

# Apollo and Dionysus

EMMANUELLE BORNE

“Architecture is the hallmark of an era and a civilisation” is how André Bloc concluded his first editorial of issue No.1 of *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* in November 1930. Ninety years have passed since then, and having lived through times light and dark, seminal and frivolous, frugal and opulent, it is safe to say that this has always defined AA's approach to architecture. The magazine has always aimed to give readers the keys to understanding the major issues of each era, through the selection, presentation, and analysis of designs on and off the drawing board. AA reflects rather than follows trends, exposing them to criticism and, in its themed issues, fosters wide-ranging and cross-disciplinary discussion. It also draws on both its own heritage and the history of architecture. In the words of François Fontès, main support of the magazine: “To speak of the contemporary world, one must also look to the past. Otherwise we are bound to get it wrong”.

And then, there is beauty. And pleasure. In the same way it welcomes contributions from thinkers and theorists as well as journalists and architects, AA has always made a point of inviting pursuers of pleasure, architects, women and men from the worlds of art —all the arts— as well as science to share their opinions. Because beautiful architecture is probably what matters most in the end, the one that allows for all kinds of oxymorons —architecture that is balanced and oversized, comfortable and impractical, reassuring and flamboyant, monumental and familiar, fair and unfair. In other words, one that embodies the contradictions of life. Beautiful architecture remains the alpha and omega of *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* against the “waves of ugliness” condemned by our founder in 1930.

Thank you to our readers for supporting us since then!