



In a two day conference in June 2009, the NAI aims to map the development of research and experiences in creating, consuming and using digital architectural archives. Scholars, architects and staff from cultural heritage institutions wishing to organise a session or present a paper at the 2009 conference are invited to submit proposals.



Conference 11/12 June 2009
Hybrid Architectural Archives: Creating, Managing and Using Digital Archives
Netherlands Architecture Institute, Rotterdam

For architectural archives, digital files are not just a new kind of datacarrier as was the case with microfilm. Digital materials require much more attention to be handled, described and stored in a consistent, safe and persistent way than paper or film. The awareness that our digital heritage is much more fragile than paper archives slowly starts to pervade the cultural heritage community. While some institutions are already testing e-repository test beds, most organisations are still searching for technical solutions for the new hybrid environment in which paper archives are accompanied by digital files.

Research and experiences

The conference will be a continuation of the Gau:di conference held in Paris from 8 to 10 November 2007 "Architecture and Digital Archives. Architecture in the Digital Age: a question of memory". The conference is meant for architects, architectural museum staff, staff from cultural heritage institutions, architectural historians and researchers. The main purpose of the meeting is to map the development of research and experiences in creating, consuming and using digital architectural archives. The conference focuses on bringing together experts in the fields of architecture (the creators), architectural archives and museums (the keepers: preservation and access) and researchers (users).

Hybrid environment

The specific problems with permanent storage, access and retrieval of digital architectural archives are gradually revealing themselves. What are the consequences for organizations in a hybrid environment and what choices do we have to face?

With regard to digitising paper archives: should we digitise complete archives or parts of it retrospectively and describe them in the same way as our paper archives? How can we create a useful multi language thesaurus and vocabulary necessary to find the requested information? How should we present digital information and what will be the surplus value for users compared to the original paper drawings. How can users and providers make the most of this new digital content?

With regard to born digital archival material: how do we address the problem of authenticity when the digital original is the same as the copy on the web? What are the specific inherent qualities of digital designs? How do we preserve the functionalities of an architectural design produced by interactive software once the material is in a repository?

Conference themes

The questions above have been translated into the following themes:

- Acquiring and processing digital archives in repositories
- Producing digital archives in architectural practices
- Architectural archives on the web
- Users: expectations and use
- Multilingual architecture thesauri and vocabularies

Call for sessions / papers

Researchers wishing to organise a session or present a paper at the 2009 conference, are invited to submit proposals by January 5, 2009 to Mrs. **Erica Etman**

Proposals in English of no more than 400 words including a session or round-table title should summarise the subject and the premise. Please, include name, professional affiliation (if applicable), address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail address, and a current CV. Proposals and short CVs should be submitted by e-mail, including the text in both the body of the e-mail and in the attachment.

Session and round-table proposals will be selected on the basis of merit and the need to organize a well-balanced program. Abstracts and papers will be published on the NAI website.

Timetable

January 5, 2009: submission of abstract

February 1, 2009: communication of acceptance

May 1, 2009: submission of full paper

Venues

The conference will take place in two different locations. Thursday June 11 in the Auditorium of the National Library in The Hague and Friday June 12 in the Auditorium of the NAI in Rotterdam. A hotel in Rotterdam is recommended. The Hague can be reached by train in 15 minutes. The National Library is located next to the train station: Den Haag Centraal (The Hague Central Station).

Registration

The registration fee is €200 (6% VAT included) before March 1, 2009. After March 1, 2009 the fee is €250 (6% VAT included). Registration allows access to the conference, documentation, museum- and library visits, coffee and tea, lunches on Thursday and Friday. More information on payment and a registration form will soon be available.

Practical information

More information will soon be available on the [website](#), including a preliminary program, a registration form and information on hotels and public transport.

Conference secretariat: Mrs. **Erica Etman**