What is the role of architecture in urban transformation? How can architectural practice respond to challenges such as climate change, migration, social segregation, technology, and mobility? And above all, how can we integrate relevant research into our teaching of urbanism and urban design in order to advance its most provocative and compelling arguments?

Conceived as a compendium and reference for students, teachers, researchers, and practitioners of architecture and urbanism, this book looks into current topics in urban design and development. Essays and brief texts, written and presented as a dialogue between participants of the 2023 Lucerne Talks conference, offer a shared understanding of applying different, multidisciplinary approaches, attitudes, and methods in tackling urban challenges.

Teaching Urbanism is a call to both hold a position on and take responsibility for how political, social, and cultural matters impact planning policies. Living spaces and buildings must be designed collectively rather than individually. How can we achieve this? What can architecture contribute to these complex processes?

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Teaching Urbanism

Lucerne Talks

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PARK BOOKS

Stefan Wülser
The Revolution Will Not Be Televised *

Architecture will be an instrument for seeing, understanding, and programming spaces more openly. Architecture will be an agent for the renegotiation of entrenched boundaries. It will leave room for many things, treat functions as temporary readings, and constantly adapt its performance without becoming stale. Neither the value of such architecture nor its spatial strength will depend on the resources consumed, the materials used, or the cubic meters worked on.

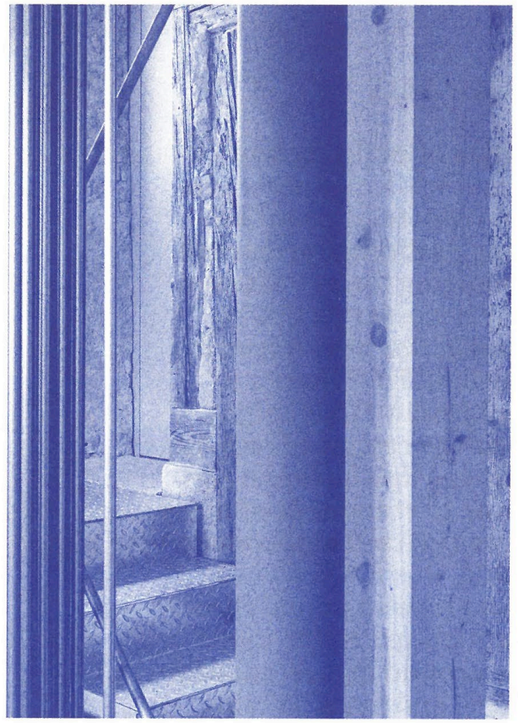
Architecture will leave behind its obsession with the object-form and find its younger and better self in its impulses and interactions. Architecture will be fluid and without scale. It will take place in the way in which a small object is fixed in space—as well as in its urban effects. Architecture fulfils with bravura all the demands placed on it when it is approached openly and freely. It will sometimes be loud, sometimes really quiet, but it will never say what is expected of it. The nebulous confusion between rational decision-making and things that you simply don't do is eroding at its core.

Architecture will not be a discipline of difficult-to-understand geniuses and it will not have a steep learning curve. Architecture will be intellectually stimulating, culturally relevant, and close to our everyday lives. It will work on the structures and spaces that hold us back from living the best lives we can. It will work on every single brick or beam that can still be used, reused, or prepared to be used again. It will work for women, men, and every living being that is dependent on our planet. Architecture will be ridiculed by the building industry until its impact can be scaled up. It will scale up naturally.

The revolution will not be televised. It will not be featured on twelve pages of glamourous magazines or be part of their advertising pages. It will not feature all the latest technological achievements and it will not be overwhelmed with awards. There will be no pictures and no unseen novelties, no new art style or specific language.

The revolution will put you in the driver's seat. It will demand open and courageous decisions from you, confronting your designs with possible outcomes for which you know no references or examples. It will respect everything that is already there, that you bring with you, and that has already been thought of, just as it respects its own thoughts. It makes no distinction

* Quoted from the eponymous title of the song by Gil Scott-Heron, 1971.



House in Zug, 2020–2024

between high building culture and a lapidary urban fabric. It will not be televised; it will not be rerun. The revolution will be live.