then Greek-occupied Izmir. Yet the Byzantine Revival itself was not a homogenous movement and its proponents often came from very different ideological backgrounds. These two case studies, an urban scale application in Thessaloniki and a building scale intervention in the newly acquired territory of Izmir will serve as a window through which I will address issues of the agency, representation and fluidity of meaning in a period of competition among national, religious and imperial identities.

Session 3: Histories of Environmental Consciousness

SESSION CHAIR:
PANAYIOTA PYLA, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Contemporary environmental strategies in architecture are usually framed as responses to recent concerns with ozone depletion, global warming, or energy shortages. But environmental concerns have a much more complex relationship with the history and politics of modern architecture and urbanism. This session enlarges the historical and theoretical context of environmental awareness, debate and praxis in architecture, with the aim to historicize sustainability and enlarge the historical perspective on current debates – and as such it can be perceived as an extension of the SAH 2010 session Counter Histories of Sustainability [also chaired by P. Pyla]. The session invites papers that investigate the relationship between environmental concerns and architectural culture in the mid-twentieth century, before the popularization of environmentalism in the 1970s. The topic of this session does not pertain to concepts of Nature or biological analogies that influenced architecture through time, but rather it focuses specifically on post-World War II strategies that emphasized the prevention of environmental destruction on a local, regional or global level. Some such practical or theoretical strategies in architecture focused on low technologies of building and appropriations of particular knowledge systems, materials and techniques. Others forged partnerships with industrial production and advanced technologies. Others still put their emphasis on large-scale managerial control of natural resources, becoming entangled with the politics of colonial or post-colonial modernization. And others concentrated on small-scale experiments with single buildings, becoming entangled with other sets of politics. Taken together, all these approaches – and their contradictions – constitute an important history of environmental consciousness in architecture. Papers that present critical analyses of particular case studies [such as low or high tech utopias, discourses on appropriate technologies, or versions
of “green” architecture) are most welcome. Papers should analyze the social, cultural, and environmental repercussions of the cases presented. Also welcome are papers that cut across geographical locales to offer broader reflections on environmentalism, historicizing terms like Ecology, Nature, Environment, and related concepts of “environmental balance”, “natural resources”, and so on. In what ways did social reformist visions in architecture become aligned with arguments for curbing industrial pollution or for preserving environmental “quality”? How did particular strategies for urban amelioration or mass housing, become intertwined with environmental fears?

S3.1 Concrete Conduits in Gandhi’s Ashram. Tangled Environmental Aesthetics in Post-Independence Indian Modernism

ATEYA KHORAKIWALA
Harvard University, USA

Post-independence India’s conception of nature as risk-resource system fuelled its project of modernization. Dams were construed as techno-scientific operations in systems designed to circumvent disaster. The corresponding cultural project of architectural modernism borrowed anti-colonial politics’ essentialist strategy, foregrounding a search for identity and taking its cue from climate and vernacular technology. Although driven by resource-dearth, Indian modernists wrought scarcity into an aesthetic language: louvers, chajias, verandahs, and lattices came to dominate Indian modernism’s vocabulary. For Charles Correa, climate provided raw material for a new, yet ancient, aesthetic language. His early conceptual project – the Tube House (1962) – a unit designed to be low cost and easily multiplied, used deep louvers, a courtyard, and shaded windows to regulate the internal climate. The prototype has been called “ahead of its time”, as if it were a proleptic part of sustainability; however, the project was rooted in a different set of political and aesthetic lineages that came into play in a parallel project, a museum commission that he won right out of MIT. The Sabarmati Ashram, built on the site of Mahatma Gandhi’s home in Gujarat, in homage to the leader, sat at the intersection of three distinct intellectual lineages – Gandhi’s politics, Tagore’s aesthetics, and Nehru’s techno-science. This paper uses Correa’s Sabarmati Ashram project to interrogate the threads of environmental consciousness nested within the decolonization paradigm to argue that although these threads look like sustainability, they belong to a different history, and although they seemed to be a counter-narrative to big science and big dams, they were wrought of the same anti-colonial political origins. Although the Gandhi/Nehru/Tagore lineage was politically contradictory and certainly never resolved, this paper will look for architectural and aesthetic references to limn the alternate possibilities for what environmental consciousness may have been before the 1970s.

S3.2 “We Want to Change Ourselves to Make Things Different”

CAROLINE MANIACUE-BENTON
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture Paris-Malaquais, France

In a letter to Stewart Brand, in December 1968, editor of the Whole Earth Catalog, the inventor Steve Baer recalled: “I have now attended
two engineering conferences. I was both impressed and disappointed. They seem to be wonderful opportunities to get at problems and push right through them – you have people with such a variety of experience that questions are answered almost as soon as they are raised. The disappointment has been hearing speakers cut off a question by saying that, although it is an interesting question, it is a philosophical question. The Alloy conference that Steve Baer organized in the Spring of 1969 intended to remedy this defect. A range of inventive and diverse minds were invited to an abandoned tile factory in New Mexico for three days. Divided into sections and events – energy, structure, evolution, materials, man, magic, language, meals, play, projections, music – the Alloy conference was attended by engineers, inventors, architects, among others Jay Baldwin, Dean Fleming, Lloyd Kahn, Sin van der Ryn, Paolo Soleri, Stewart Brand. This was the cream of left field thinkers behind the Whole Earth Catalog and the alternative architectural movement. Their intention was to replace the homogeneous thinking of the universities and industrial consultants by combining a range of approaches – practical, scientific, spiritual and traditional – to resolve the major environmental problems of the day. A feature of the discussion was a deep sense of soul searching: “We want to change ourselves to make things different”. The Meeting had the weaknesses of its strengths: many diverse ideas without a dominant focus. The paper uses the Alloy conference to test the efficacy and ambition of alternative thinking of the 1960s with respect to the environment, which cast a long shadow in the careers of thinkers, architects, engineers and designers who would play important roles in the 1970s.

3.3 Zoo Landscapes and the Construction of Nature

CHRISTINA KATHARINA MAY
Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany

Since the 1950s zoos have taken up the mission to make their audience aware of conservational issues. The ideological shift towards conservational goals as well as public concerns about living conditions of captive wild animals influenced the concepts of zoo design. Zoos had to integrate popular imaginations about naturalness and scientific research on ecological issues, an ambivalent mixture between science and aesthetics.

During the 1950s and the beginning 1960s planners have worked on a new master plan for the Zoological Garden of Basel in Switzerland. The old buildings of the nineteenth-century’s city zoo were demolished and replaced with animal houses styled according to post-war modernism. Veterinary and behavioural research as well as new materials like concrete, glass and tiles supported the conditions for conservational tasks like health and fertility. Nevertheless, the zoo’s environment should appear as a surrogate of Nature to enhance the public’s awareness of conservational concerns and ecological relations. The artist Kurt Brägger modelled illusionistic natural habitats with the help of a semiotic program, which transferred geomorphological structures of the regional landscape of Basel into the zoo. A dramaturgy of sight-lines and lightning effects led the visitors through the park to immerse the recipients into a coherent landscape experience. The new landscape design and the souterrain buildings of the 1960s relied on contemporary theoretical studies about walking experiences and phenomenological space. Conservational claims and ecological rhetorics were closely related to behavioural research on the relational space of territory and social behaviour. All these ideas influenced the design of Nature for both kind of users, for visitors and animals. The representation of zoological research contrasted the immersive effects of the popular themed exhibition space. Hence, the built environment of the zoo condensed and combined contradictory ideas of progress, conservation and reassurance.

3.4 Experiments on Thermal Comfort and Modern Architecture: the Contributions of André Missenard and Le Corbusier

IGNACIO RUIZ
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture Nantes, France
DANIEL SIRET
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture Nantes, France

The early scientific researches into the thermo-regulative response of the human body during the 1920s and the 1930s normalized thermal conditions in working and educational environments to improve user’s performance. The European and American contexts of housing promotion and industrial development during post-war extended this approach to different environments. Geographers, physiologists and engineers encouraged manufactured indoor atmospheres that could overcome human shortcomings resulting from environmental and biological conditions. Climate, indoor atmospheres and human body were interlinked to develop the ideal environment for modern society. Paradoxically, these original notions and researches have been used to promote both bioclimatic and weatherized architectures along the second half of the twentieth century. The French engineer, researcher and industrialist André Missenard
was a prominent contributor to the study on the thermo-physiology of comfort as well as its experimental application to engineering and architecture. As a collaborator of the architect Le Corbusier, his influence not only attempted technical fields, but to the whole notion of the ideal environment for modern society. Consequently, Le Corbusier’s works during the post-war became a collective laboratory on hygro-thermal control, where passive and active systems were constructs of what Missenard called “artificial climates”. Based on an original research at the Foundation Le Corbusier archives and the French National Library, this communication presents the design method of the Grille Climatique and the buildings for the Millowners Association (Ahmadabad, India) and the House of Brazil (Paris, France) as study cases. As a result, the paper discusses the influence of physiology and environmental technology in the early approaches to thermal environments in architecture, what afterwards supported both bioclimatic and mechanical viewpoints.

### S3.5 The United Nations Headquarters and the Global Environment

ALEXANDRA GUANTRILL
*Columbia University, USA*

The realization of the United Nations Headquarters between 1946 and 1952 marked the onset of a complex relationship between environmental management and global development in the postwar period. Designed by an international committee of architects, the headquarters were a venerated monument to world peace. At the same time the work of the fledgling institution reflected its incipient stance on environmental and economic concerns of a global order. The 1949 United Nations Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources promoted international cooperation in allocating scientific research to resource disparity as a means of keeping the peace. Scientists, engineers, and technical experts offered strategies for prosperous member states to address resource deficiencies within developing tropical and arctic regions, which were presented as the last frontiers of cultivation.

Lewis Mumford remained highly circumspect regarding the UN Headquarters’ representation of a new global order, questioning its unconscious symbolism of the “managerial revolution” and monopoly capitalism. Indeed, Mumford pitted the degradations of mechanization against his theory of organic synthesis, in which science and the machine support life processes rather than diminishing them. By contrast, in his presentation of the UN headquarters Le Corbusier presented the organic in terms of an exact biology facilitated by new technology. Purportedly to address the diverse climatic origins of the UN delegates, the envelope of the UN Secretariat was designed to function as a manipulable environmental control system accommodating the global population housed within, thereby fostering harmonious relations. Internationally published and widely imitated, the details of this thin, flat, smooth surface of modernism embodied enmeshed aesthetic and technical ambitions. Drawing from contemporary discourses on technology and the organic, this paper will scrutinize the ways in which the UN invoked science to address environmental management at a global and a highly proximate level.
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Introduction

After the two successful International Meetings in Guimarães (2010) and Brussels (2012), and in accordance with the EAHN mission statement, this Meeting again proposes to increase the visibility of the discipline, to foster transnational, interdisciplinary and multicultural approaches to the study of the built environment, and to facilitate the exchange of research results in the field.

Though the scope of the Meeting is European, a larger scholarly community was invited to participate with themes related not only to Europe’s geographical framework, but also to its transcontinental aspects. The main purpose of the Meeting is to map the general state of research in disciplines related to the built environment, to promote discussion of current themes and concerns, and to foster new directions for research in the field.

Preparations for the Turin conference started two years ago. The call for sessions and roundtables launched in the summer 2012 far exceeded the Committees’ expectations: we received 100 proposals of which 27 were selected. These 27 sessions and roundtables made up the call for papers. Again the response was very significant - if rather varied for the different sessions. On average, session chairs received about four times as many abstracts as they could accommodate. Thanks to this exceptional response, three open sessions were activated.

In addition to this, and in order to encourage an exchange between the main research topics addressed by the international scholarly community and the studies conducted by younger and emerging scholars within the Italian PhD programs, the local Executive Committee, in accordance with the Advisory Committee of the Meeting, chose to promote two roundtables exclusively devoted to the presentation of studies recently carried on in PhD programs affiliated to Italian Universities. The aim of this initiative was to overcome the difficulties that often obstacle the dissemination of some of the most promising outputs of Italian PhD programs by providing them with a truly
international arena of discussion. This further call resulted in 37 proposals of which 15 were selected. The 32 sessions and roundtables cover different periods and geographies in the history of architecture, extending from antiquity to the present and touching a variety of disciplines and approaches to the built environment, including historiography, the history of the decorative arts, the intersections between art history and the history of architecture, landscape and urban history. An interesting chronological and thematic balance was then achieved, providing an extensive oversight of the research paths being followed at this time.

Because of the massive response to the call for sessions and roundtable proposals, to the subsequent calls for papers and discussion positions, and thanks to the careful selection carried out firstly by the EAHN 2014 Advisory Committee and then by the session chairs, we feel confident about the high standards met by the scientific material to be presented and discussed.

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The very last and special thanks goes to the EAHN 2014 Advisory Committee to whom we all owe the scientific quality of this event.

Michela Rosso
Conference General Chair EAHN 2014

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The papers’ abstracts and titles published in the present book conform to the versions originally submitted by authors before publication on the EAHN 2014 website and further proof-edited by an English speaker of the EAHN board. Between the editing of the Book of Abstracts and the preparation of the Proceedings, a number of authors changed the titles and abstracts of their papers. These newer versions were finally included in the Conference Proceedings, available at www.eahn2014.polito.it and www.eahn.org.