DR_SoM

Design Research, Series on Method

Reading, UK

22nd April 2016

session 4

Design Research (in) Practice

The fourth session of DR_SoM (Design Research Series on Method) takes place at the new school of Architecture at Reading University (UK). It focuses on research methods used by practitioners, architectural and other, for the study of practice. Through an open call, projects and practices have been selected that frame design in a rigorous way, in terms of aims, methodologies, and forms of critical reflection, even when acknowledging and celebrating the importance of meandering and failure. The presentations in this session will demonstrate how practitioners proceed with their design-related research, and how they think about the ways in which their research and/by design approach increases knowledge about design and building.
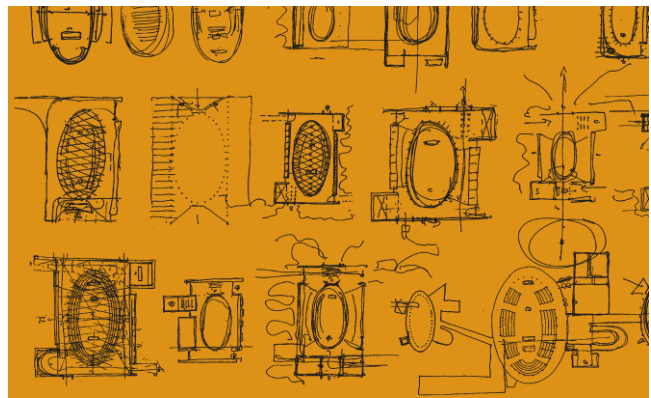
Keynotes

Doina Petrescu
Professor of Architecture and Design Activism, Head of Research, Sheffield School of Architecture

Atelier d'architecture autogérée www.rurban.net

Níall McLaughlin
Director, Níall McLaughlin Architects; Professor of Architectural Practice, Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL

Bishop Edward King Chapel www. http://bartlettdesignresearchfolios.com

an event organized by ARENA, international network for architectural research, and the School of Architecture, University of Reading

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Programme

9.00 Welcome	UoR Lorraine Farrelly/Flora Samuel
	DR_SoM Flora Samuel/Johan De Walsche
9.15 Keynote	**Doina Petrescu**
10.00 Discussion	Chair Flora Samuel
10.30 Coffee	
11.00 Session 1	**Adding social value**
	Mhairi McVicar & Neil Turnbull- The value of an architect in a Community Asset Transfer
	Xiang Ren - Design Research in Practice: Reflection on an ongoing project through the lens of hybrid practitioner
	Helen Stratford – Market Meditations
	Simon Bradbury - Dartington Hall as a re-imagined place of experimentation
12.30 Discussion	Chair Bernard Kormoss
1pm Lunch	
2.00 Book presentation	Fredrik Nilsson, Chalmers University Sweden
	"The Changing Shape of Practice. Integrating Research and Design in Architecture"
2.15 Session 2	**Learning in Architecture**
	Torsten Schröder - Translating the concept of sustainability into architectural design practices: London's City Hall as an Exemplar
	Nicola Ibbotson - DSDHA's Grounded Research Agenda
	Mark Lumley – Designing for Occupants an evolutionary process
	Darryl Chen & Thinktank Hawkins Brown – Creative Ecologies
3.15 Discussion	Chair Roberto Cavallo
3.30 Tea	
4.00 Session 3	**Editing and ordering**
	Maarten Van Den Driessche - A Rearrangement of archival documents: The Design of a Water Tower in Beersel by BEL Architects and Bureau d'Etudes
	Eirene Schreurs – On Assembling
	Jane Anderson - The design research methodology of Atelier Bow Wow. The inter-dependence of the object and the subject in architectural design research
	Oliver Froome Lewis – Designing Wealth and Power
5.00 Discussion	Chair Oya Atalay Franck
5.30 Round up and next steps	
	Johan De Walsche & Flora Samuel
5.45 Keynote	**Niall McLaughlin**
6.30 Discussion	Chair Murray Fraser
7.00 Close	
7.45 Dinner	

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Our work to date suggests that the majority of practitioners see little connection between work in practice and research. Yet, we argue, research takes place in a variety of forms from the basic ordering and collation of information to support design; design research on projects as well as more formal research projects. What, if any, are the boundaries between practice, consultancy and research? One of our aims is to explore the fuzzy limits of this issue so clearly demarcated through laws of taxation. There is much confusion as to the nature of research by design, which we see as a subset of architectural research practice. A further aim is to explore definitions of excellence in this area.

Although nearly all architectural practices offer spatial and tectonic solutions to complex problems, they differ widely in ways in which they do this. Most practices have practice priorities that influence the way they work and the values they promote. A small social architecture practice in the regions works in a very different way to a large commercial practice in London or anywhere else around the globe. This symposium will explore practice values and methodologies across the board.

We argue that the outcomes of design research in architectural practice can be categorised under four broad headings: cultural value, social value, environmental value and commercial value (www.culturalvalueofarchitecture.org and www.valueofarchitects.org).These will give structure to the day's proceedings. The symposium is funded through the AHRC 'Evidencing and Communicating the Value of Architects' project. It will be free to all who attend (apart from the conference dinner). For those in practice it should qualify as Continuing Professional Development.

Participants are invited to write an illustrated paper afterwards, for publication in a booklet dedicated to this DR_SoM session. Further information can be found at http://www.arena-architecture.eu/

For any questions related to content of this fourth DR_SoM session in Reading please contact Flora Samuel at f.b.samuel@reading.ac.uk; for any questions related to practicalities and organisation please contact Emma Jane Woodhouse at e.j.woodhouse@reading.ac.uk. For any questions on the project of DR_SoM in general, contact Johan De Walsche at johan.dewalsche@uantwerpen.be

DR_SoM is a project within the ARENA network for architectural research. www.arena-architecture.eu

The DR_SoM scientific committee consists of :

Johan De Walsche, UAntwerpen (project leader);
Oya Atalay Franck, ZHAW Winterthur (project leader);
Flora Samuel, SoA Reading (organizer and host of this session);
Roberto Cavallo, TUDelft;
Murray Fraser, UCL Bartlett;
Bernard Kormoss, ULG, Liège;
João Sequeira, ECATI/ULHT Lisbon;
Johan Verbeke, KULeuven/Aarhus;
Pieter Versteegh, ESA-PSYCHE.
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