

M one

the 2010/11 CAAD MAS class

Module 1 Living in a world of abundant potentials

The first module asks about the use and the possibility of a theory for architecture, with a specific application to and perspective on CAAD. We will be concerned with the relation between architectonics as a methodological, philosophical frame of reference and its application in architectural practice, both from a historical as well as from a structural point of view. We will especially look at the role technology plays in that relation.

Different from mechanical technology which operates on the substrate of physical forces, information technology takes as its substrate information. From an architectonic point of view, how can we orientate ourselves when constructing within the symbolic and its potentiality?

The rising importance of concepts like network, field, stratum and plateau a.o. point out that we are learning to maintain a different relation with geometry and quantification, and the respective socio-political forms of organization in space and time (territorialization/ deterritorialization). On a methodological level, the possibility of synthesizing series and constructing sequences as genuinely analytical elements point to the possibility of an abstraction from the geometrical elements and the mechanical methods of aligning them. The students will be introduced to the larger problematics behind the profound changes that are characteristic for our time, as well as to some key concepts and methods for approaching and dealing with them.

The introduction into these backgrounds will help the students to develop an own position and attitude as a future architect. These embedding concepts are key for learning how to design and construct within the space of abundant potentials that the symbolic is. A great emphasis of the course will lie on training the students in a kind of architectonic close reading of demanding texts. Furthermore they will re-visit conceptual elements of their daily practice such as a plan, a line, a surface from a fresh perspective. In a final exercise the students will work out a manifesto for a general architectonics for narrative infrastructures within the symbolic. The results will be presented to the CAAD group at ETH, as well as to a final guest critic.

Guests

Dr. Edward Willat: Gilles Deleuzes Organon for an Architectonics of Growth. *Warwick University, London UK*

Prof. Dr. Kate Marshall: Narrative Infrastructures in Story-Telling. *University of Notre Dame, IN USA, media and literature theory*

Monday Sept. 27th
10-12 am From Tableau to Plateau – Architectonics and Mediality (V.Bühlmann)
Preparatory Readings: The Origin of Geometry (Michel Serres, Hermes V: The North-West Passage)
1-2 pm Introduction to Group Work I: presentation of the topic, discussion of the procedure.

Tuesday Sept. 28th – Thursday Sept. 30th
Group Work I: Reading and architectonic analysis of ‘Rhizome’ by Deleuze & Guattari.

Friday Oct. 1st
4-6 pm Gilles Deleuzes Architectonic of Growth (**Dr. Edward Willat**)
6-9 pm metalithicum salon with **Dr. Edward Willat**, food and drinks and talk

Monday Oct. 4th
10-12 am Lecture on Evolution (K. Wassermann, CAAD ETHZ)
2-4 pm Presentation and Discussion of Group Work I

Tuesday Oct. 5th
10-12 am Basic concepts of architectonic elements One: The Point (L. Hovestadt)
2-4 pm Basic concepts of architectonic orthoregulation One: on Coding (V. Bühlmann). Followed by an introduction to group work II: presentation of the topic, discussion of the procedure.

Wednesday Oct. 6th
Group Work II: Reading and architectonic analysis of The Geology of Morals (Who Does the Earth Think It Is?) (Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, on the "nature" of sedimentation of plateaus),
1-4 pm Close Reading and individual discussion sessions (V. Bühlmann, L. Hovestadt)

Thursday Oct. 7th – Friday Oct. 8th
Group Work II: Reading and architectonic analysis cont.

Monday Oct. 11th
10-12 am Lecture on Sequences (K. Wassermann, CAAD ETHZ)
2-4 pm Presentation and Discussion of Group Work II

Tuesday Oct. 12th
10-12 am Basic concepts of architectonic elements two: the line (L. Hovestadt)
2-4 pm Basic concepts of architectonic orthoregulation two: on Serialization (V. Bühlmann), followed by introduction to final group work:

Wednesday Oct. 13th – Thursday Oct. 14th
Final Group Work: Reading and architectonic analysis of „The Refrain“ (Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, on the "nature" of time in plateaus) & manifesto for a general architectonics for narrative infrastructures within the symbolic
1-4 pm Close Reading and individual discussion sessions (V. Bühlmann, L. Hovestadt)

Friday Oct. 15th
Final Group Work Reading and architectonic analysis of „The Refrain“ (Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, on the "nature" of time in plateaus) & manifesto for a general architectonics for narrative infrastructures within the symbolic
1-4 pm Close Reading and individual discussion sessions (V. Bühlmann, L. Hovestadt)
6-9 pm metalithicum salon with **Prof. Dr. Kate Marshall**, food and drinks and talk

Monday Oct. 18th
10-11 am Basic concepts of architectonic elements three: The matrix (L. Hovestadt)
11-12 am Basic concepts of architectonic orthoregulation three: on assemblage (V. Bühlmann)
4-6 pm Guest Lecture: Narrative Infrastructures in Story Telling (**Prof. Dr. Kate Marshall**, University of Notre Dame (IN), USA)

Tuesday Oct. 19th – Wednesday Oct. 20th
Final Group Work: manifesto for a general architectonics for narrative infrastructures within the symbolic

Thursday Oct. 21st
10am – 4pm presentation and critique of final group work (with **Prof. Kate Marshall**, University of Notre Dame, IN USA)