

["The Architecture of European Integration" Lecture by Sebastiano Fabbrini](#)

Announcement published by Jennifer Dyck on Monday, May 10, 2021

Type:

Lecture

Date:

May 19, 2021

Location:

Germany

Subject Fields:

Architecture and Architectural History, Cultural History / Studies, European History / Studies

Although the architectural discourse is often regarded as too Eurocentric and politicized, we have largely ignored the political dynamic that, more than any other, has been transforming the European archipelago over the past seventy years: the process of European integration. At the same time, the discourse on European integration has rarely engaged with architectural dynamics, limiting itself to the use of metaphors, such as the common European house. In the framework of the research project *The Architecture of European Integration*, Sebastiano Fabbrini has been trying to bridge this gap, exploring how architecture responded as well as contributed to the process of *nation-unbuilding* and the construction of a supranational order in Europe after World War II. This lecture will focus on the tensions associated with the need to situate this new form of power in space and house the European institutions at the beginning of this process, tracing two antithetical approaches: on one hand, the unplanned buildings that marked the spontaneous entrenchment of Brussels as the primary seat of European power; on the other hand, the unbuilt plans for a single European capital on the Franco-German border. Exposing the difficult relation between the attempt to order and the ability to build, these case studies go as far as to question the possibility of architecture in the purview of European integration, while providing a unique opportunity to grasp how things are actually shaped within our complex, supranational system.

[Sebastiano Fabbrini](#) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University Iuav of Venice, where he conducts the research project *The Architecture of European Integration*. He holds a Ph.D. in architecture from the University of California Los Angeles, where he also worked as a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design. During this time, he also collaborated with the Getty Research Institute and the Canadian Centre for Architecture. He previously studied at the University of Ferrara, the University of California Berkeley and TU Delft. He is the author of the book *The State of Architecture: Aldo Rossi and the Tools of Internationalization* (2020) and has published in a multitude of journals, including *Thresholds*, *Ardeth* and *Architectural Histories*.

The talk "The Architecture of European Integration" is part of the lecture series [Built Order: Spaces of Power](#) and will be held in English and virtually. The event will be recorded and will be available on our website afterwards.

Contact Info:

Registration by mail to Sebastian Glunz - doctoral assistant at the LOEWE research cluster *Architectures of Order* (AO)

Contact Email:

glunz@em.uni-frankfurt.de

URL:

<http://architecturesoforder.org>