



Markus Miessen 2003/04

Intermediate Unit 7

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+ Are hospitals the ultimate ecologies? Can the collision of healthcare and architecture really be analysed? Who are we to challenge the delicate processes of the institution?

+ Scientific research on the treatment of the mentally ill continually excludes spatial parameters. We will instigate change within a mental health hospital in London. Focusing the creativity of an AA unit on this specific condition, our year-long experiment will shape Inter 7's manifesto: to alter the spatial, psychological and organisational systems that define life within the healthcare environment.

+ In term 1 we will study existing typologies (from healthcare and beyond) and begin a programme of immersion within the hospital environment, challenging our preconceptions and augmenting the research with real, documented experience. In term 2 we will operate in the space between these two investigations. Proposals may be physical or organisational, temporary or permanent. We will collaborate with clinical psychology students, product designers, managers, patients and staff in order to implement and test changes in real-time – on site.

Term 3 will be used to assess and disseminate the unit's work, stimulating public debate of this aligned topic. We will evaluate the experiment in

terms of our effect on the system and on the lives of the people we meet within it. The resulting papers will form the basis of an ongoing catalogue to be published within the scientific and architectural communities by Inter 7.

Throughout the year we will organise a number of intensive workshops with experts from the healthcare sector, industry and both related and seemingly unrelated fields of practice. Our external advisors will also assist us on a number of peer review sessions, which will stimulate our critical awareness.

A unit trip to Bonn and Moscow will contrast two treatment methodologies for the mentally ill: urban versus institutional.

Markus Miessen AADipl (Hons) BArch is an architect, researcher and writer. He has exhibited and published widely, worked for General Public Agency and currently acts as a spatial consultant to the newly initiated European Kunsthalle under the directorship of Nikolaus Schafhausen. He is the editor of the forthcoming anthology 'Did someone say Participate?' (MIT Press/Revolver).

Matthew Murphy AADipl BArch works as a freelance designer, most recently for Kazuyo Sejima and SANAA in Tokyo and Rem Koolhaas's Office for Metropolitan Architecture in Rotterdam. He has worked with the Lifespan Healthcare Psychology Team in Cambridge and filmed offenders with learning disabilities for the Tizard Centre, University of Canterbury.