

AI and Architecture

PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE INSIGHTS

Introduction_Reframing the role of architecture

Architecture is not just about structures – it's about shaping human experience.

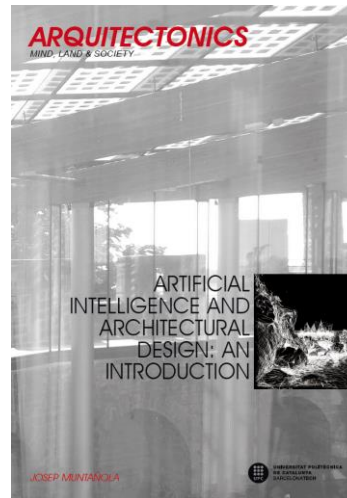
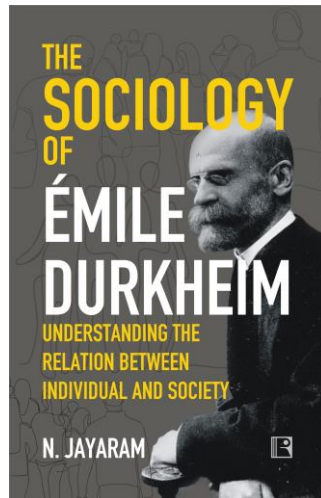
In a time of AI and ecological urgency, we must ask:

Can architecture be both technologically advanced and deeply human?



Personal Exploration_Architecture as a mediator

- My starting point: exploring how architecture can bridge alienation and humanity.
- Concern: AI might create hyper-optimized, emotionally sterile environments.
- But: AI is a tool – it can alienate or reconnect, depending on how we use it.



Assessing Deep Learning: A Work Program for the Humanities in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Jan Segessenmann^{1*}, Thilo Stadelmann^{2,3}, Andrew Davison⁴ and Oliver Dürri^{5,6}

^{1*}Center for Faith and Society, University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland.

²Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Winterthur, Switzerland.

³European Centre for Living Technology, Venice, Italy.

⁴Institute of Hermeneutics and Philosophy of Religion, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland.

⁵Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom.

⁶Corresponding author(s). E-mail(s): jan.segessenmann@unifr.ch; stadelmann@unifr.ch; sp431@cam.ac.uk; oliver.duerri@unifr.ch.

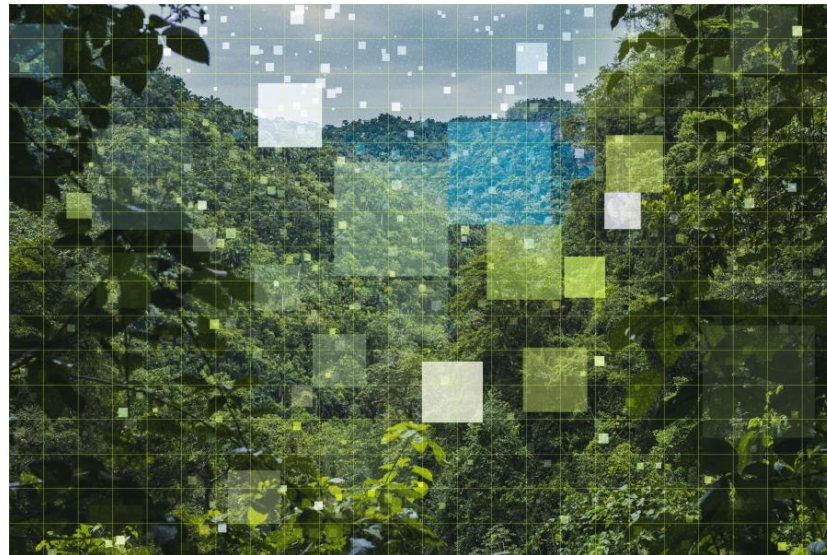
Abstract

Following the success of deep learning (DL) in research, we are now witnessing the fast and widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in daily life, influencing the way we act, think, and organize our lives. However, much still remains a mystery when it comes to how these systems achieve such high performance and why they reach the outputs they do. This presents us with an unusual combination of technical mastery on the one hand, and a striking degree of mystery on the other. This conjunction is not only fascinating, but it also poses considerable risks, which urgently require our attention. Awareness of the need to analyze ethical implications, such as fairness, equality, and sustainability, is growing. However, other dimensions of inquiry receive less attention, including the subtle but pervasive ways in which our dealings with AI shape our

Class Insights (With Yiyao)

Collective Reflection: Slowing Down

- Tension between acceleration (optimization) and deceleration (care).
- Architecture should not just follow speed – it can slow things down.
- Space as a political act: recognizing all forms of life.



Bridging the Two

- AI isn't the enemy; uncritical application is.
- Mindful design = using AI to support emotional, sensory, and ecological presence.
- Architecture becomes a site of coexistence, not just function.



Thinking with...

"We shape our buildings, and afterward our buildings shape us."
— Winston Churchill

- Churchill's quote reminds us that architecture is never neutral.
The spaces we design reflect our values – but they also reinforce them over time.
If we build for speed, disconnection, and control, we will live accordingly.
If we build for care, reflection, and shared presence, our lives will echo that rhythm.
- → Architecture doesn't just house society – it scripts it.

Design towards coexistence

I believe architecture must resist the pace of pure optimization.
Instead, it should cultivate spaces of care, attention, and relational depth—
for humans, non-humans, and the systems we inhabit together.
In this age of AI, I choose to design not for speed, but for presence.
Not for perfection, but for meaningful entanglement.