It is a major challenge to write the history of post-WWII architectural theory without boiling it down to a few defining paradigms. An impressive anthologising effort during the 1990s charted architectural theory mostly via the various theoretical frameworks employed, such as critical theory, critical regionalism, deconstructivism, and pragmatism.

Yet the intellectual contours of what constitutes architectural theory have been constantly in flux. It is therefore paramount to ask what kind of knowledge has become important in the recent history of architectural theory and how the resulting figure of knowledge sets the conditions for the actual arguments made.

The contributions in this volume focus on institutional, geographical, rhetorical, and other conditioning factors. They thus screen the unspoken rules of engagement that postwar architectural theory ascribed to.

SEBASTIAAN LOOSEN is a postdoctoral researcher at the KTH Stockholm.

RAJESH HEYNICKX is intellectual historian at the KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture.

HILDE HEYNEN is professor of Architectural Theory at KU Leuven, Department of Architecture.

With contributions by Matthew Allen, Karen Burns, Ole W. Fischer, Philip Goad, Hilde Heynen, Rajesh Heynickx, Paul Holmquist, Sandra Kaji-O’Grady, Peter Lang, André Loeckx, Sebastiaan Loosen, Louis Martin, Joan Ockman, Carmen Popescu, Ricardo Ruivo, and Andrew Toland.