

## EDITORIAL

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# TIME FOR ACTION?

The time has come to take action. When the first implementation order for the “permis de faire” (licence to act) was published in the French Official Journal, last May, the first experiments from the “innovative architectural and urban project accelerator” of the Pavillon de l’Arsenal, Paris urban planning and architecture centre, began to emerge. The name of this project “facilitator”? FAIRE - a catch-all, covering the notions of make, build, do and act.

Everybody seems to agree: the time for talk is over, it is time to make way for actions. We must now act. Architecture schools are also encapsulated in this contemporary leitmotiv. Back when an architect qualified with a DPLG (State qualification until 2007, awarded on completing French studies in architecture), it took six to seven years to complete one’s studies, with a final year project that dragged on, whereas now the final project only takes six months and the architectes diplômés d’État (State qualified architects) must hasten to study for their “HMONP” (accreditation for architects practising under their own name), if they wish to sign a building permit one day. One of the main goals of the reform is the professionalisation of architectural studies. Nevertheless, students are still concerned that the training they are receiving is too theoretical. In a survey addressed to 5-year students in French architecture schools, carried out by AA with the ENSAI’s (national school of data analysis and statistics) Junior Enterprise, the majority of them, whether they are satisfied or not with their studies, regret having learned lopsided expertise: “I’m delighted with what I’ve learned, but I feel that this isn’t what I need to practice the profession.” Or: “The education is too theoretical and it doesn’t encourage us to take ‘action’ and experiment in a real context with ‘real’ contacts.” They all want a practical education, because once they have passed the PFE (final project), “we don’t know what we want to do next”.

But also: “school teaches us a new way of looking at things” and “school does not make us architects but gives us the tools we need to become one”. Is it not the challenge of any education to elicit a questioning of the world, before taking action?