

## 11 Questions

PRAXIS gave 11 firms the 11 questions below as a means to frame their discussions. However, we also encouraged them to deviate from the script or ignore the questions entirely.

01/ Who are your peers or those you consider to be part of your “generation”? How do you see your work in relation to the other firms in this issue of PRAXIS?

02/ Who were and are your teachers, teachers in the sense of inspirers, mediators, shockers, and role models?

03/ What has been your most significant or challenging project, built or unbuilt? Why?

04/ Which projects of yours fall outside of what might be conventionally considered “architectural”? Where do the boundaries of the discipline lie for you and which extra-architectural fields most closely relate to your work?

05/ Which project by another architect had the strongest impact on you? Why? Has any recent project managed to galvanize an issue for you, or (in your eyes) been significant for the discipline?

06/ What resources: books, magazines, blogs, websites, publications, etc. do you refer to most often and why?

07/ How do digital processes (either form-making, fabrication/assembly techniques, or others) play a part in your work? What are the specific methods and tools you use regularly?

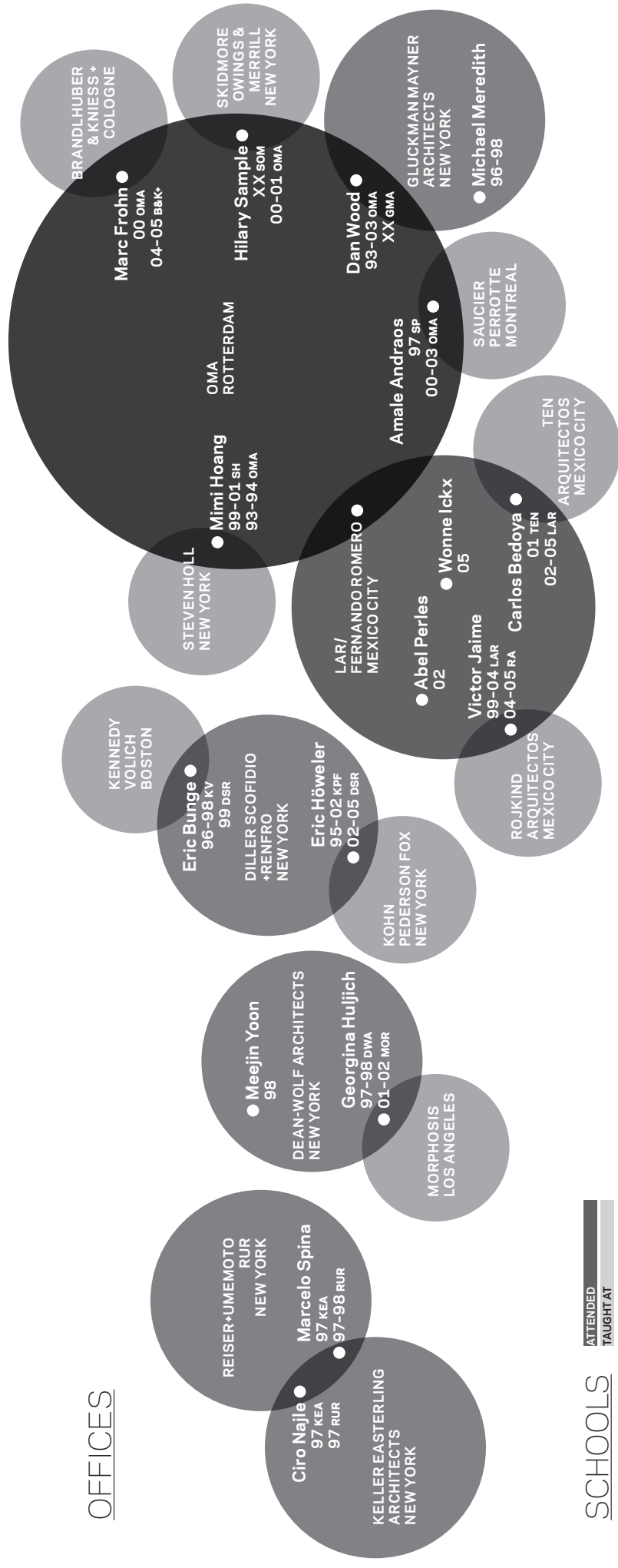
08/ Does architectural “research” constitute a new form of practice? What is the relationship between your research, writing (if applicable) and your design work?

09/ Which (if any) aspect of contemporary discourses (post-criticality, affect, pragmatism, ecology/sustainability, beauty, etc.) do you feel most closely affiliated with? Or antagonistic to?

10/ How can architects maintain their relevancy during crises (specifically environmental and/or economical)? What role if any did the profession play in the current housing (or environmental) crisis? How do we continue to be productive, without (purely) escaping into paper architecture or theory, and without completely abdicating responsibility for large scale mediation of the planet?

11/ Respond to any of the following pairs of terms (or suggest others): practice and pedagogy, history and theory, book and blog, built and unbuilt.

## OFFICES



# SCHOOLS

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Praxis has attempted to trace and acknowledge all sources for images used in this journal and sincerely regrets errors or omissions. We will gladly include errata as they are brought to our attention in future issues.

Michael Meredith is an Associate Professor at Harvard University, Graduate School of Design. Hilary Sample is an Associate Professor at Yale University School of Architecture. They are the principals of MOS. MOS's built projects include PS1/MoMA Afterparty, the Floating House, and an artist studio for Terry Winters. In 2010, they received an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

## **MOS Interview Alejandro Aravena**

Project Editor: Ashley Schafer

All images courtesy of the architects except:

p 18, top: Cristobal Palma

p 21: Cristobal Palma

p 23: All Alejandro Aravena, except middle left, Cristobal Palma

p 26, top: Alejandro Aravena, bottom, Cristobal Palma

## **PATTERNS Interview MOS**

Project Editor: Amanda Reeser Lawrence

All images courtesy of the architects except:

p 10: Florian Holzherr

p 15: Michael Vahrenwald

Alejandro Aravena, received his architecture degree from the Universidad Católica de Chile in 1992. Executive director of Elemental, partner of UC and COPEC (Chilean Oil Company). International Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects since 2010. Member of the Pritzker Prize Jury since 2009. Winner of Silver Lion of the 2008 Venice Biennale and Marcus Prize 2010. He has been Visiting Professor at Harvard University GSD from 2000 until 2004 and holds the Elemental-Copec Chair at Universidad Católica since 2006.

nARCHITECTS was founded in New York City in 1999 and is led by partners Eric Bunge and Mimi Hoang. The studio's work, recognized internationally with awards, exhibitions and publications, includes a wide range of scales from buildings and interiors to ephemeral structures and public space design. Hoang and Bunge have also taught extensively, most recently as the Kahn Visiting Assistant Professors of Architectural Design at Yale University.

## **Alejandro Aravena Interviews n\_ARCHITECTS**

Project Editor: Andrew Colopy

All images courtesy of the architects except:

p 21, top: Sam Dufaux

## **nARCHITECTS interviews PRODUCTORA**

Project Editor: Fred Tang

All images courtesy of the architects.

PRODUCTORA is a Mexico City-based office founded in 2006 by Abel Perles, Carlos Bedoya, Victor Jaime and Wonne Ickx. The office is realizing a variety of projects in Mexico, Asia and South America ranging from single family dwellings to larger scale office and public buildings. Productora's work has been published and exhibited internationally. They were winners of the Architectural League of New York's Young Architect's Form in 2007.

WORK Architecture Company (WORKac) was founded in 2003 by Amale Andraos and Dan Wood. Based in New York, WORKac strives to develop architectural and urban projects that engage culture and consciousness, nature and artificiality, surrealism and pragmatism. In 2009, WORKac was honored at the White House as Finalist for a National Design Award. In 2008, the firm was identified by Icon Magazine as one of the 25 most-influential new architecture firms in the world, winning numerous awards, including several AIA Merit Awards, three "Best of" awards, and a MASTerwork Award from the Municipal Arts Society.

## **PRODUCTORA interviews WORKac**

Project Editor: Filip Tejchman

All images courtesy of the architects except: p 57 upper right: Elizabeth Felicella

p 63 lower right: Elizabeth Felicella

## **WORKac interviews FAR**

Project Editor:

Alayna Fraser

All materials courtesy of FAR.

FAR frohn&rojas is a networked architectural design and research practice located in Cologne, Santiago de Chile and Los Angeles. With its distributed setup the office seeks to appropriate corporate models of global presence and distribution as its own effective means of production. FAR takes these models as a means of establishing a more diversified type of architectural production in which both the inherent contradictions between geographies, as well as the stretching of disciplinary boundaries will let formerly undeterminable links thrive. The separate locations work as hubs linking the office to a variety of local specialists both from within architecture as well as other disciplines, trades, companies, cultural institutions and educational/research facilities.



Aranda\Lasch is a New York-based architectural studio dedicated to experimental research and innovative building. Established in 2003 by Benjamin Aranda and Chris Lasch, the studio designs buildings, installations and objects through a deep investigation of materials and structure. Their approach can be described as intuitive computing which is not about problem-solving but rather opening up new opportunities in design. Winners of the United States Artists Award and Young Architects Award in 2007, their early architectural projects are the subject of the book, *Pamphlet Architecture #27: Tooling*. In 2008 they collaborated with artist Matthew Ritchie on a pavilion-sized work, "The Morning Line," for the 2008 Venice Biennial and the Seville Biennial. In addition to commercial and residential projects in New York, they completed a 42,000 square foot temporary structure for Design Miami in 2009 & 2009. Aranda\Lasch continually develops experimental furniture products that explore new concepts in fabrication and assembly and are represented by Johnson Trading Gallery in New York. Aranda\Lasch will be featured in the upcoming 2010 Venice Architecture Biennial.

#### **Aranda/Lasch Interviews** **Ciro Najle**

Project Editor: Ben Gilmartin  
All images courtesy of the architect

An architect practicing in Buenos Aires and Design Critic at Harvard GSD, **Ciro Najle** is the former Director of the Landscape Urbanism Graduate Design Program and Diploma Unit Master at the AA in London. Najle received the Young Architect of the Year Second Prize in London in 2001, and his work has been exhibited in various cultural venues including the Prague Biennale of Art and the Beijing Biennale of Architecture, where he was the curator of the London Pavilion. His work has been published in *Quadrerns*, *After the Sprawl*, *Oris*, *Architectural World*, *Egg Magazine*, *Esquire*, *Summa*, *UR* and *zG Monographs* on FOA and MGM. He is the co-editor of the 'Tokyo Bay Experiment,' and of the 'Landscape Urbanism: A Manual for the Machinic Landscape,' and is currently working on the upcoming book 'Material Discipline.' [www.generaldesignbureau.com](http://www.generaldesignbureau.com); [www.machiniclaboratory.com](http://www.machiniclaboratory.com)

The Living was created in 2004 by David Benjamin and Soo-in Yang. The firm emphasizes open-source research and design and collaborates both within and outside the field of architecture. The team's work has been awarded, exhibited, and published internationally and was recently featured in *C3 Magazine*, *Environment Monthly* and on CNN. Benjamin and Yang currently teach at Pratt Institute and at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture where they are co-directors of the Living Architecture Lab.

#### **Ciro Najle Interviews** **The Living**

Project Editor: Andrew Colopy  
All images courtesy of the architects.

#### **The Living Interviews** **H+Y Architects**

Project Editor: Elizabeth Stoeil  
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p 111, top: Alan Karchmer  
p 112: Andy Ryan

Höweler + Yoon Architecture, the Boston-based practice of Eric Höweler and J. Meejin Yoon, is a research-driven, multi-disciplinary practice that focuses on the integration of the body, technology, and space, engaging these issues at a wide range of scales. Prior to co-founding HY Architecture with Höweler in 2005, Yoon was the principal of MY Studio, the laboratory-like studio she founded in 2001 and continues to maintain to explore clientless projects from books to clothing to installations. HY Architecture/ MY Studio published a monograph, *Expanded Practice*, in 2009. Höweler is a Design Critic in Architecture at Harvard Design School. Yoon is an Associate Professor in the Department of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Directed by Marcelo Spina and Georgina Huljich, **PATTERNS** is a design research architectural practice based in Los Angeles. Their projects include Prism Gallery in Los Angeles, *FyF Residence* in Rosario Argentina, and *Jujuy Redux*, a ten-storey housing project in Argentina. **PATTERNS'** work has received numerous prizes and awards and has been exhibited at the Venice, Shenzhen and Beijing Biennales, SF MOMA, MAK Vienna, Chicago Art Institute, Artists Space New York and Gyeonggi Foundation in Korea. Their first book "Embedded" is forthcoming by the Beijing-based AADC. Marcelo Spina has been a member of the design faculty at SCI-Arc since 2001 and Georgina Huljich has been a Lecturer at the Department of Architecture at UCLA since 2006.

#### **HY Architecture interviews** **PATTERNS**

Project Editor: Amanda Reeser Lawrence  
All images courtesy of the architects except:  
p 114, top: Andrea Ostera  
p 116, top: Gustavo Frittegotto  
p 117, bottom: Josh White  
p 119, glass renderings: courtesy of 3-Form  
p 121, photos: Josh White  
p 121, line drawings: courtesy of 3-Form  
p 123, photos: Josh White  
p 124, top left: Natalia Vinuela  
p 124, middle: Bradley Wheeler

#### **Timothy Hyde and Lucia Allais**

Project Editors:  
Ashley Schafer and  
Amanda Reeser  
Lawrence

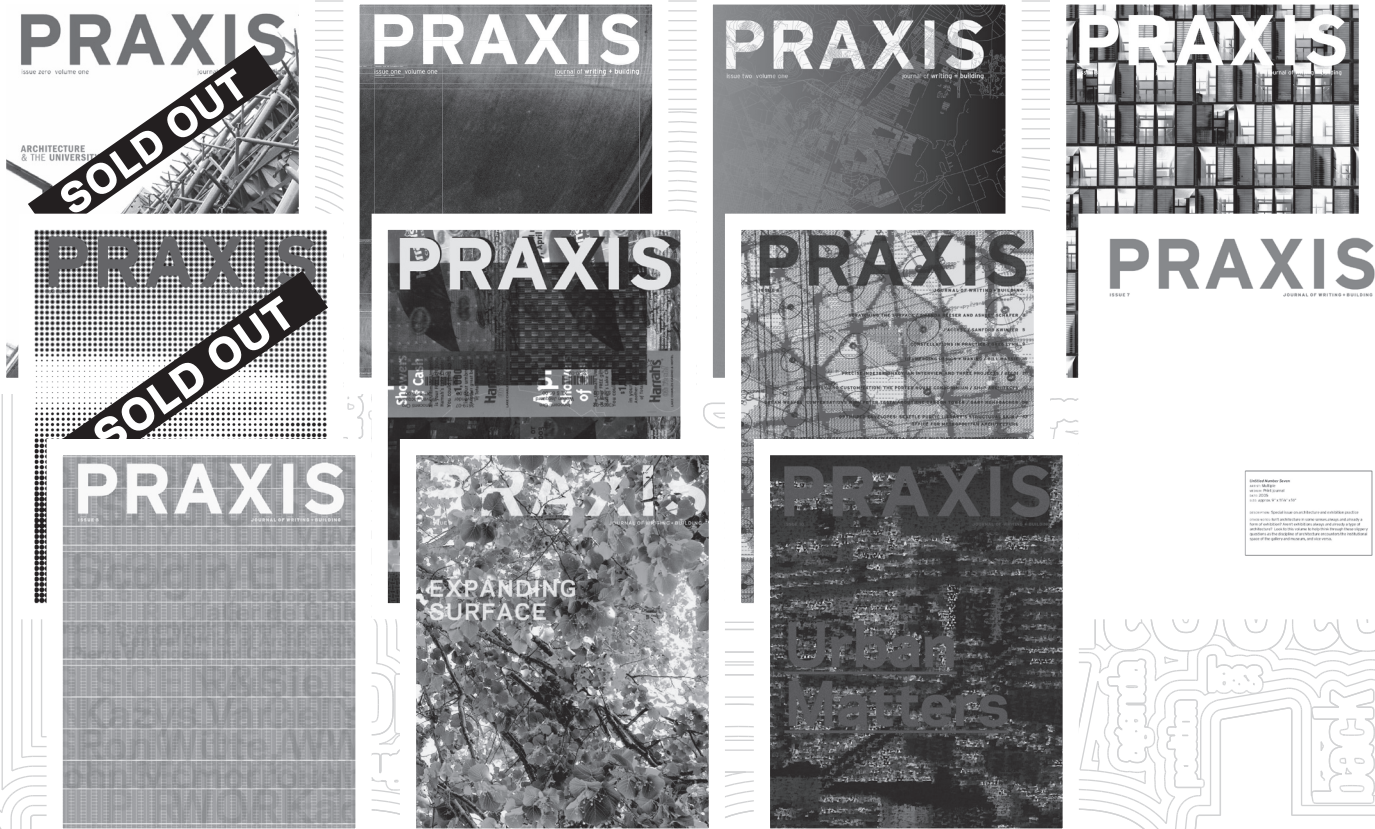
Timothy Hyde is Assistant Professor of Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He is an historian of 20th century architecture and architectural theory.

Lucia Allais is Behrman-Cotsen Postdoctoral Fellow in the Society of Fellows, and Lecturer in the School of Architecture, at Princeton University. She has published a number of essays, (most recently "The Real and the Theoretical, 1968," in *Perspecta* 42) and is working on a book about architecture and international politics in the mid-20th Century.



# Back Issues

The following back issues of PRAXIS are available for \$25 per issue, including shipping and handling, or for \$20 per issue if purchased with a three-issue subscription. PRAXIS can also be purchased online at [www.praxisjournal.net](http://www.praxisjournal.net) or at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



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and many other fine stores

# 13 Eco-logics

Hermaphroditic polar bears, melting ice caps, water shortages, rising sea levels, crop failures, and catastrophic storms: these are just a few of the consequences and predicted effects of global warming. Scientists cite buildings as the source of between 35% and 50% of greenhouse gas emissions annually, a fact which places architects at the center of the problem, but also mandates a disciplinary response.

Most of the current debate surrounding sustainability relies on negative rhetoric (scare tactics) that incentivise immediate, realizable, pragmatic responses (LEED), rather than more radical and visionary solutions.

Praxis 13 invites submissions of projects and essays that consider how architecture might use the logics of ecologies to move beyond received notions of sustainability.

# 14 The Return to Narrative

Once upon a time, there was once upon a time. It was called Narrative, and, during the 1976-1986 climax of what was called Postmodernism, it had something to do with Architecture. It emerged critically through a series of adjacencies. Venturian pop appropriations; Gravesian classicisms; Hejdukian masquerades: all had something to do with History. Which had something to do with Memory. Which had something to do with Narrative. And in the years that followed, as architectural talkers increasingly spoke the languages of literary and structural theory, notions of Story and Sequence claimed a critical afterlife. Flash forward to the very late 00's and the literary endeavor that is the journal you hold in your hands now addresses the ruins of this Spolia, and discerns within them the surprising foundations of today's design discourse. Does it all end Happily Ever After? You tell us. What's your story?





# ADDENDUM: CONVERSATION 13

## CONVERSATIONS CONTINUED SYMPOSIUM— HELD AT PS1 MOMA JUNE 25, 2010

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