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**DR\_SoM - Design Research Series on Method - Session 7**  
October 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2019 Graz University of Technology, Austria

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# DIGITAL PRACTICE

emerging possibilities in a shifting architectural profession

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The seventh session of DR\_SoM (Design Research Series on Method) will take place at Graz University of Technology. This event is also the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Architectural Research in Europe Network Association (ARENA). For the third time DR\_SoM focuses on architectural research in practice, but for the first time with an emphasis on the digital. In particular, we want to hear about projects and practices that see digital technology as a new way to think and conceive of design. For more information on the theme, please read the **Call for Abstracts**, below.

**If you would like to participate in the session, please send a concise description of the work you want to present of no more than 200 words (and any additional graphic material, if required) to [hirschberg@tugraz.at](mailto:hirschberg@tugraz.at) until 24 June 2019 for consideration by the panel.**

Note that full papers are not required as we recognize work in progress. However, participants are invited to write an illustrated paper afterwards, for publication in a booklet dedicated to this DR\_SoM session.

Further information can be found at <http://www.arena-architecture.eu>

For any questions related to content of this seventh DR\_SoM session in Graz please contact Urs Hirschberg at [hirschberg@tugraz.at](mailto:hirschberg@tugraz.at); for any questions related to practicalities and organisation please contact Katharina Jarz at [katharina.jarz@tugraz.at](mailto:katharina.jarz@tugraz.at). For any questions about the project of DR\_SoM in general, contact Johan De Walsche at [johan.dewalsche@uantwerpen.be](mailto:johan.dewalsche@uantwerpen.be)

## Preliminary Program

Thursday October 24th	Friday October 25th	Saturday October 26th	Sunday October 27th
13:00 <b>Welcome &amp; Keynote 1</b> 14:30 – 17:30 <b>Session 1</b> 18:00 <b>Keynote 2</b>  19:30 Dinner	9:00 <b>Keynote 3</b> 10:00 – 13:00 <b>Session 2</b>  Lunch  14:30 – 17:30 <b>Session 3</b> 18:00 <b>Keynote 4</b>  19:30 Dinner	9:00 <b>Keynote 5</b> 10:00 – 13:00 <b>Session 4</b>  Lunch  14:30 – 17:30 ARENA meeting  19:00 <b>15 years IAM</b> TU Graz Institute of Architecture and Media celebrates 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	<b>Excursion to Steinhaus</b> at Ossiachersee (Carinthia) by Günther Domenig

**A R E N A**

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## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The digital is happening in architecture. No longer just in theory. In practice. Right here. Right now. Which is good, because, as we're so often told, the digital is also our future. And this future will be big, as in Big Data. And artificial, as in Artificial Intelligence. And smart, as in Smart Buildings. And Smart Cities. And ubiquitous, as in Ubiquitous Computing. And robotic, as in Robotic Construction. And sustainable, needless to say. And of course it will all be driven by the most ubiquitous of acronyms: BIM, which stands for Building Information Modeling. When experts talk about these trends, they sometimes use a phrase that has itself become a famous acronym: TINA - There Is No Alternative.

Or is there?

Actually these experts have it backwards. The very essence of digitalization is that there **are** alternatives. Lots of them. Digital technology is nothing if not malleable. It can take on the most surprising forms because, in and of itself, it doesn't have one. It's just bits. So it's always its own alternative. It provides a plethora of opportunities.

The drive towards the digital can be a curse for those who are overwhelmed by it, forced to change their ways of working, struggle to catch up with the latest software, pay large sums to train their teams in ways that end up making them less creative. But digital technology also empowers those that dare to build their own tools, to design their own workflows, their own ways of doing things. It rewards those that create their own ways of working, that use the digital to design the way they design.

In **DR\_SoM Digital Practice** we'll explore possibilities that are currently emerging in the realm of digital practice. We'll debate new models of research in architecture and the novel types of practice they enable. We'll discuss practical examples that illustrate the ongoing transition towards alternative design and building processes - as well as alternative business and cooperation models that the digital affords. In such examples research typically plays an important part. Not necessarily high-brow academic research, but down-to-earth applied and practical research into new ways of solving problems, of designing, constructing and marketing.

Start-ups have invented new ways of building and established themselves as designer-builder hybrids, defying traditional categories. Architects have become software developers for the profession (and others). New forms of collaboration are appearing, often across time zones and continents.

We are interested in hearing about new, applied architectural research as well as theoretical research that assesses the reality of digital practice. We invite architects, scholars and other professionals from the building industry to present their explorations into the world of emerging possibilities that is the architectural profession.

(short abstracts of max. 200 Words to [hirschberg@tugraz.at](mailto:hirschberg@tugraz.at) by June 24<sup>th</sup> 2019)