

Course Syllabus

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**Professor: Felicity D. Scott
2017**

Spring

A4033: CCCPArch Colloquium II: Operating Platforms: Publication, Exhibition, Research

Tuesday 2-4PM, Buell 300 South

Office Hours: Buell 202, Wednesday 2-4PM and by appointment

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Description: The domain of architectural work is multi-faceted, as are the multiple forms of practice and knowledge that reflect back upon it. In this sense, architectural expertise appears in many formats, media, and institutional frameworks that extend beyond, while often informing, the discipline's role in the production of buildings. This heterogeneous field incorporates periodicals, books, pamphlets, exhibitions, installations, research institutes and labs, pedagogy, criticism, manifestos, historical scholarship, posters, films, videos, performances, conferences, online forums, and much more. These many architectural modalities, as well as their institutional and mediatic interfaces, or forms of dissemination, have each, in distinct ways, played important roles in the conceptualization and transformation of the discipline.

Designed to look closely and critically at these fields of practice, this colloquium will focus on three interrelated platforms: (1) publications including magazines, reports, newspapers, and books and the architects, critics, writers, and publishers associated with them; (2) exhibitions in galleries, museums, worlds fairs, expos, biennales, and triennales and the architects, curators, and institutions involved, and; (3) experimental formats of research and the collaborative arrangements and institutions through which they function. The course will not provide a comprehensive account of each of these practices. Rather, we will use selected examples to investigate what role these platforms have played in the formulation and understanding of architecture and we will work to identify their contribution to seminal debates, to transformations in architecture's technical and aesthetic characteristics, to sponsoring critical experimentation, as well as to the careers of many architects. We will attempt to distinguish the different forms of expertise each of these platforms and media manifest; ask how they function as interfaces and to what audiences; and consider whether they serve to consolidate and codify existing architectural paradigms or to forge new critical and conceptual and well as aesthetic, material, and programmatic possibilities. We will look at how various practices emerged in their specific historical context and ask to what degree they functioned to maintain a status quo or acted as critical and polemical launchings. We will ask, in turn, what scope there is for pushing new formats, developing new critical

concepts, opening new trajectories of investigation, and expanding the very territories of the discipline.

Requirements and Grades: Students are expected to attend all sessions and to keep up with required readings. There is a class presentation and a final paper. All work presented or submitted should be original and written for this course. Students should familiarize themselves with Columbia's Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity, found at <http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/integrity-statement>

The grade for this class will be determined as follows:

Class Presentation and Participation 50%

Final Paper 50%

Readings: The readings for this course vary in nature. Some have been chosen because they are important primary or secondary source literature on a historical or contemporary subject, others more for their "form" than content, for what they can tell us (either explicitly or between the lines) about a particular mode of practice. The latter type of texts will thus be studied somewhat in the manner in which one might look at an object: we will be asking who made it and why, how is it put together, what does it contain or reflect, how and where does it operate or function, what social, historical, and institutional parameters are relevant to understanding it.

Required readings are available either (1) as pdf files on Courseworks for this class (listed on syllabus as "C"); (2) through E-Journals at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/ejournals/> (listed on syllabus as "EJ"). The Courseworks readings are found under "Files and Resources," then the sub-file "Shared Files," and are organized by week. Further readings have not been put on reserve.

Presentations: Students will be expected to identify a topic for research that focuses on an exhibition, publication, curator, writer, or research practice dating from the 19th to 21st century. This will be developed in the form of a class presentation and final paper. Students will be expected to commit to presentation topics in the second week of class. Presentations should be 15-20 minutes in length and relevant to a particular session. Further information will be handed out in Week 2. As an alternative, in addition to a class presentation in the format just described, students can elect to develop, in lieu of a final paper, a detailed "program" for an exhibition, publication, or research institute, or to develop "reviews" of either buildings, exhibitions or events paying attention to their critical stakes, content, format, and contribution to the field.

