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Innovation in Practice (in Theory)

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 ISBN
 9781954081550

 Publisher
 ORO Editions

 Binding
 Paperback / softback

Territory World excluding USA, Canada, Australasia. Asia non-exclusive

 Size
 240 mm x 170

 Pages
 240 Pages

 Illustrations
 200 color

 Price
 £24.95

- This book gathers relevant positions in the international landscape of theory, in the attempt to define the role of innovation within architectural design practice
- The book features previously unpublished research and commentaries on the subject of innovation in the practice of architecture and the problem of its theorisation supported by an articulate and diverse image apparatus
- Of interest to students and researchers who wish to have an overview of a contemporary geography of positions, and practitioners who wish to develop tools to reflectively analyse their practice

In what is arguably a most crucial time for discourse around issues that are concerned with the political, institutional, and social shape of worlds to come, this book explores the agency of the project of architecture and its processes of innovation by constructing an opportunistic and contingent map of effectual positions.

The book is built around two sets of questions: the first set of questions concerns itself with the distinction between built objects and actions as the focus of observation, and as objects that are susceptible to innovating, or being innovated. The second set of questions concerns itself with the understanding of the relationship between theory and practice and is defined by two positions: one that looks to theory as a result of practice, another that looks to practice as subsequent to theory. These two axis are used to locate and compare different positions, thus allowing the readers to construct their own readings of what it means to innovate the project of architecture.

Valeria Federighi is an architect and assistant professor at the Department of Architecture and Design of Politecnico di Torino. Her research work focuses on analysing mechanisms of innovation in architecture as expanding practice. She is on the editorial board of the journal Ardeth and she is part of the China Room research group.

Elena Todella is an architect and a post-doc research fellow at Politecnico di Torino. Her research activities concern complex urban and architectural transformations, by focusing on both architectural design and decision-making processes. She is currently involved in an excellence department project about the Agenda 2030 and the SDG 11.

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Caterina Barioglio is an architect and an assistant professor at the Department of Architecture and Design of Politecnico di Torino. Bridging history and design, her research relates to urban regeneration processes and urban design, with a main focus on building typologies and the effects of urban rules on the city form. Since 2018 she has been a research fellow at the interdepartmental centre FULL – Future Urban Legacy Lab. She is an Editor of Ardeth - Architectural Design Theory journal.

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