

09.12.2016

assemble
ateliermob
georges
practice
raumlabor
real
studiobasar
studio miessen
we made that

joachim declerck
peter swinnen
jeremy till
oliver wainwright
finn williams

architectural association
36 bedford square london

THE BEDFORD TAPES :
recording the emerging generation

events date : 09.12.2016

In the midst of ongoing growth, change, doubt, elation, frustration and exaggerated self-worth, all of which are characteristic of the architect's life, a group of young practitioners from around Europe will come together to share their work and readings of Europe's shifting paradigms. Accustomed to live in a lifecycle littered by crises, a bench of new protagonists has moved away from the traditional boundary of the practice to self-initiate projects rather than being dependant of the market demand. Led by a strong culture of independence, these offices exploit a void being left by the increasing commodification of the architecture. Driven by an unprecedented need for action, initiatives are fed by everyday concerns to built forms of resistance including temporary structures, opportunistic occupation and the involvement of participants in the project process. From Bedford Square to London and beyond, a concordance of beliefs and hopes shape new attitudes toward the discipline. This is a sign of the need to build alternative commitments to society, clients and territories through architecture.

On december 9th, a day of public debate will bring together a bench of representatives from european architectural practices :

ASSEMBLE
ATELIER MOB
GEORGES
PRACTICE
RAUMLABOR
REAL
STUDIO MIESSEN
STUDIOBASAR
WE MADE THAT

as well as a panel of guest critics :

JOACHIM DECLERCK (AWB)
PETER SWINNEN (ETH Zurich)
JEREMY TILL (Central Saint Martins)
FINN WILLIAMS (Greater London Authority)
OLIVER WAINWRIGHT (The Guardian)

for a day of public debate about

Condition – How global and local contexts have shaped architectural engagement?

Attitude – What are the architect roles and tools to engage toward societal agendas ?

Economy - How is it possible to sustain engagement in the long term ?

Organised and chaired by Flavien Menu
Hosted and supported by the Architectural Association

Flavien Menu is a London-based architect with a postgraduate dual degree in urban policies (London School of Economics/Sciences Po Paris). Alongside his practice - Office for Cities -developing strategic research projects and urban development schemes, his writing aims to fuel the social, political and cultural debate on built environment issues, and has been widely published. Flavien taught at the Architectural Association and his a regular guest critic at the Royal College of Arts, London Metropolitan University and ETH Zurich.

Architectural Offices

ASSEMBLE are a collective based in London who work across the fields of art, architecture and design. They began working together in 2010 and are comprised of 18 members. Assemble's working practice seeks to address the typical disconnection between the public and the processes by which places are made. Assemble champion a working practice that is interdependent and collaborative, seeking to actively involve the public as both participant and collaborator in the ongoing realisation of the work.

ATELIERMOB is a multidisciplinary platform which develops projects, ideas and research within architecture, design and urbanism. They believe that this is the way it usually starts. From this point, everything is worked out. The impossible is to work on the unexciting, on the uncreative, on what diverges from people needs.

GEORGES is an urban practice composed of architects, landscape architects and urbanists who conceive of projects led by collective intelligence. Georges works with basic tools: ears, eyes, mouths and hands. Georges listens, Georges observes, Georges constructs dialogues and Georges engages with users, communities, and public and private sectors to develop alternative ways of practicing within territories. Georges is engaged towards people and places, and tries to make virtuous partnerships out of the complex relationships between users and the challenges of city-making.

PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE is a London based design and build practice founded in 2009 by Lettice Drake, Paloma Gormley and Henry Stringer. Practice Architecture supports local and community initiatives by offering permanent or temporary architectural interventions that place the user at the centre of every design decision. Practice strongly believes in a certain autonomy of architecture and its capacity to produce self-sufficient communities.

REAL is a cultural foundation with a double mission of critical inquiry and cultural production. They conduct original research to promote innovation in the built environment. Their methodology uses analysis and critique to present bold propositions and credible alternatives to conventional practice. They aim to influence how and where people live, and the conditions of that life.

RAUMLABOR is a Berlin-based collective of 9 practitioners created in 1999. Raumlabor works between architecture, urbanism, and artistic practices. Raumlabor strongly believe in complexity and that our society today does need a more substantial approach; therefore their spatial proposals are small scale and deeply rooted in the local condition.

STUDIOBASAR is a Bucharest based architectural studio and a public space practice founded in 2006 by Alex Axinte and Cristi Borcan. Preoccupied with the dynamics of urban culture and the disappearing importance of public spaces, studioBASAR initiates and develops actions and projects within public space. Ranging from temporary to permanent, these processes include applied research, community activation, participatory programming, urban design and live education.

STUDIO MIESSEN is based in Berlin and work with individuals, collectives, institutions and organisations, specialising in spatially rethinking, redesigning and promoting cultural institutions. They also work closely with artists, who they assist to realise small-to-large-scale spatial ideas and support the realisation of exhibitions and large-scale institutional shows. Their work also includes self-initiated activities and projects that span from physical construction to writing and criticism.

Architectural Offices (end)

WE MADE THAT is an energetic architecture and urbanism practice with a strong public conscience. They aim to make imaginative and considered contributions to the built environment through socially engaged design processes. The relationship between local communities, development and creative practice is a particular focus of their work and they believe that - if handled correctly - it can lead to enriched, exciting and engaging places.

JOACHIM DECLERCK is a founder and partner of the Architecture Workroom, Brussels. Educated as an architect and urban designer at Ghent University (BE) and the Berlage Institute (NL), Declerck's activities focus on innovation within the disciplines of architecture and urban design, while exploring their role within the transformation of the built environment

PETER SWINNEN is a Brussels based architect. He currently practices architecture at CRIT, conducts PhD research on The political praxis of architecture (KUL University) and runs the ETH Zürich design studio on Architectural policy whispering.

JEREMY TILL is an architect, writer and educator. His research is known for exploring the social and political dimensions of architecture and the built environment. Till's major written work is Architecture Depends (2009), which suggests a new way of understanding architecture in terms of its dependency rather than its autonomy.

FINN WILLIAMS is an architect-turned-planner based in London. He studied architecture at the Mackintosh in Glasgow, FAUP in Porto, and the Royal College of Art where he was given the New London Architecture prize. Finn worked for Rem Koolhaas in Rotterdam and General Public Agency before setting up Common Office, an independent practice working with planning, politics, and the public.

OLIVER WAINWRIGHT is the Guardian's architecture and design critic. Trained as an architect, he has worked for a number of practices, both in the UK and overseas, and written extensively on architecture and design for many international publications. He is also a visiting critic at several architecture schools

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