

Transgression: A New Paradigm?

Theory

## **Boredom and Transgression in the Experience of Architecture**

Boredom begins with an involuntary deficit of meaning, aggravating desire by interrogating the offerings of the immediate environment — of architecture. The condition thus turns into the desire for desire that outlines a circular trajectory that connects the disaffection with *the old* with the creation of *the new*. This cycle impels transgression; to surpass idleness and direct restlessness, both concomitant symptoms of boredom, the boundaries of what already exists require to be identified, reconsidered and eventually trespassed, in a threshold of possibilities. The crossing of this space, in between past and present, favours both obliteration and innovation, as the will to escape the suffocating surroundings. Yet if transgression and creation fail to achieve a radical and meaningful change, or if they are fugacious, then boredom returns, establishing a pattern.

Interrelating selected views from different disciplines in the humanities, this paper proposes boredom as a pervasive structure that transgresses and renews the experience of modern architecture. The condition appears as the funnel that conducts the flow between the interiority of the individual — the space of sentiments and thoughts — with the demands of exteriority — the space of the body and society. In this manner, the experience of architecture becomes marked by the expectation to encounter novelty or by the unpredictability of transgression; far from installing stasis, boredom provokes.

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### Current Employment

06/08/2017–  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador.  
Full time professor of history and theory of architecture, and research coordinator of the School of Architecture and Interior Design.  
Member of the Research Committee of the Faculty of Research.

03/04/2019–  
Universidad Internacional SEK, Ecuador.  
Adjunct professor of history and theory of architecture.

### Education

03/09/2012–23/06/2017  
Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Norway.  
PhD, Research Fellow, Institute of Form, Theory and History.  
Research: *Boredom as Space: Episodes of Modern Architecture*.  
Supervisors: Professors Mari Lending (Oslo School of Architecture and Design), and Iain Borden (The Bartlett School of Architecture).  
Architectural Association, UK.  
M.A. Histories and Theories.

07/09/2005–01/09/2006  
Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador.  
B.A. Architecture, Minor in English. Cum Laude.

### Other Education

08/06/2019–14/06/2019  
Virginia Tech, USA.  
Course on the Future of University Education.

01/09/2014–17/12/2014  
University of California, Los Angeles, USA.  
Graduate Research Visiting Scholar.

07/09/2011–01/08/2012  
The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK.  
MPhil/PhD Programme in Architectural History and Theory.

### Research Output

#### Book

25/02/2021  
*Boredom, Architecture, and Spatial Experience*. Foreword by Iain Borden.  
London: Bloomsbury.

#### Edited Book

Forthcoming (2022)  
*Architectures in Between: Post/Modern Theories, Histories from Quito*.  
Contributions by Ernesto Bilbao (University of Texas at Austin), Cristina Bueno (Universidad San Francisco de Quito), Karina Cazar and Ana María Carrión (Universidad San Francisco de Quito), Ana María León (University of Michigan) and Fernando Luis Martínez Nespral (Universidad de Buenos Aires), Ana Esteban-Maluenda (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid), Véronique Patteuw (Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture et du Paysage de Lille) and Léa-

Catherine Szacka (The University of Manchester), Karen Rogers (Auburn University), and Lara Shrijver (University of Antwerp).  
Quito: USFQ Press.

#### Articles in Academic Journals

- Forthcoming (2022) 'Joie de vivre, or the Opposite of Boredom', *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*. Amsterdam: Brill.
- 21/08/2020 'From Anonymity to Boredom to Creativity', with Ingrid Lønningdal. *Architecture & Culture*. London: Taylor & Francis.
- 17/03/2020 'A Siren in Babylon: The Spatiality and Architecture of Myra/Myron', *Textual Practice*. London: Francis & Taylor.
- 28/03/2019 'A Laboratory of Boredom: On the Relationship between Atmospheres and Moods', *The Journal of Architectural Education*. New York: Taylor & Francis.
- 15/10/2015 'Boredom and Space: Blunting and Jading as the Causes of Change in Architecture', *The Journal of Architecture*. London: Taylor & Francis.
- 15/10/2014 'Elementally Elemental', *Log*, no 32. New York: AnyCorp.
- 19/03/2013 'Aburrimento y Modernidad', *Revista Arquís – Journal of Architectural Studies* [Spanish]. San José: Universidad de Costa Rica.

#### Chapters in Books

- Forthcoming (2021) 'The TempRoast Rack' in *Extinct: A Compendium of Obsolete Objects*. Edited by Barbara Penner, Adrian Forty, Miranda Critchley and Olivia Horsfall Turner. London: Reaktion.
- 01/05/2020 'Immersed in Boredom: The Architecture of Brisbane in *Johnno*' in *The Culture of Boredom*. Edited by Josefa Ros Velasco. Amsterdam: Brill | Rodopi.
- 03/03/2018 'Oran, the Capital of Boredom' in *Reading Architecture: Literary Imagination and Architectural Experience*. Edited by Angeliki Sioli and Yoonchun Jung. New York: Routledge.
- 15/01/2018 'Boredom and Space' in *Transdisciplinary Urbanism and Culture: From Pedagogy to Praxis*. Edited by Quazi Zaman and Igea Troiani. Cambridge, UK: Springer.
- 20/12/2017 'Architectural Preservation as Taxidermy: Boredom and Patriarchy' in *Architecture and Feminisms: Economies, Ecologies, Technologies*. Edited by Helene Frichot, Catharina Gabrielsson and Helen Runting. London: Routledge.
- 01/12/2017 'On Boredom: The Sameness of Inside and Outside Architecture in Maxim Gorky's Coney Island' in *Sensing Architecture: Essays on the Nature of Architectural Experience*. Edited by Owen Hopkins. London: Royal Academy of Arts.
- 01/06/2016 'Boredom' in *Tabula Plena: Forms of Urban Preservation*. Edited by Bryony Roberts. Zürich: Lars Müller Publishers.