

FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE COMMON PRESENTATIONS AND ROUND TABLE

Thursday March 21, 6-8 pm

The Romanian Cultural Institute in Stockholm

MODERATORS:

Doina Petrescu (atelier d'architecture autogérée)

Constantin Petcou (atelier d'architecture autogérée)

Alex Axinte (studioBASAR)

SPEAKERS:

Ramia Mazé: *Design roles in formulating - or politicizing
- the commons*

Abstract: *While the phrase 'Our Common Future' of the Brundtland Report seems to frame a common ground, sustainability is a profoundly political issue. Who is (or is not) included in 'our'? What is the design role in formulating or politicizing such a common ground?*

Short bio: Ramia Mazé specializes in participatory and critical methods for designing systems and products that alter social practices and public life. In leadership and management positions at the Interactive Institute in Sweden since 2001, she has been involved in interdisciplinary and international research projects in the areas of sustainable design, smart materials, interactive architecture and tactical media including a current collaboration at the IIT Institute of Design in Chicago. She lectures at postgraduate art, design and technology programs and is on the Experience Design faculty at Konstfack in Stockholm. Previously, she worked in corporate research and design consultancies in the US and UK, and studied interaction design, computer-related design and architecture, in which she has received a PhD, MA(RCA), and BA, respectively.

Rochus Urban Hinkel: *(agonistic) micro-acts of resistance: explorations in the pedagogical context of the design studio.*

Abstract: *Urban spaces of our everyday are increasingly controlled by forces of commercialisation and power. In an agonistic, conflictual and dissensual public space acts of resistance start foremost with the individual subject acting in a complex, manifold, heterogeneous network of relationships. I will briefly discuss projects developed in the pedagogical context of design studio teaching.*

Short bio: Rochus Urban Hinkel is an architect, academic, curator and publisher. He has won architecture and design awards in Germany, Belgium and Switzerland, and reviews about his practice have been published and included in exhibitions in Europe, Asia and Australia. Rochus curated several exhibitions and urban events, including the architectural week A2 in Bavaria. He convened colloquia on 'Homefullness' in Stockholm (2012), 'Relational Participation' in Berlin (June 2011) and on 'Urban Interior' in Melbourne (2009, 2010) and Berlin (2009). He taught at RMIT School of Architecture and Design (2004-2012), the Academy of Fine Arts, Stuttgart (1996-2001), the University of Stuttgart (2003) and the Architecture Design Innovation Program (ADIP) at the TU Berlin (2009). He has lectured and held workshops in Europe, Northern America, Australia, New Zealand, and South East Asia. His creative research explores the relationship of individual subjects to their complex, manifold and heterogeneous urban environments. His research is organised around the concepts of atmospheres, actions and activism. Rochus is completing his PhD by creative works at the University of Melbourne in 2013, he is editor of AADR—Art Architecture Design Research, which publishes creative research.

Cristi Borcan: *Bucuresti: City In Between*

Abstract: *Bucuresti is a city where the inherited state of uncertainty triggers constant adaptations, everyday solutions, temporariness and self-formulated rules, generating the in between condition of the city. studioBASAR's work develops in two directions: searching to formulate the urban paradigm of the in between city and seeking to rescue the potential which arose from this condition.*

Short bio: In 2006, Cristi Borcan and Alex Axinte established **studioBASAR** in Bucharest, both as an architectural studio and a *Search-and-Rescue* team that acts as an agent of urban observation and intervention. In the past years, studioBASAR developed several chapters of the *Search-and-Rescue: City* project, as a strategic search that investigates the dynamics of the contemporary Bucharest. These chapters' aim is to adapt to the local urban conditions by developing negotiation tools and in the

same time by drawing attention on marginal and trivial topics such as banality, improvisation, temporality or illegality as active ingredients of the local urban culture. The projects of studioBASAR range from art installations and urban research to competitions and different typologies of residential and public buildings. In 2009 studioBASAR realized the exhibition design for *The Seductiveness of the Interval* project as the Romanian Pavilion at the Art Biennale in Venice and in 2010 published the book *Evicting the Ghost. Architectures of Survival*.
www.studiobasar.ro

Tor Lindstrad: Tools vs. Platforms

Abstract: *The sadness of superheroes, space in the age of attention, absorption, platforms versus tools and the extra ordinary power of the four year old: Some short observations and speculations on the current state of Swedish architecture.*

Short bio: Tor Lindstrand (Stockholm) is an Assistant Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH-A) and a co-owner of the office of Larsson, Lindstrand and Palme. Together with choreographer Marten Spangberg he initiated International Festival, a practice working on context specific projects spanning from buildings, publications, films, installations, public interventions and situations. In 2010 he founded Economy together with Jessica Watson-Galbraith, a Swedish-Australian project working with architecture, art and performance. He is currently involved in a collaborative research project on Power, Space and Ideology at KTH-A and Södertörn University.

Annika Enqvist: Forest Food For Thought - Forest gardening as a way of communing

Abstract: *Annika Enqvist will show examples of how The New Beauty Council has been working practically on the topic of commoning; reprogramming sites in an urban context.*

Short bio: Annika Enqvist är del av The New Beauty Council (NBC) med vilka hon medverkat i bl. a. Modernautställningen 2010, Moderna museet, Göteborgsbiennalen 2011, (I)ndependent People, Reykjavik Arts Museum, 2012, UniGrowCity 2011-13, samt varit Architecture & Genders kurskoordinator vid KTH Arkitekturskolan. Tillsammans med Elin Strand Ruin är hon medskapare till Knitting House. Annika är MA i kritiskt skrivande & curatorpraktik, Konstfack och har studerat konstvetenskap, arkitektur- och planeringshistoria samt filosofisk estetik vid Stockholms Universitet. Sedan 2010 arbetar Annika för Iaspis, Konstnärsnämnden, där

hon utvecklar nya stödstrukturer för formområdet och där hon bl. a. initierat DAAR Stockholm Architectural Rehab Camp, Barnens Ö, 2011, When the conscious listens to the unconscious med Jelena Rundqvist, 2012-13, Call At Our Port med Apokalyps Labotek, 2012-13, samt var medredaktör för Work, Work, Work: A Reader on Art and Labour, 2012. År 2000-2007 var Annika curator för Svensk Form.

Helen Runting: *Making space: urban planning and the politics of re-regulation*

Abstract: *The planning process is a space of (borrowed) power that affects the form and speed of change in both the material conditions (and, to a lesser extent, the use) of the built environment. It is both a robust and a decidedly fragile space that is, in my view, always at risk of disassembly. As a critical complement to the contemporary focus on bottom-up initiatives in planning, I wish to explore the grounds for a project of imaginative re-regulation in relation to the (top-down) institutional capacities of the planning system, and its monopoly on the approval of new development.*

Short bio: Helen Runting is an urban planner and urban designer, and doctoral student within Critical Studies of Architecture at the School of Architecture in Stockholm. Her doctoral research focuses on the ways in which critique is variously performed, ignored, idealized, or outsourced by urban planners in situations where the future city is to be regulated into being.

Constantin Petcou: *R-Urban Commons*

Abstract: *R-Urban is a bottom-up strategy that explores the possibilities of enhancing the capacity of urban resilience by introducing a network of resident-run facilities to create complementarities between key fields of activity (economy, habitat, urban agriculture, culture). R-Urban initiates locally closed ecological cycles that will support the emergence of alternative models of living, producing and consuming between the urban and the rural. The strategy is centred on the active involvement of citizens in developing collaborative practices and creating solidarity networks from local to regional scale. This is an attempt of regenerating the city and commoning it at the same time. (<http://r-urban.net/>; <http://rurbancommons.wikispot.org>)*

Short bio: Constantin Petcou founded in 2001, together with Doina Petrescu, the collective platform atelier d'architecture autogérée (aaa). The platform is based in Paris and it conducts actions and research on urban mutations and emerging practices in the contemporary city, involving architects, artists, students, researchers, activists and residents with different social and cultural backgrounds. aaa's projects

focus on issues of self-organisation and self-management of collective spaces; emerging networks and catalyst processes; resistance to profit driven developments; recycling and ecologically friendly constructions; and collective production of knowledge.

Recent projects include ECObox and Passage 56 as well as the trans-local networks PEPRAV (European Platform for Alternative Practice and Research on the City) and Rhizom (a network of trans-local cultural practices). Currently aaa develops R-Urban, a participative strategy of urban resilience in the metropolitan Paris, through a pilot project supported by the EC innovation programme Life+.

Edited publications by aaa include Urban Act, a handbook for alternative practice (2007) and Trans-Local-Act: cultural practices within and across (2010). aaa has been laureate of the Zumbel prize for Sustainability and Humanity 2012, Curry Stone Design Prize 2011, the European Prize for Urban Public Space 2010 and the Prix Grand Public des Architectures Contemporaines en Métropole Parisienne 2010.

<http://www.urbantactics.org/>

Hélène Frichot: *What we share in common: Sketching an Ecology of Practices for Architecture*

Abstract: *I propose to briefly sketch an approach to the promise of the commons by way of the philosopher of science, Isabelle Stengers's ecology of practices, and the way such an ecology allows us to imagine a sustainable cosmopolitics.*

An ecology of practices, which pertains as much to the sciences as it does to architecture, includes: a respect for the differences between practices and that no practice should be defined as just like any other; seeing practice as a non-neutral tool for thinking through what is happening; a tool which can be passed from hand to hand transforming both the situation and the one who handles the tool; framing what is happening in a minor key and in direct response to our local habitat or from the midst of those issues which confront us; and finally, never believing we have arrived at an answer once and for all, but maintaining nevertheless an affirmative and not a negative, nor even a deconstructive demeanour. Although Stengers's work is addressed to the sciences, and discussed in the greatest detail across the seven parts of Cosmopolitics, where she builds on seven problematic landscapes, the question of practice and its relation to thinking is one that is shared by architecture. The aim, which I suggest can be relocated to a discipline such as architecture, is toward a plural work that discovers resilience through local forms of exchange and which must resist the hegemonic moments of capitalist destruction. Stengers insists that our shared work also constitutes a form of ethical experimentation, and in this she is informed by Deleuze's reading of Spinoza, where ethical experimentation is also a question of following the materials. Here materials

can be reconceptualised, as vibrant and productive of atmospheres of affect, which produce both liberatory as well as repressive effects on their constituents.

Short bio: Dr Hélène Frichot is an assistant professor in Critical Studies in Architecture, School of Architecture and the Built Environment, KTH, Stockholm. She has co-curated the Architecture+Philosophy public lecture series in Melbourne, Australia (<http://architecture.testpattern.com.au>) since 2005. Between 2004-2011 she held an academic position in the School of Architecture and Design, RMIT University. Her research examines the transdisciplinary field between architecture and philosophy (while her first discipline is architecture, she holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Sydney, 2004).

Catharina Gabrielsson: *Difference, not Identity: Reasons to stay Public*

Abstract: *The conceptual framework that necessitates a “pass from the Public to the Common” is questionable. The Public and the Common emerge from different socio-historical contexts and carry different values. Although there are numerous distinctions and cross-overs between them (not least as represented by Swedish customs and laws), and despite its inherently problematic character, the Public carries crucial values and principles that remain unarticulated, or are absent from, notions of the Common.*

Short bio: Catharina Gabrielsson is Assistant professor in urban Theory at the School of Architecture KTH where she teaches urban economics, urban and architecture theory and research methodologies. Her doctoral thesis *Att göra skillnad* (published 2006 as *To Make a Difference: Public Space as a Medium for Art, Architecture and Concepts of the Political*) explores the material, spatial and imaginary dimension of public space through a series of cross-readings between political philosophy, art and architecture. She currently collaborates (with Helena Mattsson) on “The Architecture of Deregulations: Politics and Postmodernism in Swedish Building 1975 – 1995”, a research project that traces the relationship between architecture and ideology in the Welfare dismantling processes following the neoliberal shift.