

When Brazil joins the dance ...

Our third newsletter will be resolutely Brazilian. Indeed it will be published in French, English and Portuguese. We shall be seizing the opportunity offered by the report on the Rio edition of the *Ambiências Compartilhadas / Atmospheres to Share* symposium to introduce the Brazilian teams involved in our network and briefly to present their work. In addition our website has posted recordings in French and Portuguese of the talks at the symposium, accompanied by several texts. Lastly we are working on publication of the full proceedings.

Among the news items from recent months, here are two changes of particular importance:

- If you visit the network website you will see its appearance has changed. The layout and overall organization are different, the aim being to make it more readable and attractive. Take care to register a new password and update your profile (see box).
- Good news: several other teams have joined the network, extending its reach and opening the way for new partnerships with Canada, France and Belgium. Bear in mind that any team belonging to the network can offer to organize a seminar on atmosphere in their country. In 2011, for example, a seminar will be held in Germany to address the question of urban design.

For our friends who remain firmly rooted in the English language we have posted a written summary, in English, of the three days we devoted to *dépaysement*, or changes of scene. And coming very soon will be a whole series of lectures presented in English at the Aarhus symposium this September. Of particular interest to English-speakers with an interest in sound atmospheres ...

and of course we continue to publish lots of editorials in French and English.

Turning to network coordination and organization, things are also on the move. The steering committee is now significantly larger with several new members who are already very active. No doubt the impact of the new line-up will soon be apparent in exciting new projects. So, watch this space! In the same vein the network's scientific committee is taking shape, affording a firmer basis for coming exchanges and partnerships.

To conclude, we are about to launch a brief survey of network members in order to learn more of their habits and expectations regarding the *ambiances.net* site. So please check out the website and answer the survey. It should only take a few minutes and it will help us improve the site. Thank you in advance and we hope to hear from you very soon!

Jean-Paul Thibaud

sociologist

Laboratoire Cresson, UMR CNRS n°1563

jean-paul.thibaud@grenoble.archi.fr

Books :


Actions: what you can do with the city. Zardini, Mirko; Borasi, Giovana (eds.). CCA, 2008. 240p.

<http://cca-actions.org/fr/a-propos>

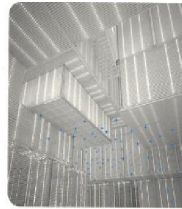
Catalogue for the CCA exhibition on view from 26 November, 2008, until April 19, 2009. The catalogue presents original research and writing that further examines the exhibition's exploration of how the design and experience of contemporary cities can be shaped by human actions.

—

Acoustic Territories: Sound Culture and Everyday Life.

LaBelle, Brandon. Continuum, 2010, 304 p.

This is a remarkable exploration of how sound permeates all aspects of life – from the streets to our homes, and from shopping malls to the underground.

**Architecture météorologique.**

Rahm, Philippe. Archibooks, 2009, 123 p.

Architecture météorologique propose un univers radicalement nouveau qui refonde le langage de l'architecture par une subtile intrication entre une pensée théorique et pratique expérimentale.

Architecture météorologique
par Philippe Rahm

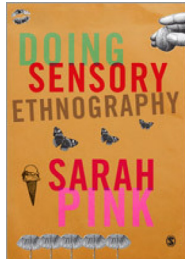
Doing Sensory Ethnography.

Pink, Sarah. Sage Publications, 2009, 184 p.

<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/>

Book232011#tabview=title

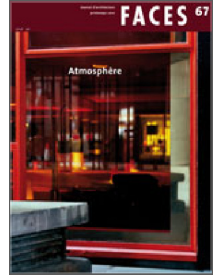
Sarah Pink suggests re-thinking the ethnographic process through reflexive attention to what she terms the 'sensoriality' of the experience, practice, and knowledge of both researchers and those who participate in their research.

**Journals :****Atmosphère**

FACES, printemps 2010, n°67, Infolio (Suisse)

https://www.infolio.ch/livre/faces-67-atmosphere.htm?from_search=4cd285ab8b8f74.24271734

Ce numéro de FACES est consacré à tout ce qui ne relève pas de la géométrie et de la matière construite et qui néanmoins conditionne de façon sensible notre perception et notre rapport à l'environnement qu'il soit architectural ou urbain.

**Emergence of magazines on the sound in the Northern Europe****Journal of Sonic Studies** (Pays-Bas)

<http://sonicstudies.net/>

A new international peer-reviewed journal on audio-culture. Call for paper : January 31, 2011

SoundEffects (Danemark)

<http://www.soundeffects.dk/>

A new international peer-reviewed journal on sound and sound experience operating on the Open Journal System.

Interference (Irlande)

<http://www.interferencejournal.com/editorial-board/steve-coleman>

A biannual online journal on the role of sound in cultural practices, providing a trans-disciplinary platform for the presentation of research and practice in areas such as acoustic ecology, sensory anthropology, sonic arts, musicology, technology studies and philosophy.

Symposiums :

Atmosphere 2011: Mediated Cities, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 3 to 5 February 2011

Mediated Cities focuses on the image of architecture, space, and place in cinema and other media. <http://www.atmos.ca>

EDRA42 : Make No Little Plans, Chicago, 25-28 May 2011

<http://www.edra.org/conferences/conferences-mainmenu-174/518-welcome-to-edra42chicago>

A few impressions of the Rio symposium november 2009

"It was an interesting symposium, in both intellectual and human terms. The subject of atmosphere is particular in that it enables dialogue between specialists in various human sciences, while prompting us to experience the urban environment with our senses. Our Brazilian hosts took us on urban experimentation tours of the centre of Rio, visits of the favelas and Santa Teresa, not to mention outings to samba joints in the Lapa district. Their welcome allowed us to experience directly the very subject we were all debating. It left some very happy memories." [Virginie Milliot](#)

"We received such a warm welcome from our Brazilian hosts, based at a building which must be a leading light in the modernist movement. Our stay was a constant succession of visual stimuli, colours, heat, smells and sounds, filling our days. There was so much to experience: the outline of the surrounding hills marking the horizon; the temperature still at 29°C, even at midnight; the smell of barbecues and the music in the evening in the Lapa district, the clamour of the stadium, the undulating ramps at the Niemeyer museum in Niteroi, and so much more besides. Clearly the Brazilians served up some particularly powerful sensory stimuli to help us explain our findings and share our ideas on atmosphere(s), while mapping out the prospects for the future of our network, swapping tips, etc."

[Marc Crunelle](#)

"Sharing: the theme of the symposium, which rings like an injunction for its form and content, brought together researchers from all over the world for three days. There was indeed talk of sharing and the differences in the purpose of our studies, differences in scale and in the disciplines suited to grasping the notion of atmosphere. But also sharing of cultures, exchanged glances and impressions which oddly enough, now I recall them, lend the symposium a familiar colour. Must be something to do with atmosphere!" [Rachel Thomas](#)

A Brazilian branch of the Ambiances network was set up during the Rio symposium. Hosted by the Architecture, Subjectivity and Culture Laboratory, at the Architecture and Town Planning faculty of UFRJ, the symposium was jointly organized with other Brazilian teams: the Laboratorio Urbano at the Architecture and Town Planning faculty of UFBA, and the Urban Studies Laboratory (Labeurb) at Unicamp. The Companhia Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo (Cetesb) and São Paulo University (USP) also played a big part in the scientific coordination of the event.

"I very much appreciated the bilingual production of the symposium with simultaneous translation. This approach is unfortunately very unusual now at international gatherings dominated by English. Another major asset was the limited number of participants and provision for plenty of breaks, enabling us to explore the topics of talks in greater detail individually and to enable very dense exchanges." [Rainer Kazig](#)



Architecture Subjectivity and Culture Laboratory (LASC)

<http://www.asc.fau.ufrj.br/>

The Architecture, Subjectivity and Culture (LASC) research laboratory at the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro specializes in relations between people and place, in addition to studying the cultural construction of space. It aims to analyse the subjective and cultural factors which contribute to the process of 'moulding place' (Duarte, 1993)*, of memory, identity and affect in relation to atmosphere. This work is useful to invent strategies for promoting urban well-being, and making architectural and planning projects a success. The laboratory is listed in the CNPq directory of research units (sponsored by the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology).

* Cristiane Rose Duarte, Public intervention and social dynamics in the production of a new locus of urban poverty: Vila Pinheiros, Rio de Janeiro. PhD thesis, University Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne), 1993.



LASC members

Cristiane Rose Duarte (professor, Dr)
 Alice Brasileiro (lecturer, Dr)
 Ethel Pinheiro Santana (lecturer, Dr)
 Ione Silveira (lecturer, Dr)
 Regina Cohen (researcher, Dr)
 Paula Uglione (researcher, Dr)
 Osvaldo Luiz Silva (lecturer, MSc)
 André Carvalho (researcher, MSc)
 Maria Emília Gusmão (lecturer, UFAL, Dr)
 Claudia Menezes (researcher, Arch)
 Inês Isidoro (researcher, Arch)
 Monique Vieira (architect)
 Barbara Targino (architecture student)

Selected actions

The Architecture, Subjectivity and Culture (LASC) laboratory is part of the Architecture PhD programme (Proarq), as well as working in partnership with two psychology laboratories (UFRJ and UFRN), the Metropolitan Ethnography Laboratory (Le Metro) at UFRJ, and Núcleo Pró-acesso as part of the same architecture programme. LASC teaches an interdisciplinary course on Atmospheres, environmental psychology and built spaces, which is open to researchers from all fields.

Over and above work on research, theses and publications, the researchers at LASC are involved in joint actions with public and private bodies. This includes work changing the atmosphere at Pinel psychiatric hospital (Uglione, Duarte), as part of a research action on the loci of mental illness. LASC is also doing study work for Rio City Council on accessibility, to prepare the city for the 2016 Olympic Games (Duarte, Cohen). In a similar vein members of the LASC team (Cohen, Duarte) are looking at ways to adapt museums in Rio state to meet accessibility requirements, under an agreement with the National Historical and Artistic Heritage Institute (Iphan). Another example of research with applications outside the walls of the university is the construction of homes for low-income families in keeping with sustainable development principles (Silva, Brasileiro).

LASC hosted and jointly organized the international symposium on *Ambiências Compartilhadas / Atmospheres to Share*, in Rio de Janeiro in November 2009. It is currently working on publications of the symposium proceedings.

Laboratório urbano

<http://www.laboratoriourbano.ufba.br>

Laboratório Urbano, a research unit accredited by the Scientific Research Ministry (CNPq), is part of the Contemporary Urban Processes research programme of the postgraduate course in architecture and planning (PPG-AU) at the Faculty of Architecture at the Federal University of Bahia (FAUFBA). Several researchers, lecturers and students are involved in research on the contemporary urban environment and town planning.

Research at Laboratório Urbano focuses on three main topics:

1. A critical grasp of contemporary towns;
2. The history of planning thought;
3. Aesthetics, bodies and the city.

Laboratório Urbano is involved in various national and international scientific partnerships, organizes several research and teaching activities, and maintains close links with local communities.

Ongoing research

We are currently taking part in an international research project, 'Dulling down pedestrian atmospheres in the 21st century: between plasticity and passivity of walking bodies', coordinated by Rachel Thomas at Cresson. The project is funded by the Interdisciplinary Programme on Urban and Environmental Research (Pirve), which also includes a Canadian team at Montreal University (UdeM) led by Sylvie Miaux.

Members of our team have already organized a workshop in Salvador de Bahia, in October 2009, participated in a workshop in Grenoble the following December and yet another in Montreal in June.

Our research focuses on the relation between walking bodies and urban atmosphere, in particular the pedestrian atmosphere of public spaces in contemporary towns. We are looking at efforts to make such spaces more aesthetically pleasing, peaceful and insipid, and above all at the relationship between such 'dulling down' and sensory perception of the town, in particular in the corporeal practices of public spaces. This project

raises two fundamental questions:

'How do we walk in a 21st century town?' and 'In what respect do these ways of walking reflect current changes in our urban environment?' Among our shared goals we are trying to contribute to debate on the operational dimension of atmosphere and to draft a lexicon describing the dynamic relations between walking bodies and atmospheres.

One of the ideas posited by the team at Salvador de Bahia – and being tested in joint workshops with researchers from the UFBA Dance School – is that urban atmosphere is the result of relations between bodies and urban space. In other words these relations determine atmosphere, which cannot exist until our bodies experience the urban space. If this were the case urban atmospheres would always be processes in constant flux, not pre-existent, fixed, given configurations.



Another activity we have organized on the same question of the relation between bodies and the urban environment gave rise to the Corpocidade encounter, details of which are available at <http://www.corpocidade.dan.ufba.br>.

Laboratorio de estudos urbanos (Labeurb)

<http://www.labeurb.unicamp.br>



Labeurb, which is part of the Núcleo de Desenvolvimento da Criatividade (Nudecri) at Campinas

University (Unicamp), is a research centre on the urbs, taken as a linguistic object and analysed in accordance with the theory and methodology of discourse analysis.

Exploring the field of Urban learning and language, research at Labeurb addresses a wide range of urban phenomena: political, social and economic movements; issues related to planning, and the government and organization of urban space by the State by means of public policies instituted in various sectors (education, culture, language, security, sport and technology, among others); practices related to memory, culture and art; urban language and literature; media and new technology; everyday relations.

In addition to the research projects carried out as part of multidisciplinary and international partnerships, Labeurb coordinates regular programmes designed to prompt debate on academic research involving various branches of government and civil society (Conversa de Rua, Pensando a Cidade and Journal Club; three publications in addition to the Rua review, the Escritos series and a collection of books under the overall heading of Cidade, Linguagem, Sociedade; an archive document published with the Centro de Documentação Urbana - CEDU).

Labeurb's work on atmosphere

The Labeurb team started to take an interest in urban atmosphere when it took part in a research action led by Jean-Paul Thibaud on the Dynamics and processes by which urban atmospheres take form. As part of this action Labeurb, Cetesb and USP worked on a public space in São Paulo. The project included a broader multidisciplinary debate on the concept of atmosphere, drawing on field studies in Paris, Bonn, Warsaw and Tunis. It also gave rise to a CAPES-COFECUB research agreement between 2006 and 2009.

The main challenge for the Labeurb team in its research into atmosphere is to address a phenomenon, defined in phenomenological terms, as possibly being pre-linguistic and independent of articulate language. What then can language specialists possibly contribute to thinking on the subject. The common ground between discourse analysis and the phenomenological approach to atmosphere is the questioning of the classical positivist opposition between subject and object. In other words, subjects and the space they inhabit are seen as the indissociable terms of one and the same historic process. We posit that the process is symbolic (not natural) and that, as a consequence, language, a symbolic material, plays a part in the production of both space and subjects, intervening in the phenomenon's constitution as sensory perception. In opposition to an idealist view of signification, we assert that the senses do not precede language, nor are they external to it, but rather formed in and through its materiality (be it verbal or non-verbal), in a process which escapes the awareness of subjects. So our team starts from a discursive analysis of language, taken as an observatory of urban and subjective phenomena, to propose a reflection on the symbolic and political – or historic – dimension of atmosphere.

Labeurb has already staged many events centring on the theme of atmosphere, including debates and conferences which may be accessed online

<http://www.labeurb.unicamp.br/portal/pages/videos/verSecao.lab>

<http://www.labeurb.unicamp.br/portal/pages/videos/verVideo.lab?id=26>

<http://www.labeurb.unicamp.br/portal/pages/videos/verVideo.lab?id=27>

<http://www.labeurb.unicamp.br/portal/pages/videos/verVideo.lab?id=43>

joint organization of the Rio symposium on *Ambiências Compartilhadas*

publication activity focussing on atmosphere

. joint-production of a group work, yet to be published, *Ambiência Urbana*

. publication of an article in number 14/1 of *Rua*: <http://www.labeurb.unicamp.br/rua/pages/home/index.rua?acessar=14-1>

. translation into Portuguese of the book, *In Search of Atmospheres*, a collection of articles by J.-P. Thibaud (including one with N. Tixier), to be published in 2011.

Companhia Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo (CETESB)

<http://www.cetesb.sp.gov.br/>

Cetesb, founded in 1968, focuses on pollution control and environmental protection, reporting to the Environment Secretariat of the São Paulo state government. Its main mission is to promote the improvement of the environment and guarantee its quality in the state.

In addition to strictly technical management and monitoring tasks, Cetesb is also involved in work at a more social and psychological level, looking after groups of the population suffering from pollution. Several schemes are underway to involve the community in the management and control of pollution sources. In particular an environmental psychology campaign is being carried out to understand the complex sphere of public attitudes and assess social representation with regard to the environment.



Photo Pascal Amphoux - Linear parc - Sao Paulo

Individuals involved in the Ambiances network

- Cintia Okamura is in charge of planning and implementing socio-environmental action plans in response to the demands of the local population and for supporting actions undertaken by the environmental agencies operated by Cetesb with respect to environmental permits, the assessment of socio-environmental impacts and participatory processes, among others.

- Ana Claudia Tartalia heads the Cetesb department in charge of issuing environmental permits.

Atmosphere-related actions

Through the involvement of Cintia Okamura, Cetesb started to take an interest in urban atmosphere, joining the research action led by Jean-Paul Thibaud on the dynamics and processes by which urban atmospheres take form. As part of this action various Brazilian researchers carried out a research action on a public space in São Paulo (see also Labeurb). Cetesb also contributed to the production of a group publication, *Ambiência Urbana*, soon to be released.

The agency is also taking part in the research project, *The atmosphere is in the air*, coordinated by Nicolas Tixier, within the larger framework of the Interdisciplinary Programme on Urban and Environmental Research (Pirve). Drawing on field work done in Brazil and France, this research is looking at the possible connections between environmental issues and an atmosphere-oriented approach.

São Paulo City Council has launched the Linear Park project to link up all the water courses and surrounding valleys to form a single green space. In addition to restoring the environment, the linear park aims to give local people more space for social interaction by deploying leisure infrastructure. An atmosphere-oriented approach will be experimented as part of the project.

Cetesb enjoys close links with the Department of Public Health at São Paulo University (USP), in particular with Carlo

Celso do Amaral, and Silva and Patricia B. M.T. Mendes.

The **Corpocidade project: debates on urban aesthetics** is jointly organized by the postgraduate dance course at the Federal University of Bahia (Mrs Fabiana Dultra Britto) and the postgraduate courses in architecture at the Federal Universities of Bahia (Mrs Paolaa Berenstein-Jacques) and Rio de Janeiro (Mrs Margareth da Silva Pereira). Its starting point is the assumption that art creates new ways of sharing sensory perception.

The second edition of this seminar – which will be held this year in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador de Bahia – has two goals: to capitalize on the political dimension of debate during the first gathering in 2008; and to give the project a new dimension, taking it into the realm of public action. This year two meetings will be held in Rio de Janeiro, on 22 November 2010, then in Salvador de Bahia, on 29 and 30 November. They will be open to the general public and admission is free of charge. On both occasions, the debate will draw on accounts of experiments carried out by a group of researchers and artists in two favelas (Mare in Rio de Janeiro, and Alagados in Salvador de Bahia) over the weekend preceding each seminar.

• Those wishing to take part in the public debates may consult the Corpocidade 2010 website: <<http://www.corpocidade.dan.ufba.br/2010/>>. The proceedings will be broadcast live on the site.

SoundActs, a fertile encounter

The SoundActs conference (soundacts.au.dk) was held in Aarhus, Denmark, from 23 to 25 September. It was organized by the Department of Aesthetic Studies at Aarhus University and Sweden's Urban Sound Institute (urbansound.org), with input from the Ambiances international network.

The gathering offered a hybrid working environment, with theoretical and experimental debate in the form of various conferences, seminars, and sound workshops where participants were asked to explore the various spatial and technical configurations provided by the Urban Sound Institute.

SoundActs was particularly impressive on account of the interdisciplinary nature of its agenda – Sound as Art - Sound in Culture. Sound in Theory - Sound in History. It attracted participants from all over the world, researchers and sound professionals, with representatives of all the disciplines at work in this extensive field. Of particular note was the presence – still unusual at this type of gathering – of people working in artistic research and practice (and not just music), spatial disciplines (town planning, architecture) and sound design, prompting

fertile exchanges between the various aspects of the sound world, between sound tools and sound products, between sound as a mediator and as a process.

Ricardo Atienza

Ambiance network website got a makeover in June, and its changes concern both the graphic model as well as the organization of categories.

Unfortunately, these changes caused the loss of ambiances.net members' passwords.

Your registration is still valid, but a password renewal is necessary in order to leave comments related to articles posted on the Network website. Similarly, you can now change your personal information online (research team, city, country, personal website, and so on). This is particularly important for the life of the network, since it promotes mutual knowledge of its members.

To retrieve your password, please follow these rules:

- 1 / go to: <http://www.ambiances.net/index.php/en/subscription>
- 2 / take your ID (the one you chose for your initial registration on the previous version of the network website)
- 3 / click on «Forgot login»

To complete your personal information, just click on the Subscription tab at the top of the page.

In case of need for technical assistance, please write to: contact@ambiances.net

Editor : Jean-Paul Thibaud

conception team : Françoise Acquier,
Martine Chazelas, juL McOisans

International ambiances network :
UMR Ambiances architecturales et urbaines
60 avenue de Constantine BP 2636
F-38036 Grenoble cedex 2
tel : 04 76 69 83 36
<http://www.ambiances.net>