

Peter (Pierre) von MEISS

Citizen of Zurich, born Jan. 7, 1938, married

Professor emeritus of Architectural and Urban Design Theory and Practice at EPFL, (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne).

Languages : French, English, German, Italian (spoken and written);
some Modern Greek and Dutch

1985 1st Award of the Canton de Vaud for architectural excellence (house on Lake Geneva).

1999 Dr. honoris causa from the Institute "Ion Mincu", Bucharest

2016 Académie Française d'Architecture : Silver Medal for excellence in teaching architecture.

Core Teaching concerns :

Basic architectural theory and design;
Pedagogical alternatives and adaptations.

Core Research concerns:

Basic and lasting principles in spatial composition;
Tectonics as a key-resource for architectural achievement;
Orientation, Paths, Thresholds and transition spaces;
Designing for the underground :
Site understanding and Landscaping

Short CV:

1962 Diploma (Master) in Architecture at EPUL (Ecole Polytechnique de l'Université de Lausanne which became the EPFL in 1970); six years of practice as project leader in Geneva and Ithaca N.Y. followed by 2 years of teaching as an Assistant Professor for second year design at Cornell University (considerable influence by his mentor Colin Rowe and his acolytes).

1970 until retirement (2003), Professor for architectural design and -theory at EPFL.

1975, foundation and development of the *LEA (Laboratory for Architectural Experimentation, a sort of giant "Lego" for models at scale 1:1 up to two levels)*, a design-aid for composing space and light. It proved to be a pedagogical tool leading to a considerable degree of self-learning. It also allowed practicing user interface during the design-stage which was a further asset. None of today's virtual reality techniques have proven as efficient.

1990, Organization of a Summer School on teaching architectural design at EPFL, addressing young teachers from the newly liberated Eastern Europe (a success-story, one might say).

1994-97 Vice-President and President of the EAAE/AEEA associating 150 European schools of Architecture (the equivalent to ACSA in the US).

Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, at the Institute Ion Mincu Bucharest, the Faculties of Architecture of CTU Prague, Brno, Warsaw, Alghero and UCY, as well as numerous lectures and final jury participation in Switzerland, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Germany, South Africa, Canada and the US.

Among the most important post-retirement commitments, let's mention the foundation of the Department of Architecture at UCY 2002-2006 with a full year of in-situ involvement in 2005-06. At the same time it gave me the exceptional opportunity to rehabilitate the run-down shoe factory on Ermou 302 in Nicosia and turn it into a dignified loft for living and concerts ...

Key-publications (books only):

- “Elements of Architecture – From Form to Place +Tectonics”, 383p., Epfl Press-Routledge , Lausanne, 2012 (1990) translated and published also in French, Italian, German, Chinese, Korean, Romanian and Czech.
- “Learning to design architectural and urban space”, 73p., CVUT/EPFL internal publication, 2016 (out of print)
- “De la cave au toit - témoignage d’un enseignement” (from basement to roof, *in French only*), PPUR, Lausanne, 1991
- “Vingt mille lieux sous la terre” (PvM editor and author of 3 chapters + invited authors), 167 p., PPUR, Lausanne 2003 (an interdisciplinary approach to designing the below the ground).

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