



The Welsh School of Architecture & the Delft School of Design present

URBAN CRISIS AND RESISTANCE

Workshop /colloquium; 8-9 October, TU Delft

See www.delftschoolofdesign.eu/workshops for details

with presentations of research by

Signe Sophie Bøggild (Copenhagen), **Alison Brown** (Cardiff University),
Alain Chiaradia (Cardiff University), **Isabelle Doucet** (University of Manchester),
Rachel Hurdley (Cardiff University), **Patrick Healy** (DSD), **Tahl Kaminer** (DSD),
Maros Krivy (University of Helsinki), **Marga Munar Bauza** (Cardiff University),
Andrej Radman (DSD), **Robin Smith** (Cardiff University), **Heidi Sohn** (DSD),
Cristian Suau (Cardiff University).

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URBAN CRISIS AND RESISTANCE

Workshop / colloquium
TU Delft

INTRODUCTION

The city, broadly understood, is not merely a product of society, but also has a specific role in society. Since modernity, the role of the city has become central to society's transformation and development on multiple levels and in diverse spheres. According to David Harvey, it is a vital organ in capital accumulation via urban development; according to Georg Simmel and Massimo Cacciari, it functions as a social-integration machine. Henri Lefebvre identified the role of the city in the organization – and re-organization- of labour, capital, and everyday life, but also offered the hope of an urban revolution – defining an alternative path to the one taken by middle-class, capitalist society. The city is thus understood as both an expression and producer of social relations, of the organization of economic production, of politics, of ideology, and of culture. Consequently, the study of the *problématique urbaine* is necessarily also a study of society itself.

The multi-faceted complexity of the city has encouraged a wide-range of disciplines to focus their attention on the urban environment, including urban geography, urban sociology, and urban history. The proposed colloquium / workshop will approach the city through architecture and urbanism, and will attempt to expand the discussion beyond disciplinary limits, while taking advantage of the specific disciplinary knowledge and know-how, allowing architecture and urbanism to engage the social via the city.

The colloquium / workshop will address contemporary urban conditions, defined by the current economic crisis. Economic crisis is felt in cities in the loss of tax revenues by city councils, in the bankruptcy of businesses, in foreclosed

properties, in the collapse of real estate and property values, in a rise in homelessness, poverty and crime, and, more generally, in the dilapidation and erosion of the physical environment. Such crises also offer certain opportunities: the red-lining of neighbourhoods and consequently the mass-purchase of cheap properties enabling gentrification at a later stage on the one hand, and a chance to change course, to implement ideas and plans which depart from existing frameworks and are not subjugated to profiteering, on the other. The urgency of a discussion of contemporary urban conditions, and the need for architects and urbanists to address the dire conditions developing in cities – whether via analysis, plan, or project – is the point of departure for the colloquium / workshop. In this context, questions arise regarding the efficacy of architecture, the role of culture in urban transformation, the relation of architecture and urbanism to politics, the diverse roles of the city itself and the manner architecture and urbanism play an affirmative or disruptive part in the process.

'Urban Crisis and Resistance' will present theoretical papers and design-based works as well as concrete examples and case studies of, for instance, the manner in which urban morphology is itself a social and economical product, or the effects of neoliberal policies on the urban environment. This platform of debate will facilitate the understanding of various urban dynamics and often unmediated interactions among numerous global actors that are creating new levels of complexity for the relationships between planning, research and design practice.

PROGRAM

8 OCTOBER 2010 10.45-18.00

Location: Room 170, ground floor, West wing, The Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft, Julianalaan 134, Delft
Moderators: Tahl Kaminer & Cristian Suau

Welcome

11.00 Introduction (Tahl Kaminer & Cristian Suau)

Session One:

11.15 Rachel Hurdley (Cardiff University)

Small Cities: Residual Spaces, Enclosure and Comfort

11.35 Robin Smith (Cardiff University)

From the Bay to the Soup Run. The Contours of Everyday Spatiality in a Capital City

11.55 Marga Munar Bauza (Cardiff University)

The Jam in the Doughnut: A Study of the Open Residential Spaces in the Example of Barcelona

12.15 Cristian Suau (Cardiff University)

Potential Public Spaces in the Modern Suburbia

Panel Discussion:

12.35 Questions and discussion

Lunchtime:

13.30 Lunch break

Session Two:

14.30 Isabelle Doucet (University of Manchester)

Brussels' Concerned Pragmatism, or the Possibilities of a Critique through Practice

15.15 Patrick Healy (DSD)

Benjamin and Heidegger, The Question of Dwelling

Closing the day

16.30 Drinks at the DSD

Dinner

19.00 Supper (venue TBC)

9 OCTOBER 2010 11.00 - 17.00

Location: The Science Centre, TU Delft, Mijnbouwstraat 120, Delft
Moderators: Marga Munar Bauza & Heidi Sohn

Introduction

11.00 Introduction

Session Three:

11.15 Heidi Sohn (DSD)

11.35 Signe Sophie Bøggild (Copenhagen)

Welfairytale, Ghettos and Memories – Crisis in Scandinavian Welfare-Cities

11.55 Maros Krivy (University of Helsinki)

Don't Plan! Urban Governmentality and Obsolete Industrial Space

12.15 Questions

12.30 Coffee break

Session Four:

12.45 Andrej Radman (DSD)

Mereotopology

13.05 Tahl Kaminer (DSD)

Strategies Against Wiener Schnitzel

13.35 Question time

Lunchtime:

13.45 Lunch break

