

Preface by Chief Editor

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In this first number of the second volume of *Architectural Research in Finland*, several authors will discuss the theme of the 8th Annual Symposium of Architectural Research, ARCHITECTURE AND EXPERIENCE NOW. Although the concept of experience has always had a central position in architecture, it is also a challenging concept. It can refer to the subjective experiences that encountering with architecture will produce, or to a generalized form of human existence. But since architecture is also material culture, architectural research also needs to address the preconditions and possibilities of its production that will enable the experience. These are more and more confronted with the challenges of sustainability, in terms of local materials and cultures, in terms of ecological solutions in landscape design, or in terms of communication. Changes of scale also bring new perspectives to research: even though individual buildings and their structures can still be objects under the authority of an individual designer, urban planning and design bring with them social and political processes, as well as communication and conflict resolution.

The tasks of architecture are thus multi-faceted, and this is also reflected in research and architectural education. As universities are generally committed to research-based education, schools of architecture need to balance this with practical relevance and artistic ambitions. One can ask whether the different perspectives of interdisciplinary art and research are complementary, or whether they also challenge each other. The articles in this issue point to both directions. Individual approaches may seem distinct and even exclusive, but highlighting the different priorities in their setting of questions will help to create 'trading zones' for interdisciplinary research. Architecture is no longer clearly contained in today's world, and consequently architectural research must address the everyday life as well as distinctive artworks, and communication as well as authority.