Abstract
This paper contains an analysis of several articles published in the newspaper La Libertad in Mendoza (Argentina) during a time period of neoconservative governments. Through discourse analysis of several articles written by the leading architects during that period, this paper argues against the concept of modernism as a aesthetic category, and proposes an alternative view of modernism as discourse that can be expressed through disparate architectural styles. Thereby, this paper proposes a new interpretation of the historical meaning of modern architecture through a close look at the debates conducted by architects of that time. We try to redefine the concept of "modern architecture" by favouring the analysis of historically-situated issues, over the traditional views based on taste and visual analysis. This analysis shows an unstable dialogue among the different actors that fluctuates between rationalistic positions and a strong nationalistic sense. At times the public pronouncements of leading architects in the press are not coherent with the styles they adopted in their works. We propose that their works are the result of an ongoing process that expresses different alternatives to the question of modern architecture.

Keywords
Modernism, nationalism, rationalism, Civit, Ramos Correas.