

DACC ex convento delle Terese Dorsoduro, 2206 30123 Venezia	Project: <i>Detail. Architecture seen in section</i> Prof. Marco Pogacnik, Università IUAV Venezia  detail@iuav.it www.iuav.it/artecostruire
Venezia, 1st june 2014	Destinatario

**Venice BIENNALE 2014. *Detail. Architecture seen in section***

“Arte del costruire – The Art of Building” is a research group formed by professors from different academic disciplines (history, architectural design, technology, preservation) working at the School of Architecture IUAV in Venice. We are the promoters of a collective project dedicated to the architectural detail titled: “**Detail, architecture seen in section**”.

Our research stems from different sources, e.g. history of art (see as an example the seminal book by Daniel Arasse, *Le Détail*, 1992) and architectural theory (Edward Ford, *The Architectural Detail*, 2011). Within this panorama of visual studies we are investigating the notion of *detail* with a series of case-studies that will reveal its double significance: its constructive and its formal-expressive meaning.

The research analyses examples from post-WWII architecture, specifically the transformations occurred after the introduction of new constructive forms (the frame) and new building materials (reinforced concrete, steel, glass). The wall has lost its monolithic substance, thus its static and physical performance can only be understood by means of a section; a section revealed by the classic tectonic sequence – socle, building envelope and eaves/roof.

The aim of this research project is to demonstrate how insightful a section can be, in order to represent the complexity of the architectural artifact, since it allows the simultaneous perception of materiality and form, of building envelope and interior spaces. From this point of view, the section acquires an iconic character.

The emblematic character of the section will be highlighted through a series of panels, divided in three major thematic groups:

1. a first group of panels illustrating, in a historical perspective, examples from great masters (Le Corbusier, Wright, The Smithsons, Mies...);
2. a second group of panels will highlight the theoretical framework resulting from our research. The detail will be represented in its different expressive articulations: the detail as decoration, as *punctum*, as joint/Junktur and as a *no-detail*. Depending on the compositional strategies used by the architect, the detail can generate different expressive

outcomes: it can be isolated (*punctum*), it can be a part of a wider structural system (joint, *Junktur*), it can be reduced to a minimum until it disappears (*no-detail*) or it can be emphasized its expressive nature, thus becoming mere decoration.

3. a third group consists of panels dedicated to a single contemporary architect or architectural office: they are asked to express a peculiar statement about their conception of the *detail*, and to explain how it is understood and used in their professional activity.

Following the example of a series of portfolios published by the magazine "Architectural Record" in the 1960s (see attachment), architects with different backgrounds and culture are kindly asked to write a **short introductory text** and to present **sections of five case-studies** from their built work.

We selected your architectural office since we highly value and appreciate your work, and we believe it could shed new light on the theme of this research. We ask you to contribute to our project, by working on a panel. We attach to this message a panel as an example to be followed, together with an InDesign template, so that, in the end, we could easily compare the different contributions given their uniform layout.

The panel (InDesign format, 107 H x 220 B) with his texts (in Word), drawings (in Pdf/Dwg) and images (photography, axonometric projection, diagrams in Tiff format 300 dpi), explaining the architectural context in which the detail is inserted, have to be delivered by **August 30, 2014** to our email address **detail@iuav.it**.

The panels produced will be included in a publication and displayed in a dedicated event parallel to the next Venice Biennale of Architecture 2014 curated by Rem Koolhaas. Koolhaas' Biennale, titled "Fundamentals", is dedicated to the basic components of the architectural vocabulary (e.g. door, window, roof). Rather than analysing each of these elements as a separate and absolute object, we want to focus on the interplay between them: how is the façade joined with the roof, how is the window inserted into the wall?

Our research project about the *detail* emphasises the relationship between the different *fundamentals* in architecture and tackles the issue of tectonic syntax that regulates the architectural composition.

We welcome your suggestions and critiques and we thank you for your cooperation.

We invite you to contact us for any question.

Sincerely,