

PRESS FILE



pre-architectures

06.11.24 - 30.03.25



C I.II.III.IV. A
Culture — Architecture

civa.brussels
Rue de l'Ermitage 55
1050 Bruxelles

For one of its last exhibitions before moving to the cultural hub in the heart of Brussels, KANAL, CIVA reflects on the latent potential of architecture. With the participation of a transdisciplinary field of architects, artists, sociologists and archeologists, the exhibition *pre-architectures* critically unveils how the study of prehistory might uncover not only causes of modernity's present crisis, but also signs of architecture's future past.

CIVA invites you to discover *pre-architectures* during an exclusive visit with the curators on the 5th of November 2024 from 10am to 6pm.

Envision a world without architecture, a world-ecture without arche, the latter meaning not only beginning or origin, but also the authority to arrange and subordinate persons, objects, and processes into an identifiable power structure.

Pre-architecture is not simply "not architecture"—it is what architecture could have become, but ultimately disavowed. The same unfulfilled potentialities haunt not only the distant past but also architecture's anxious present in a time of environmental crisis, energetic transformation and related social challenges.

Referring to the beginnings of human habitat and the "birth" of design, the exhibition speculates about the cultural, social, economic and political foundations of spatial organization.

With works by: Kader Attia, Mariana Castillo Deball, Jacques Gillet, Hans Hollein, Frederick Kiesler, Gianni Pettena, Ettore Sottsass, Anton Vidokle & Pelin Tan, Paulo Tavares, David Wengrow & Eyal Weizman with Forensic Architecture.

The exhibition is accompanied by the publication *pre-architectures*, edited by Silvia Franceschini, Nikolaus Hirsch, Spyros Papapetros; with a text by David Wengrow; French/Dutch/English. Soft cover, 84 pages, 10 × 16 cm, approx. 40 ill., Spector Books.

A series of events and talks will be organized alongside the exhibition including Mariana Castillo Deball, Laurent De Sutter, Charlotte Malterre-Barthes, Sébastien Marot, Spyros Papapetros, Pelin Tan, Paulo Tavares, Anton Vidokle, and many others.

SCENOGRAPHY

For this exhibition, it was important for us to highlight separately the different perspectives of the contributors on the theme to ensure the equivalence of the various artists. We therefore opted for a strategy that disrupts the usual hierarchy of CIVA's «main» exhibition space by creating smaller «satellite» spaces.

Instead of concealing the existing 19th-century building, its complexity and spatiality are emphasized by dividing the exhibition space into approximately equal rooms using a lightweight textile. Its transparency and the implementation of an 'open' plan allow the existing architecture to emerge between the fabrics. The 'textile plan' thus adds to the existing space plan without erasing it.

This approach was applied around each room to create homogeneity and equivalence between them. The flexibility of textile as a scenographic tool allows for simulating an orthogonality and continuity of circulation axes that do not exist in the building.



Image: Filip Dujardin

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Nikolaus Hirsch

SECRETARY GENERAL:

Jeremy Uhr

CURATORS:

Silvia Franceschini, Nikolaus Hirsch

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE:

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HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES:

Via this link

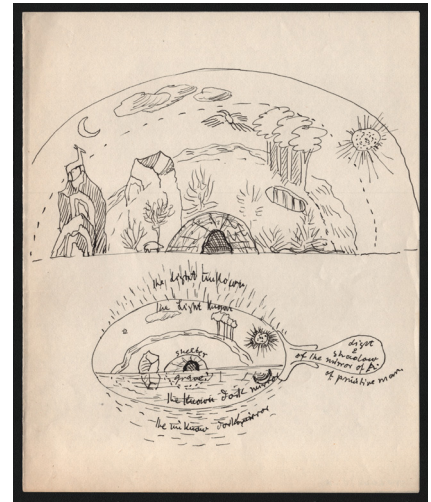
AN EXHIBITION ORGANIZED BY CIVA WITH THE SUPPORT OF

**Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, urban.brussels, Instituto Guimarães
Rosa, Embassy of Brazil in Brussels, Austrian Frederick, Lillian Kiesler
Private Foundation**

PARTNERS:

KANAL, Bruzz, Le Soir, A+

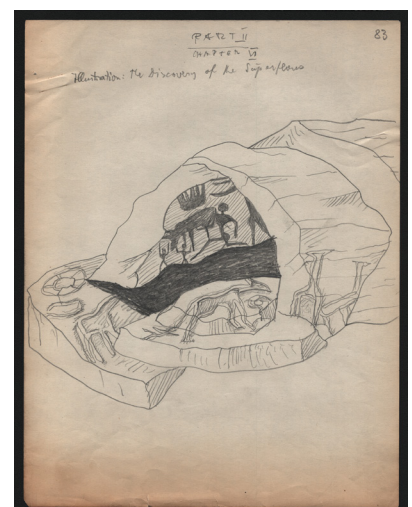
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Frederick Kiesler, *Magic Architecture*, Plate 24 (III 4)
Collage: typewriter and pencil
on paper, c.1946-47.
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and Lillian Kiesler Private
Foundation, Vienna



Frederick Kiesler, *"The Discovery of the Superfluous"*
Preliminary drawing for *Magic Architecture*, pencil on paper,
c.1946-47.
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Foundation, Vienna



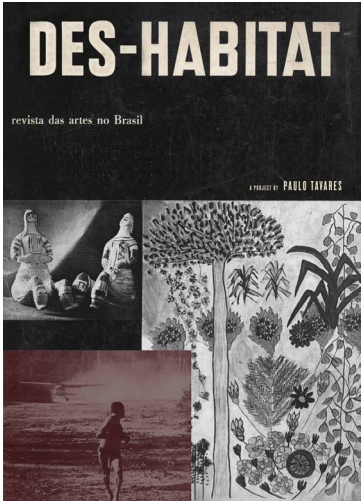
Frederick Kiesler, *Magic Architecture*, Part VII, Title sheet, “*Magic Architecture*”, Manuscript: pencil on paper, c.1946-47.
© 2024 Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation, Vienna



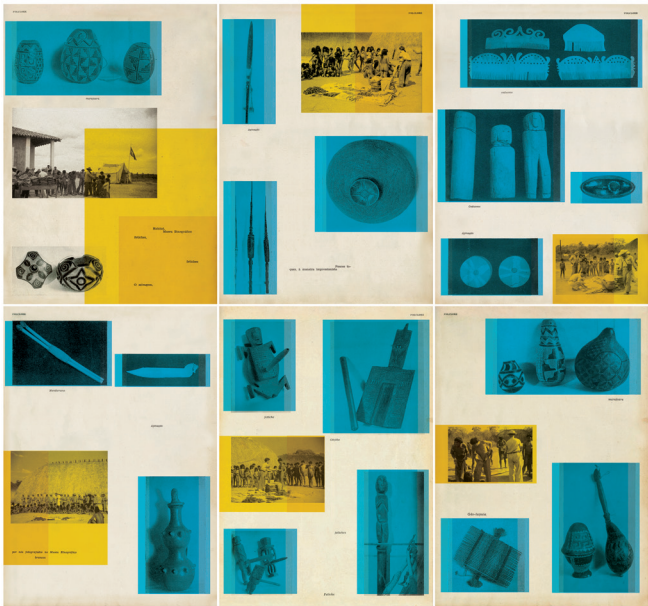
Frederick Kiesler
Hall of Ecology, project for the American Museum of Natural History, New York, c.1944
Ink and crayon on paper
© 2024 Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation, Vienna



DES-HABITAT, 2019
Publication
Published by K. Verlag



Paulo Tavares / *autônoma*,
Pacificação. Des-Habitat Didática.
Digital print, screen print, 2024.
Courtesy of the artist



PACIFICAÇÃO

Paulo Tavares / *autônoma*
An Architectural Botany, 2018-2024
Installation
Courtesy of the artist



Paulo Tavares / autônoma, *An Architectural Botany*, 2018-2023.
Courtesy of the artist



Mariana Castillo Deball
Once I thought the world was somewhere else, 2021
Installation of textiles and printed textiles
Courtesy of the artist



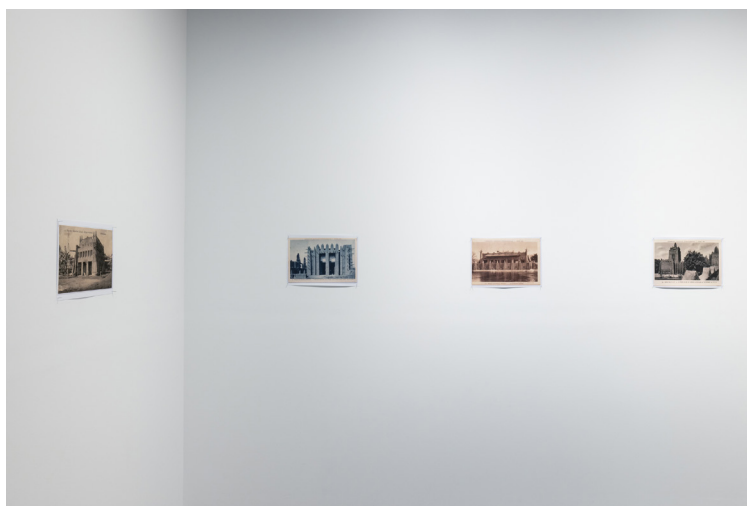
Mariana Castillo Deball
Once I thought the world was somewhere else, 2021
Installation of textiles and printed textiles
Courtesy of the artist



Kader Attia
Hypomnemata, 2023
 Installation
 Papier-mâché sculpture on
 two plywood tables
 Courtesy of the artist



Kader Attia
Hypomnemata, 2023
 Archives cabinet
 (reproductions of vintage
 colonial postcards)
 Courtesy of the artist



Anton Vidokle & Pelin Tan
*Gilgamesh: She Who Saw the
 Deep*, 2022
 Film, 47 min
 Courtesy of the artist



Anton Vidokle & Pelin Tan
Gilgamesh: *She Who Saw the Deep*, 2022
Film, 47 min
Courtesy of the artist



Anton Vidokle & Pelin Tan
Gilgamesh: *She Who Saw the Deep*, 2022
Film, 47 min
Courtesy of the artist



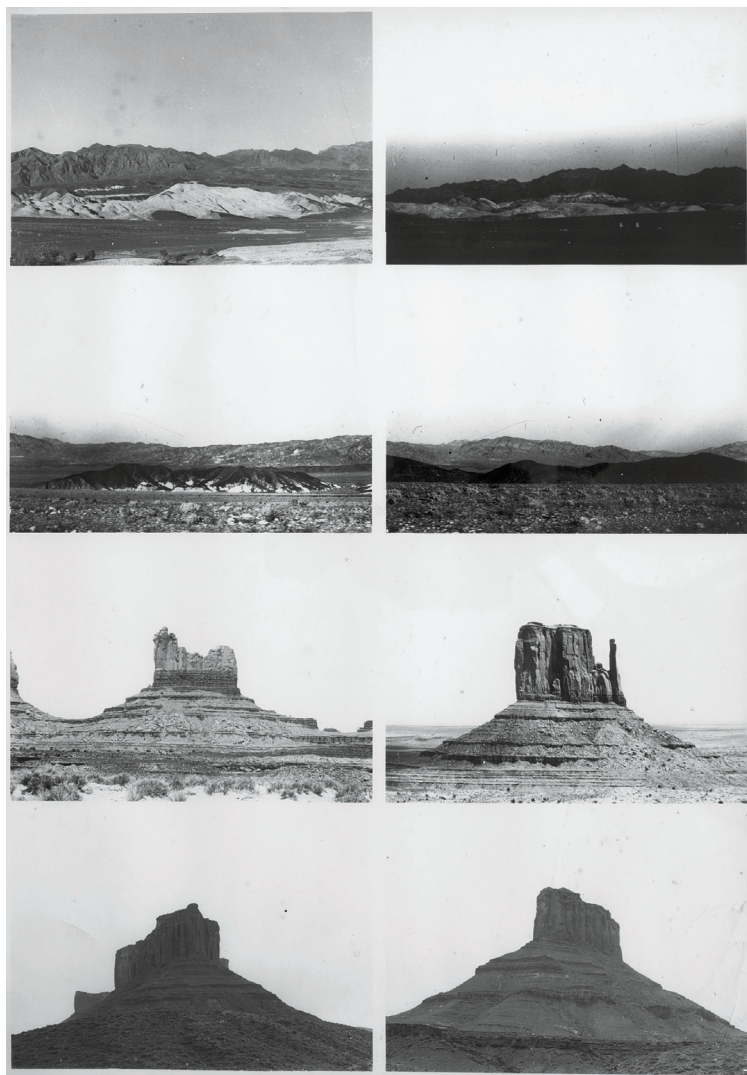
David Wengrow and Eyal
Weizman with Forensic
Architecture and The
Nebelivka Project
The Nebelivka Hypothesis,
2024
Installation
Courtesy of the artist



Sculpture-house, undated
Gelatin silver prints
© GAR-Archives
d'architecture (ULiège), fonds
Jacques Gillet



Gianni Pettena
*About Non-Conscious
Architecture*, 1972
Silver photographs
Galleria Giovanni Bonelli,
Milan
Courtesy of the artist



Ettore Sottsass
Metafore, 1972-1979
Gelatin silver print
BDC - Bonanni Del Rio
Catalog, Parma, Italy
Courtesy of the artist



2. ARCHITETTURA VIRTUALE

Hans Hollein
City Structure, 1960-1963
Ink on paper
Private archive Hollein
Photo Roland Krauss

