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Architecture and Design Cultures
PhD Programme
in collaboration with
the Visual, Performing and Media Arts
PhD Programme,
University of Bologna.

CURATING THE CITY SYMPOSIUM

a network of art, architecture and nature curatorial events in european cities

Organized by **Annalisa Trentin, Anna Rosellini and Amir Djalali**

12 December 2019 | 11:00 - 18:00

Alma Mater Studiorum , University of Bologna
DAMSLab Theater, Piazzetta P.P. Pasolini, 5/b
Bologna

Since the end of the 1970s, exhibitions, museums and artistic events have gained a central role in shaping the transformation of the city. Art, culture and knowledge have become the instruments through which cities have faced the crisis of industrial economy and the rise of new paradigms and values of urban development, often hand-in-hand with processes of financial speculation and the intensification of social inequalities. Today, artistic practices, with their immediacy of means, their capacity to mobilize images and affects and their organisational structure, seem to have transformed the way in which cities are planned and built. What is the relation between art, artists and the city? How are artistic events transforming cities? Are curators the new architects and urban planners? Beyond the unmet promises of the “creative city,” can curatorial practices become forms of care for our cities?

PROGRAM

9h30 **ROBERTA PALTRINIERI** / DAMSLab Unibo - DAR
ANNALISA TRENTIN / Unibo - PhD program in Architecture and Design Cultures
Presentation

/ BOLOGNA

11.10 **AMIR DJALALI** – Unibo DA
Introduction

11.15 **FRANCESCO VOLTA** – Bologna Ufficio Cultura
Bologna city of culture: the case of the University District

11.35 **ELENA VAI** – Unibo PhD Candidate - Bologna Design week
Curating events, designing identities

/ MILANO

12.10 **ANNA ROSELLINI** – Unibo DAR
Introduction

12.15 **ROBERTO PINTO** Unibo – ArtLine Milano
MARINA REISSNER ArtLine Milano
ArtLine: creating an art collection in a city park

Q&A

13.00 Pause

/ OF PALERMO AND OTHER CITIES

14.00 **ANNALISA TRENTIN** – Unibo DA
Introduction

14.10 **IPPOLITO PESTELLINI LAPARELLI** –OMA partner (NL)
Here / Now

14.30 **ANDRES JAQUE** - Founder of Office for Political Innovation - Director of Columbia University, AAD
Program. New York
Superpowers of Scale

Q&A

/ OSLO_MARSIGLIA_LJUBLJANA

15.00 **AMIR DJALALI** – Unibo DA
introduction

15.10 **LEA-CATHERINE SZACKA** - The University of Manchester | School of Environment, Education and Development
Biennials/Triennials: From the Gallery to the City

15.30 **MARINA OTERO VERZIER** – HNI Rotterdam
Circulating Borders

15.50 **ANGELA RUI** - Design Academy Eindhoven - 25th Biennial of Design, Ljubljana - FARAWAY, SO CLOSE
Concept. Context. Content.

Q&A

16.30 Pause

/ ORLEANS - LISBONA

16.50 **ANNA ROSELLINI** – Unibo DAR
introduction

17.00 **LUCA GALOFARO** – Associated Professor UNICAM - Scuola di Architettura e Design Ascoli Piceno
A biennial to collect _ the Frac and the city

17.20 **SEBASTIEN MAROT** – EAVT Paris-Est - Lisbon Architecture Triennale
What if the City was Incur(at)able?

17.40 *Round table and discussion*

ABSTRACTS

LUCA GALOFARO – Associated Professor UNICAM - Scuola di Architettura e Design Ascoli Piceno
A biennial to collect _ the Frac and the city

The Orleans biennial is first and foremost a 6-year research program where biennial exhibitions determine a path through which we increase the museum's collection.

The first biennial of Orleans was an exhibition of fragments in this new edition we compare physical and mental landscapes.

The exhibition is a privileged observation point to understand the contemporary world and open a dialogue with the historical collection stored in the museum. In the first biennial was the relationship between the fragments that built the meaning, in the last exhibition is the relationship between the different looks of the invited curators to build the landscape of solitude.

Loneliness is a mental condition before physical, which is reflected on living spaces.

According to our conception, an Architecture exhibition is an Architecture and vice versa.

An architectural project depicts spaces, objects and life. An exhibition transforms these spaces into opportunities to imagine other spaces. This exhibition is a gathering of different looks that define research aptitudes.

ANDRES JAQUE - Founder of Office for Political Innovation
Director of Columbia University, Advanced Architectural Design Program. New York
Superpowers of Scale

Architectural Design is the intervention of the social and environmental settings where radically diverse entities negotiate their coexistence. From this perspective, research, design, and activism intersect each other in the enactment of criticality. Now design, curating and contributing to render coexistence critical are all parts of the same endeavor. Reflecting on his works "PHANTOM. Mies as Rendered Society" (Arts Institute of Chicago), "IKEA Disobedients" (MoMA), "Sex and the So-Called City" (Storefront for Art and Architecture), "Cosmo" (MoMA PS1), "Escaravox" (Matadero-Madrid) and the co-curation of Manifesta 12 "The Planetary Garden. Cultivating coexistence"; in his talk, Andrés Jaque (Founder of the Office for Political Innovation-NY-Madrid and Director of the Advanced Architectural Design Program at Columbia University) will inquire the connections between his design, research and curatorial work.

SÉBASTIEN MAROT – EAVT Paris-Est – Triennale di Lisbona
What if the City was Incur(at)able?

For decades, the obnubilation of architects and "urban designers" for the city and the metropolis led them to largely ignore the wider context and realities from which these emerged and which they eventually obliterated. In our view, facing the present environmental predicaments requires no less than a detoxication cure, a weaning from the prevailing and pervasive "urbanolatry" among designers and "curators". As we have argued in "Taking the Country's Side: Agriculture and Architecture," an exhibition currently shown in Lisbon, a reverse angle and rear view mirror are necessary if one is to salvage the best of what cities once were and still might become: the beautiful epiphenomena and civic rewards of carefully tended regions. Drawing on the materials presented in this exhibition, our talk will suggest that treating the cause is more urgent (and way more efficient) than curating the symptom.

MARINA OTERO VERZIER – HNI Rotterdam
Circulating Borders

The presentation examines the recent expansion of the architectural exhibition apparatus and how institutional borders circulate from the gallery space to permeate the city. Through a series of case studies including biennials, triennials and traveling museums, Otero will analyze the relations between space, power and politics in the urban space. The circulating borders of contemporary cultural institutions manifest in sponsored structures and mechanisms of social order governing the space, in new forms of control and consumption, in changing conditions for inclusion and exclusion, but also in emerging modes of engagement and political agency.

IPPOLITO PESTELLINI LAPARELLI – OMA partner (NL)

Here / Now

Temporariness has become our primary social, cultural, political and environmental stage, where different realities come together in a shared effort of self and collective representation. In this context the role of architects has expanded to embrace a multiplicity of dimensions beyond the strict boundaries of the discipline. The talk will investigate the interconnection between research, curatorship and design through a number of projects across different temporalities, scales and geographies.

ROBERTO PINTO Unibo – ArtLine Milano – **MARINA REISSNER** ArtLine Milano

ArtLine: creating an art collection in a city park

ArtLine is a public project of the City of Milan that aims to create a collection of contemporary art, which is taking shape in the park of the new district of CityLife, which consists of a series of installations of international artists who are designing their works site specific. My speech will try to go over the objectives and strategies that are the basis of the project both in terms of the choice of artists and their distribution within the green area, and in terms of communication strategy and interaction with the public.

ANGELA RUI Design Academi Eindhoven - writer and independent researcher

25th Biennial of Design, Ljubljana

FARAWAY, SO CLOSE - Concept. Context. Content.

Organised by the MAO—Museum of Architecture and Design—Ljubljana, the 25th Biennial of Design FARAWAY, SO CLOSE responded to the observation that although the city remains the model within which the evolution of contemporary society is discussed and interpreted, we recently witnessed a growing percentage of people that leave the city for other contexts and environments. The theoretical appropriation of the so called Alter-urban within the context of BIO25 has been made possible by the de-centralization of the biennial in itself, together with the physical observation and response of the participants.

The framework of FARAWAY, SO CLOSE has been an experiment in formats: the designers have been asked to think of a potentially novel interpretation of Slovenian local dimension in order to investigate new questions that are perceived as crucial also in a broader, and theoretical context. Divided into seven episodes, participants developed possible scenarios as forms of speculation that respond to the question of inventing a common world, the one of realizing a global space for exchange.

LEA-CATHERINE SZACKA - The University of Manchester | School of Environment, Education and Development

Biennials/Triennials: From the Gallery to the City

Architecture and design biennials and triennials often directly contribute to the re-appropriation and reshaping urban spaces. Capitalizing on a phenomenon akin the so-called “Bilbao effect” they push city marketing, while involving architectural circuits and the public alike in a new interactions with host cities. In Venice, on occasion of the 1980 International Architecture Exhibition of the Biennale, the Corderie dell’Arsenale, a series of stunning and highly powerful proto-industrial spaces, were open to the public for the very first time. But this interweaving of the exhibition with the city fabric of Venice and the Veneto had already started before with a period of intense experimentation in the late 1970s. Based on the recently published book *Biennials/Triennials: Conversations on the Geography of Itinerant Display* (Columbia Books on Architecture and the City, 2019) this talk historically contextualises the expansion of architecture exhibitions from the gallery to the city and looks at three examples—The Lisbon Architecture Triennale, the Chicago architecture Biennial and Manifesta—in order to identify ways in which current architecture exhibitions blend with urban territories, challenging the conceptual and physical boundaries of display.

ELENA VAI – Unibo PhD Candidate - Bologna Design week
Curating events, designing identities

In the contemporary flow, in which there are no more values and the processes of globalization have removed all order, the theme of the care and deciphering of the self (the know yourself) become a search for foundation, for rooting, a metaphor for anchor, desire for stability, the premise of taking care of oneself. Self-care is generative and transformative: the care of the self is in fact the narration of the experiential path through which we come to establish our identity, which is based on recognition by the other. This experiential path is in continuous flow and is characterized by a unifying movement: the passage from the strangeness of the other to the integration of the other, as a design process of new identities. This contribution is an opportunity to better define my interest in building new relationships that are established between people and spaces filled with original content during temporary events, focusing in particular on models and tools adopted in Bologna Design Week. The event becomes the stage of the city where the transition from extraneousness to integration takes place, from the intimate dimension of self-care to the public dimension of mutual recognition. The search for our identity in the light of the relationships we create and the deciphering of who we are -expressed during temporary cultural experiences -also raises the issue of the relationship between care and time, in the double meaning of the time necessary to reach mutual recognition and duration of the same. In the continuous transformation of the contemporary city, the need to face the theme of the encounter between creativity, culture and production and the inclusion of different actors (designers, city-users, policy makers), is the basis of the poetics, practices and tools experienced in curating, designing and communicating Bologna Design Week -with the desire to integrate them and incorporate them into ecosystems on a city scale.

FRANCESCO VOLTA – Bologna City Council
Bologna city of culture: the case of the University District

The Municipality of Bologna was founded on May 15th, 1116: thanks to 900 years of life, it is considered the oldest City Council in Italy. Bologna is also the most ancient University in Europe (1088), hosting every year around 80.000 students from all over the World. In 2000, the city was nominated European Capital of Culture and in 2006, it was appointed UNESCO Creative City for Music. Moreover, with its 42 km of porticoes, it is now candidate as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. Bologna, together with its surrounding region, Emilia Romagna, are not only a symbol of cultural life, but also a pole of Innovation, Industrial Design and Creativity. Despite of this general cultural vocation, one of the most central area of Bologna, i.e. the University district around Via Zamboni and Piazza Verdi, projects a very problematic public image and it suffers from the difficult perception of its actual status. Over the past decades, Via Zamboni has been seen as a terrain vague, characterized by general decay and a even more pervasive decline; its story seems to be a never-ending tale of dirt, neglect, wall scribbling, petty criminals and drug users, almost a metaphor for Bolognese community's struggles. Over twenty five years, various Administrations, together with the University Council, tried to set in place different strategies to promote this area, often undergoing considerable expenses, in an attempt to build a positive relationship between residents, students and city users. Through the analysis of some of the most meaningful historical moments that took place in the area and the study of the urban storytelling which Via Zamboni has generated over the years, the paper aims to illustrate new communication methodologies that could lead to a different social and public perception of the University District. Starting from its architectural beauty and social vitality, how to attract new visitors to the University area and how to create synergies between students and resident citizens? In order to answer this question, during these last tree years, a renewed collaboration between the City and the University, also embodied in a pilot European project, as well as in a new program of site-specific cultural events, seems to have open new perspectives toward a future urban regeneration.