

OTHER MARKETS

SYMPOSIUM 31.10.2009

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Symposium | Saturday, 31 October 2009 | 2.00 - 8.00 pm

Spurred by economic deregulations and the intertwined mobilisation of people and goods, informal systems have taken on a global dimension in structuring how we connect to each other, how we inhabit our environments, and how we engage in political and social operations. Rampant informal markets along the European peripheries, for instance, have mushroomed into novel and extreme material configurations. Are these architectures of informal exchange the low-cost equivalent of global capital markets or does their creativity point towards more sustainable ecologies?

The symposium, initiated by the FWF (Austrian Science Fund) research project 'Relational Architecture', aims to critically examine the role of architecture in this transformation of our political and economic environment, ranging from the local sphere of neighbourhoods to the civic potential of transnational regions.

Programme

2.00 pm welcome

opening statement: **Peter Mörtenböck**, TU Vienna

2.30 pm

Relational Architecture

Helge Mooshammer

TU Vienna

The current financial crisis has brought us to look differently at institutionalised spaces and signature architectures within our cities. There is growing recognition of a new sphere of unplanned spatial activities shaped along the trajectories of informal economies. How can we articulate the parameters of such a 'relational architecture' that produces new notions of access and agency within the architectural discourse?

3.30 pm

Catalysts of change in cities of transition

Marjetica Potrč

artist and architect, Ljubljana

This talk addresses catalysts of change in cities of transition, such as Tirana, Bogota and Amsterdam. Potrč's recent on-site project 'The Cook, the Farmer, His Wife and Their Neighbour' in Amsterdam introduces community garden and community kitchen as catalysts of change for the community. The project is a case study for redesigning the modernist neighbourhood from below and redefining rural and urban coexistence.

4.30 pm

5.00 pm

Radicalizing the Local: Post-Bubble Urban Strategies

Teddy Cruz

Estudio Teddy Cruz, UC San Diego

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The micro urbanisms that are emerging within small communities across the city in the form of non-conforming spatial and entrepreneurial practices suggest that new economies and social institutions will emerge from within neighbourhoods. Besides buildings, can architects also design new political and economic processes, in the context of these conditions? And can new spatial systems, public infrastructures and modes of co-habitation emerge from the need to re-think the institutions of urban development?

6.00 pm

Regional Imaginings – A Political Practice?

Irit Rogoff

Goldsmiths, University of London

How can we traverse the binary demands of nation state vs. 'Empire' as our location? The daily practice of bringing into being a variety of 'regions' – inherited, imagined, aspired to, commercially instrumentalised or hoped for – might just be a form of such political practice. It could conceivably challenge the question of a location for such a practice or of the different modes of relations by which we understand the connective tissues around the globe.

7.00 pm

panel discussion

