

Daan Dufait

70,000 m² of Daylight: Lampens' Design for the Pahlavi National Library

In 1977, an international competition was launched for the design of the Pahlavi National Library in Tehran under the auspices of the International Union of Architects (UIA). The competition attracted considerable international attention. Although Juliaan Lampens ultimately decided not to submit an entry, he developed several design approaches for the project.

More than a decade later, in 1988, Lampens returned to the project together with the architectural collective S.T.A.D., in the context of the international competition for the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria (Egypt). Drawing on archival research and interviews with Lampens' collaborators at the time, this lecture reconstructs the development of the Pahlavi National Library project and examines its place within Lampens' broader architectural thinking.

Furthermore, this project illustrates how Lampens himself actively shaped his archive through arranging and rearranging, publishing, and destroying. This means that, in addition to its contents, the structure of the archive itself contains valuable information about his oeuvre.

Bio Daan Dufait:

Daan Dufait is an architect based in Ostend and a member of vzw Juliaan Lampens. He graduated in architecture from Sint-Lucas School of Architecture in Ghent in 2011 and obtained a master's degree in Literary Studies from KU Leuven in 2020. Since 2009, he has been a scientific collaborator with the Juliaan Lampens archive. He has contributed to various exhibitions and publications and lectures on the work of Juliaan Lampens.

Enrico Miglietta

Dr. Architect, Politecnico di Milano / KU Leuven

Ont-moeten • At a Respectful Distance: On the Agency of the Joint in the Work of Juliaan Lampens

This lecture proposes a reading of Juliaan Lampens' architecture through the joint, understood not merely as a technical detail but as a spatial, material and ethical device. Building on broader research into the architects of the so-called 'other modernity', it examines Lampens' distinctive way of bringing elements into relation: concrete and wood, steel and glass, interior and landscape, body and space, intimacy and monumentality.

Regardless of the nature of the project – from private houses to educational projects – Lampens uses the design of the joint to amplify the internal coherence of a project. The precise calibration of distances between materials, elements and spatial fragments allows individual components to retain their autonomy while becoming part of a larger whole.

The notion of 'respectful distance' consequently offers a way of reconsidering Lampens beyond stylistic categories, foregrounding a culture of construction rooted in drawing, craft, material economy and bodily experience.

Biography

Enrico Miglietta is an architect, researcher and educator. He holds a double PhD in Architectural, Urban and Interior Design from Politecnico di Milano and in Architecture from KU Leuven. He is Adjunct Professor of Interior Architecture and Exhibition Design at Politecnico di Milano and Research Associate at KU Leuven's Architecture and Design unit. In 2024, he co-founded Atelier Vetia with Briselda Calliku, a critical reflective practice working across dwelling, exhibition design, restoration, reuse and heritage. Since 2016, he has taught and contributed to design studios and research initiatives at several European schools of architecture, including Politecnico di Milano, KU Leuven and Università IUAV di Venezia.

Gennaro Postiglione

Professor, DASTU – Politecnico di Milano

Contextualising Juliaan Lampens: An Auto-Ethnographic Investigation into Elective Masters and Drawing as a Method

This lecture situates Juliaan Lampens' architectural practice within a broader constellation of architects for whom drawing is a fundamental mode of architectural thought.

Through an auto-ethnographic study of his architectural training in Naples between 1984 and 1988, Gennaro Postiglione revisits a series of elective masters and identifies affinities with Lampens' practice: Nicola Pagliara's attention to detail, Francesco Alison's engagement with material culture and craftsmanship, Umberto Riva's spatial thinking, Glenn Murcutt's conception of drawing as a 'score', Sverre Fehn's precise relationship between architecture and nature, AG Fronzoni's search for sufficiency, and Sigurd Lewerentz's investigation of architectural conventions.

Together, these positions provide a wider interpretative framework to situate Lampens' drawing practice and architectural poetics within an international architectural context.

Biography

Gennaro Postiglione is Professor of Interior Architecture at DASTU, Politecnico di Milano. His research examines interiors at the intersection of architectural ethnography and typology, with particular attention to adaptive reuse, built heritage and the relationship between architecture, inhabitants, environment and society. He serves on the editorial boards of *Area* and *Interiors* and has published extensively on interior culture, Scandinavian architecture and adaptive reuse. Since 2022, he has curated the book series *Teaching Interiors in the Expanded Field* (Thymos Books), dedicated to the research value embedded in studio-based architectural education.

Guy Mouton

Professor Emeritus, Structural Engineer and Architect

Juliaan Lampens: Unconventional Architectural Structural Concepts

The Chapel of Kerselare and the Van Wassenhove House demonstrate an unusually close relationship between architectural form and structural logic. When Guy Mouton discussed this with Lampens in 2009, the architect described his structural decisions as being guided by 'gut feeling'.

Taking this observation as a point of departure, the lecture asks whether a comparable relationship between architectural conception and structural reasoning can be identified elsewhere in Lampens' oeuvre. Together with architect Jo Van Den Berghe, Lampens' assistant on the unbuilt Boerenkrijg Museum in Overmere-Donk between 1984 and 1987, and Dieter Lampens, Mouton examined archival material in search of the 'engineer' in Lampens.

The research reveals a succession of carefully considered structural concepts in which architectural intention and structural feasibility are closely intertwined. This lecture positions Lampens as an architect with an intuitive yet remarkably precise understanding of structure, combining technical inventiveness with architectural meaning.

Biography

Guy Mouton is an architectural engineer and Professor Emeritus. He began his academic career at Ghent University and later taught structural design and integrated architectural design at KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture, Sint-Lucas, collaborating with architects including Paul Robbrecht, Marie-José Van Hee and Klaas Goris. He also founded the structural engineering practice Mouton, known for its collaborative approach to architecture and engineering and its involvement in projects including the Antwerp Port House, De Krook in Ghent and the Bruges Meeting & Convention Centre.

Jo Van Den Berghe

Professor, Architect, KU Leuven / Founding Member, vzw Juliaan Lampens

Typology of Togetherness and Typology of Solitude: Paradoxical Concepts in the Work of Juliaan Lampens?

Juliaan Lampens' houses appear to accommodate two seemingly contradictory modes of inhabitation. Their open plans minimise conventional separations between day and night, individual rooms and domestic functions. In this sense, Lampens' houses articulate what might be described as a *typology of togetherness*: the family house conceived as a place of continuous co-presence.

Yet, several houses introduce a counterpoint to this openness through highly individualised 'cocoons of withdrawal': spaces for solitude, retreat and contemplation. This *typology of solitude* recurs in projects including the Jozef Vandenhaute-Dhont House, Van Wassenhove House, Vandenhaute-Van Eylen House and Velghe-Vanderlinden House.

The lecture examines the apparent paradox between these two conditions and proposes that togetherness and solitude should instead be understood as complementary dimensions of Lampens' conception of inhabitation.

Biography

Jo Van Den Berghe is a Belgian architect and professor at KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture. A collaborator of Juliaan Lampens from 1984 to 2019, he has developed a critical reflective practice since 1986. His work was selected for the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2012 and 2016. He obtained a practice-based PhD from RMIT University in 2012 and leads *Studio Anatomy* at KU Leuven, where his research addresses the relationship between *technē* and *poiēsis* through experimental drawing practices. He co-founded the research cell The Drawing and the Space and CA2RE, the European platform for artistic and architectural research.

Per Olaf Fjeld

Professor Emeritus, Architect MNAL, Oslo School of Architecture and Design

The Power within Spatial Resistance

This lecture examines possible affinities between the work and creative processes of Juliaan Lampens and Norwegian architect Sverre Fehn. Rather than establishing a direct historical relationship, it considers shared architectural concerns: the relationship between inhabitant and space, the role of structure in generating form and spatial identity, and the capacity of material and scale to inform architectural detail.

Particular attention is given to the relationship between the built object and landscape. In both Lampens' and Fehn's work, interior and exterior are conceived not as opposing conditions but as elements of a continuous spatial relationship. Daylight becomes an architectural presence in its own right, mediating between material, structure, interior and landscape.

Through these affinities, the lecture situates Lampens within a wider architectural discourse concerned with structure, materiality, landscape and the experiential dimension of space.

Biography

Per Olaf Fjeld is Professor Emeritus at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, where he taught for more than thirty years and served two terms as rector. He studied in Louis I. Kahn's Masterclass at the University of Pennsylvania in 1972–73 and subsequently worked with Sverre Fehn, with whom he maintained a lifelong professional and personal relationship. Fjeld has held numerous international guest professorships and served as president of the European Association for Architectural Education. His publications include *Sverre Fehn: The Thought of Construction*, *Sverre Fehn: The Pattern of Thoughts* and *Louis I. Kahn: The Nordic Latitudes*. In 2019, he was appointed Knight First Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of Saint Olav.

Marc Dubois

Professor Emeritus, Architect HonFRIBA and Architectural Historian

Biography

Marc Dubois is an architect and architectural historian and was, until 2015, senior lecturer at KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture in Ghent and Brussels. He curated *Architetti (della Fiandra)* for the Venice Architecture Biennale in 1991 and *Maquettes, verbeelding op schaal* at STAM Ghent in 2015. A correspondent for *Casabella* since 1996, he chaired DOCOMOMO Belgium from 2015 to 2022 and received the Flemish Community's Ultima for Architecture in 2018. His extensive publications include studies on Álvaro Siza, Philippe Samyn, Gaston Eysselinck, Léon Stynen and Vincent Van Duysen. His 1993 publication *Architettura, gli ultimi vent'anni* included an early international publication of the work of Juliaan Lampens.

Eva Weyns

Dr. Architect, Flanders Architecture Institute

Biography

Eva Weyns is coordinator of the Knowledge Centre and consultant at the Flanders Architecture Institute (VAi). She coordinated the exhibition *Unfolding the Archives #2: Juliaan Lampens* in 2020. In 2025, she obtained a PhD in Architecture from KU Leuven with a historical study of post-war religious architecture and urbanisation in Belgium. She studied Architectural Engineering and Conservation of Monuments and Sites at KU Leuven and previously worked as an intern architect at Barbara Van der Wee Architects in Brussels.

Katrien Vandermarliere

Curator and Editor, Contemporary Architecture

Biography

Katrien Vandermarliere is an art historian, curator and editor specialising in contemporary architecture. From 1991 to 2002, she directed the public architecture programme at deSingel in Antwerp, where she curated more than seventy exhibitions with Belgian and international architects, urbanists and landscape architects. She subsequently served as director of the Flanders Architecture Institute from 2002 to 2010 and as curator for VAI and deSingel from 2011 to 2014. Internationally, she has twice served as commissioner of the Belgian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. Since 2014, she has combined freelance curatorial and editorial work with her position as Head of Communication at Ney & Partners.

Paul Vermeulen

Professor, Architect

Biography

Paul Vermeulen graduated in architecture from KU Leuven in 1985. Following academic research in Indonesia, Thailand and Algeria, he co-founded De Smet Vermeulen Architects with Henk De Smet in 1989. The practice has been the subject of several monographs and exhibitions and has participated in the Venice Architecture Biennale and International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam. Vermeulen has written on architecture since 1986 and has served on the editorial boards of *Archis* and *OASE*. He received the Flemish Community Prize for Architecture in 2011. Since 2018, he has been Professor of Urban Architecture at Delft University of Technology.