

International Conference

Practices of
Copying &
Imitation in
Early Modern
Architecture
1400–1700

15 & 16 June 2023
Vandenhove Centre for Architecture and Art
Ghent University
Rozier 1
9000 Gent

Keynote Lecture

METONYMY OR IMITATION? THE BONES,
STONES AND STARS OF ST. RASSO IN BAYERN

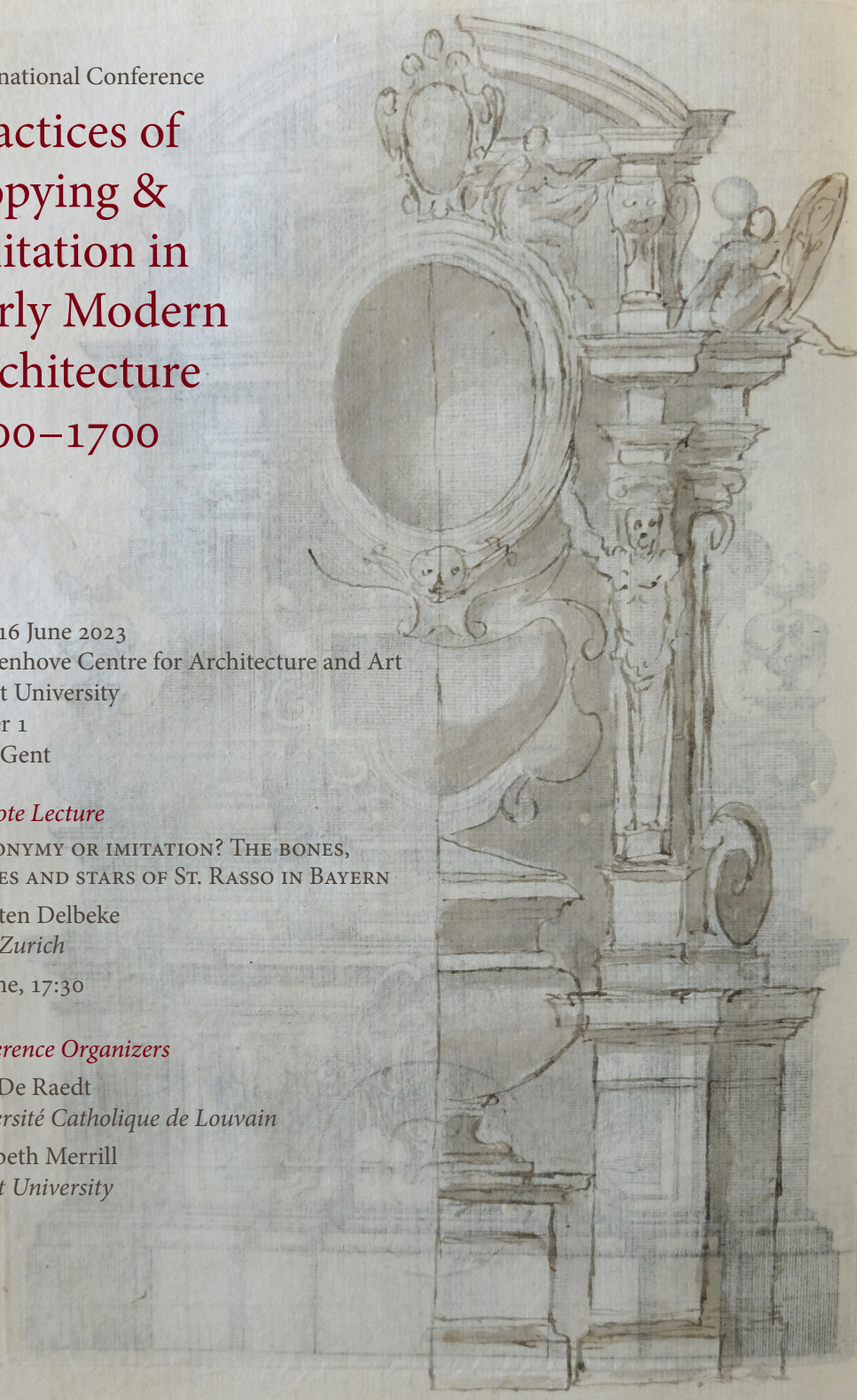
Maarten Delbeke
ETH Zurich

15 June, 17:30

Conference Organizers

Nele De Raedt
Université Catholique de Louvain

Elizabeth Merrill
Ghent University



Copying & Imitation in Early Modern Architecture 1400–1700

This international conference starts from the premise that practices of imitation and copying were integral to the making of architecture in early modern Europe. Theoretical discourses of the period posited that architecture was an art in constant evolution based on imitation (*imitatio*). Extending from classical rhetoric, imitation was said to entail an element of invention, which allowed for the adaptation and skilled use of models. Following this formulation, scholars of early modern architecture have written extensively about the numerous parallels between literary and architectural theory, mining the former in devising frameworks for the conceptualization of architecture.

By contrast, this conference seeks to direct attention to verifiable practices and material documentation of copying and imitation in the workshop and on the building site, and how this evidence sheds new light on the production of architecture. Individual conference papers address commonplace processes of copying and imitation, as manifest in techniques of traced drawing, the manipulation of models, the casting of ornaments, writing on architecture, and the reproduction of decorative details. In considering copying and imitation as part of routine practice, often motivated by needs of economy, efficiency, and scale, the conference aims to better understand the driving forces that enabled the rich and varied architectural culture of the early modern period.

The conference is made possible thanks to the support of the European Research Council, Ghent University, and the Université Catholique de Louvain.



Participants

Alina Aggujaro

Lecturer in History of Architecture, IED Istituto Europeo di Design, Rome

Gregorio Astengo

Assistant, ETH Zurich

Anna Bortolozzi

Associate Professor in Art History, Department of Culture and Aesthetics, Stockholm University

Costantino Ceccanti

Official Architect at the Bargello Museum, Florence

Alexis Culotta

Professor of Practice, Tulane University

Nele De Raedt

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture, Architectural Engineering and Urbanism (LOCI), Université Catholique de Louvain

Dario Donetti

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, University of Verona

Jessica Gritti

Assistant Professor in the History of Architecture, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano

David Hemsoll

Reader in Architectural History and Theory, University of Birmingham

Peter Heinrich Jahn

Researcher, Institute for Art and Music Studies, Technical University of Dresden

Merlijn Hurx

Professor of Architectural History, Department of Architecture, KU Leuven

Elizabeth Merrill

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, Ghent University

Maria Teresa Sambin De Norcen

Associate Professor in History of Architecture, Università IUAV di Venezia

Carolyn Yerkes

Associate Professor of Art and Archeology, Princeton University

Thursday 15 June

13:30 Welcome

Session 1: *Imitation as a design process I*

14:00–14:35 David Hemsoll

Imitation and its Changing Means and Ends in the Architecture of Andrea Palladio

14:35–15:10 Costantino Ceccanti

Sur les cinq manieres d'edifices: Serlian Architecture in Sixteenth Century Tuscany

Coffee break

Session 2: *Imitation as a design process II*

15:45–16:20 Gregorio Astengo

Composing a Model for Real Estate Development: Building Guides in Early Modern London

16:20–16:55 Peter Heinrich Jahn

ars combinatoria: Practices of the Early Modern Pattern-based Architectural Draft

17:30

Key-note lecture

Maarten Delbeke

Metonymy or Imitation? The Bones, Stones and Stars of St. Rasso in Bayern

Friday 16 June

Session 3: *Questions of authorship*

- 09:00–09:35 Dario Donetti
Critical Copies: The Codex Mellon and Collective Design in Raphael's Rome
- 09:35–10:10 Elizabeth Merrill
Architectural Tracings and the Fragility of Design Authorship
- 10:10–10:45 Nele De Raedt
Designing an Urban Residence for the Prince and the Best Citizen: Practices of Direct Copying and Imitation in Platina's *De regimine principum* and *De optimo cive*

Coffee break

Session 4: *Production process and seriality*

- 11:15–11:50 Merlijn Hurx
"Ikea-architecture" in the Middle Ages: the Emergence of a Commodity Market for Building Components in the Low Countries
- 11:50–12:25 Jessica Gritti
Terracotta Architectures: Serial Production and the Diffusion of *all'antica* Models in Fifteenth Century Lombard Architecture

Lunch break

Session 5: *Techniques of copying*

- 14:00–14:35 Anna Bortolozzi
Transparent Paper as Medium of Copying in the Early Modern Architectural Workshop
- 14:35–15:10 Carolyn Yerkes
Monument as Matrix: Architectural Inscriptions, Squeezes, and the History of Printed Words

Coffee break

Session 6: *Imitation of exempla*

- 15:45–16:20 Alina Aggujaro
Architecture's Code: Construction Techniques, Architectural Details and Imitation in the Palace of Adriano Castellesi
- 16:20–16:55 Alexis Culotta
The Many Faces of Architecture: The Circle of Raphael and the Roman Frescoed Façade
- 16:55–17:30 Maria Teresa Sambin de Norcen
Donatello and Ancient Models, Donatello as a Model. His work in the Basilica of Saint Anthony, Padua (1444-1454)