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# historias

interpretaciones de la arquitectura moderna

# cruzadas

ccp 2025

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ESCUELA DE ARQUITECTURA  
UNIVERSIDAD SAN SEBASTIÁN



Fondecyt de Iniciación N°11240778  
Educación de vanguardia y transferencia a los  
modos de producción de la arquitectura y la  
planificación modernas en Chile, Colombia y  
Venezuela.

# Crossed histories

## Interpretations of modern architecture

### VII Seminar Docomomo Chile

Concepción, December 10-12, 2025

This seventh version of the national seminar of Docomomo Chile aims to continue the debate, analysis, and review of modern architecture and urbanism initiated in previous seminars held in Santiago (2005), Antofagasta (2007), Valparaíso (2009), Concepción (2012), Santiago (2014), and Valdivia (2018).

The Organizing Committee of the VII DOCOMOMO Chile Seminar and the Scientific Committee invite practicing professionals, researchers, academics, undergraduate and graduate students, from architecture and urbanism, as well as related disciplines, to present papers on their proposals and projects of adaptive reuse and heritage rehabilitation, as well as research, studies, and critical analysis related to some of the thematic axes mentioned.

The Seminar will be at the Tres Pascualas Campus of the Universidad San Sebastián, Concepción. It is organized by Docomomo Chile and the School of Architecture of the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design of the Universidad San Sebastián.

The seminar will focus primarily on the debate on the interpretations of modern architecture, both in the history of architecture and in the practice of heritage preservation, as deeply articulated areas. On the one hand, we are interested in deepening the local development of modern architecture concerning the interaction and exchange that modern architecture initially proposed. On the other hand, it is interesting to broaden the horizons and expectations of preserving modern heritage in the field of relations with society and culture.

Modern architecture has a strong universal component, and the project is a comprehensive action concerning the environment, climate, society, and culture. Thus, many of its ideas took different forms in very distant places. Recognizing the dynamics of thought and realization of modern architecture can bring us closer to the work of preservation and design of the heritage it constitutes. The prevailing ideas in the materiality of modern architecture were often aimed at meeting the needs of mass societies in search of well-being and broadening the meanings that their spatial and artistic experience proposed. Modern architecture is also the bearer of intangible values, among which appear the quality of life, the awareness of bodies in space, the relationship with the natural environment and climate, and the contribution to confronting human, individual, and community problems.

The title “historias cruzadas” refers to the idea of crossing histories and exchange experiences by considering the complex connections between architecture, society, and culture across time and space. It is one of the appropriate frameworks to investigate intertwined realities that emerged from persistent intellectual, technological, and material exchanges through polycentric networks supported by multiple media and platforms of encounter. At the same time, strategies and actions on modern heritage cross and intertwine past and future histories represented in preservation proposals and intervention projects.

It is interesting to investigate the relationships established by modern architects, to construct a more profound and more complex reading than the one built by a historiography that defines our country and continental territory as a mere recipient of influences, or an uncritical continuator of foreign experiences. Modern architecture in Chile and Latin America it was developed by local requirements and particular ways of facing the demands of societies and cultures. However, it also promoted transfers of ideas and cultural links through dialogues and exchanges, which materialized in various ways. As in the past, today these dialogues and exchanges are essential to expand knowledge about the forms, processes, methods, technologies and techniques that can accompany preservation proposals and intervention projects on modern heritage. It is within this framework that we call for proposals for presentations that may include academic research, case studies, rehabilitation practices, works, and intervention projects, related to the following sub-themes, proposing as many guides as possible, but which do not exhaust the complexity of the knowledge problem proposed for this seminar.

## Themes

### Interactions

Interactions refer to the reciprocal action that can occur between architectural cultures, or between professionals and guilds or academic environments. It is about understanding the correlation exercised in the transfer between them, its dependence, similarity, affinity, correspondence, diversity, or that can even be understood between different times, such as the original work and the future proposal. Some Interactions can reveal transnational relations of architecture and the modern city, beyond national borders, including connections between individuals, groups, companies, and governments. Networks of professional collaboration between countries promoted the use of building systems, the importation of technologies, or the hiring of foreign actors such as engineers, landscape architects, artists, or consultants to carry out enterprises and projects that would otherwise have been unfeasible. For example, official relations between Chile and other countries proposed a transformation of the forms of architectural production, such as those established with the USA during the 1950s or with Eastern Europe in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

### Encounters

Interpersonal encounters promoted by exhibitions, biennials, congresses, or competitions as meeting places that may have borne fruit in stable relationships, companies, or projects. For example, the participation of Chilean architects in the Pan American Architecture Congresses or the participation in the 1972 international competition for the remodeling of the downtown area of Santiago de Chile, a competition organized by the Urban Improvement Corporation of Salvador Allende's government, together with the International Union of Architects, in which design teams from all over the world participated, from the United States to the Soviet Union, from Japan to Australia.

### Learnings

The circulation of students or the stay of academics in local universities, or the academic presence abroad, are experiences that can potentially yield subsequent architectural results in both places of interaction. To suggest a few examples, Chile received several Bolivian, Peruvian, and Colombian architects in its graduate programs, several Chilean architects completed their studies in North American institutions, and even many architects trained in Uruguay worked professionally in other countries such as Ecuador and Venezuela.

### Migrations

Travels, sojourns, exiles, and expatriations have always burdened modern architecture. There are always opportunities to broaden horizons, recognize different experiences, customs, and ways of life, develop new practices and techniques, and explore academic and professional life alternatives different from the original or intended ones. Migratory dynamics imply the recognition of other grounds to found, other climates for internal and external relations, other structures to withstand shocks, other cultures that propose different programs, with interactions that often include the links that migrants maintain with their places of origin and destination. These migrations, like those of Tibor Weiner or Walter Reis, can be external, temporarily exiled in Chile after the Second World War. Still, the architects who trained in Santiago settled in the provinces, like those who did so in Chillán and Concepción after the 1939 earthquake, or those who did so in the Bío Bío region after the one in 1960.

### Media and dissemination

Local and foreign publications can give an account of the collaboration networks between architects and architectural subcultures of cities in different countries, as well as the interests and attention for specific works and projects, or the questioning of established canons. The Chilean magazines showed the early echo of modern architectural ideas to face local problems. In the editorial choice to present foreign cases, one can read the components of the local architectural culture.

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### Safeguard and preservation

Strategies for the safeguarding and contemporary conservation of modern heritage. Interpretations that can highlight the cross-histories between the values carried by the modern heritage and the ways of life that it has brought about. Essays on the needs of valuation of heritage itself, its effects, its historical materials and documentary conditions, studies on processes of official protection as monuments, or protection by care and maintenance. Urban dimensions of protection, programs, proposals for community interaction, and the intersections with public policies. Public strategies of documentation and diffusion, as well as activism in defense, protection, and safeguarding.

### Conservation and Interventions

Works and projects that can be understood or read in a conceptual framework broader than what the case itself demands, proposing crossed histories between the past and the future, which highlight how the ideas, processes, means, formal and spatial choices that gave rise to the works relate to the future aspirations that give meaning to the intervention. Examples of good conservation practices, restoration, and adaptive reuse of modern heritage.

### Schedule

Call for papers:	02 June 2025
Deadline for abstract submission:	01 August 2025
Notification of acceptances:	31 August 2025
Receipt of papers:	03 October 2025
National Seminar:	10 – 12 December 2025.

### More information

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