International Conference

Practices of Copying & Imitation in Early Modern Architecture 1400–1700

15 & 16 June 2023
Vandenhove Centre for Architecture and Art
Ghent University
Rozier 1
9000 Gent

Keynote Lecture

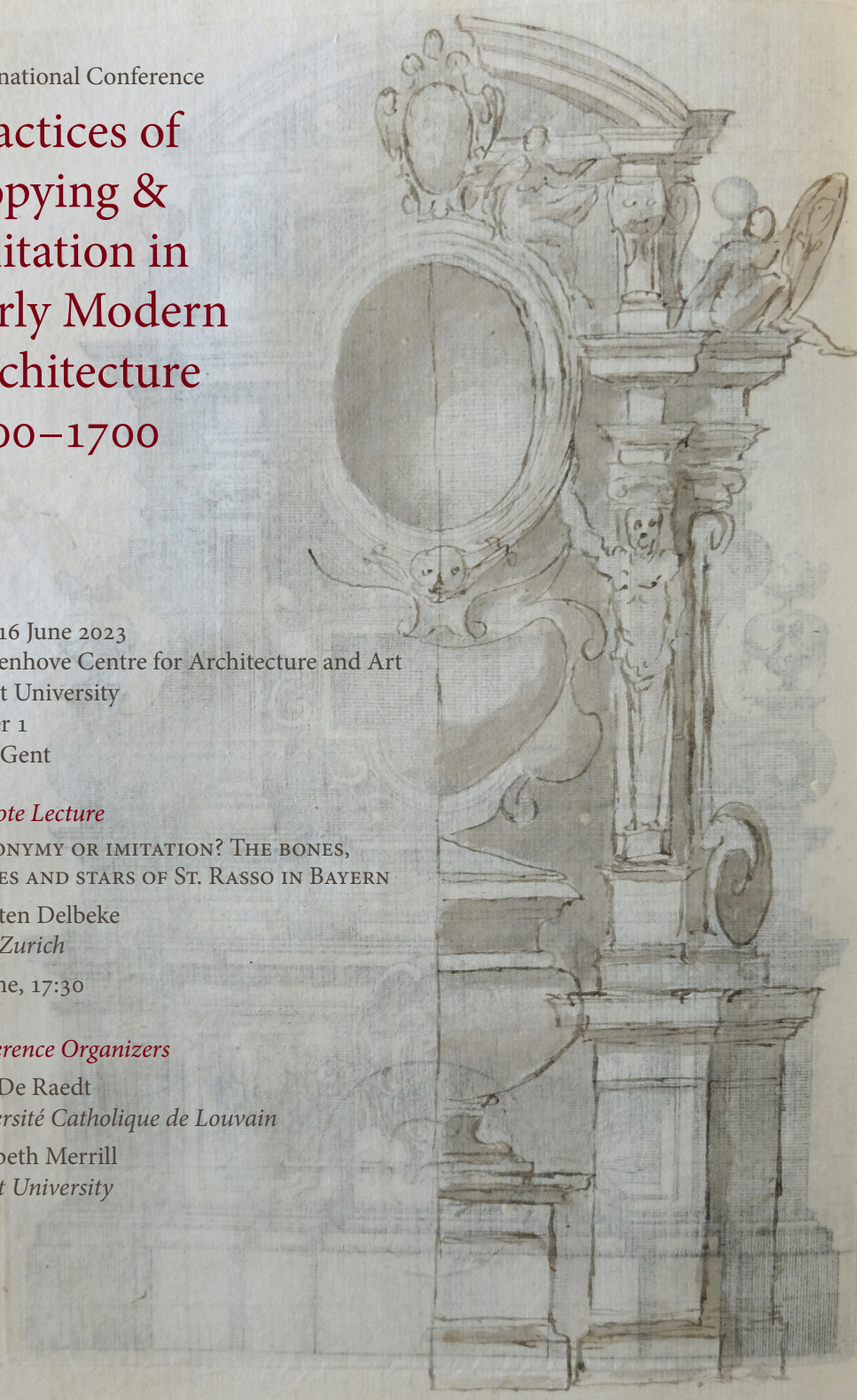Metonymy or imitation? The bones, stones and stars of St. Rasso in Bayern

Maarten Delbeke
ETH Zurich

15 June, 17:30

Conference Organizers

Nele De Raedt
Université Catholique de Louvain

Elizabeth Merrill
Ghent University

Copying & Imitation in
Early Modern Architecture 1400–1700

This international conference starts from the premise that practices of imitation and copying were integral to the making of architecture in early modern Europe. Theoretical discourses of the period posited that architecture was an art in constant evolution based on imitation (imitatio). Extending from classical rhetoric, imitation was said to entail an element of invention, which allowed for the adaptation and skilled use of models. Following this formulation, scholars of early modern architecture have written extensively about the numerous parallels between literary and architectural theory, mining the former in devising frameworks for the conceptualization of architecture.

By contrast, this conference seeks to direct attention to verifiable practices and material documentation of copying and imitation in the workshop and on the building site, and how this evidence sheds new light on the production of architecture. Individual conference papers address commonplace processes of copying and imitation, as manifest in techniques of traced drawing, the manipulation of models, the casting of ornaments, writing on architecture, and the reproduction of decorative details. In considering copying and imitation as part of routine practice, often motivated by needs of economy, efficiency, and scale, the conference aims to better understand the driving forces that enabled the rich and varied architectural culture of the early modern period.

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Participants

Alina Aggujaro
Lecturer in History of Architecture, IED Istituto Europeo di Design, Rome

Gregorio Astengo
Assistant, ETH Zurich

Anna Bortolozzi
Associate Professor in Art History, Department of Culture and Aesthetics,
Stockholm University

Costantino Ceccanti
Official Architect at the Bargello Museum, Florence

Alexis Culotta
Professor of Practice, Tulane University

Nele De Raedt
*Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and
Ubanism (LOCI)*, Université Catholique de Louvain

Dario Donetti
Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, University of Verona

Jessica Gritti
*Assistant Professor in the History of Architecture, Department of Architecture
and Urban Studies*, Politecnico di Milano

David Hemsoll
Reader in Architectural History and Theory, University of Birmingham

Peter Heinrich Jahn
Researcher, Institute for Art and Music Studies, Technical University of Dresden

Merlijn Hurx
Professor of Architectural History, Department of Architecture, KU Leuven

Elizabeth Merrill
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, Ghent University

Maria Teresa Sambin De Norcen
Associate Professor in History of Architecture, Università IUAV di Venezia

Carolyn Yerkes
Associate Professor of Art and Archeology, Princeton University

Thursday 15 June

13:30   Welcome

Session 1: *Imitation as a design process I*

14:00–14:35   David Hemsoll

Imitation and its Changing Means and Ends in the
Architecture of Andrea Palladio

14:35–15:10   Costantino Ceccanti

Sur les cincq manieres d'edifices: Serlian Architecture in
Sixteenth Century Tuscany

Coffee break

Session 2: *Imitation as a design process II*

15:45–16:20   Gregorio Astengo

Composing a Model for Real Estate Development:
Building Guides in Early Modern London

16:20–16:55   Peter Heinrich Jahn

ars combinatoria: Practices of the Early Modern
Pattern-based Architectural Draft

17:30   *Key-note lecture*
              Maarten Delbeke

Metonymy or Imitation? The Bones, Stones and Stars of
St. Rasso in Bayern

Friday 16 June

Session 3: *Questions of authorship*

09:00 – 09:35   Dario Donetti

Critical Copies: The Codex Mellon and Collective Design
in Raphael's Rome

09:35 – 10:10   Elizabeth Merrill

Architectural Tracings and the Fragility of Design Authorship

10:10 – 10:45   Nele De Raedt

Designing an Urban Residence for the Prince and the Best
Citizen: Practices of Direct Copying and Imitation in Platina's
De regimine principum and *De optimo cive*

Coffee break

Session 4: *Production process and seriality*

11:15 – 11:50   Merlijn Hurx

"Ikea-architecture" in the Middle Ages: the Emergence of a
Commodity Market for Building Components in the Low
Countries

11:50 – 12:25   Jessica Gritti

Terracotta Architectures: Serial Production and the Diffusion
of *all'antica* Models in Fifteenth Century Lombard Architecture

Lunch break

Session 5: *Techniques of copying*

14:00 – 14:35   Anna Bortolozzi

Transparent Paper as Medium of Copying in the
Early Modern Architectural Workshop

14:35 – 15:10   Carolyn Yerkes

Monument as Matrix: Architectural Inscriptions, Squeezes,
and the History of Printed Words

Coffee break

Session 6: *Imitation of exempla*

15:45 – 16:20   Alina Aggujaro

Architecture's Code: Construction Techniques, Architectural
Details and Imitation in the Palace of Adriano Castellesi

16:20 – 16:55   Alexis Culotta

The Many Faces of Architecture: The Circle of Raphael and
the Roman Frescoed Façade

16:55 – 17:30   Maria Teresa Sambin de Norcen

Donatello and Ancient Models, Donatello as a Model.
His work in the Basilica of Saint Anthony, Padua (1444-1454)