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**SPACE
MATTERS**

◆ SYMPOSIUM ◆

Kunstuniversität Linz
The University of Art
and Design Linz

10./11. May 2012

SPACE MATTERS – SYMPOSIUM –

EXPLORING SPATIAL THEORY AND PRACTICE TODAY

Concept

Space represents a prominent aspect of humanity's existential nature – as the primordial basis of architecture and a basic prerequisite for our exploration of our world. Our entire lives are literally embedded in space. We are constantly surrounded, affected and shaped by it – whether consciously perceived or unconsciously experienced. Our spaces both reflect the values and power relationships in our societies and have the potential to alter them; spatial planning can be a powerful political actor.

With this potential in mind, the two-day interdisciplinary symposium *Space Matters: Exploring Spatial Theory and Practice Today* curated by Lukas Feireiss at the University of Arts Linz, Austria explores contemporary languages of space in theory and practice, re-evaluating spatial production modes beyond disciplinary boundaries and protocol. It takes a critical cross-examination approach to the study and analysis of key subjects concerning today's global realities, and challenges their implications for space and the built environment.

The symposium thereby attempts to acknowledge the possibility to comprehend and create spaces of knowledge that present us with a pre-requisite for identifying the broader reaches of social and political reality. By presenting a variety of approaches to space from vantage points across disciplines, the symposium both seeks out the common areas between differing practices and highlights the multitude of ways to approach seemingly-familiar problems in radically new ways.

The symposium offers a critical yet playful dialogue between experimental positions from a wide range of disciplinary and cultural contexts, which highlight an inspiring extension of the standard definitions of space and spatial practice. The numerous internationally-renowned participating speakers from different generations are, despite their different approaches, all characterized by an inborn desire to experiment, to dispute the norm and to break original and untouched ground.

Location

The *Space Matters* symposium will be organized by and held at space&designstrategies at the University of Arts Linz, Austria. The key elements of the international bachelor and master program directed by Professor Elsa Prochazka are cross-disciplinary projects that investigate the interface of art, architecture, design and digital media.

Programm

The symposium is divided in four interconnecting thematic clusters that invite for reciprocal exchange as they remain essentially open to actively foster the dialogue of ideas. The symposium is moderated by Lukas Feireiss.

Thursday, 10. May 2012:

Education: Pedagogics of Space

Pedagogics of Space focuses on contemporary examples of pedagogical and educational strategies in the critical and creative discussion and design of spaces and built environments today.

10:00-11:00

- Prof. Elsa Prochazka
space&designstrategies, University of Art and Design Linz, Austria
- Prof. Hubert Klumpner & Prof. Alfredo Brillembourg
ETH Zurich D-ARCH, Zurich, Switzerland

11:30-12:30

- Prof. Martha Thorne,
IE School of Architecture, Madrid, Spain
- Prof. Annett Zinsmeister
State Academy of Art and Design Stuttgart, Germany

13:00-13:30

Roundtalk I

Theory: Semantics of Space

The symposium section *Semantics of Space* focuses on theoretical approaches that react to both historical and contemporary contexts, ultimately turning a critical and speculative gaze on complex scenarios that may have remained unquestioned or seem straightforward at a glance.

14:30-15:30

- Prof. Dr. Thomas Macho
Institute for Cultural History and Theory, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
- Prof. Jane Rendel, Bartlett, London, United Kingdom
Architectural Research, Bartlett University College London, United Kingdom

16:00-17:00

- Prof. Felicity D. Scott
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University,
New York, USA
- Prof. Markus Miessen

Critical Spatial Practice, Städelschule, Frankfurt, Germany

17:30-18:00

Roundtalk II

Friday, 11. May 2012:

Practice: Performance of Space

With an overall attentiveness towards the complex relationships of context and site, *Performance of Space* brings together examples that illustrate the performative and transformational power of spatial interventions in the urban realm.

10:00-11:00

- Prof. Marjetica Potrc

Design for the Living World, HFBK Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg, Germany

- Michael Obrist

feld72, Wien, Österreich

11:30-12:30

- Tomas Saraceno

Studio Saraceno, Frankfurt, Germany

- Iris Touliatou

Paris, France

13:00-13:30

Roundtalk III

Curatorial: Mediation of Space

Curators and cultural mediators dealing with spatial representation and ways of exhibiting spatial practice form *Mediation of Space's* focus, incorporating complex issues of evaluation and examination of modes of production.

14:30-15:30

- Francesca Ferguson

Urbandrift, Berlin, Germany

- Rani al Rajji

Studio Beirut, Beirut, Libanon

16:00-17:00

- Lilli Hollein

Neigungsgruppe Design, Vienna, Austria

- Carson Chan

Program / initiative for art+architecture collaborations, Berlin, Germany

17:30-18:00

Roundtalk IV

Participants in alphabetic order

Alfredo Brillembourg

Alfredo Brillembourg was born in New York, where he received his Bachelor of Art and Architecture and his Master of Science in Architectural Design in 1986 from Columbia University. In 1992, he received a second architecture degree from the Central University of Venezuela and began his independent practice in architecture. In 1993 he founded Urban-Think Tank (U-TT) in Caracas, Venezuela. Since May 2010, Brillembourg has held the chair for Architecture and Urban Design at the Swiss Institute of Technology (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH) Zürich in Switzerland.

www.u-tt.com

Carson Chan

Architecture writer and curator Carson Chan is the founding member and head curator of Program, a nonprofit exhibition space for art and architecture in Berlin. Chan received a Bachelor of Architecture from Cornell University, and a Masters in Design Studies in the History and Theory of Architecture from Harvard University. He regularly writes for various art and cultural magazines such as *o32c* where he is also a contributing editor, and advises cultural institutions in Denmark and Italy. Along with Nadim Samman, Carson Chan was appointed curator for the 4th edition of the Marrakech Biennale in 2012.

www.carsonchan.net

Lukas Feireiss

Lukas Feireiss runs the interdisciplinary creative practice Studio Lukas Feireiss, focused on the discussion and mediation of architecture, art and visual culture in the urban realm. In his artistic, curatorial, editorial and consultive work he aims at the critical cut-up and playful re-evaluation of creative and spatial production modes and their diverse socio-cultural and medial conditions. Lukas Feireiss teaches at various universities worldwide and is currently visiting professor for space&designstrategies at the University of Art and Design Linz, Austria.

www.studiolukasfeireiss.com

Francesca Ferguson

Francesca Ferguson is a curator of architecture and urbanism. Ferguson is the initiator of urban drift, an international network for the development of trans-cultural urban strategies. Concentrating on urban voids, gaps and residual, or peripheral zones and public spaces, members of urban drift act as tacticians for contemporary urban praxis, developing a discourse within Berlin as one of the primary cities of flux. Ferguson's aim is to communicate architecture and urban design to a wider audience, to extend the boundaries of architectural discourse, and to maximise the potential of interdisciplinary practice.

www.urbandrift.org

Lilli Hollein

Lilli Hollein works as a freelance journalist, architecture and design critic. She has been published widely in daily newspapers and magazines at home and abroad and acted as a curator of the Austrian contribution for Sao Paulo Architecture Biennial 2007. Together with T. Beyerle and T. Geisler as "Neigungsgruppe Design" she is curating a series of international design conferences at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Lilli is also

accountable for the "Vienna Design Weeks" that took place for the first time October 2007 and were also organized by "Neigungsgruppe Design".
www.neigungsgruppe-design.org

Hubert Klumpner

Hubert Klumpner was born in Salzburg, Austria. He graduated from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and later received a Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University. In 1998 Klumpner joined Alfredo Brillembourg as Director of Urban-Think Tank (U-TT) in Caracas. Since May 2010, Klumpner has held the chair for Architecture and Urban Design at the Swiss Institute of Technology (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, ETH) in Zürich, Switzerland.
www.u-tt.com

Thomas Macho

Thomas Macho is a cultural scientist and philosopher from Vienna. He has regularly written essays and reviews regularly for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* and other print media, and he works at the Austrian Cultural Forum in Berlin. He was a founding member of the Hermann von Helmholtz Center for Environmental Engineering. Since 1993 he has been Professor of Cultural History at Humboldt University in Berlin, and he more recently became a professor at the University of Arts Linz, Austria.
www.culture.hu-berlin.de/tm

Markus Miessen

Markus Miessen is an architect, consultant, and writer. The initiator of the Participation Quadrilogy, he has published around the question of critical spatial practice, institution building, and spatial politics. In 2008, he founded the Winter School Middle East. Academic positions include AA (2004–08), Berlage Institute (2009–10) and HfG Karlsruhe (2010–11). Miessen is now a professor for Critical Spatial Practice at the Städelschule, Frankfurt, and guest professor at HEAD Geneva as well as USC Los Angeles.
www.studiomiessen.com

Michael Obrist

Michael Obrist is part of feld72, a collective laboratory for architecture engaged in research and finding new strategies for cliché-dominated or underestimated urban conditions. feld72 continuously focuses on the borderline where one system converts into another. Possible answers vary from object related planning to urban investigation and interventions.
www.feld72.at

Marjetica Potrc

Marjetica Potrč is an artist and architect based in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Berlin, Germany. Her interdisciplinary practice includes on-site projects, research, architectural case studies, and drawings. Her work documents and interprets contemporary architectural practices with particular regard to energy infrastructure and water use and the ways people live together. Potrč's work has been exhibited extensively throughout Europe and the Americas, including the São Paulo Biennial and the Venice Biennial. Potrč is Professor in Design for the Living World at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Hamburg.
www.potrc.org

Elsa Prochazka

Else Prochazka is an Austrian architect and the current director of space&designstrategies at University of Art and Industrial Design in Linz, Austria. After completing her architectural studies at the Technical University of Vienna and the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, Prochazka founded her own architectural firm, which focuses on residential and urban development, public buildings, office and industrial buildings, corporate architecture, and museums and exhibition design.

www.prochazka.at

Rani al Rajji

Beirut-born architect and urban storyteller Rani al Rajji is one of the founders of Studio Beirut. As a place for artists, activists and architects, Studio Beirut seeks to re-script public spheres in Beirut so that they become accessible for people from all walks of life to meet and interact. Started in 2007 following the July war, they've now hosted numerous events, and workshops. He is co-editors of the book *Beyroutes. A Guide to Beirut*, a field manual for 21st century urban explorer.

studiobeirut.com

Jane Rendell

Professor Jane Rendell is Director of Architectural Research at the Bartlett, UCL. An architectural designer and historian, art critic and writer, she is author of numerous books. Amongst her most recent publications are *Site-Writing* (2010), *Art and Architecture* (2006), *The Pursuit of Pleasure* (2002). Her work over the past ten years has explored various interdisciplinary intersections: feminist theory and architectural history, fine art and architectural design, autobiographical writing and criticism.

www.janerendell.co.uk

Tomas Saraceno

Argentinian artist Tomás Saraceno pushes the conventions of art and architecture and their capacities to invoke inventive solutions to complex questions about how we inhabit and coexist in the world. Saraceno is internationally recognized for his architectural proposals that frame the interdependencies of systems to ponder ecological questions beyond the natural world. Much of his work has involved conceiving environments that anticipate new socio-cultural platforms for interacting and experiencing our surroundings.

www.tomassaraceno.com

Felicity D. Scott

Felicity D. Scott is assistant professor of architecture and director of the program in Critical, Curatorial, and Conceptual Practices in Architecture at Columbia University. Her work as an architectural historian and theorist focuses on articulating genealogies of political and theoretical engagement with questions of technological transformation. She is a founding co-editor of *Grey Room*, a quarterly journal of art, architecture, art, media, and politics published quarterly by MIT Press.

Martha Thorne

Martha Thorne has been Executive Director of the Pritzker Architecture Prize since 2005. Currently she is Associate Dean for External Relations at IE School of Architecture in Madrid, Spain. She served as Associate Curator of the Department of Architecture at The Art Institute of Chicago from 1996 to 2005. She is also the editor of several books.

Iris Touliatou

The work of Paris-based artist Iris Touliatou refers both to a physical, urban landscape and to a visionary or fictional one. It borrows elements from Modernist design history, from archetypes of certain periods that evoke an idea of architectural and democratic utopia, examines failing social structures and contemporary urban pathologies. It questions notions of urban planning by focusing on places that eschew predetermined definitions of what a city or architecture is.

iristouliatou.com

Annett Zinsmeister

Berlin-based artist, architect and writer Annett Zinsmeister is professor for experimental design at the State Academy of Art and Design Stuttgart. Her spatial and architectural work combines diverse disciplines such as architecture, art, science and design, and is distinguished by the creative interaction with different media. She is the author of numerous interdisciplinary books that merge both, artistic practice and theoretical discourse.

www.annett-zinsmeister.de