

Call for Contributions

Submission: September 30, 2024

Perspective and Position

The perspective on the notion of prototype assumed in this issue is deliberately broad including all facets of the architecture discipline and allied fields. It is inclusive of early-stage developments and more developed concepts – of demonstrators and mock-ups. Prototypes may encapsulate the complete work and the thinking that led to it or capture an aspect of the work, as a biopsy or detail. We believe that prototype as a term works in different circumstances. Our goal is to develop the notion of it since it holds a lot of potential for architecture and allied fields. Prototyping goes along with experimenting, exploration, and/or testing. Prototyping is inevitably connected with the making and building; samples, models or examples are made to gain new insights. Understanding things through critical and reflective making is pivotal in the inventive process of proceeding the knowledge gain inherent to it, and to make it explicit as research findings.

Prototyping can be interpreted as critical steps in a design or development process. In *Prototyping Architecture*, Michael Stacey wonders if it is »the prototype or the author who is tested within the experimental process of research design and development« and adds »prototypes are a clear demonstration of the iterative process that is essential when designing« (Stacey 2013). In their introduction to *Prototyping for Architects*, Mark and Jane Burry explain: »Designers prototype their designs to test them. Whether the prototype truly works is not the issue: prototyping is the revelatory process through which a designer gains insight into how well their experiment is proceeding« (Burry/Burry 2017).

Prototyping as a critical practice represents the avant-garde of knowledge and method creation in both basic research and applied modes of working, such as applied research or research by/through design. Work produced as such may be situated in industry practices, or it may have emerged through an operative collaboration across academic–industry bounds generating new knowledge for the discipline.

Submissions are expected to be intimately linked to the practices of architecture and engineering at multiple scales. The frictions that arise from considering design factors such as economy, longevity, liability, and maintenance – frictions inherent in industry processes – are considered critical for driving change. The »Prototypes as Instruments for Critical Practice« issue aims to provide a platform for sharing any such knowledge.

Prototypes as Instruments

This »Prototypes as Instruments for Critical Practice« issue of Dimensions explores and documents prototypes as instruments and mediums that advance modes of collaboration and research methodologies, and that reach across the academic and industry domains in architecture and engineering.

We invite researchers, educators and practitioners to submit their investigations for the »Prototypes as Instruments of Critical Practice« issue of Dimensions. The unique format of Dimensions as a journal with both print and online presence allows written submissions to be accompanied by digital content in a range of formats.

We aim to uncover and showcase work that demonstrates an acute awareness of the required urgency to slow down material and climate breakdown, and that critically engages with the frictions inherent in architectural and engineering practices, as well as the unique aesthetic and humanistic dimensions of architecture.

While exploiting synergies between architecture and engineering in academia and practice will undoubtedly bring advancements, the increasing pace of technological development, the political emphasis on industrial research programmes, and the focus of innovation and research shifting towards practice, call for a scrutinisation of the forms of knowledge produced in applied research as well as the formats in which they appear and in which they are communicated. It is expected that the new knowledge produced in architecture develops at all scales from small adaptive interventions to urban and landscape explorations.

The issue will unfold and combine different forms of representation of processes of prototyping investigations in architecture, enabling prescriptive observation and situated analysis through making and the development of architectural and engineering knowledge.

In doing so, the contributions engage in the following questions:

- What knowledge is embodied in the prototype, or has emerged through prototyping?
- How does the prototype enable synergetic collaborations across academia and practice?
- What is the role of the prototype in establishing or refining applied research strategies?

References

Burry, Mark/Burry, Jane (2017): *Prototyping for Architects*, Thames & Hudson.
Stacey, Michael (2013): *Prototyping Architecture*, Riverside Architectural Press.

Format

Prototypes documented in this issue may include, for example, stand-alone physical installations, virtual or hybrid compositions, software, organizational and analysis structures, or interventions in existing buildings. Contributions might involve the following prototypical explorations: spatial models, 1:1 details, mock-ups of building segments, construction methods, material choices, weathering tests, software, adaptability studies and beyond.

Submissions are hybrid formats combining a paper with online content. The paper presents the prototype through a detailed description, contextualization, state-of-the-art, outcomes, and reflection. The reflection part explicitly addresses the knowledge gain attained and inherent in the work presented. Accompanying content that cannot be conveyed in print will be curated as part of the review process and will be included in the online version of the journal.

Contributions

All contributions must be original works, which have not been published in another context. Dimensions publishes research that has been completed, but also explicitly intends to present research projects that have not yet been completed. Here, the focus is on the presentation of the procedures/methods and intended goals or findings achieved so far.

Full Paper

Language US English, citation Harvard Style
Title max. 60 characters
Key words 5–8 key words / terms
Abstract max. 1.000 characters
Text 20.000–30.000 characters (spaces incl.)

Visual Contribution

Language US English, citation Harvard Style
Title max. 60 characters
Key words 5–8 key words / terms
Abstract max. 500 characters
Text 5.000–10.000 characters (spaces incl.)
Visuals see below

Anonymous Submission

Please submit your contribution as a text file (doc; docx; pages) anonymously with no reference to your identity and affiliation.

Structure

The main part of the texts can be structured by the authors as they wish, but should cover the following aspects: Introduction – Material and Methods – Genesis or Results – Discussion – Conclusion.

In this, the authors should give an overview of the aim of the research and the underlying questions, as well as of the state of knowledge and research in the field. This should be followed by an explanation of the approach used to address the research question. Furthermore, each contribution should end with a conclusion that reflects on the knowledge gained from the work on the different “Dimensions of Knowledge in Architecture”.

The text can be structured with sub-headlines, which should be reduced to a necessary minimum, provide comprehensibility and allow the readers to follow your argumentation. Footnotes can be inserted to provide additional information, but should be reduced to an absolute minimum. For further technical information on the requirements and formatting of the text please consult the Author Guidelines.

Biography

Please provide short biographies of all authors, max. length 1.000 characters, as an extra file.

Images and Figures

Full papers can include up to 6 images or figures. Images or figures can be included in the text. By naming in the text, please refer to images or figures in bracelets, i.e. (fig. 1). All images furthermore have to be handed in as separate files (pdf, jpg, 300 dpi). Frame for images on one page: 100/180 mm.

For visual contributions the number of images is unrestricted, but the total length of the contributions should not exceed approx. 8 pages.

Figures and images can only be reproduced in print in black and white, in Open Access in color. Please provide a caption for each image, including the title, author and/or photographer, year.

Submission

Please submit your contributions by **September 10, 2024** at **issue-08@dimensions-journal.eu** addressing the editors: Isak Worre Foged (The Royal Danish Academy), Hugo Mulder (University of Southern Denmark), Anne-Catrin Schultz (Wentworth Institute of Technology), Filip Van de Voorde (University of Antwerp / Denkbar).

Maximum upload capacity is 10 MB, for larger files please provide a download link.

Contact

For further information, please visit **www.dimensions-journal.eu** and feel free to contact us via mail: **mail@dimensions-journal.eu**

Schedule

Release of Call	July 05, 2024
Deadline of Submission	September 10, 2024
EXTENDED DEADLINE	September 30, 2024
Peer Review Period	September 15 – October 15, 2024
Revision Period	October 15 – November 30, 2024
Rebound Round (2nd Reviewers' Feedback)	December 01 – 15, 2024
Editorial Feedback	January 2025
Publication	June 2025