

Access for All: São Paulo's Architectural Infrastructures

From the 20th of March to the 15th of August 2021, the SAM Swiss Architecture Museum presents the exhibition 'Access for All: São Paulo's Architectural Infrastructures'. 'Access for All' provides an in-depth look at buildings, open spaces and infrastructure projects at various scales, demonstrating how they create inclusive places for São Paulo's urban society. Following stops in São Paulo and New York, this exhibition by the Architecture Museum of the TU Munich will now be on display in Basel. In cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) Institute of Architecture (Chair Prof. Shadi Rahbaran and Prof. Ursula Hürzeler), the SAM is expanding the original exhibition for the show in Basel by adding large-scale models of selected buildings and an exhibition section with student analyses transferring principles from São Paulo's architecture to locations in Basel and the surrounding area. The exhibition is also accompanied by the publication 'Access for All: São Paulo's Architectural Infrastructures' (ISBN 978-3038601630, 224 pages, ed. Andres Lepik, Daniel Talesnik, Park Books 2019, English).

For decades, the Brazilian metropolis of São Paulo has seen investments in architectural infrastructures that help alleviate its lack of public space and fulfill a growing need for public spaces with cultural, recreational, and athletic functions.

The exhibition 'Access for All' presents architecture and built open spaces from the years 1950 to the present - from the establishment and consolidation of modern architecture in Brazil onward. The show offers both a historical overview and an analysis of contemporary architectural production, although all projects are studied as they exist today, with a consistent focus on programme and use, rather than on formal aspects. A particular emphasis is on how architecture weaves in and out of the city, as sidewalks merge into ramps and stairs, and at times reappear in the cityscape as elevated plazas or rooftop terraces. Taken together, the projects demonstrate how the city is designed incrementally by architects working at the building scale, and, conversely, how the accumulated built logic of the city shapes its architecture and open spaces. Resisting the monofunctional, signature architectural works still idealized by many municipal governments, 'Access for All' advocates for an architecture with diverse cultural, social and recreational functions, all aimed at sustaining the needs of urban residents.

What exactly can a visitor expect to see in the exhibition? Its main section presents 12 buildings, open spaces and infrastructure projects from São Paulo, organised in three categories: 'Open Spaces', 'Large, Multiprogrammatic Buildings' and 'Avenida Paulista'. The projects and their everyday use are brought to life through texts, photographs, films, drawings and archival facsimiles, as well as new models in 1:100 scale, which were made by students from the FHNW. The projects range from classics of Brazilian modernism such as Oscar Niemeyer's 'Ibirapuera Park Marquee' (1954) and Lina Bo Bardi's 'Museu de Arte de São Paulo' (1968), to recently completed projects such as the cultural centre 'SESC 24 de Maio' (2017) by Paulo Mendes da Rocha and MMBB Arquitetos. In addition to traditional architecture, anonymous works of urban infrastructure are also examined: one such example is the 'Minhocão' urban motorway, which is closed to car traffic during nights and weekends, turning it into one of the city's most popular and inclusive recreational spaces today.

The next section highlights the atmospheres that these architectures produce. What would it feel like to be in these spaces? What would one hear, what would one see? Visitors can find this out for themselves with the aid of peep-box models, which were developed by FHNW students to recreate everyday scenes based on selected projects. The models are complemented by large-format photographs by the architect and artist Ciro Miguel as well as filmic portraits of select projects, providing further insight into the daily appropriation of these spaces by their users.

At the end of the show, the visitor is taken back from São Paulo to Basel: The exhibition's final section presents visions and projects for five locations along the Rhine in Basel, developed under the motto 'Access for All - Learning from São Paulo' by students from the Institute of Architecture FHNW during the 2020 fall semester. The assignment was to take

principles from the projects in the exhibition and reinterpret them for the local context, so as to heighten the public character of the chosen sites. The exhibition thus ends with an invitation to join an ongoing discussion about what lessons São Paulo's architectures and open spaces might have for other cities around the world.

Entrance via the ramp - a cultural statement

One key element of this show's adaptation for Basel is the construction of a ramp along the museum's facade, serving as a temporary entrance to the S AM for the duration of the exhibition. It is not by chance that a ramp was chosen: In many São Paulo buildings, ramps are used to connect architectural interiors with the city and to create spaces where people can come together.

The ramp at the S AM fulfils a similar function. It factually and symbolically extends the public space of the street into the building. At the same time, the creation of a new direct entrance on the facade opens up the museum to the city. The principle of 'access for all' is thus implemented in a performative sense, so it can be experienced.

The idea for the ramp was first developed at an ideas workshop at the Institute of Architecture FHNW and was also financed by the Institute.

Pay what you wish - cultural participation

'Access for All' is truly meant to be accessible to everyone. For this reason, the S AM will refrain from selling admission tickets during the exhibition. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to set their own price for admission, which significantly lowers the threshold for visiting the show. During 'Access for All', instead of the usual supervisory staff, there will be a welcoming team at the start of the ramp to receive all visitors, curious parties and those appearing by chance, and to guide them into the exhibition. This service also allows the museum interior, which is otherwise hidden behind thick walls, to merge with public space.

Broad accompanying programme with something for everyone

To explore the subject matter in more depth, the S AM Swiss Architecture Museum is offering various events with wide-ranging appeal. In particular, the exhibition 'Access for All' represents an opportunity to engage with current urban-planning-related topics, as well as with social issues shaping life in the city. This is the focus of the show's comprehensive guided-tour programme, which includes not only **public guided tours** of the exhibition in German, English and Portuguese but also **themed walks** in the urban space around the museum. In a special guided-tour format, Brazilian-Swiss architect Andrea Landell de Moura Staehelin provides **an annotation of the exhibition**, opening up new perspectives on the exhibition's content through the eyes of a user and practising architect. The international **symposium 'The Space We Share'** (19/6/21, 2-6 pm, at the Brasilea Foundation), held **in collaboration with the Future Architecture Platform (FAP)** and geared towards experts and students, will see young creatives from all over Europe present new visions and perspectives on the subject of public space. And in a **continuation of the urban development forum 'Basel 2050'** on visions for the future of Basel's urban development (a co-production realised with the Bureau for Urban Development and Architecture of the Canton Basel-City Construction and Transport Department), a public discussion event will address open spaces in the city on 28/5/21. Children and families also have something to look forward to: During the Basel summer holidays, a **programme for children** (aged 6-11) will be offered under the motto 'Basel for all! - discover, experience and shape the city'. For a detailed programme with dates, see below.

Accompanying publication 'Access for All: São Paulo's Architectural Infrastructures'

To accompany the exhibition, the publication 'Access for All: São Paulo's Architectural Infrastructures', edited by Andres Lepik and Daniel Talesnik, was published in 2019 by Park Books (ISBN 978-3-03860-163-0, CHF 39, in English). The book will be available in the S AM museum shop during the exhibition's stop in Basel.

With contributions by Renato Anelli, José Tavares Correia de Lira, Fraya Frehse, Vanessa Grossman, Andres Lepik, Ana Luiza Nobre, Daniel Talesnik and Guilherme Wisnik, as well as an interview with Paulo Mendes da Rocha and Marta Moreira by Enrique Walker. The photographs are by Ciro Miguel.

PROJECT ORGANISERS

The S AM is borrowing the exhibition 'Access for All' from the Architecture Museum of the TU Munich and expanding it for the show in Basel in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW).

Exhibition:

Andres Lepik is, since 2012, Professor of Architectural History and Curatorial Practice at TU Munich, where he is also director of the architecture museum. He previously worked as a curator at Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, and in the Architecture and Design Department at MoMA.

Daniel Talesnik is an architect who received a doctorate from Columbia University on the topic of Bauhaus students' emigration to the Soviet Union. He has been a curator at the Architecture Museum of the TU Munich (A.M.) since 2017.

S AM adaptation:

Andreas Ruby (b. 1966, Dresden) is an architectural publicist, curator, book publisher and, since May 2016, director of the S AM Swiss Architecture Museum. He studied art history at the University of Cologne. He and Ilka Ruby founded the architectural publishing company Ruby Press in 2008, with which he realised over twenty book projects as editor and publisher, some of which won awards. In parallel, he taught architectural theory at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, at Graz University of Technology, and at ENSAPM in Paris.

Yuma Shinohara (b. 1991, San Francisco) works as a curator and editor in the fields of architecture and urbanism. After working at Storefront for Art and Architecture, Ruby Press, the Academy of Arts Berlin and the Canadian Centre for Architecture, he is currently assistant curator at the S AM Swiss Architecture Museum. As a translator, he has translated Bruno Taut into English, among others, and worked for magazines such as 'ARCH+' and 'A+U'. He graduated in comparative literature and society from Columbia University in New York.

Scenography:

Rahbaran Hürzeler Architects is an architectural office founded by Shadi Rahbaran and Ursula Hürzeler in Basel. The office's experience ranges from urban planning projects and research, to private and public building projects, through to exhibition and object design. Also licensed in France and Germany, Rahbaran Hürzeler Architects is currently working on projects in Switzerland, Germany and France.

COOPERATION PARTNER

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) Institute of Architecture, Prof. Shadi Rahbaran and Prof. Ursula Hürzeler

Brasilea Foundation

The Brasilea Foundation is an S AM project partner in the context of the exhibition 'Access for All'. The foundation is thus pursuing its goal of promoting cultural exchange between Brazil and Switzerland.

The foundation is supporting the S AM with a know-how transfer in the field of Brazilian culture, providing advice in the development of the accompanying programme and also co-organising individual accompanying events.

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

19.3.2021, 7 PM

Public Preview with director's tour (live stream)
Further information: www.sam-basel.org

25.3. (DE), 29.4. (EN), 20.5. (DE), 10.6. (PT) & 12.8.2021 (DE), 6 PM

Public Guided Tours
Admission: Pay what you wish!

24. & 25.4.2021 (DE), 2 PM & 4 PM

Access for all: Cultural Parcours around the Steinenberg
Part of Open House Basel
Registration: openhouse-basel.org

11.5.2021, 6 - 8 PM

Introduction for teachers
S AM & Kunsthalle Basel
Registration: education@sam-basel.org

12.5.2021, 10 AM - 12 PM

Wednesday Matinée at S AM
Admission: CHF 10.- (red. CHF 5.-)

28.5.2021 (DE), 7 PM

Continuation of the Urban Development Forum <Basel 2050>
A Coproduction with the Bureau for Urban Development and Architecture of the Canton Basel-City
Construction and Transport Department
Event Partner: Theater Basel
Location: Theater Basel
Admission: free

29.5.2021 (DE), 19.6.2021 (EN), 11 AM

Access for all: Cultural Parcours around the Steinenberg
Admission: Pay what you wish!

19.6.2021 (EN), 2 - 6 PM

Symposium: <The Space We Share>
In Cooperation with the Future Architecture Platform.
Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union
Location: Brasilea Foundation, Westquaistr. 39, 4057 Basel
Admission: free

24.6.2021 (EN), 6 PM

Tour: Exhibition Annotation with Andrea Landell de Moura Staehelin
Admission: Pay what you wish!

5.-9.7.2021 (DE), 9 AM - 5 PM

Summer Holiday Programme for Children (aged 6-11):
<Basel for all! - Discover, Experience, Shape the City>
Fee: CHF 250.-

13.8.2021, 7 PM

Finissage
Location: Brasilea Foundation, Westquaistr. 39, 4057 Basel

**Pre-registration is mandatory for all events : event@sam-basel.org
For changes in the programme due to the coronavirus and further
information, please see our website: www.sam-basel.org**

THIS EXHIBITION IS SUPPORTED BY

Exhibition Partners:



Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz
Hochschule für Architektur, Bau und Geomatik

Exhibition Supporters:

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CONTACT AND VISUAL MATERIAL

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Download visual material:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fkk12miishurygk/AAxCXfTf8XUG9WOn4AeV9Zja?dl=0>