

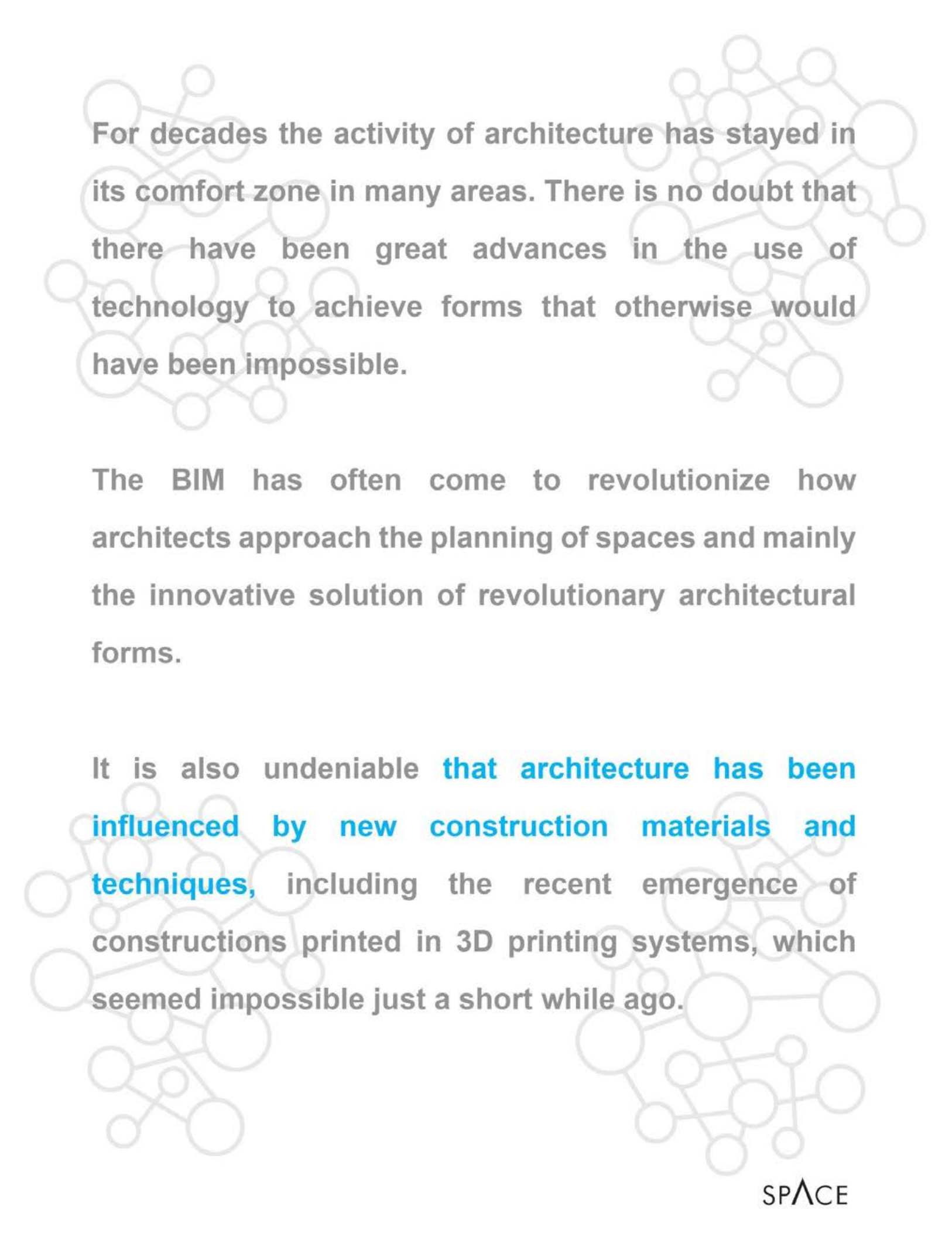


Architecture

an endangered species?

SPACE

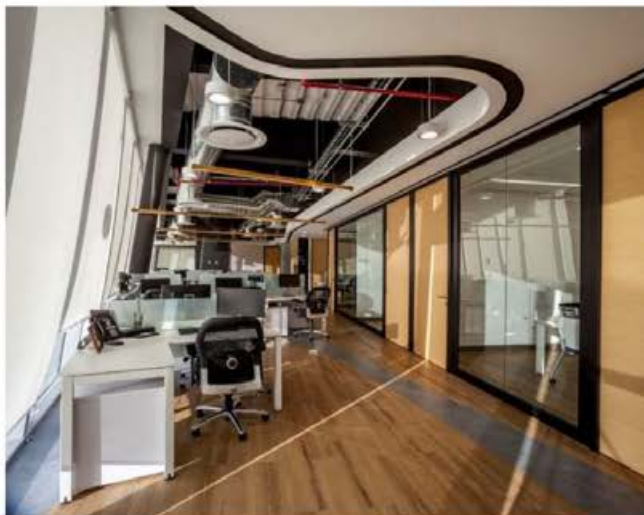
Your environment is a place of happiness



For decades the activity of architecture has stayed in its comfort zone in many areas. There is no doubt that there have been great advances in the use of technology to achieve forms that otherwise would have been impossible.

The BIM has often come to revolutionize how architects approach the planning of spaces and mainly the innovative solution of revolutionary architectural forms.

It is also undeniable **that architecture has been influenced by new construction materials and techniques**, including the recent emergence of constructions printed in 3D printing systems, which seemed impossible just a short while ago.



However, it is also more and more evident that the world has become highly complex, demanding solutions to complex problems and the model of how to teach and how to practice architecture has not always been able to evolve with the speed that the current societal conditions demand.



It is clear that the design process and the manner of educating architecture students has not evolved with the same speed as the rest of the world nor with the complexity and interdisciplinarity required to resolve new challenges never seen before. **Today our challenge is to design work spaces for professionals who will study careers that have not been invented yet, schools in which subjects we haven't imagined yet will be taught, hospitals to cure diseases that have not been discovered,** all of these spaces housing human beings which we seem to have relegated to second place in the design and planning process.

ARCHITECTURE AND NEUROSCIENCE



Perhaps one of the greatest challenges arises from the advances over the last 10-15 years in neuroscience and how architecture can begin to find common ground with neuroscience, trying to better understand the correlation between physical spaces and human behavior.

Surely this concept of neuro-architecture will not be standard for all types of practices, but for certain architectural specialties it will be mandatory in the near future.



Two of the specialties that will generate ever more interdisciplinary solutions will be architecture for work spaces and architecture for education. These two specialties have been studying architecture as a work tool and architecture as a learning tool, but much more must be done to respond scientifically to questions such as: **we know natural light influences work performance, but can it help students learn better?**

Can a soft floor surface contribute to generating a space that calms preschool children?

Does space have a correlation with memory storage processes in humans? And if the answers are affirmative, what does knowing this mean in neuroscientific terms.

One possible future

Re-stating how we understand the consequences of architecture on the human being and re-inventing the practice of architecture will inevitably require interdisciplinary effort and time.

Those of us involved in the design of architecture will have to begin **to work hand in hand with researchers with specialties such as anthropology, neuroscience and environmental psychology**, and this will result in architectural firms composed of many more disciplines, not just architects, designers and engineers.





We will begin to talk about subjects discussed in universities that research the human being; **subjects like happiness and the correlation between design and happiness will begin to be part of the daily practice of a new kind of architectural practice, which will not substitute the traditional architectural firm, but will have a relevant role in society.**

In short, if we are lucky we will reinvent the profession into a vision of design centered on the human in a new contemporary version.