Designing, Describing and Compiling a Corpus of English for Architecture

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Background

Need
A study on English for Architecture

Suitable approach
Tools
GOAL OF THE STUDY
The Description of the Main Lexical Features of an ESP Variety:

English for Architecture
THE STUDY

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Analysis of the Main Devices to Coin New Words in AD
  - The role of each word-formation device
  - The relevance of borrowings
  - The use of semantic neology and metaphor
METHODOLOGY

FOUNDATIONS

Premises
- Corpus-based Approach
- Self-compiled Corpus

Pilot Corpus
- Source: COAG
- 200,000 words

Corpus Design
- Clear-cut Parameters

Tools
- Corpus
- Database
Why a corpus-based approach?

**Literature**
A corpus is the best way to analyse a specialized language

- Automatic Techniques
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis

- Empiricism
- Natural Texts

Reliable research instrument
Which corpus should be used?

Research requirements

technical/professional field

special purpose corpora

Is there an existing corpus that we can use?
The validity of the corpus as a tool for this particular analysis

A preliminary collection of texts

Architecture online publications

Colexio de Arquitectos de Galicia

200,000 words

Printouts Remarkable lexical phenomena

Word-forming Devices

Semantic Devices

Loanwords

Confirmation of the intuitions and expectations

interest characterizing professional language

clear-cut and documented parameters
CORPUS DESIGN
Main Criteria

- REPRESENTATIVENESS & CONTEMPORARINESS
- ACCESSIBILITY
ACCESSIBILITY

MODE
Written, Online Materials

PRESS
Architectural Review, Post-construction Assessment, Jury Citation, Exhibition Report, etc.
COLLECTING THE DATA

Survey

Target
Colegios de Arquitectos

Structure
# SOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIMARY GROUP</th>
<th>359150 words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The AIA Journal</td>
<td>40.609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture in Australia</td>
<td>38.931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architectural Digest</td>
<td>39.313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect Magazine</td>
<td>42.809</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Architectural Record</td>
<td>36.751</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Architectural Review</td>
<td>39.727</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Architect</td>
<td>40.132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolis</td>
<td>40.241</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIBA Journal</td>
<td>40.637</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECONDARY GROUP</th>
<th>146499 words</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archeire</td>
<td>12.243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archinect</td>
<td>13.289</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture Show Magazine</td>
<td>13.232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture Week</td>
<td>12.555</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archnews</td>
<td>12.471</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archpaper</td>
<td>11.582</td>
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<tr>
<td>Death by architecture</td>
<td>11.829</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwell</td>
<td>9.984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabion- Hugh Pearman</td>
<td>10.721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Icon Magazine</td>
<td>12.849</td>
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<tr>
<td>New London Architecture</td>
<td>12.652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building design</td>
<td>13.092</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Number of Words | 505.649 |
PROPORTION OF SOURCES

Proportion of sources

- Primary Sources: 71%
- Secondary Sources: 29%
COMPOSITION BY SOURCES

Corpus composition by sources

- AIA Journal
- Architecture in Australia
- Architectural Digest
- Architecture Magazine
- Architectural Record
- Architectural Review
- Canadian Architect
- Metropolis
- RIBA Journal
- Archeire: Irish Architecture Online
- Archinect
- Architecture Show Magazine
- Architecture Week
- Archnews
- Archpaper
- Death by architecture
- Dwell
- Gabion- Hugh Pearman
- Icon Magazine
- New London Architecture
- Building Design
ORIGIN OF JOURNALS

Canadian
- 8%

Irish
- 2%

Australian
- 10%

British
- 26%

North American
- 54%
Title: **THE AIA JOURNAL OF ARCHITECTURE**

Ref: Colegio de Arquitectos del Ebro

Website: [http://www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org)

Section: Press> Online Publications> AIA/ The AIA Journal of Architecture> online issues

**About the AIA:**

**The American Institute of Architects**

“Since 1857, the AIA has represented the professional interests of its architects. As AIA members, over 80,000 licensed architects, emerging professionals, and allied partners express their commitment to excellence in design and livability in our nation’s buildings and communities. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect’s dedication to the highest standards in professional practice”.

**Associated Organizations**

The American Architectural Foundation (AAF)
American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)
Association of Collegiate Schools for Architecture (ACSA)
National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB)
National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)

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Michael Lischer, AIA

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The American Institute of Architects

E-mail: infocentral@aia.org
An example of the sources

Welby Altitoor and Julie Dixon keynote AIA Convention 2015

Monday 02 March
Buildings • Intelligence • Culture • Products

SILICON GREENHOUSE
27/29/2015 Renderings and video of Bjarke Ingels' and Heatherwick's Google headquarters unveiled.

OPEN-HUCKLEBERRY BICYCLES
27/29/2015 David Baker Architects turns salvaged materials into a bike shop in San Francisco.
DATABASE

- 2.865 entries
- Filter the Raw Material
  - Categorization Engine
  - Boundaries (Selection, Structure)
  - Computerized Searches
DATABASE STRUCTURE
RESULTS
Most Recent Terms

- Compounding: 38%
- Loanwords: 13%
- Suffixation: 12%
- Semantic Neology: 10%
- Prefixation: 8%
- Clipping: 4%
- Ex-nihilo: 4%
- Blend: 4%
- Acronyms: 4%
- Conversion: 1%
- Analogy: 2%

One example
CONTRIBUTION

English for Specific Purposes Perspective
A New Characterization of a Professional Language

Methodological Perspective
A Self-compiled Corpus of 500,000 for Further Researches

Lexicographic Perspective
A Trilingual Technical Glossary of 1,300 Words

Didactic Perspective
A Basis for the Creation of Teaching Materials in Technical Schools of Architecture
Road ends
Thanks!