

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

# ARCHITECTURE AS HUMAN INTERFACE

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium of Architectural Research in Finland**  
**The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Architectural Competitions**  
**26-27.10.2012 Otaniemi, Espoo**

This scientific conference in Helsinki is a joint venture between researchers in Finland and Sweden. The conference themes is developed in cooperation between the *4<sup>th</sup> Architectural Research Symposium* in Finland and the *4<sup>th</sup> International conference on architectural competitions*. The symposium and the conference are organized by The Department of Architecture, Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, The Department of Surveying and Planning, Aalto University School of Engineering, The Department of Architecture, Tampere University of Technology, The Department of Architecture, Oulu University Faculty of Technology, The School of Architecture and the Built Environment, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Environmental Engineering, Novia University of Applied Sciences, and The Finnish Association of Architects SAFA

Interface is a word that is traditionally used in the context of information and communication technology; it is the meeting point between the human being and the machine or program, through which we will be able to operate the machine, and also receive the experience it provides. As technology is about to take the next step and turn ubiquitous, the problems and prospects of computer interfaces will become relevant to the whole built environment. However, architecture has always had its human interface: building facades have communicated their function, their social prestige, their history, and their aesthetics. Doors and windows have been used much before Microsoft revolutionized personal computer interfaces with its Mac-inspired Windows<sup>®</sup> user interface. But how much do we actually know about the way that people use the built environment, how they interpret the messages that architects send them, and how far their basic needs and feelings are touched by this human interface? Architects have developed ways of ensuring architectural and urban quality, such as architectural competitions, but should be now turn a critical eye on these institutions and traditions? As the ethos of co-design, collaborative planning, and user oriented living environment dominates our current discussion, what kind of ideas of humanity and human agency are embedded in our thinking?

The organizers invite papers in all fields of architectural research. The symposium will address, the following themes:

**Track 1: Competing in Architecture**

**Track 2: Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture**

**Track 3: Research and Design – Bridging the Gap**

**Track 4: Human Oriented Living Environment**

**Track 5: The Future of the Past**

**Track 6: Sustainability and Creativity**

Abstracts of no more than 3000 characters (without spaces), including the authors' names, their affiliation and contact information should be sent to [leif.ostman@novia.fi](mailto:leif.ostman@novia.fi) for the distribution to the scientific committee *the 29<sup>th</sup> of February*. Authors of accepted papers will be informed the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, and the authors are requested to submit their full paper the 15<sup>th</sup> of August for refereeing. Referees' comments will be given the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, and the final paper should be submitted the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. All submitted final papers will be published on-line, and a selection of the papers will be published as a book in 2013. The language of the symposium is English. Sessions in Finnish can also be organized.

### **Registration and Fee**

Deadline for registration is April 30, 2012. The fee for attending the conference is 100 Euros for students and 200 Euros for others (researches, teachers and practicing architects). Late participants: 250 Euros.

More information: [www.safa.fi](http://www.safa.fi) Looking forward to seeing you all in Otaniemi!