

CASA DEL MUTILATO

The Afterlife of Colonial-Fascist Architecture

**INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM
FOR THE CRITICAL
RE-USE OF THE
CASA DEL
MUTILATO
IN PALERMO**

JUNE 18 - 20, 2018

Via Alessandro Scarlatti 12, Palermo

PROGRAMME

June 18

- 18.00 Theatre Performance // Triologue between Giuseppe Spatrisano Lina Bo Bardi and Pietro Maria Bardi
Tatiana Letier Pinto
- 18.30 Lecture // How to Re-Situate Fascist Monumentality
Mia Fuller
- 20.00 Conferenza (Italian) // Costruzioni di Colonie
Nicola Labanca
- 21.30 Artist talk // Conventions on the Use of Space
Adelita Husni-Bey

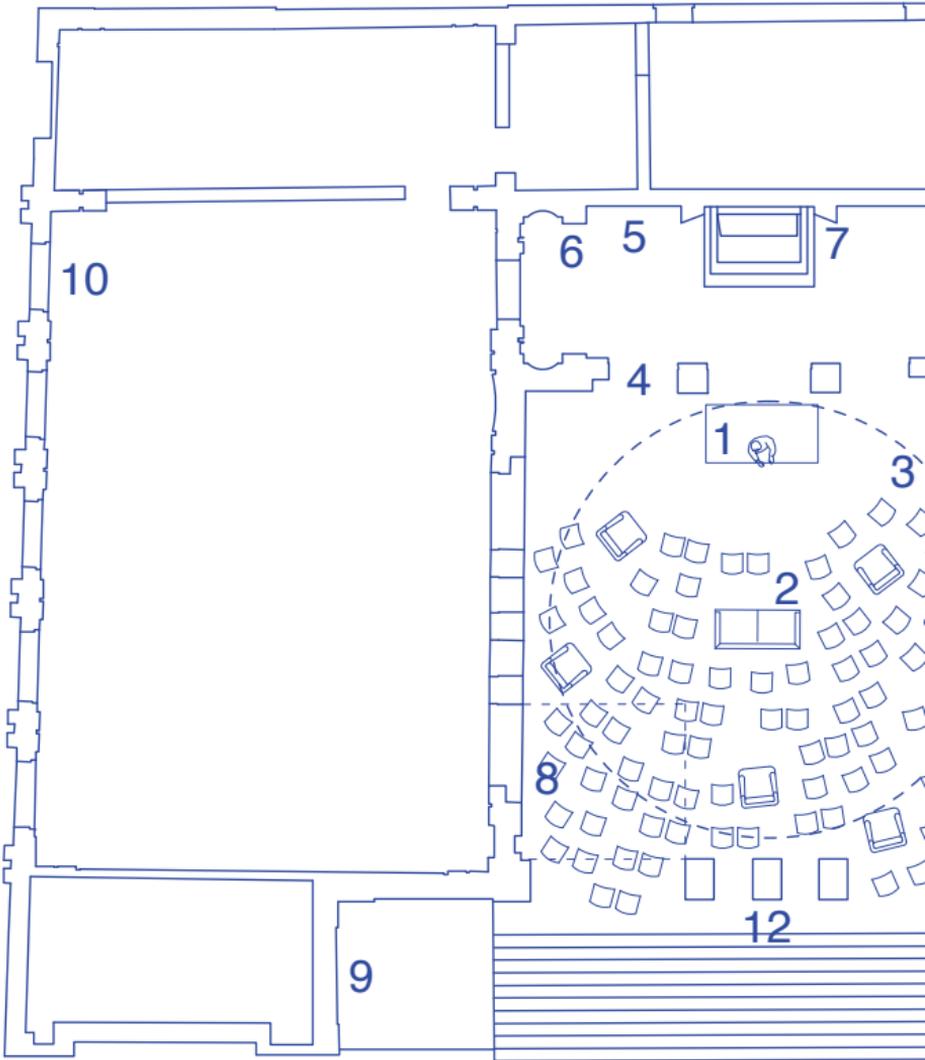
June 19

- 18.00 Performance teatrale (Italian) // Triologo tra Giuseppe Spatrisano Lina Bo Bardi and Pietro Maria Bardi
Tatiana Letier Pinto
- 18.30 Public Presentation // Dossier for the re-use of the Casa del Mutilato in Palermo
Decolonizing Architecture Advanced Course (2017-18)
- 19.30 Seminar // What is the Next Power after Fascism?
Vittoria Capresi
In the Square of the Empire
Emilio Distretti
Mussolini and the Invention of the Environment
Andrea Bagnato + Anna Positano

June 20

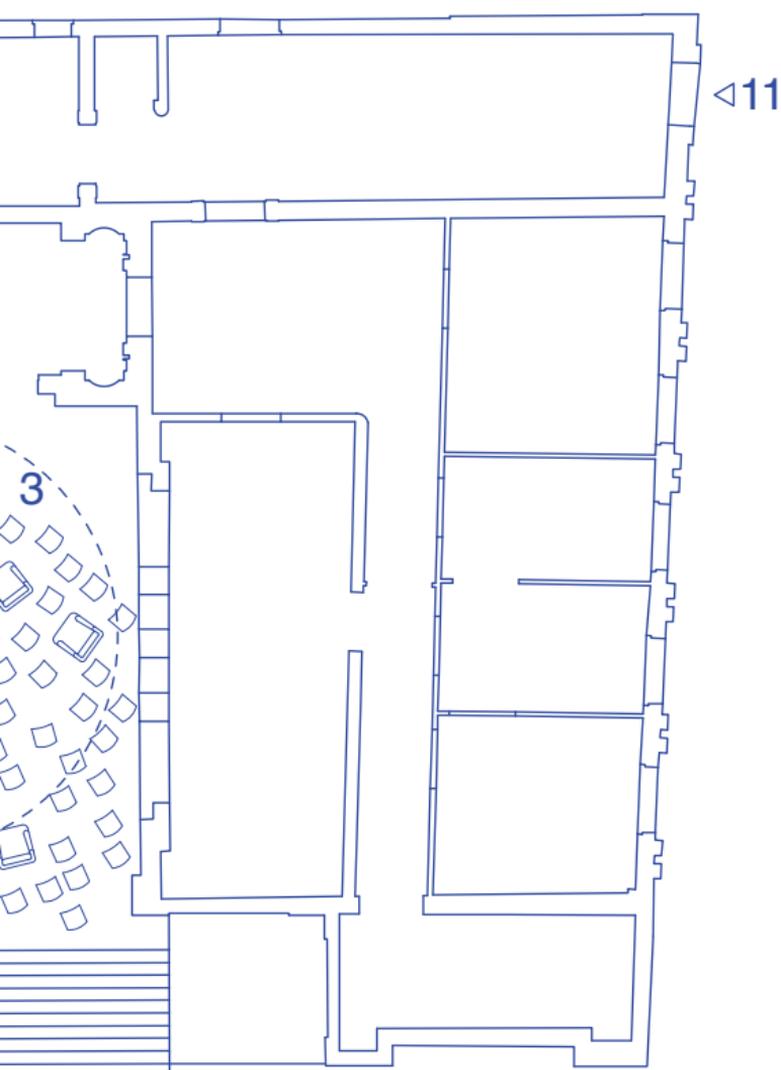
- 18.00 Public Assembly // Coalition for Re-use of Colonial Fascist Architecture
Individuals and Associations

As part of the 5x5x5 program of Manifesta 12 in Palermo, the Decolonizing Architecture Advanced Course, presents a project for critical re-use of the Casa del Mutilato – a fascist building designed by Giuseppe Spatrisano and inaugurated by Benito Mussolini in 1936. The project takes the form of an architectural intervention; a prosthesis to the Casa del Mutilato which will act as a tool to reorient the future uses of the building and pragmatically start a much needed restoration process.



Guide to Interventions:

1. Scissor Lift as Prosthesis
2. Missing Cupola
3. Mirrored Perspectives
4. Mutilated Victory
5. Reinterpreting the Frescoes
6. From San Sebastiano to San Domino
7. Heroes During War Time
8. Bomb in the Atrium
9. Mussolini Declared the Empire
10. Mutilated Tapestry
11. Association Today
12. The Building



Via Gaetano Donizetti

Mia Fuller is Associate Professor of Italian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is a cultural anthropologist who has combined fieldwork and archival research in her studies of architecture and city planning in the Italian colonies between 1869 and 1943. Her book on the subject, *Moderns Abroad: Architecture, Cities, and Italian Imperialism* (Routledge, 2007) won an International Planning History Society Book Prize in 2008. She is also the co-editor (with Ruth Ben-Ghiet) of *Italian Colonialism* (Palgrave, 2005), and she collaborated with filmmaker Caterina Borelli on the documentary film "Asmara, Eritrea" (2008). She is currently completing work on a book on the force (or lack of force) of old fascist symbols that still exist in Italy, especially in the Pontine Marshes area.

Nicola Labanca is an Italian historian and academic. He is Associate Professor of Contemporary History at the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy of University of Siena, Italy. His research investigates topics related to war, armed forces and society in Italy in the nineteenth-twentieth century with special attention on the history of Italian colonial expansion in Africa. Since 2000 he has been President of the Inter-University Center for Historical Military Studies and Research. His book *Oltremare. History of the Italian colonial expansion* won "Cherasco" prize for History. Among his other publications there is *The Italian-Austrian War (1915-1918)* and *The Italian war for Libya (1911-1931)*.

Adelita Husni-Bey is an artist and pedagogue interested in anarco-collectivism, theater, law and urban studies. She organizes workshops, produces publications, radio broadcasts, archives and exhibition work focused on using non-competitive pedagogical models through the framework of contemporary art. Recent solo exhibitions include: *White Paper: On Land, Law and the Imaginary*, Centro de Arte dos de Mayo, Mostoles, A Wave in the Well, Surssock Museum, Beirut, 2016 and *Movement Break*, Kadist foundation, 2015. She is a 2012 Whitney Independent Study Program fellow, a 2016 Graham Foundation grantee and has represented Italy at the Venice Biennale of Art, 2017 with a video rooted in anti-extractivist struggles.

Emilio Distretti is a London based researcher, writer and educator. He currently teaches at SOAS. While based in Palestine (2015-2017) he was the head of the Urban Studies and Spatial Practices program at Al Quds Bard College (AQB) and a visiting fellow at the Kenyon Institute in East Jerusalem. His research takes on interrelated avenues on material culture, heritage, human rights and migration in the colonial and post-colonial Mediterranean (Italy, North Africa and the Levant) and extends across natural, scientific and digital fields.

Vittoria Capresi is a senior researcher at the Habitat Unit / Chair of International Urbanism and Design at the Technical University of Berlin, and a Principal Investigator of the International European Project MODSCAPES – Modernist Reinventions of the Rural Landscape. From 2011 until 2014 she was appointed as Associate Professor in History of Architecture and Urban Design at the German University in Cairo – GUC, where she funded "baladilab" to work with students to discover and activate the hidden potentials of urban surroundings. Her main research interests are fascist architecture and urbanism, both in Italy and in the former colonies, strategies for sharing heritage to daily users and oral history methods related to social analysis and participatory urban design.

Andrea Bagnato is a researcher and book editor. Since 2016 he has been working on the long-term project *Terra Infecta*, a visual archive that explores the relation between infectious diseases, architecture, and territorial transformations; in particular, the project analyses the long history of malaria control and land reclamation in Sardinia (1850–1950). Andrea is currently a lecturer in the history and theory of architecture at Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam. He is also preparing, with Studio Folder, the book *A Moving Border: Alpine Cartographies of Climate Change* (Columbia/ZKM, 2018). *Terra Infecta* has been supported by Het Nieuwe Instituut and the Graham Foundation.

Anna Positano is an artist and independent researcher with a background in architecture and photography. Her work encompasses the reciprocal influence of landscape and society, and explores everyday places through photography and video. Her projects have been exhibited internationally. Alongside her artistic and research practice, she works on commission for architects and magazines.

The Afterlife of Fascist-Colonial Architecture:

Mutilated Histories and Prostheses for “Casa del Mutilato” in Palermo

During the period of the two world wars, under the fascist regime, Italy built a vast number of public buildings, housing and monuments that have shaped Italian cities and former Italian occupied cities such as Asmara, Addis Ababa, Rhodes and Tripoli. In the last years, these built structures have been celebrated and completely detached from the fascist, violent and genocidal regime that produced them. With the re-emergence of today's fascist ideologies in Europe – and the arrival of populations from north and east Africa – it becomes urgent to ask: What kind of heritage is the fascist-colonial heritage? How do the material traces of the Italian empire today acquire different meanings in the context of migration from the ex-colonies? Should this heritage be demolished, simply reused or re-oriented towards other objectives including reparations from Italian colonization?

Decolonizing Architecture Advanced Course

Royal Institute of Art / Kungliga Konsthögskolan (RIA) in Stockholm

The struggle of decolonization once primarily located outside of Europe, today has moved within its borders. It is not possible to understand today's displacement of people and migration flows, nor contemporary fascism, without thorough knowledge of the colonial heritage. The course proposes an innovative, comparative and interdisciplinary approach to the study of colonial architecture expanding the notion of colonial space to present realities.

Professor: Alessandro Petti

Teaching Assistant: Elof Hellström

Participants: Hala Alnaji, Patricia Aramburu, Matthew Ashton, Nadia El Hakim, Anna Maria Furuland, Benas Gerdzuinas, Radoslav Istok, Carlota Mir, Tatiana Leiter Pinto, Ilaria Lombardo, Yasmeen Mahmoud, Ambra Migliorisi, Fernanda Ruiz, Bert Stoffels, Mauro Tosarelli, Nina Turull Puig, Victoria van Kan.



Kungl. Konsthögskolan | Royal Institute of Art