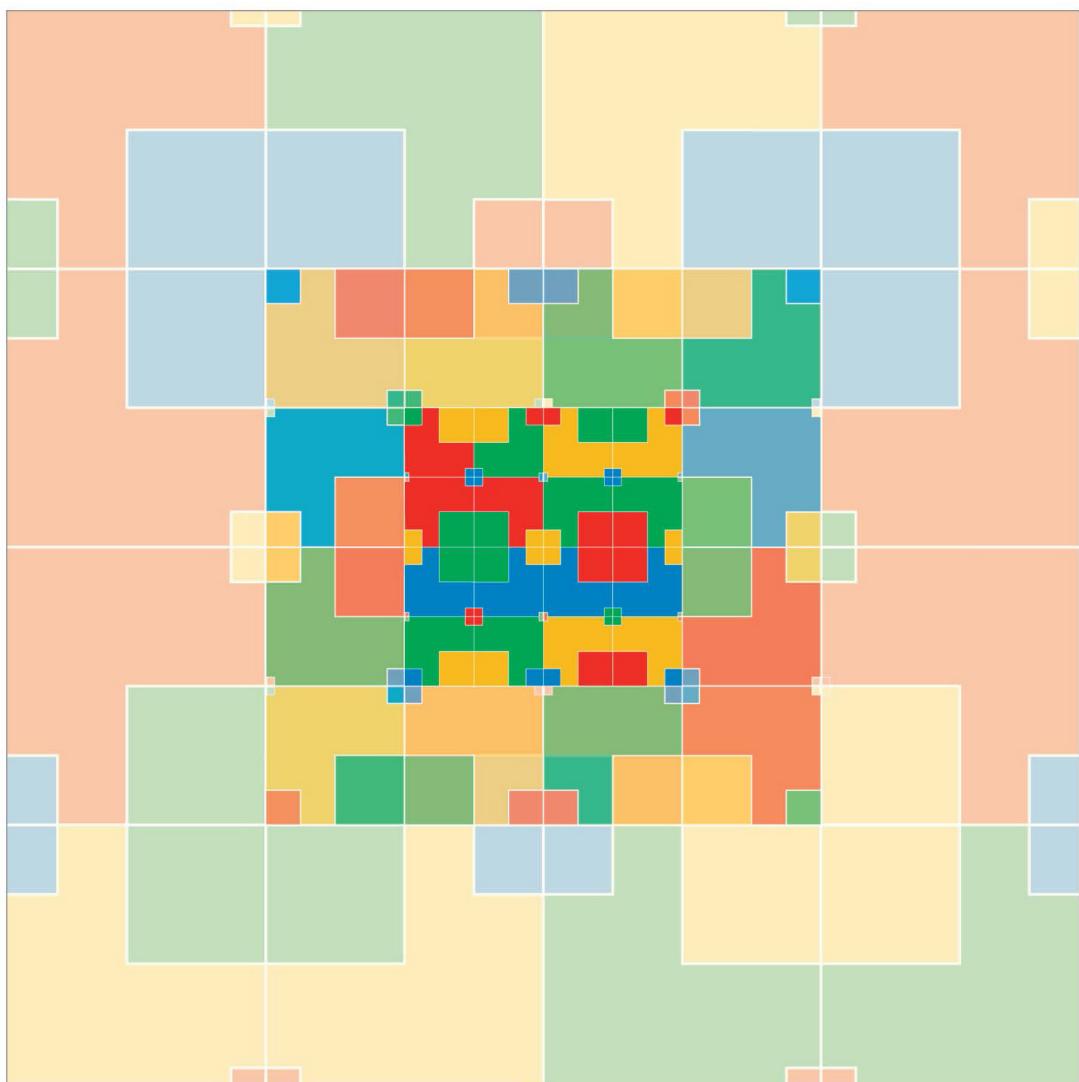


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GEOMETRY AND ARCHITECTURE

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GEOMETRY AND ARCHITECTURE

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A thematic issue

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Geometry and Architecture: Parametricism, Morphology, Design Methodology

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EDITORIAL

GEOMETRY AND ARCHITECTURE: PARAMETRICISM, MORPHOLOGY, DESIGN METHODOLOGY

Architecture has its roots in geometry, which is drawn etymologically from “earth measuring”. Geometry was originally used for drawing ground plans in order to create bases for buildings. The Pythagorean theorem furnished us with a practical way to employ the right angle, the quintessence of architecture. However, despite its benefits during planning and construction, geometry, as an independent discipline, has its own rules and possibilities that facilitate morphologies free from the ties of gravity and matter. Starting from Platonic and Archimedean solids, architecture has been applying many of the free forms of a “celestial” geometry in order to reconnect them to the physical level.

This mission became more difficult from the 1980s, when, after the controversial trend of post-modernism, contemporary architecture recognised deconstruction as its ultimate prospect. Deconstruction, folding and topography called for new methodologies no longer viable without virtual design platforms. The virtual space of computer design was first colonised by the tectonic culture, but parametricism evolved to such a level that its new methodology was capable of questioning the traditional logic of building. The virtual space of generative design has grown so autonomous that it developed new languages, applied formerly unfamiliar or unknown symmetries, and, by its computing apparatus, redefined geometry and changed construction practices.

With such a potential, architecture has reached the threshold of becoming fully algorithmic. The exploration of this area is the core purpose of our issue. We invited architects, designers, artists, software developers, architectural historians, theorists, and urbanists who researched digital morphogenesis, new design methodologies, or re-interpreted historical buildings with generative or algorithmic approaches. Authors with new and unpublished research on the application of non-standard symmetries in design were especially encouraged to share their new findings with the interdisciplinary community of the Symmetrion.

Vilmos Katona