

Locating the work of radical architects – Ways of imagining, seeing, sensing, and navigating

5th~ 6th September 2024, Glasgow



Extreme events, uncertainty, AI, social degradation – all expose the relative futility of mostly one-dimensional decarbonisation policy and practice approaches. Few research domains have truly engaged with the complexity and multidimensionality architectural/design practice brings about in designing, repairing, and conceiving of environments we all live in. Instead, there has been a flurry of guidance and policy on need for behaviour change, better carbon accounting, indeed a tunnel-visioned approach to calculating carbon. Undoubtedly this is helpful but may overlook and overshadow some important understandings, ways of communicating and ultimately practicing architecture that may sustain life for all beings.

We invite approaches from different disciplines (including architecture, design, sociology, environmental-science, engineering, law, geography, history) to consider how we may reconceptualise ways of sustaining the environments we design and redesign daily. We are entangled with each other and are evolving a future of multi species lives characterised by profound disruption. We need to co-shape **new ways of imagining, seeing, sensing, and navigating** the complexities, entangled multidimensionality and increasingly digital worlds we inhabit.

It is time to turn our attention to exploring what may constitute a novel approach to reconceptualising sustainability and indeed inform the tangible work of future 'radical architects'. Locating this **Radical Work** is fundamental to imagined, sensed, and spatial understandings of the world, yet the exploring of this remains largely overlooked in architecture practice, built environment or climate change policies. **What does the work of radical architects look like, and who will do it?**

RAPS (<https://www.rapsresearch.com/>) is hosting a 2day WORK-SPACE event 5th~ 6th Sept 2024 in Glasgow entitled 'Locating the work of radical architects: Imagining, Seeing and Navigating' in which we will work together to reflect, draw, design, write and discuss capacities, conditions, creations that shape:

- **Theme 1~Ways of imagining~** complexity, multidimensionality and incoherence in architecture practices will be led by Prof. Ana Betancour and – is inviting contributions and participants that bring with them expertise in any or multiple disciplines in study of:
 - Dreams - how our dreams and dreaming may invoke new imaginings.
 - Imaginaries - what categories these may emerge through and how they are changing.
 - Speculations - how we may develop practices of speculating?
- **Theme 2~Ways of sensing and experiencing~** led by Associate Professor Jonathan Mosley and is inviting participants who are researching or practicing ways we sense and experience our environments through:
 - Embodied experiments - using presence, movement, gesture or action as a way of enhancing our relations to architecture.
 - Psychosocial or psychological explorations - that examine perceptions, affects and experiences of existing space or proposed designs.
 - Objects or other non-human entities - that sense the environments that we inhabit.
- **Theme 3~Ways of seeing and visualising~** complexity led by Prof. Sonja Oliveira and inviting participants who bring expertise in researching:
 - Sensory perceptions - how our sensory perceptions of spatial contexts shape our social interactions.
 - New lexicons - historical or other Interpretations or studies of fields or phenomena where new lexicons emerge.
 - New sensing or seeing tools - that embody multidimensional characterisation of complexity.
- **Theme 4~Ways of navigating~** led by Associate Prof. Torsten Schröder inviting contributions that have considered:
 - New maps or mapping approaches that denote ways to navigate our material understanding of cities - for instance in terms of circularity.
 - Compasses as new tools or technologies through which to orientate ourselves in entangled complex environments.
 - Vessels and steering systems as methods of navigation.

Our evolving physical and virtual worlds demand more attention be paid to the deeply interwoven and interconnected radical work of architects, designers and many others who conceive, manage and inhabit environments both human and non-human. We see 'architects' beyond the traditionally assumed definitions as anyone involved in dreaming, envisioning, sensing, navigating, and designing, shaping the environments we inhabit. Capacities for radical work in our world and each other are profoundly important for adapting to the conditions of planetary breakdown. A focus on this vital work suggests a deeply pragmatic and inclusive environmental politics and scholarship, bringing into dialogue rich veins of work within and beyond architecture, on labour and everyday life.

How to join in our work:

We invite you to submit your **statements of motivation via link below to be considered for** the work-space event:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=YwceYzMV60elzQRXvuWUTgOYkvLcO7INo7vWvHR15ApUMzgzQlkxUEJJRTEIOTJYQIFSRJTKMEtKOC4u>

Timelines:

Deadline for submission of statement - 27th May 2024

Notification of decision - 5th June 2024

Event - 5-6th Sept 2024, Glasgow

Outcome: We are looking to collate insights from the event to help inform a manuscript and will communicate to all participants their potential future involvement in the manuscript editing, writing or reviewing processes.

Contact: strategic-themes@strath.ac.uk