6, 7 PM: Evening lecture: Franz Alto Bauer: Vom Platz zum Museum? Das Forum Romanum zwischen Antike und Mittelalter.

More Information:

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Graphical material



Hilde Lotz-Bauer, Piazza SS.
Annunziata, Florenz
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PRESS RELEASE, 3. NOVEMBER 2008

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