

Counter-projects in Architecture: Resistance, Struggle, and Recuperation

28 November 2016 10-16:00

The University of Manchester

Sackville B004 Council Chamber

- 10.00 Coffee and welcome
- 10.30-10.45 Introduction by Isabelle Doucet
- 10.45-11.30 **Caroline Maniaque-Benton**
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture, Normandie
"French connections: Learning from Advocacy Planning and participatory design"
- 11.30-12.15 **Torsten Lange**
ETH Zurich
"More (than) paper? Notes on late socialist architectural practices beyond dissidence"
- 12.15-13.15 Lunch
- 13.15-14.00 **Tahl Kaminer**
University of Edinburgh
"Environmental Triggers and Architectural Determinism circa '68"
- 14.00-14.45 **Matthew Thompson**
University of Liverpool
"Democracy in design: countering the condition of dilapidated dwelling in Liverpool"
- 14.45-15.00 Coffee Break
- 15.00-15.15 Presentation by students: Counter-Projects and Environmental Challenges
- 15.15-16.00 Discussion

Places are limited and **registration for this event is required.**

Please contact: isabelle.doucet@manchester.ac.uk **no later than 18 November 2016**

The event is organised by Isabelle Doucet (SEED / MUI / Architecture) as part of the Manchester School of Architecture M.Arch workshop course Architectural Counter-Projects and received **financial support** through the University of Manchester Social Responsibility in the Curriculum Award and the Manchester Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence.

Background

This symposium is organised as a one-day event that is contextualised within the M.Arch course titled Architectural Counter-Projects, coordinated and taught by Isabelle Doucet at the Manchester School of Architecture. The term 'counter-project' originates in the post-1968 architectural and urban activism connected to the Reconstruction of the European City, and depicts a fascinating tool for architectural criticism and urban activism that combined the critique of an existing situation with formulating alternatives. This workshop takes the counter-project as an occasion to explore, historically and contemporary, forms of resistant architecture; of 'acting otherwise'. The course thus sets in dialogue *modes* of resistance (e.g. revolutionary, countercultural, insurgent, praxis, interstitial, encounter, agency) with resistant *interventions* (e.g. environmental counter-projects, self-build, counter-pedagogy, the (autonomous) architectural project).

The one-day symposium titled Counter-projects in Architecture: Resistance, Struggle, and Recuperation, aims to explore possible forms of resistance in architecture while also being attentive to processes of recuperation, appeasement, and co-optation to which resistant practices often fall victim (and which was also largely the destiny of those radical instances at the origins of European post-modernism). The symposium thus aims to explore the potentials and pitfalls of resistance by revisiting, through concrete cases but also conceptually, the struggles and recuperations of resistant architectures. Whilst the starting point of the symposium is the resistant roots of European post-modernism (1960s and 1970s), it will by no means be limited to this historical timeframe.