

Caroline BAUER, « L'agence André au temps de Jacques et Michel (Nancy, 1929-1973). Architecture, réseaux et filiations », Thèse de doctorat en histoire de l'art sous la direction de Claude Massu, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 2015, 682 p., 339 pl.

This study focuses on the André agency between 1929 and 1973, period of activity of the brothers Jacques and Michel André, architect and engineer. We question their production in its spatial and historical context, in the light of the notions of filiation and networks. Coming from a large dynasty of architects in Lorraine, they benefit from both material and intellectual legacy. This rooting, supported by the teeming École de Nancy in the early century, promotes close networks as well as international cultural exchanges. The André brothers extend this critical dynamic by getting involved in the Comité Nancy-Paris, the *Union des artistes modernes* (UAM) and *L'Architecture d'aujourd'hui* magazine. During the Interwar period, they were the first architects to work sustainably with Jean Prouvé, before associating Claude, the son of the later, to the agency in the 1960s. Close to local building contractors, the two brothers question the constructive value of architecture: they focus on reaching on technical perfection and experimentation on materials. This research goes through their production, since their first major achievement, the Institute of Zoology, inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's processes, to the museum of iron history, symbol of the region's industrial glory. While the 1930s are a period of creativity, the agency develops postwar the tools needed to face intense order, in particular postal, and shifts toward a quest for productivity. The André agency thus constitutes a privileged witness to the upheavals of architectural production during the 20th century.