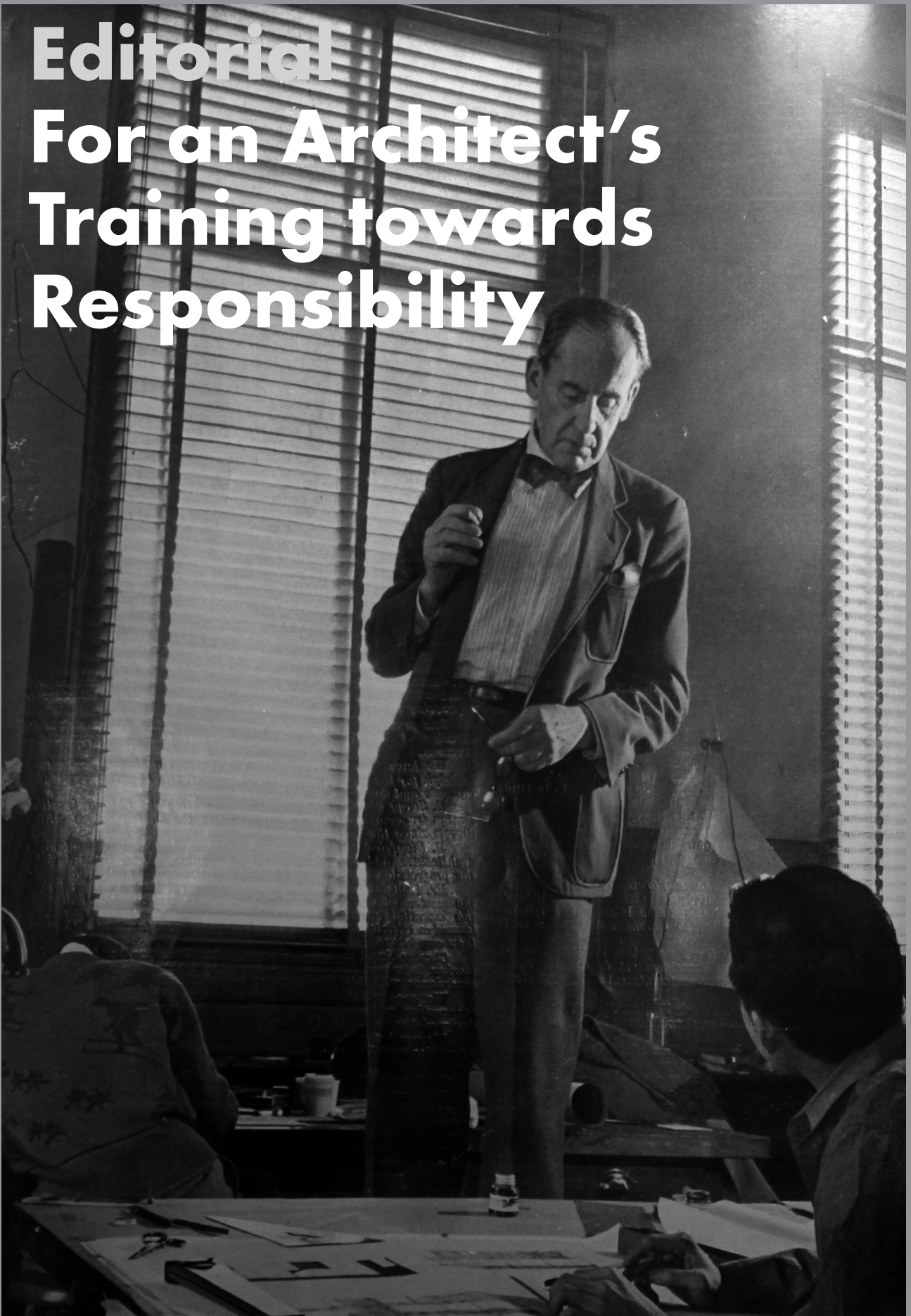


# Editorial For an Architect's Training towards Responsibility

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The analysis of Modern architect's training is the issue of this **docomomo** Journal. The variety of discussions on architects' mission, on architectural discipline and the recall on some key figures explain the argument of this Journal entitled *For an Architect's Training*. The title quotes Walter Gropius' "Blueprint for an architect's training" spread through the French magazine *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* in February 1950 (number 28), dedicated to "Walter Gropius, the spread of an idea" and realized by Paul Rudolph under the direction of Gropius himself who developed his ideas on design education between art and technique, creation, research and applied science.

In this context emerges Joseph Hudnut, at the time Harvard University Dean of the Faculty of Design. In his *Blueprint for a University* (1944), Hudnut shaped the liaison between "our universities" and "the evolution of a new social order in our cities." In fact, he advocates "a scientific attitude towards the problem thus created [by the immense industrial expansion] and the establishment of the intellectual forces in the effort to resolve them."

Facing what he calls as the social disintegration, he considers that "living needs a pattern [and] a framework of social purpose." **docomomo** acknowledges the major relevance of reflecting on the Modern Movement heritage focusing on two of the main issues: learning and responsibility. This duality between education and duty implies a collective attitude and a shared action. In fact, Hudnut "does not suggest that a social pattern can be created by an act of the individual will. It will be not invented. It will be the consequence of an evolutionary process [because] Planning is a term which includes both foresight and responsibility for change." This responsibility towards the future implies "the sense of historicity and evolutionary identity" in the terms defended by Juhani Pallasmaa in his "Newness, Tradition and Identity" **docomomo** Lectures published in this Journal. Pallasmaa argues referring to Álvaro Siza's conviction that "architects don't invent anything, they transform reality." Pallasmaa stands "the ground of culture" as a collective mental foundation taking into account that "the quick collapse of this collective mental foundation during the past decades is already a serious obstacle for education in the creative fields today."

If Hudnut stands that "planning is a tool of social reconstruction", Pallasmaa stands that "the primary task of architecture continues to be to defend and strengthen the wholeness and dignity of human life." The tradition of Modern Movement architecture is envisioned as a large concept that deals with forms, spaces, techniques and social responsibility. The contributions on this discussion put together learning and training, scientific research and design practice, the social mission and the responsibility of architects towards the future considering that "Modernity is an unfinished business" as Allen Cunningham reminds us.

I wish to thank Gonçalo Canto Moniz who has acted as guest editor. Due to his commitment and research in the field, together with the knowledge conducted by a range of researchers that accept to share their work, analyse and creative interpretation focused on some architectural education key figures [from Kahn to Rogers, Muratori or Quaroni to Leslie Marin, from Hilberseimer to the Russian *avant-garde* or the Brazilian Modernity process to the alive vital experience of Herman Hertzberger] it is possible to extend this debate over the reflection on the link between design and science, art and technique. And finally it is also the challenge to discuss this urgent contemporary issue in order to prepare the coming main **docomomo** discussion forum in the believe that seeking for the planning and architectural responsible mission is a way to approach the "Expansion and Conflict" key concept of the 13<sup>th</sup> International **docomomo** Conference, which will take place in Seoul, Korea, from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

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