Leïla el-Wakil
Salonnière

Wake up! A path to wards better archi tecture

Salon Suisse 2016

la Biennale di Venezia

15. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura

Eventi Collaterali

swiss arts council
prohelvetia

up! to 2016

Welcome to the 2016 Salon Suisse, which I have the great pleasure to host as your Salonnière on the invitation of the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

This year, the Salon has a two-fold aim: to re-evaluate fundamental ideas resulting from a balanced conception of modernity and to consider how these might be adapted to serve as guidelines for architecture in the twenty-first century.

Today, thanks to the global diffusion of ideas enabled through digital media, a multitude of innovative, effective and cost-efficient architectural techniques and solutions – often based on lessons from the past – are proliferating worldwide, resulting in the users of architecture themselves increasingly being empowered in its making. The Salon Suisse offers a space to reflect on this phenomenon: exploring reuse and recycling, bio-climatic techniques, self-build, the recentring of the human and human need in architecture, as well as providing a place to discuss and revisit ideas such as tradition-as-modernity, 'small is beautiful', and 'Existenzminimum': minimal dwelling standards for all. A host of Swiss and international architects, engineers, researchers, crafts-(wo)men, filmmakers and artists have been invited to participate and share their expertise and thoughts on the theme of 'a better architecture for tomorrow'.

I am glad to invite all of you to the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi in Venice for an inspiring series of discussions and events. Guest speakers and contributors from different countries and disciplines accepted to come to Venice to share their experience and perspective along the five Salons of the 2016 Biennale.

For those who cannot make it to Venice, the Swiss architectural magazine Hochparterre is reporting online from all Salons: hochparterre.ch/salonsuisse.

Leïla el-Wakil, Salonnière,
Professor of Architecture History,
Geneva University

la Biennale di Venezia
15. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura
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Temporary earth-block refugee shelter,
Gaza, Palestine, 2009, photo & ©: Bill Bouldin,
architecture: Bill Bouldin

Bamboo Hotels, Baoxi, China, 2014, photo & ©:
Jenny Ji, architecture: Studio Anna Heringer

Opening Evening

Salon May

8

In order to open the Salon Suisse and get to the heart of the subject of Wake up! A path towards better architecture, what could be better than to hand over to Hassan Fathy. He is one of the architects who produced so much work for what he called ‘appropriate architecture’. Emmet, the theatre workshop of Geneva University, supervised by Nicholas Weeks, will interpret for our great pleasure ‘The hell of reinforced concrete’.

We shall then have the honor to welcome among us three of the most important contemporary architects who have worked at rediscovering and popularizing traditional constructive techniques in developing countries as well as in the Western World. Anna Heringer, Martin Rauch and Simón Vélez will share with us their views on the future of architecture.

Nicholas Weeks, Switzerland: dramaturge. Nicholas Weeks holds an MA in English Literature and a CAS in Dramaturgy and Performance. His long standing interest in theatre, performance and contemporary dance has led him to act as cultural mediator for the Theatre Forum Meyrin as well as dramaturge for the Swiss theatre director Dorian Rossel. Emmet – short for Embodied Metaphors – is the theatre workshop of the English Department of the University of Geneva.

Thursday 26 May
6.30 pm The hell of reinforced concrete. *A play.* This play by the great Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy is one of several he wrote: each intended as a didactic tool. Here he argues passionately for the continuity of the ancient vernacular architectural traditions of Upper Egypt, traditions developed over millennia in response to local climatic and environmental conditions but under threat from new modernist construction techniques – like reinforced concrete. This piece provides a fascinating and entertaining introduction to the themes of the Salon Suisse as a whole.

Martin Rauch, Austria: ceramist, architect. The Austrian ceramist and architect first encountered his favorite material, clay, through his training as a ceramist at the University of Applied Arts (Vienna). He realized the building potential of earth after aid volunteering in Africa and has never stopped using it ever since. He founded the firm Lehm – Ton – Erde (1999) first in Austria and then in Switzerland (2012). In 2010, he became UNESCO Honorary Professor in the Chair of Earthen Architecture. Since 2014, he is a guest lecturer at the Department of Architecture ETH Zurich, together with Anna Heringer.

Simón Vélez, Colombia: architect. Born in Manizales, Simón Vélez is a prize-winning architect from Colombia. Over the course of his over forty-year career, Vélez has emerged as one of the most eminent proponents of bamboo as a sustainable building material. He has created joinery systems that utilize bamboo as a permanent structure element for residential, commercial and institutional constructions. To date, Simón Vélez has designed buildings in Germany, France, the United States, Brazil, Mexico, China, Jamaica, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador and India. He was recipient of the Principal Prince Claus Award in 2009.

Leïla el-Wakil, Switzerland. Leïla el-Wakil was born in Cairo and currently lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland. Professor at the University of Geneva, Leïla el-Wakil has been trained both as an architect (EAUG) and as a historian of art (PhD in Humanities, Geneva University). Benefiting from these two-fold competencies, she has developed an original scientific competence in history of architecture, focusing on the 19th and 20th century constructions, heritage conservation, Egyptian and Arab, as well as vernacular architecture. She published plenty of articles and books on Swiss, European and Egyptian architecture, notably Hassan Fathy dans son temps (Gollion, Paris, InFolio, 2013). Besides her academic career, Leïla el-Wakil is actively engaged in the field of heritage conservation. Websites: https://www.unige.ch/lettres/armus/istar/corpsenseignant/architecture/el-wakil/and http://lelwakil.blog.tdg.ch/about.html

Anna Heringer, Germany: architect. At the age of 19 she travelled to Bangladesh and had the chance to learn that the most successful development strategy is to trust in the existing, readily available. Since then she focuses on the use of natural building materials. Her Handmade School in Rudrapur (Bangladesh), received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (2007), one of the many honors she received. Over the years, Heringer has realized further projects in Asia (Bangladesh, China), Africa (Zimbabwe, Morocco) and Europe and teaches in many schools and universities.

Thursday 26 May
7.15 pm An Introduction to the Salon Suisse: Leïla el-Wakil, Salonnière. Opening Statements: Anna Heringer, Martin Rauch and Simón Vélez. These three important figures of contemporary vernacular architecture have been given carte blanche to express their vision of what today's architecture for tomorrow should be, and have very kindly agreed to provide their own personal introductions to this year's Salon Suisse.

Let's rediscover

Salon June

10

The thematic of the rediscovery of ancient techniques and material feeds today's projects in many circumstances: contemporary projects with an idea of recycling, restorations works or emergency dwellings. We will discuss particularly about the earth which is reused in different manners. Terrabloc is producing compact blocs of earth that anyone can press with a manual press reminding the way in which the Thousand Villages were constructed in Algeria in the sixties. Salma Samar Damluji restored and built according to ancestral techniques in Hadramut. Bill Bouldin planned in Gaza refugee dwellings in the manner of Hassan Fathy that will be echoed by the visit of the Pavilion for the Western Sahara set by Manuel Herz.

Thursday 16 June
7 pm Terrabloc: The reinvented earth. *Presentation and discussion.* Terrabloc is a young company based in Geneva that is completely passionate about sustainability and the economic use of resources. Made up of an architect and an engineer, together they developed a stabilized raw earth block using recycled soil excavated from construction sites. Made using a hand-powered mechanical press, the technique reinterpretes and revitalizes ancestral methods for shaping mudbricks and after several experiments, many projects are currently under development. Thanks to their systematic scientific approach in analyzing and combining different soils to optimize the final properties of the blocks, earth as a material has never been closer to meeting European standards for use in construction.

Rodrigo Fernandez, Switzerland: material scientist. Born in Montevideo, he graduated from EPFL (2003) and got his PhD in 2009. During his studies he explored the potential of stabilized compressed earth as well as calcined clays as a potential replacement for cement in developing countries. He has always been interested in alternative construction materials and learned from all the sustainable solutions that he explored during his career to develop the ecological concept of Terrabloc (2011) with his partner, the architect Laurent de Wurstemberger.

Laurent de Wurstemberger, Switzerland: architect. Born in Geneva, he graduated in 2002 from the Accademia di Architettura de Mendrisio. He participated in the creation of Ar-ter, atelier d'architecture-territoire (Geneva). Being passionate of earthern architecture, he participated in the construction of a rammed-earth wall in 2010 for the garden of the town hall of Confignon in collaboration with Martin Rauch. Since then, he strives to reintroduce earth as a contemporary and sustainable construction material and founded Terrabloc (2011) together with his partner, the engineer Rodrigo Fernandez.

Samuel Dématraz, Switzerland: filmmaker. After studying philosophy at the University of Fribourg, Dématraz pursued his education in visual arts at the Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais (2003–2006). Both, video artist and filmmaker, Dématraz has multiplied interesting Swiss and international collaborations, namely with Jean-François Amiguet, Catherine Beaugrand, and the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Lyon, also engaging in research. He has won many awards and has contributed to numerous exhibitions. Dématraz founded Ecliptic Films (2014) in order to develop and produce different film projects.

Salma Samar Damluji, Lebanon: architect, professor. British architect of Iraqi and Lebanese descent, Damluji, professor at AUB, graduated from the Architectural Association School of Architecture and The Royal College of Art in London. She worked with Egyptian architect Hassan Fathy (1975–1976 and 1983–1984). In 2008 she established with colleagues in Yemen the Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation in Mukalla, Hadramut and has been working there on earth construction and rehabilitation projects. Among many awards, she received the Global Award For Sustainable Architecture (2012).

Friday 17 June

7 pm Salma Samar Damluji: Inspired by ingenious design. *Presentation and discussion.* This is an evening devoted to questions around the preservation and renewal of living urban heritage and architectural culture: defending both the spirit and sense of place. The work undertaken in Hadramut, Yemen by architect Salma Samar Damluji since the early 1980s, most recently with the Daw'an Mud Brick Architecture Foundation (2005–2013), serves as the basis for a discussion about revitalizing vernacular architecture in rural, village and urban contexts. Central to this question is how to approach new design and construction which limits the damage to the relationship and balance between architecture and its environment, engaging with design principles and building techniques, whilst responding to residents' emerging and future needs.

Bill Bouldin, Switzerland: architect, urban and landscape designer. Born in the US, the Swiss Bill Bouldin divides his time between Mechkat Bouldin architects in Geneva and ARU-advisors, a consulting NGO specializing in disaster resilience assessments and construction training in post-crisis environments. Through ARU-advisors and as an independent consultant, Bouldin has worked with the United Nations and International NGOs to develop post-crisis construction, vocational training, and employment projects in Algeria after the Boumerdès earthquake, in Aceh, Indonesia, following the 2004 tsunami, and in Gaza in 2009 following Operation Cast Lead.

Dominique Fleury, Switzerland: filmmaker. Born in Porrentruy, Fleury is a Swiss artist with syro-lebanese roots. Playing with individual and collective fiction, her work focuses on singular mythologies in which each one evolves. Her projects Once Upon Utopia (Alexandria) (2011) and Beth Nahrin between two rivers (2015) were inspired by issues relative to memory and territory in relation with the situation of Middle East Christians. Recently she animated the video workshop Les réfugiés syriens se racontent with Syrian refugees from Switzerland and published the book Stockholm Syndrome.

Manuel Herz, Switzerland: architect. Based in Basel, he has worked extensively on the architecture and urbanism of refugee camps, with a regional focus on Saharan and Sub-Saharan Africa. His book From Camp to City – Refugee Camps of the Western Sahara (Lars Müller Publishers, 2013) documents how camps can be spaces of social emancipation and are used to prefigure the institutions of a nation by a refugee population living in exile. He also is the author of African Modernism – Architecture of Independence (Park Books, 2015).

Saturday 18 June

4 pm Manuel Herz: The Pavilion for the Western Sahara. *Guided tour.* Manuel Herz conducts a guided tour of this pavilion for which he is the curator.

7 pm Bill Bouldin: About emergency dwellings. *Presentation and discussion.* Bill Bouldin, of Mechkat Bouldin architects and ARUP consultants, gives a presentation on the emergency shelters built in Gaza in 2009. Inspired by Hassan Fathy's building methods, these minimal dwellings were built with support of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), using multitier construction training programs implemented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The project created many new jobs and enabled numerous homeless families to be rehoused at low cost, using simple, economic technology.

9 pm Dominique Fleury: Hors-Champs d'Oliviers and Diary Under Siege. *Films.* The filmmaker Dominique Fleury will present her documentaries shot in Palestine and Syria, to inform and contextualize the discussion about the provision of refugee housing.

Let's build

Salon September

The theme of self-build, improvised and 'spontaneous' architecture is central to this month's Salon.

Attempts to give back the individual control over their own house construction – taking this back from building firms and construction companies – were made after the Second World War with movements such as Castors in France or the different communities established by the hippie generation at Christiania in Copenhagen or Montredon in Larzac, for example. Today with the financial markets in control of the property market, more and more people from many different backgrounds are taking the opportunity to build for themselves at low cost, a process in which social media is playing an important part, encouraging and fostering the diffusion of inexpensive traditional and innovative building methods – and relatively easy do-it-yourself, from the Tiny Houses movement, to new takes on the primitive hut and the revisiting of traditional construction methods.

Daniel Grataloup, Switzerland: architect, designer. French and Swiss, Grataloup studied at Lyon's School of Fine Arts and at the Centre d'Art et de Techniques Union Centrale des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. PhD (Paris I, 2001), architect SIA Officier des Arts et Lettres, he is also an innovative designer. He filed a patent (1996) for his new shoot concrete building technique. He realized many residential and tourism projects in Switzerland, Algeria and now China. Saint-John's temple in La Chaux-de-Fond (Neuchâtel) and his villa in Conches (Geneva) are listed as classified buildings; some of his drawings and models belong to the MoMA's collection since 2012.

Thursday 8 September
7 pm Daniel Grataloup: The cement gun in self-build. *Presentation and discussion.* The technique of shotcrete employed by Daniel Grataloup from the 1960s onwards has made it possible to lower building costs whilst creating amazing structures that break free of any rationalization or standardization in the way they are built. His buildings, conceived around a metallic skeleton, adopt organic forms that adapt to users' movements inside the space. This method was taken up by the self-build movement with the theory behind it explored by Joël Unal in his book Pratique du voile de béton en autoconstruction (1981).

Ahmad Hamid, Egypt: architect, designer. Egyptian architect and creative designer Hamid studied in Cairo, where he worked with Hassan Fathy at the Institute of Appropriate Technology. After founding his own interdisciplinary design office (1984) he developed several projects in Egypt and abroad. He collaborated with SOM (World Trade Center, Cairo) and acted as a consultant in many countries. He has designed and exhibited several series of contemporary furniture, objects, textiles, and accessories. He has won a number of grants and awards. Hamid is the author of Hassan Fathy. Continuity in Islamic Art & Architecture: The Birth of a New Modern (AUC Press, 2010).

Friday 9 September

10 am Daniel Grataloup. *Workshop.* Daniel Grataloup leads a model workshop.

1 pm Architectural tour. *Tour guided by Leïla el-Wakil, Salonnière.* A visit to the Villa Foscari (Malcontenta) by Andrea Palladio. Meeting point: Vaporetto stop Zattere.

7 pm Ahmad Hamid: 2 Design = ½ Cost + Beautiful². *Presentation and discussion.* For seven years, during his early career, Ahmad Hamid collaborated with Hassan Fathy at the Institute for Appropriate Technology. Later he designed and developed several affordable housing typologies based on the vernacular of Egypt's Fayoum region, constructing them in mudbrick. By utilizing these ancient building vocabularies, he reformulated alternative economies for construction, and reinvented an authentic relationship between masons, craftsmen and architects, putting the craftsmanship of the experienced mason back at centre stage in the building process. Hamid constantly transposed his mode d'emploi of immediacy and efficency to work processes across the entire design field, from sketch to execution, managing this without sacrificing his concern for reducing building and running costs – for both rich and poor, but nor compromising in the provision of beautiful, affordable social housing.

Ammar Abo Bakr, Egypt: artist. The young Egyptian painter Abo Bakr embraces his country's ancient and folk traditions of popular artistic expression. He employs in his street art practices from pop art, naive and folk art, sacred art, muralism and graffiti. His knowledge about Ancient Egypt acquired as a draftsman working with esteemed egyptologists influences many of the motifs in his work. He has become most renowned for his Mohamed Mahmoud Street murals just off Tahrir Square (Cairo) painted during the Revolution. Since then he has painted murals worldwide, travelling and spreading his art in Germany, Libya, Italy, France, Sweden, Switzerland and many more places.

Mariana Correia, Portugal: architect, heritage conservation consultant. The Portuguese architect holds an Architecture degree (FAUTL, Lisbon, Portugal), a Master in Earthen Architecture (CRAterre-ENSAG, Grenoble, France) and a PhD in Heritage Conservation (OBU, Oxford, UK). She is an international consultant for ICOMOS, regarding assessment of World Heritage Sites. She is representing the UNESCO-ICOMOS Joint Reactive Mission to Arg-E Bam, Iran; and to Sanaa, Yemen (mission suspended) and is president of the Steering Committee of the Earthen Architecture Centre of Mopti, Mali (from the Aga Khan Trust for Culture). Correia is President and Professor of ESG/Gallaecia (Portuguese College) and Director of Ci-ESG (International Research Center). She published seventeen books as an author or co-editor.

Saturday 10 September

10 am Daniel Grataloup. *Workshop.* Daniel Grataloup leads a model workshop.

7 pm Mariana Correia: Local knowledge and capacity building through community engagement. *Presentation and discussion.* Through the transfer of local know-how and intangible folk knowledge, community engagement contributes to integrating people into society, supporting traditional ways of life and keeping social balance: giving communities' sustained local values and a sense of belonging. In Mali for instance, through self-organised craftsmanship associations, local communities transfer their know-how, encouraging traditional values and respect for the empirical knowledge of the elder generation; whilst in Nicaragua, communities of working-women are addressing capacity building skills among younger generations. Local know-how, often consisting of an intangible heritage of handed-down knowledge, is therefore the essential basis for preserving vernacular environments, where social and cultural cohesion are at the core of local sustainability. Safeguarding this cultural heritage through capacitybuilding is therefore a fundamental element in maintaining both cultural diversity and human sustainability.

7–10 September

Ammar Abo Bakr: Mural. During the Salon, the young Egyptian artist, Ammar Abo Bark will be painting a mural that makes use of some of the naive motifs common to the villages of Upper Egypt. Venue: Campo S. Agnese.

Diary

Opening Evening Salon May

Thursday 26 May
6.30 pm The hell of reinforced concrete. Drama written by Hassan Fathy (1964), Campo S. Agnese, world premiere played by Emmet, directed by Nicholas Weeks (University of Geneva).
7.15 pm An Introduction to the Salon Suisse: Leïla el-Wakil, Salonnière. Opening Statements: Anna Heringer, Martin Rauch and Simón Vélez.

Let's rediscover Salon June

Thursday 16 June
7 pm Terrabloc: The reinvented earth. Laurent de Wurstemberger and Rodrigo Fernandez; Samuel Dématraz, filmmaker.
Presentation and discussion.

Friday 17 June
7 pm Salma Samar Damluji: Inspired by ingenious design.
Presentation and discussion.

Saturday 18 June
4 pm Manuel Herz: The Pavilion for the Western Sahara.
Guided tour.
7 pm Bill Bouldin: About emergency dwellings.
Presentation and discussion.
9 pm Dominique Fleury, filmmaker: Hors-Champs d'Oliviers and Diary Under Siege. Films.

Let's build Salon September

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Presentation and discussion.

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Presentation and discussion.

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Venue: Campo S. Agnese.

Salon Suisse
Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi
Campo S. Agnese
Dorsoduro 810, Venice
biennials.ch

Let's dig Salon October

Thursday 20 October
7 pm Peter Vetsch: Bio-climatic underground houses in Switzerland.
Presentation and discussion.

Friday 21 October
7 pm Mahnaz Ashrafi: Troglodytic settlements in Iran – the case of Maymand.
Presentation and discussion.

Saturday 22 October
7 pm Maximous El Antony: Coptic troglodytic churches in the Muqattam.
Presentation and discussion.

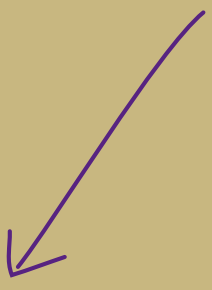
Let's reduce Salon November

Thursday 24 November
7 pm Paul Humpert, LVPH: Small is beautiful.
Presentation and discussion.

Friday 25 November
11 am Paola Viganò and Cyril Veillon, Archizoom, EPFL: The Horizontal Metropolis – a radical project. Guided tour.
7 pm David Adjaye and Ellen Baxter: New typology for affordable housing.
Presentation and discussion.

Saturday 26 November
7 pm Let's keep the door ajar. AJAR featuring Aude Seigne, Bruno Pellegrino, Daniel Vuataz, Guy Chevalley, Julie Guinand, Manon Reith.
Closing Performance.

be at the Salon Suisse



Statements, Streaming, Summaries
hochparterre.ch/salonsuisse

Let’s dig

Salon October

Underground architecture exists somewhere between myth and reality. It is a type of construction used since the dawn of history, for security, comfort and practical reasons, with humans digging dwellings down into the earth or converting caves into housing, cities and places of worship. Reinterpreting these troglodytic models in contemporary architecture remains a challenge today, but nonetheless there are numerous adventurous spirits willing to explore and exploit this field to help solve issues of construction and energy costs.

Peter Vetsch, Switzerland: architect. Vetsch graduated from the Staatliche Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (1970) by Hans Hollein und Joseph Beuys. He worked in Düsseldorf and Zürich. He founded his own office in 1974 in Zurich, first in Zumikon and then in Dietikon. Pioneer of earth dwellings since the seventies, his realizations are celebrated worldwide. His revolutionary architecture is eco-friendly and allows a perfect symbiosis with nature. He uses shotcrete to build organic spaces which spare energy.

Thursday 20 October

7 pm Peter Vetsch: Bio-climatic underground houses in Switzerland. *Presentation and discussion.* A key troglodytic architecture pioneer today is Swiss architect Peter Vetsch, who has built more than ninety bio-climatic houses in Switzerland and in other countries, all half-buried underground. These variations on post-war 'bubble houses' are created using shotcrete and by being only partially buried in the soil, give the impression of nature and culture in perfect balance. Some today even claim that such bio-climatic houses can be built for just € 10,000 by their users, so saving both money and energy!

Mahnaz Ashrafi, Iran: architect. Iranian architect, Ashrafi graduated with a master from the Fine Art Faculty of Tehran University in the field of architecture (1993). She began her career in Iranian cultural heritage conservation. She got her PhD from the IAUG (Geneva; 2008) concerning troglodytic architecture in 2008. When she returned to Iran, she continued her practice on troglodytic heritage. She was also a scientific chair during two international conferences on troglodytic architecture in 2012 and 2016 that were held in Iran. To this day, her work as a manager of cultural landscape of Maymand led to inscribe this site on World Heritage List in 2015.

Friday 21 October

7 pm Mahnaz Ashrafi: Troglodytic settlements in Iran – the case of Maymand. *Presentation and discussion.* The Iranian plateau contains one of the richest concentration of troglodytic dwellings anywhere in the world. Different types coexist, some underground, others located in the heart of mountains and ongoing scientific research is trying to better understand the structure and functioning of these sites. The village of Maymand, recently classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is discussed as an example of the ongoing inhabitation of these ancient sites and their adaptation to the contemporary world.

Maximous El Antony, Egypt: priest, art historian. Born in Alexandria El Antony is a senior monk at St. Anthony Monastery, Red Sea (Egypt). He got a Diploma in Conservation and restoration of Icons and painting in Moscow and studied Christian art at Leiden University as well as Museums studies at UCLA (Los Angeles). As director of St. Anthony Museum (St. Anthony Monastery, Egypt), he belongs to the International Association of Coptic studies and is Member of the International Council of Museums and Vice-president of the Friends of the Coptic museum Association. He is Consultant of the Coptic Project (CULTNAT), consultant of Conservation and restoration of the Coptic mural painting (ARCE), and Leader of the excavation at St. Anthony Monastery (Egypt).

Saturday 22 October

7 pm Maximous El Antony: Coptic troglodytic churches in the Muqattam. *Presentation and discussion.* To the south of Cairo in the Muqattam mountain hides an important complex of churches and places of worship where Coptic communities still gather together today. Many stonecutters continue to embellish these places by creating magnificent religious scenes carved directly into the rock walls. The priest and scholar Maximous El Antony will present this amazingly rich and vivid heritage, linking it to the history and survival of the Coptic community.

Let's reduce

Salon November

The forgotten concept of frugality seems now to be a veritable precondition for our continued survival on this planet and indeed of that of Earth itself. Implying turning our backs on useless luxury and wastage of resources and raw materials, in architecture it means questioning the way we build and finding answers to its costs, be they monetary, social or ecological. How can we build smartly and for the poorest amongst us? This Salon addresses these questions and ends in an artistic synthesis linking this quest to creativity.

Paul Humbert, Switzerland: architect. The Swiss architect, Paul Humbert, graduated from EPFL in 1998. He worked in Portugal for several years before he came back to Switzerland and founded his architecture office LVPH with his cousin Laurent Vuilleumier. Before addressing urban themes and various programs, the office worked for a long time on small scale projects in rural contexts, where architecture maintains a strong link with nature. Through the broad range of their activities, LVPH seeks the poetic through a simple and radical approach in architecture.

Thursday 24 November
7 pm LVPH: Small is beautiful. *Presentation and discussion.* Paul Humbert from LVPH, an emerging young Swiss practice based in Fribourg, which is involved in many different types of construction in Switzerland and abroad, presents their small-scale housing built on limited budgets. These exceptional projects in the Cantons of Vaud and Fribourg will act as prompts to discuss and question the economic dimension of architecture in rich countries like Switzerland.

Paola Viganò, Switzerland: designer, professor. Paola Viganò is Full Professor in Urban Theory and Urban Design at the EPFL of Lausanne where she is director of the Lab-U since 2013, and Professor in Urbanism at the University IUAV of Venice; she is also co-founder – together with Bernardo Secchi – of STUDIO. Paola Viganò lectures in many international schools of Architecture, is keynote speaker in international symposia and member of PhD juries. Her more recent research investigates new forms of urbanity and the main rationalities that structure them.

Cyril Veillon, Switzerland: art historian. Born in Lausanne, Veillon holds a Master of Arts from Paris 8 University (1996). He worked in video and television production (Paris, Geneva) until 2005, while being involved in exhibitions and publication projects. He teached at the Art and Multimedia School in Fribourg, opened a contemporary art gallery in Lausanne in association with Lucy Mackintosh, and produced sixty art and architecture exhibitions, some of them in Zurich, London, Shanghai and Dubai. Since 2008, he acts as the director of the exhibition space 'Archizoom' (EPFL), and develops a comprehensive exhibitions, conferences and publications program on architecture.

Friday 25 November
11 am Paola Viganò and Cyril Veillon, Archizoom, EPFL: The Horizontal Metropolis – a radical project. *Guided tour.* This exhibition investigates the concept of the 'horizontal metropolis': its space, traditions and authors and its relevance today as a charged ecological and social design issue. Beyond a simplistic centre-periphery opposition, this concept reveals the dispersed condition as a potential asset, rather than a limit, to the construction of a sustainable and innovative urban realm. It explores scenarios and design strategies for the recycling and upgrading of city-territories in a radical project.

7 pm David Adjaye and Ellen Baxter: New typology for affordable housing. *Presentation and discussion.* Conceived as an oasis for children and families in a neighbourhood beset by poverty, the Sugar Hill Project was developed by the New York-based nonprofit organisation Broadway Housing Communities (BHC), and designed by architect David Adjaye. Located in New York City's Sugar Hill historic district, legendary home of the Harlem Renaissance, this visionary community revitalisation initiative leverages the synergies of affordable housing, early childhood education and an innovative cultural institution, the Sugar Hill Children's Museum of Art & Storytelling, to create meaningful and lasting change for underserved children and adults. Architect David Adjaye and Ellen Baxter, BHC's founder and executive director, will discuss their partnership in realizing the potential of this ambitious development, financed through a mix of public and private funding and only made possible with grassroots community support.

David Adjaye, UK: architect. Adjaye was born in Tanzania and travelled in Africa and the Middle East during his youth before settling in London. He graduated in Architecture from the Royal College of Art (1993), set up his first office in 1994 with William Russel before reforming it as Adjaye Associates in 2000. Adjaye Associates now has four international offices conducting projects throughout the world. His most prestigious commission to date is the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. He is concerned with the social responsibility of Architecture, especially visible in the Sugar Hill Project in Harlem, a new typology for affordable housing.

Ellen Baxter, USA: founder of Broadway Housing Communities (BHC). Ellen Baxter has been committed to fighting poverty and homelessness in New York City and nationally for more than 30 years, and is a pioneer of the supportive housing model now in wide use around the country and globally. In 1983, Baxter founded the nonprofit community-based organization Broadway Housing Communities (BHC) which today leverages the synergies of housing, education and the arts to create meaningful change for under served children, families and single adults in New York City neighborhoods beset by poverty. BHC's most recent initiative, the visionary Sugar Hill Project, is poised to serve as a model for policymakers, funders and other developers committed to addressing the urban housing crisis and breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

Saturday 26 November

7 pm Let's keep the door ajar. AJAR featuring Aude Seigne, Bruno Pellegrino, Daniel Vuataz, Guy Chevalley, Julie Guinand, Manon Reith. *Closing Performance.* The Swiss literary collective AJAR, founded in 2012, is a group of young French-speaking authors who promote a redefinition of the writer's status: based on collective work, sharing of knowledge, mutual critique and group activity. This creative performance, in both French and English, is specially designed for the Salon Suisse and focuses on the main questions of our program – reuse and recycling, bio-climatic techniques, self-build, human need in architecture, tradition-as-modernity, 'small is beautiful', minimal dwelling standards for all – transposed in an artistic way.

AJAR, Switzerland: literary collective. AJAR – Association de Jeunes Auteur-e-s de Suisse romande (Association of young French-speaking Authors) was created in 2012 by Swiss writers who thought unity would ensure better visibility and success in literary activities such as publications, workshops and performances. Four years later, AJAR is composed of 18 authors who publish individually and collectively on a regular basis, in Switzerland and abroad. For more information: jeunesauteurs.ch.

Residential house, Pampigny, Switzerland, 2011,
photo & ©: Jérôme Humbert, architecture: LVPH

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Alberto Magrans,
Senior Managing Director,
Laufen Bathrooms AG

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Publisher
Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia,
Hirschengraben 22,
CH-8024 Zurich, prohelvetia.ch

Project Management
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Graphic Design
Brigitte Lampert,
brigittelampert.ch and
Katharina Hofer,
kathrinhofer.ch

Thanks to
Cleoriana Benacloche,
Kathrin Jira and
Caroline Widmer

Typeface
GT Pressura, Grilli Type

Paper
Cyclus Offset, FSC, 80 gm²

Printing
UD Medien AG

Edition
13,000 – © 2016
Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

Salon Suisse
Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi
Campo S. Agnese
Dorsoduro 810, Venice
biennials.ch

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The Salon Suisse is the event program accompanying the participation of Switzerland at the 15th International Architecture Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia. It is initiated and organized by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia.

it's up to all