

Archis is

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Photo:
Paul Bates/Reuters

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Archis is,

... not past tense. *Archis* is still future tense. Despite the stormy weather the magazine has endured for the last while, a belief has persisted among its readers, its editorial staff and cultural-political circles in the need for a medium that freely and independently follows the vicissitudes of architecture, the city and visual culture. That need is as urgent as ever. Nowhere does the modernization of our daily existence manifest itself so obviously as in our man-made environment. The buildings we inhabit, the images around us, our urban society, the objects we use, the media we use to communicate, the whole landscape in which we find ourselves... *Archis* is the magazine for those who care about such things, either as professionals or as lay persons. Readers of *Archis* are people who are interested in a whole raft of questions:

- What shape should architecture take within the dynamics of contemporary visual culture?
- Amid universal urbanization, how do you create a city?
- Where does architecture end, now that we have expanded its scope to include the entire landscape?
- How far is architecture concerned with actual building, now that architects are turning more and more into spatial advisors?
- Does architecture still have a disciplinary core?
- To what extent do the projects of the international high flyers still bear any relation to everyday building output?
- What will be the building types of the future, in an era of new social relations at work, in the family and in the society?
- Is representative architecture still a matter of facades?
- How does architecture as a static object react to the new economy of experience?
- Does architecture still have a social or idealistic mission?
- What is to happen with public housing, physical planning and government buildings in a time when the government is happy enough just to define 'contours' of the real world?
- If you have to teach students architecture, what do you teach?

- How do you assess quality, when quality is inspired purely by the laws of the market or consumer demand?
- What changes will occur if globalization truly extends its territory from the traffic in goods and data to the provision of services?
- What future does the wall have, once walls have turned solely into supports for digital information and have thereby in principle become windows on the rest of the world?
- What value will we attach to physical environments in an age when we spend most of our time in networks? And much else.

Many questions; and *Archis* probes them. We have been appreciating architecture for over 70 years now. *Archis* is a platform for debate. A laboratory for research. A shop window for innovations in concepts, form and materials. A forum for ambitious architectural policy. A panorama of international developments. A sanctuary for speculative thinking on the struggle for space and the future of architecture. How will we go about it? The new bimonthly *Archis* will contain a well-filled project file, a thematic research report, news of salient developments in theory and practice, accounts of the main advances in architecture as a cultural strategy and, finally, short reviews of buildings, projects, books and exhibitions. All this will be combined into a clear and accessible journal six times a year.

But there can be no *Archis* without its readers. This is a fact that we are determined to take much more literally henceforth. You can read, peruse and keep *Archis*. You can set to work with your favourite pages, or take them on your travels. *Archis* has become a medium for engagement, for reaction, for reference and perhaps for part of your professional communication. *Archis* is going interactive and we look forward to your responses.

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