



EXHIBITIONS / REVIEWS | **CURATORIAL**

Editor Gabriel Hernández

## **Review and Curatorial Project**

*Gabriel Hernández*

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## Reviews

Gabriel Hernández

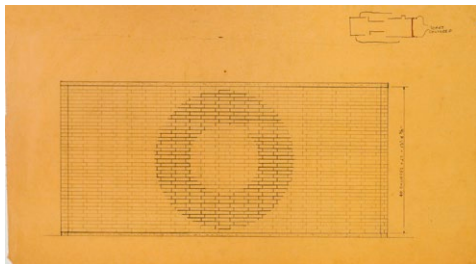
Title: *The Head, The Heart & The House: Migration and Modernism in King-Lui Wu's Domestic Architecture*

Location: North Gallery, Yale School of Architecture, CT (United States)

On view: February – March 2024

This exhibition provides extensive documentation to explore the work of Chinese-born architect King-Lui Wu in collaboration with Josef Albers in Connecticut during the mid-20th century. Wu, an active and influential member of the Modernist movement in the United States, was educated under Walter Gropius at Harvard's GSD and became a faculty at Yale for more than four decades. The curators Haewon Ma and Huirong Ye highlight that Wu envisioned American Modernism as a movement defined by 'tolerance, sincerity, and moral' courage, which he believed could facilitate harmonious living environments.

Combining his pedagogical role at the Architecture Department at Yale and his collaborations with Albers – founder and head of the Design Department, he sought to combine Chinese literature philosophy to seek a 'sense of adventure' through the irregularity, concealment and surprise, which the Rouse, Dupont and Manuscripts houses are examples of. The exhibition is richly composed of loans from Harvard Library's Special Collections and Yale University Library. The claims Wu's narrative can serve as a critical lens to examine Asian immigration to the US and to spotlight Asian immigrants to the US who shaped the Modernist movement.



Sketch of Manuscript Building Facade, King-Lui Wu, 1961, Yale University, Manuscripts and Archives, King-Lui Wu Papers



*The Head, The Heart and The House. Migration and Modernism in King-Lui Wu's Domestic Architecture* exhibition view  
© courtesy of YSoA



The Head, The Heart and The House. Migration and Modernism in King-Lui Wu's Domestic Architecture exhibition view  
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Paul Rudolph and King-Lui Wu examine a Model at Yale, c.1960, Yale University, Manuscripts and Archives, King-Lui Wu Papers

## FLASH

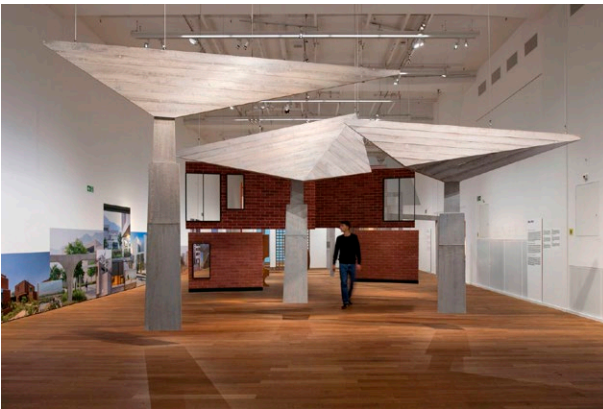
Title: *Tatiana Bilbao Estudio – Architecture for the Community*

Location: Museum für Gestaltung, Zurich (Switzerland)

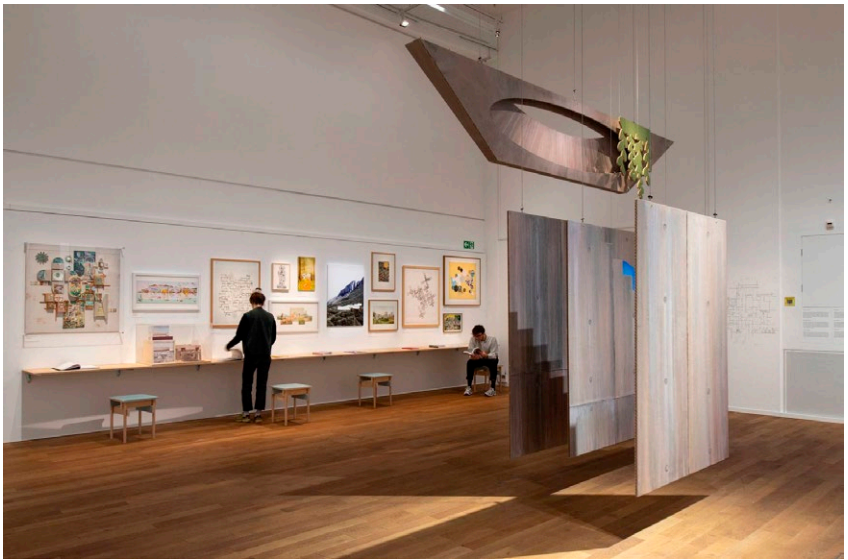
On view: February – June 2024

For the Mexican architecture practice Tatiana Bilbao Estudio, each exhibition of their work provides a framework for experimentation. This recently inaugurated exhibition has all the ingredients for a perfect combination: on one side, Tatiana Bilbao Studio's visual communication techniques, and on the other, one of the leading museums in Europe for design and visual communication. By questioning how people live together, Tatiana Bilbao acknowledges how this aspect is crucial in architecture and urban planning by describing her own view through a selection of projects from her firm's last two decades of work. Combining site-specific installations, models, plans, drawings and collages, we can quickly identify mastery of architectural visual language that has been made explicit since her early work and can be seen recently in the Great Aquarium of Mazatlán in Mexico.

The exhibition focuses on the process of making and communicating architecture while dealing with the social aspects of architecture and the collaboration with different parties at play. The exhibition's layout is conceived as a spatial collage showcasing architecture that considers people and natural resources. In the last decade, Tatiana Bilbao Estudio has been designing and curating its exhibitions and focusing on them as another opportunity to explore architectural communication, paving the ground for its international acclamation and recognition for its work of visual and spatial experiments in architecture.



Tatiana Bilbao Estudio – Architecture for the Community Exhibition view  
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Tatiana Bilbao Estudio – Architecture for the Community  
Exhibition view  
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Tatiana Bilbao Estudio – Architecture for the Community  
Exhibition view  
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## Curatorial statement

### **Building a Collective Archive: A Yale Traveler's Mnemosyne**

This segment provides the ground for curators to offer additional insights into recent curatorial projects involving architecture, media and art. *Building a Collective Archive: A Yale Traveler's Mnemosyne* is a curatorial project exploring the role of images, media, and individual references in the construction of a collective imaginario at an institutional level. Curated by architects Gabriel Hernández (Fulbright Visiting Fellow at Yale'23) and Alberto Martínez (Yale MED'24), the exhibition was on display between August and October 2023 at the North Gallery space at Yale School of Architecture (YSoA), located at the iconic Rudolph Hall in New Haven (CT, United States) and was supported by General Consulate of Spain New York, SPAIN Arts & Culture.

Mnemosyne, the Greek goddess of memory who enlightened cultural scientist Aby Warburg's unfinished *Atlas Mnemosyne*, provides a symbolic reference for conceiving a collective archive that represents the YSoA's community by collecting images that exemplify its heterogeneity and global scope. Another aspect was inspired by the italo-brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi's archival practice and devotion towards collecting, which characterises a particular relationship to the act of collecting and its role in constructing memories and design references related to travel and change of location, as most of Yale member's experience.

When Bo Bardi migrated from Italy to Brazil in 1946, she carried her personal references through several items collected over decades. Once in her new homeland, her fascination with local traditions and vernacular culture drove her to acquire new objects, expanding her imaginario and her archival references and sources. As a result, Bo Bardi's porous and mutable archive and unique collection were continuously updated, blending the stories of migration, travel, curiosity, and memory.

In the same spirit, *Building a Collective Archive: A Yale Traveler's Mnemosyne* invited a selection of 18 participants – students, staff, and professors – from within the widely diverse YSoA community to reflect on their act of collecting memories through archival items, paying attention to how travels inform, creates, and expands their imaginario. Each participant was assigned an empty wooden case on display at the exhibition to occupy with their collections and archival items.

Lastly, to explore the potential of building a collective YSoA Archive based on the participant's archives, all items on display were digitised to create video installations that examine the item's connections through images, such as Warburg's *Atlas Mnemosyne*. The curators worked with video artist Daedalus Li to develop a set of projections that combined and connected images, exploring the wide range of grouping possibilities. The video work is projected on both sides of three screens inspired by Lina Bo Bardi's plinths for MASP, creating a non-linear and non-hierarchical promenade through the North Gallery space. On the frontal view, the *Yale Traveller's*

*Mnemosyne* through video mapping processes that grouped by object type, print references and sites. On the rearview, the *Building a Collective Archive* produced three media landscapes based on the archival items' commonalities. From the private to the collective, each personal reference becomes planetary when confronted with others by expanding the limits of visual culture and generating collaborative cartography through images.



Exhibition participants: Anthony Acciaviatti, AJ Artemel, Norma Barbacci, Juliana Biancardine, Dominic Court, Jacob Koch, Nadine Koobatian, Izzy Kornblatt–Stier, Amelia Lin, Mae–Ling Lokko, Reem Nassour, Dominique O'Connell, Nwando Onochie, Eeva–Liisa Pelkonen, Pablo Perezalonso, Samarth Vachhrajani, Jill Siegel, Wenbo Xiang.

Sponsors and Supporters: General Consulate of Spain New York, SPAIN Arts & Culture, The US – Spain Fulbright Commission, Yale School of Architecture Exhibitions: the Robert A.M. Stern Fund, the Pickard Chilton Dean's Resource Fund, the Nitkin Family Dean's Discretionary Fund in Architecture, the Fred Koetter Exhibitions Fund, the Kibel Foundation Fund, and the James Wilder Green Dean's Resource Fund.

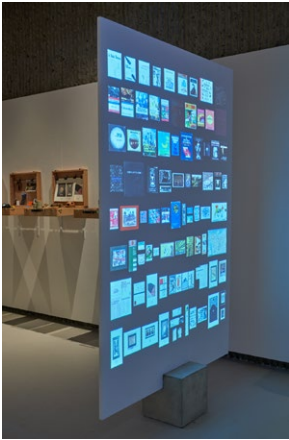


Building a Collective Archive, Exhibition rear view  
© courtesy of YSoA



Building a Collective Archive, Gallery Coffee Talk  
@ courtesy of YSoA





Building a Collective Archive, exhibition views  
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