

A Confluence of Disciplines to Study Architectural Phenomena in the Human Habitation of Space: Projects for Future Collaboration

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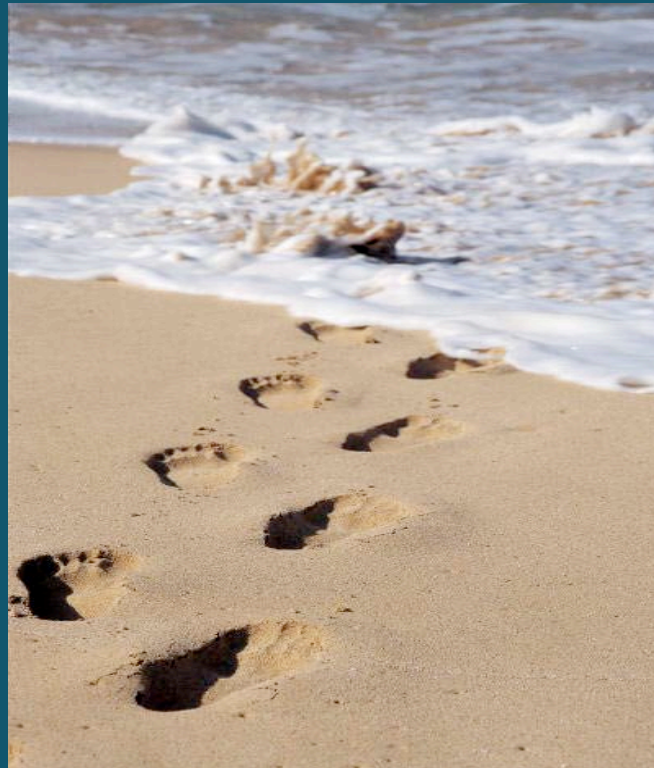
Collen, A. (2007, October). "A Confluence of disciplines to study architectural phenomena in the human habitation of space: Projects for future collaboration."

Presentation to the faculty of the Department of Architecture of the Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

What brings me to the subject is my long-time interest in the occupancy and psychology of space.



My approach to the subject is systemic, because I believe in contemporary times the challenges are complex, so much so, it requires a confluence of disciplines, such as architecture, art, design, psychology, and other fields of study, to organize space and construct human habitats that honor and respect our symbiotic and interdependent relationships with each other and our environment.



What I find particularly interesting and relevant are reciprocal influences between one dynamic body of disciplines, associated with architecture, design, and engineering the construction of human dwellings on the one side,

and



another body of disciplines, associated with psychological and philosophical thought, human creativity and productivity, and well-being on the other side.



One emphasis of the proposed project is to examine as deeply as possible these reciprocal influences to benefit contemporary life.

Given our proven capacity for creation and destruction of life on the planet, we are now the species of first responsibility, that is to say, the caretakers and stewards of our planet.



If we believe our surroundings are there only to serve us to fulfill our needs to live, communicate, work, and breed, we have

The nature-for-humans attitude



With a slight shift of consciousness:
If we believe we are here to serve our surroundings in a sustainable fashion to fulfill our needs, we have



The humans-for-nature attitude



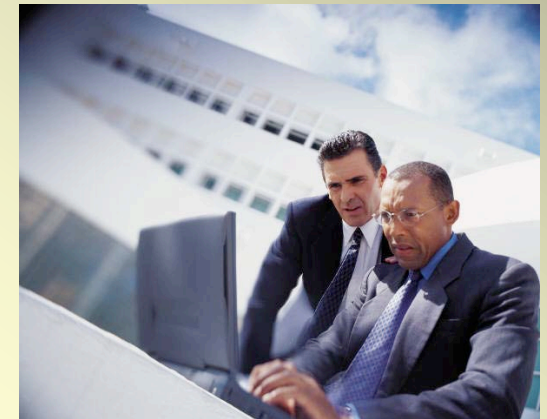
The interplay between the two attitudes is another emphasis to study and understand, because the dominant attitude may portend a negative future for humanity and the planet. However, advances through science and technology may be as much the source of crisis as the solution.

How are we to understand these attitudes if humanity is to ameliorate the globalizing trends today for the benefit, rather than the detriment, of all living beings and the planet?

This subject, manifest in terms of applications of architecture to human habitats, for example, can be our focus of the project

By way of the architectural decisions we make,
we have lasting effects on our surroundings.

We see the evidence everywhere.





The project proposes that we have to converge many fields of study and understand their interrelations to know the subject.

Architecture is the focal discipline of the project.

It is interdisciplinary, in that an architect benefits by consulting a number of disciplines to make an architectural decision.

It is the same for the engineer and contractor to construct the dwelling for human habitation.

What is the problem?

Examples:

Overpopulation, pollution, deforestation, resource depletion,
lebensraum, species extinction, cultural homogenization



What is the relevance of architecture to the problem?

We are very successful as a species. Our proliferation over the surface of our planet has brought increasingly obvious consequences to alter the natural order and fabric of the physical world.



Today, most of us live our lives in cities.



We live and work in contained and well-defined spaces.



More and more of humanity is expected to live in cities. What is the future, therefore, of cities, from the viewpoint of humanistic architecture?



Higher and more compact?

Some architectural phenomena
of interest to me in this project

Induction

Emergence

Confluence



My perceptions of and interactions with objects in a place constitute specific relations, and my space a general relation, all of which are inductions.

But those aspects of my experiencing the space that may be attributed to decisions determining the overall design and organization of the space may be termed *architectural induction*.



Architectural Induction

What induces the occupant because of
the very nature of the space?



Design, organization => thoughts, feelings, actions



The particular qualities that describe my experience in the most rudimentary and essential respects are **emergent** phenomena. They constitute my experience.

Characteristics of space:



empty - - - - - full

present - - - - - absent

visible - - - - - invisible

loud - - - - - silent

colored - - - - - black/white

soft - - - - - hard

hot - - - - - cold

strong - - - - - weak

Regarding those aspects that stem from decisions determining the overall design and organization of a given space, we may use the phrase *architectural emergence* to refer to them.



Architecture, Human Beings, and the Phenomena of Induction and Emergence

Put people together in a place. Define the space by means of an architecture. After some time, their interactions may induce a system. That is to say, a social system of some kind emerges, a system defined not simply by the people, but more definitively by their interactions.

Certainly the nature and qualities of the interactions make the system what it is.

But it is important to include in our thinking:

The architecture of the space is part of the system.

It induces and influences emergent properties.





Two examples of how architecture shapes and organizes the environment for human beings; *de facto*, architecture is an important environmental force.



Between 2001 and 2003, we lived in a house in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Our home had one feature that dominated the interior.



The window is a frame, a basic architectural decision that organizes space. What is induced, and what is the character that emerges from size, means of opening and closing, color, and design?





To reiterate:
As a shaper and
organizer of
the environment
for human beings,
de facto,
architecture is
an important
environmental
force.



Focus for collaborative research:

Our experience of space influences our state of being, relationships with others, home and work life, and connectedness to context.

The name *induction* is given to label this phenomenon.

Induction is a mediating construct to suggest critical relations between architectures and human activities.

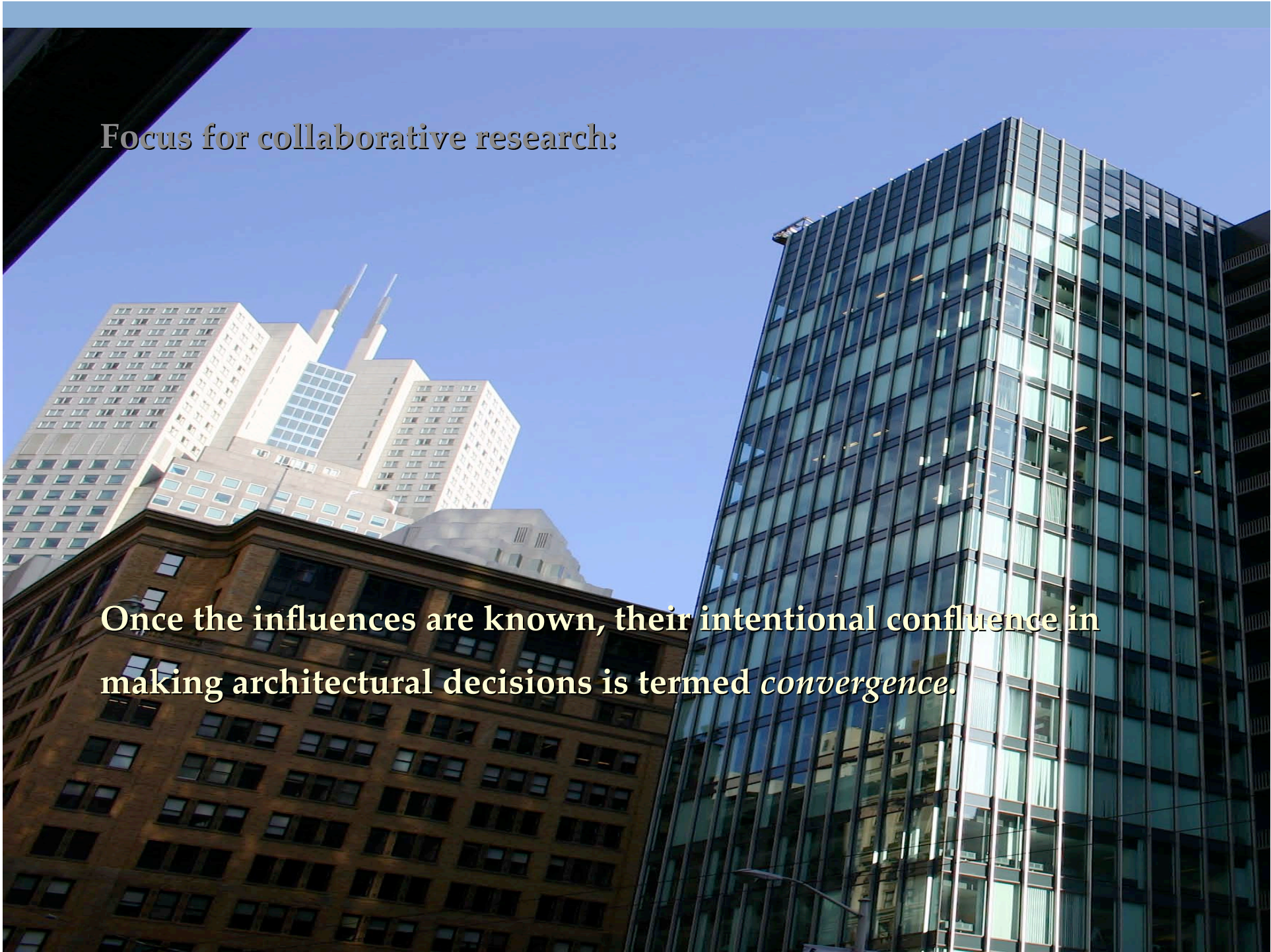


Focus for collaborative research:

The importance of the consequence of induction is termed *emergence*, that is, another phenomenon defined as a quality, feature or characteristic of human interaction with the environment and others associated with and intentionally attributed to its inductive influences.

Focus for collaborative research:

Once the influences are known, their intentional confluence in making architectural decisions is termed *convergence*.





The project we are proposing involves the confluence of architecture, design, art, and psychology, with opportunity for other disciplines and sponsoring interests to collaborate.

Some foci have been suggested. But the focus of our collaboration has not yet been decided.

Possible focus:

= What does current research tell us about the social and psychological effects of architecture on daily living, health, and work life?

= Explore confluences and intersections of architecture, design, art, sociology, and psychology for deeper understanding and amelioration of the human condition.

= Architectural thinking and decision-making that makes a difference in the way we think, act, and feel.



Possible focus:

- = Architectural induction phenomena
- = Architectural emergence phenomena
- = The psychology why art and architecture are not superfluous to the design of organized space
- = humanistic aspects of architecture and design in decision making and common practices



Possible focus:

= Post-Occupancy and Building Performance Evaluations (POE, BPE)

= How people perceive architectural and landscape values in their settlements and built environment.

= What does the plentitude of new architecturally demonstrative museums of contemporary art mean?

= Architectural design and construction of humanistic and ecological sustaining environments



Possible focus:

- = Making home our own - issues of safety, security, health, and creativity
- = Trends in the organization, design, and use of public and social spaces
- = Architectures that do and do not promote the well-being and betterment of its inhabitants?
- = Multiple uses of buildings
- = Mutual influences between a building and its context
- = Application projects demonstrative of any focus above



Why the collaboration of the faculties between the
Politecnico di Milano (PM) and Saybrook Graduate School (SGS)?

PM = Expertise in architecture + systemic view
+ applications of emergence to architecture

SGS = Humanistic perspectives + systemic view
+ methodologies for human science research

Mutual interest in systemic approaches to the problems of their discipline

Outcome of collaboration:

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

ORGANIZING SPACE - EMERGING SOCIAL SYSTEMS

= Proposed international collaboration between the Department of Architecture at Politecnico di Milano and Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center, San Francisco.

= Proposed focus on the systemic nature of architecture through close examination of the inductive and emergent phenomena in the design, organization, and construction of human inhabits.





Outcome of collaboration: BOOK

- = Chapters by contributors to the project
- = Provided by major publisher
- = Global distribution
- = Systemic emphasis
- = Based on a colloquium of confluence among disciplines
- = Content from architecture, design, art, psychology and other disciplines

Outcome of collaboration: EXHIBITION

= Proposed presentation of definitive principles and concepts comprising the content of the colloquium and book.



= Proposed first site is major exhibition space in Rome (Castel Sant'Angelo?).



= Proposed second and subsequent site is San Francisco

= Other sites possible?

= Possibilities for some sponsors to promote their visibility





Outcome of collaboration: **ARTICULATION AGREEMENT**
between PM and SGS for

faculty exchange to teach and research

student exchange to take courses and do research

research supervision of student theses and dissertations

application collaboration projects

The End

