



# PERHAPS IT IS HIGH TIME FOR A XENO- ARCHITECTURE TO MATCH

In an era of overwhelming complexity and global unrest, we are currently experiencing a sense of disorientation and a mistrust of grand narratives. Within the spatial realm, better conditions are frequently sought in positions that embrace a nostalgic retreat towards the tangible, the local, and the particular. However, in the face of persistent impediments from environmental disasters to the politics of

austerity and "exclusion" our current cognitive and sensory scope seems insufficient: what is needed is a reorientation that turns away from "what is" towards "what could be" in order to speculate about new constructions that may function as a collective horizon.

Our inquiry searches for forms of knowledge that surpass human subjectivity as their primary foundation and open up a larger space for the (as yet) unknown: the "xeno". It emphasizes practices that seek strategies for ideological and structural change and are at ease within complex power structures, co-opting their rules and orders and proposing new models of organization. By researching how architects, artists, thinkers, and activists operating in the spatial field might endorse a process of "alienation" to con-

front global issues. Perhaps it is high time for a xeno-architecture to search beyond conventional narratives for subversive and political architectures of knowing in an attempt to re-radicalize spatial practice.

The curatorial and research platform *Perhaps It Is High Time for a Xeno-Architecture to Match* appropriates for its title a quote borrowed from philosopher Armen Avanesian's conceptual intervention in the form of a preface to architect and writer Markus Miessen's recent publication *Oversteering: Toward Participation as Critical Spatial Practice* (Sternberg Press, 2016). Our inquiry picks up on Avanesian's concept of "xeno-architecture"—a neologism he first proposed in various conversations with architects Christian Kerez and Rem Koolhaas—to launch a series of elaborations and experiments that keep in mind his idea that "xeno-architecture is not a description of the given, but a speculative concept that will only show itself in and from the future."

## "XENO- ARCHITECTURE IS NOT A DESCRIPTION OF THE GIVEN BUT A SPECULATIVE

## CONCEPT THAT WILL ONLY SHOW ITSELF IN AND FROM THE FUTURE."

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