Summer school

**Notation, Algorithm, Criticism: Towards a Critical Epistemology of Architecture**

Dubrovnik, September 17-21th 2018

**PROGRAM**

**Co-directors:**

Prof. Snjezana Prijic Samarzija, University of Rijeka

Prof. Joerg H. Gleiter, Technical University Berlin

Prof. Petar Bojanic, University of Belgrade / CAS SEE University of Rijeka

Prof. Giovanni Durbiano, Politecnico di Torino

Prof. Alessandro Armando, Politecnico di Torino

**Special Guest:**

Dr. Christoph Engemann, Bauhaus University Weimar

**Focal Theme:**

In modernity, there is no place for architecture without critical reflection, just as modern culture without cultural criticism is no better than the barbarism it has replaced (*Schnädelbach*). Critique is necessary of any activity, be it artistic, political, or scientific. In 1976, it was the „crisis of utopia” that laid the foundation for the late Manfredo Tafuri’s “ideological criticism”. By contrast, the philosopher and politician Massimo Cacciari maintained that crisis “must be produced”, thus proclaiming that any intellectual position that does not posit itself as productive in regard to crisis is reactionary.

Admittedly, we look back today with a certain nostalgia on a critical theory of architecture as it emerged in the 1960s — the heyday of critical thought in sociology and philosophy. Architects such as Peter Eisenman, Frank Gehry, and Bernhard Tschumi along with philosophers such as Theodor Adorno, Jacques Derrida, Gianni Vattimo, and Fredric Jameson were among the pioneers of critical discourse in architecture. Each had their own specific critical agenda, with some of them more inclined toward subversive methods that aimed at undermining architecture as the last stronghold of metaphysics. In architecture, critical theory always coincides with critical practice.

Since then, criticism has been absorbed and utilized by the very same institutions that it had helped to create. It can hardly be overlooked that in digital consumer societies, criticism has become a powerful economic agent. “The task of criticism has, in fact, changed,” Tafuri wrote in the introduction to his seminal book *Theories and History of Architecture*, published in 1976. But even more has changed with the advent of digital media technology. In unprecedented ways, today’s media technologies interfere with the practice of knowledge and change them according to their own – digital – agenda. Cacciari’s plea for crisis as a driving force for the production of knowledge has turned into a common cultural practice.

The seminar will address the concept of critique in architecture from a historic as well as contemporary perspective. It will investigate core concepts such as critique and practice, authorship and agency, history and documentation, concept and diagram, as well as idea and project. What are the possibilities of critical practice today in the age of digital transparency? What are the cultural, aesthetic, and social implications of the current transition from 2-D design processes to 3-D modeling (BIM)? Is this shift to digital media technology of equal importance as Alberti’s 15th century shift to notation? The transfer of ideas into drawings onto paper first opened up architecture to the creative and intellectual play of representation, and allowed for references to architectural history and its philosophical ideas. Architectural practice turned into a critical practice when it separated thinking about architecture from building architecture. The potential of graphic notation transformed architecture into a modern, ambivalent, contradictory, and critical cultural practice equal to literature and philosophy. At times, it seems as if media technology hollows out architecture’s critical consciousness and returns it to a simple practice of mere physical and material presence.

**Participants:** Prof. Snjezana Prijic-Samarzija, Prof. Joerg Gleiter, Prof. Alessandro Armando, Prof. Petar Bojanic, Dr. Lidia Gasperoni, Dr. Christoph Engemann, Dr. Lina Dokuzovic, Dr. Monica Cano Abadia, Dr. Dragana Ciric, Dr. Arianna Piacentini, Dr. Natasa Jankovic, Dr. Sanja Bojanic, Dr. Snezana Vesnic, Hana Samarzija, Milos Cipranic, Andrea Mesanovic, Marco Paladines, Tijana Mackic, Catarina Quaglio, Klaus Platzgummer, Federico Cesareo, Frederick Springer, Valerio Della Scala, Elena Todella, Sarah Gretsch, Dezire Tillinger, Maria Chiara Continillo…

Seminars start at **10 am** in the morning with open end in the evening.

In order to leave enough time for the intellectual exchange presentations shall be limited to **20** minutes (students MA/BA) and **30** minutes all others.

The presentations are followed by **30** minutes respectively **40** minutes of discussion.

An individually assigned moderator/commentator helps to guide through the discussions.

**Timetable**

*Monday 17th September 2018*

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| 13.00-14.00  **Welcome and registrations**  IUC - Ul. don Frana Bulica 4, 20000, Dubrovnik  https://goo.gl/maps/k5HjuGc8LkM2  14.00-14.30  **Welcome address of Directors of the Course**  **Presentation of all participants; setting the daily schedule** | | |
| **Time** | **Title** | **Lecturer** |
| 14.30  15.00 | **Introduction to the course** | Prof. Joerg Gleiter |
| 15.00  16.00 | **Project, Design, Concept. Notes for an architectural glossary** | Prof. Alessandro Armando  Comments: Prof. Petar Bojanic |
| 16.00  17.00 | **Figurations Of The Concept, *Demain…*** | Milos Cipranic & Dr. Snezana Vesnic  Comments: Prof. Petar Bojanic |
| 17:00  18:00 | **The epistemic virtue of critical thinking: what does it mean to think/act critically?** | Prof. Snjezana Prijic Samarzija  Comments: Prof. Joerg Gleiter |

Tuesday, 18th September 2018

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| **Time** | **Title** | **Lecturer** |
| 10.00  11.00 | **The work of Indexicality: Machine Learning and it’s models** | Dr. Christoph Engemann  Comments: Dr. Lidia Gasperoni |
| 11.00  12.00 | **Search Histories and Historical Past. On the Operative Modus of Architectural Criticism after the Digital Turn** | Klaus Platzgummer  Comments: Dr. Christoph Engemanm |
| 12.00  13.00 | **Architectural criticism as productive knowledge and the role of diagrams in design practice** | Dr. Lidia Gasperoni  Comments: Prof. Joerg Gleiter |
| 13.00  15.00 | Lunch | |
| 15.00  16.00 | **Can Political Philosophy Offer a Relevant Critique of Architecture?** | Hana Samarzija  Comments: Dr. Monica Cano Abadia |
| 16.00  17.00 | **Architecture as evidence of collective dreams. *On the graphicness of history and collective awakening in Walter Benjamin’s dialectical images*** | Marco Paladines  Comments: Milos Cipranic |
| 17.00  18.00 | **Villa *Illudere* - Architecture as Imposture as Critique** | Frederik Springer  Comments: Dr. Sanja Bojanic |
| 18.00  18.30 | **Literacy and architectural discourse** | Tijana Mackic  Comments: Prof. Alessandro Armando |

Wednesday, 19th September 2018

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| **Time** | **Title** | **Lecturer** |
| 10:00  11:00 | **How Would a Feminist City be Like? Feminist Criticism of Traditional Gender Values and its Impact on Architectural Design and Urban Planning** | Dr. Monica Cano Abadia  Comments: Dr. Lina Dokuzovic |
| 11.00  12.00 | **Critical Practice of Urban Regeneration in European Public Housing Neighborhoods, 1970 – Today** | Caterina Quaglio  Comments: Dr. Sanja Bojanic |
| 12.00  13.00 | **Diagrammatics: Information/Data and Knowledge Articulation, Critical Legacy, and the Current Status of Digitally and Designerly Intelligent Strategy/Register/Regime of Reasoning and Representation** | Dr. Dragana Ciric  Comments: Dr. Natasa Jankovic |
| 13.00  15.00 | Lunch | |
| 15.00  16.30 | **Critical Reading Group Session: *On a Search for ‚the' Digital in Architecture***  Moderators: Dr. Lidia Gasparoni, Klaus Platzgummer  1) **Epistemology** (Olt Aicher)  2) **Fabrication** (Richard Sennet, Mario Carpo)  3) **Criticism** (Mark Jarzombek)  Reading list:  Aicher, Olt. “Analogous and digital.“ In *analogous and digital*, 47 - 54. Translated by Michael Robinson. Berlin: Wilhelm Ernst & Sohn, 2015.  Sennet, Richard. “Fractured Skills. Hand and Head Divided.“ In *The Craftsman*, 37 - 44. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008.  Carpo, Mario. “The New Science of Form Searching.“ In *The Second Digital Turn. Design Beyond Intelligence*, 40 - 55. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017.  Jarzombek, Mark. „Critical or Post-Critical?“ *Architectural Theory Review. Journal of the Faculty of Architecture. The University of Sidney* 7, no. 1 (April 2002): 149 - 151. | |

Thursday, 20th September 2018

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| **Time** | **Title** | **Lecturer** |
| 10.00  11.00 | **Praxiography of architecture. Two issues that came out during an internal meeting of an architectural studio and the manifold ways of the projects** | Edoardo Fregonese  Comments: Dr. Monica Cano Abadia |
| 11.00  12.00 | **The chains of the algorithm. The transdiegetic action of the design practice** | Federico Cesareo  Comments: Dr. Sanja Bojanic |
| 12.00  13.00 | **Methodology of design processes: Structural optimization and complex modeling** | Milica Petrovic  Comments: Klaus Platzgummer |
| 13.00  15.00 | Lunch | |
| 15:00  16:00 | **Narrating architectural design through ecology of practices. Reflections and explorations.** | Valerio Della Scala & Elena Todella  Comments: Dr. Sanja Bojanic |
| 16.00  16.30 | **Craftsman, Machine, Computer: A return to the Gothic?** | Sarah Gretsch  Comments: Prof. Alessandro Armando |
| 16.30  17.00 | **On the “Pathos of Closeness”: about the role of technology as a modeling agent of experience in contemporary architectural practices** | Juan Almarza Anwandter  Comments: Eduardo Fregonese |
| 17.00  17.30 | **Subotica unbuilt: towards a not so concrete utopia** | Dezire Tillinger  Comments: Dr. Natasa Jankovic |

Friday, 21th September 2018

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| **Time** | **Title** | **Lecturer** |
| 10.00  11.00 | **Ways of Seeing Architecture** | Maria Chiara Continillo  Comments: Dr. Lidia Gasperoni |
| 11.00  12.00 | **Searching for the Algorithm of Architectural Education** | Dr. Sanja Bojanic & Dr. Natasa Jankovic  Comments: Alessandro Armando |
| 12.00  13.00 | **The Financialization of Knowledge and Its Impact on Cityscapes Translocally** | Dr. Lina Dokuzovic  Comments: Prof. Lidia Gasperoni |
| 13.00  14.00 | **Closing remarks, distribution of certificates** | |

The IUC requires the payment of a course fee, currently 50 EUR or its HRK equivalent, which is to be paid by all course participants. The fee could be paid to the following account or directly in the IUC office throughout the duration of the course.

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