

A new international journal of construction history

Title

Aedificare: **International Journal of Construction History**

Statement of intent

The success of the two French-language congresses on construction history (Paris, 2008; Lyon 2014) demonstrated the importance and dynamism of French-language research in this field, as has the way the members of the European community have rallied round this “lingua franca”. Moreover, the organisation in Paris of the 4th International Congress on Construction History in 2012 won France international recognition. Various congresses have been organised by the architecture schools of Paris La Villette, Paris Malaquais, Versailles and Lyon, the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers (CNAM) and the Université de Lyon 2 in partnership with the Centre national de recherche scientifique (CNRS) and the Association francophone d’histoire de la construction (AFHC). These congresses have given rise to publications by Éditions Picard (*Edifice & Artifice*, 2010; *Nuts & Bolts*, 2012; *Les temps de la construction*, 2016). Finally, given the unprecedented development, both nationally and internationally, over the past twelve years of the field of study and research connected to the theme of construction history, the Association francophone d’histoire de la construction and the research team Architecture histoire technique territoire patrimoine (ENSA Paris La Villette, UMR 3329) decided to launch a new international review in this field.

Despite the large number of existing journals in the academic, technical, architectural and heritage spheres, both in France and abroad, that publish research in our field, only one journal, the British *Construction History Journal* has existed for thirty years. This English-language journal offers historians and practitioners, enthusiasts and specialists in construction history, a high-quality academic place in which to publish and disseminate their research. But the great advantage of the English language, which facilitates communication, is also a handicap for European researchers who must have their texts translated. Finding good translators who are familiar with the fundamentals of construction (old and new) is both difficult and expensive. We also think that the act of translation often leads to a loss in meaning, however good the translation is.

It is thus to facilitate the communication of the research and preserve the richness of the languages that we envisage the creation of an international journal written in several European languages. The journal will be managed with a view to scholarly complementarity and a good relationship with the publishers of the *International Journal of the Construction History Society*. The research report *L’histoire de la construction. Un méridien européen*¹, which takes stock per country of the research

¹ *Construction History, A European Meridian*. Consultable en ligne <http://www.histoireconstruction.fr/rapport2015/>

and teaching in the field for the years 2004–14, is undeniable proof of the growth in the field of construction history and consequently of the fact that a new publication in Europe is required.

Objectives of the journal

The journal has four main objectives:

- To make the public and construction professionals aware of the materiality of architecture (the role of the materials, construction processes, the construction site, the players in construction, etc.) and of its technical heritage.
- To create a work space that brings together researchers from different disciplines (history or art and architecture, history of techniques, archaeology, anthropologies, history of law and economics, etc.) and practitioners (architects, engineers, restorers, curators).
- To bring together researchers and professionals from large, medium-size and small building firms by reporting on the research carried out by these firms.
- To provide a platform for PhD students to publish articles about their current theses and their conclusions or outcomes.

Call for contributions

Construction history is not a discipline, but a subject of scholarly research that is increasing in demand both nationally and internationally. It concerns one of humanity's timeless aims, from antiquity to the present. Why and how to make a structured shelter for being or acting? This line of questioning is inevitably interdisciplinary. Thus, while construction history is in principle a field of the history of sciences and technology, it inevitably joins the humanities and social sciences in their most varied aspects, in numerous fields as a human endeavour but whose economic, legal, social and political contexts play a determining role. The archaeology of the built work is complemented by the archaeology of construction. The history of art, and in particular the history of architecture, which has been in crisis for a few years, endeavours to join this initiative by choosing new themes borrowed from this field, such as the building site, practical knowledge, the status of professions, etc.

Construction history is not merely material. Closely linked to the conception of the project, it also concerns immaterial aspects. That history later involves considerations of the people at work, business and corporate networks, and of credit, financing, and investment (whether financial or ideological). It begins from the moment when the client commissions a design from the mason – in days of yore – the architect or the engineer and continues with the implementation of the *disegno* and the functional execution of the built work.

This history may be approached exhaustively:

- either diachronically: conception, execution, maintenance/improvement, heritage
- or synchronically: process, actors, materials.

But we wish to further develop knowledge by introducing innovative transversal questions, developed from original sources, crossing methods belonging to various disciplines (archaeological excavations, paper archives, oral and drawn traces, non-written practical knowledge, reconstitutions and experimental modelling, etc.)

The places of construction history are legion: from the quarry to the building site via the factory, from the stone cutter's lodge to the design offices via the company premises, from the architectural firms to the courtrooms via the administrator's desk, the solicitor's chamber and the scriptorium.

We thus call on all persons interested in writing a paper in the field of construction history, whatever the period chosen, from antiquity to the present day. For the launch of the journal, we will only suggest themes that might root your thoughts in a wide-ranging dialectic able to cross disciplinary approaches, such as, for example:

- Genealogy of the field / discipline
- Materiality in construction history
- An anthropological vision of building techniques
- The many sources of the building site
- The transmission of construction knowledge
- Actors and agents and economic means
- Constructing, maintaining, demolishing
- Property and the right to build
- Building technology or science?
- Construction literature
- Expertise and the sharing of technical or empirical knowledge

Terms and conditions of the journal

The journal of construction history is a multilingual, peer-reviewed and mainly published online.

- Multilingual: the five most widely spoken European languages as a mother tongue, second language or foreign language (English, German, French, Italian and Spanish)² are accepted; where necessary, a summary (approximately 500 words) in English or French is required.
- Peer-reviewed: every proposal will be anonymously submitted double-blind to two members of the reading committee or to two persons chosen on an ad hoc basis depending on the subject. The journal is thus peer-reviewed and endowed with an international academic committee that guarantees that these rules will be respected.
- Published mainly online: the journal is published online and will be made available as a priority and free of charge to association members and (on demand) in a paper version (150 copies) whose price will be determined by the publisher. Association members will receive a paper copy on demand.

The journal will comprise three sections and be introduced by a relevant editorial.

- The first section will contain at least four features based, if possible, on a single theme and thus make up a special report with introduction and bibliography. The length of these articles is not limited.
- The second section, entitled *varia*, will contain shorter articles (5,000–8,500 words), debates, publications or translations of sources, interviews and examinations of the “state of research” open to young researchers for presentation of their works.
- The third section, entitled *comptes rendus*, will include reviews of books, articles, exhibitions, etc.

Committees

(in the process of being set up and subject to validation by the persons concerned)

² Eurobaromètre spécial n° 386 of the European Commission: *Les Européens et leurs langues*, June 2012, study carried out in February–March 2012: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_386_fr.pdf [consulted on 1 April 2016].

2/- Body of the text:

The text must be typed using Microsoft Word in Times New Roman, 12 point, line spacing: 1.5.

It must be sent to the address of the journal [aedificare.revue@gmail.com] with a short biography-bibliography of 5–10 lines, two summaries (a short one in the language of the article [about 10 lines] and a longer one [500 words minimum] in English or French as required).

The author will also be asked to supply 5 keywords, in the two languages chosen (the language of the article and the language of the longer summary). The keywords must be generic, setting space and time, then specific. For example: Middle Ages, Catalonia, factory, accountancy, financial management.

The article should be structured using the Word style function: Title, Heading 1, Heading 2, Heading 3, etc.

3/- Footnotes / bibliography

(cf. 5/- Bibliographical references).

Articles will be submitted to the journal with the bibliography in footnotes. If the article is selected to make up the special report, a separate bibliography will be required, expanded or as it appears in the original, as the author wishes.

4/- Quotations

Quotations of five lines or less will be inserted into the text and set between quotation marks. Quotations longer than five lines will be separated from the text by a double space and will be set without quotation marks.

5/- Bibliographical references

Bibliographical references will be cited in footnotes, in a complete version on first mention, then in an abbreviated form.

Examples:

Books:

[First citation]: Philippe BERNARDI. *Maître, valet et apprenti au Moyen Âge. Essai sur une production bien ordonnée*. Toulouse: Méridiennes, 2009, p. 52.

[Following citations if several works by the author are cited in the article]: P. BERNARDI. *Maître, valet et apprenti... op.cit.*, p. 52.

[Otherwise]: P. BERNARDI. *op. cit.*, p. 52.

Multi-author works:

Julien DUBOULOZ et Alice INGOLD., dir. *Faire la preuve de la propriété. Droits et savoirs en Méditerranée (Antiquité – Temps modernes)*. Rome: Ecole française de Rome, 2012.

Chapter of a multi-author work:

Joël SAKAROVITCH. “Auguste Choisy, engineering student: a technical training with a pinch of human and social sciences”. In: Javier GIRON and Santiago HUERTA, eds. *Auguste Choisy (1841-1909). L'architecture et l'art de bâtir*. Madrid: Instituto Juan de Herrera, 2009, p. 371-86.

Journal articles:

Nicolas LYON-CAEN. « L'immobilier parisien au XVIII^e siècle. Un marché locatif ». *Histoire urbaine*. Juillet 2015, 43, pp. 55–70.

Online references:

Antoine PICON. “The engineer as judge: engineering analysis and political economy in eighteenth century France”. *Engineering Studies*, 2009, 1:1, p. 19-34 [consulted on 8 December 2015]. Available at the address: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1937862090272517>

6/- Illustrations, graphics and tables

The position of illustrations, graphics and tables must be indicated in the text by the use of the abbreviations Fig., Graph., and Tab.

Captions should be styled as follows: Fig. 1, title, *author / source*, and sent in a separate file.

The author must check that the images / figures or which he or she is not the author are royalty-free. Otherwise, he must request permission from the rights holder of the image / figure before submitting it to the journal.

The resolution of the images must be 300 dpi minimum.