

**1964. FRENCH CRITICISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS:
À propos of a special issue of *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui***

Hélène Jannière

Département de Histoire et Critique des Arts, Université Rennes 2, France

Abstract

At the end of 1964, L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui devoted a special issue to architectural criticism. Was this a symptom of a "crisis of criticism"? This special issue testifies a turning point, between a long period of uncritical diffusion of the grands ensembles and a period, which happened in the late-1960s, of political and social contestation concerning the city and urban policies. The purpose of this presentation is not to trace the editorial policy of L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui. Rather, it considers this special issue as a symptom of both a malaise of the architectural field in regard to criticism and French critics, a symptom, also, of an intermediate moment between the end of modernism, even "unquiet", and its radical challenge.

Hélène Jannière is Professor of History of contemporary architecture at Rennes 2 University. Before, she has taught in French architectural schools, especially at the Ecole nationale supérieure d'architecture de Paris-La Villette.

Her main domain of research is history of architectural criticism and architectural periodicals of the 20th century. After several publications on architectural magazines of the 1920s and 1930s, her current research focuses on architecture and urban criticism in France in the 1950s-1980s. Among her main publications in this research field: *Architectural Periodicals in the 1960s and 1970s* (CCA, IRHA, Montreal, 2008) with France Vanlaethem and Alexis Sornin. In 2009, she co-edited with Kenneth Frampton the special issue of *Les Cahiers de la recherche architecturale et urbaine. La critique en temps et lieux* and in 2013 with the art historian Richard Leeman, Michel Ragon, *Critique d'art et d'architecture*.

She is currently the principal investigator of the international research program and network *Mapping Architectural Criticism* <http://mac.hypotheses.org/> Her next book *Architectures de la critique*, is to be published in June 2019 (Éditions de La Villette, Paris)