Annual Symposium 2021

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY + CLIMATE EMERGENCY

This year’s annual symposium is held in partnership with Architects Declare, ACAN, Heritage Declares, and the RIAS. Spread across two weeks the Symposium is convened by Prof Alex Bremner, Dr Barnabas Calder, Savia Palate, and Dr Neal Shasore.

June 2021 via Zoom

The Symposium places the nexus between architecture and energy centre stage in our understanding of the historic built environment, considering how both large-scale energy consumption and socio-political regimes of energy production force us to give greater consideration to architecture’s environmental impact through time.

By investigating the relationship between buildings and energy, in conjunction with other factors such as the building industry’s contribution to deforestation, eco-system destruction, and wide-spread pollution connected to primary material procurement, architectural history can reclaim its long-standing place as a central contributor to architectural debate and practice. Much more importantly, considering the history of architecture in this context can make a significant contribution to understanding and addressing the fossil fuel dependency and biodiversity crisis that threatens the continuation of life on Earth.
Programme

9 June

18:00-18:15 BST Opening Remarks

18:15-19:30 BST Keynote Lecture
Elizabeth McKellar (Open University)

10 June

Roundtables

09:15-09:30 BST Opening Remarks

09:30-11:00 BST Roundtable
Climate Literacy
ACAN

11:30-13:00 BST Roundtable
Architectural Practice and Climate Emergency
Architects Declare, Heritage Declares, RIAS

14:00-15:30 BST Roundtable
Teaching Energy Awareness
Angela Connelly (Manchester School of Architecture), Katherine Li (Glasgow School of Art), Scott McAulay (Anthropocene Architecture School), Florian Urban (Glasgow School of Art)

11 June

09:15-9:30 BST Opening Remarks

09:30-11:00 BST Panel 1: Strategies of Environmental Conditioning

The brise-soleil Dilemma: Reading Design Intentions Through Climate – Harry Seidler and the Sun-Protractor
Elizabeth Musgrave (University of Queensland) and Philip Goad (University of Melbourne)

Constructing Regional Identity Through Adaption to Climate: the Case of Guangzhou, China
Yichi Zhang (University of Oslo)
Atrium Buildings and Energy Consumption in 1970s Britain
Charles Rice (University of Technology Sydney)

What the Future of Architecture Holds: Historicizing Strategies for Energy Transition Imagined at the NEST
Kim Förster (University of Manchester)

11:30-13:00 BST Panel 2: Material/Immaterial

Tell-Khaiber: Low-Energy Fortification Construction in Bronze Age Mesopotamia
Mary Shepperson (University of Liverpool)

Material Representations: The Technics of Miyadaiku
Yi-Ern Tan Samuel (National University of Singapore)

On Tracelessness: The Climatic–Cultural Case for Rewriting Histories of Sámi Architecture
Sofia Singler (University of Cambridge)

Energy to Build, Energy to Dwell: The Lurie House by Kaneji Domoto
Lynnette Widder (Columbia University)

14:00-15:30 BST Panel 3: Buildings and Landscapes of Petro-Urbanism

At the Heart of Soconyland: The Architectural Ambitions of the Standard Oil Company
Joseph M. Watson (Kansas State University)

Assessing the 1973 Turn in Architecture: Oil Crisis, Alternative Energies, and the Insulation Boom
Paul Bouet (Université Gustave Eiffel) and Jean Souviron (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

Managing the Well/Managing the Town: Petro-capital and Environmental Professionalism between Houston and Saudi Arabia
B. Jack Hanly (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

The E-Road Network as Actor of Planetary Urbanization: Reconsidering the Trans-European Petroleumscape
Marianna Charitonidou (ETH, Zurich)
16 June

18:00-18:15 BST **Opening Remarks**

18:15-19:30 BST **Keynote Lecture**
The Economics of Construction in Imperial Roman Architecture
Janet Delaine (Oxford University)

17 June

11:00-11:15 BST **Opening Remarks**

11:15-12:30 BST **Keynote Lecture**
Thermal Governance, Energetic Intermediation, and Architecture
Jiat-Hwee Chang (National University of Singapore)

13:30-15:00 BST **Panel 4: Conservation and Consumption**

Environmental Politics of Time in Ghana’s Construction Industry, 1950s-1960s
Łukasz Stanek (University of Manchester)

Energy Slaves: Buckminster Fuller’s Universal Vision of Race and Automation
Peg Rawes (Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL)

New Histories in the Built Environment: Accounting for Embodied Energy in Post-War Reconstruction
Sean McEntee (University of Edinburgh)

Primitive Forms, High-tech Services: Energy Conservation and Shelter Design in Stefan A. Szczelkun’s Survival Scrapbook 1
Francesca Zanotto (Università IUAV di Venezia)

15:30-17:00 BST **Panel 5: Codes and Costs of Environmental Planning**

Colonial Town Planning and Techno-Futurism: Ecological Disaster in the Writings of W. H. McLean
Samuel Grinsell (University of Antwerp)

Temporalities of Terrestrial Mutation: A Reading of the Curtis’s and Harvey Explosives Factory, Cliffe, Medway
Corinna Dean (University of Westminster)

Rebecca Wright (University of Northumbria)
Landscape Legacies of Power Generation: Drakelow and the Central Electricity Generating Board
Luca Csepely-Knorr (Manchester School of Architecture)

18 June

13:15-13:30 BST  Opening Remarks

13:30-15:00 BST  Panel 6: Imaginaries of Energy and Power

‘The Grandfather of Skyscrapers’: Gas, Steam, and Iron at Shrewsbury Flax Mill
Tim Greensmith (Associate, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios)

The Energies, Geo-Politics, and Capitalist Spatial Imaginaries of Iron in Architectural History
Joseph Bedford (Virginia Tech)

‘Nature’s Storehouse is Man’s Benefactor’: Designing Infinite Growth along the Niagara Frontier
Elliott Sturtevant (Columbia University)

The Machine in the Mountain: the Piave River Hydro-Power Apparatus and Fascist Ideas of Nature
Elena Longhin (Università IUAV di Venezia)

15:30-17:00 BST  Panel 7: Atmospheres and Bodies in/through Space

Heat and Light in the Little Ice Age: the Environment in the Elizabethan Country House
Ranald Lawrence (University of Liverpool)

Towards an Architecture of Steam: Climate, Bathing, and the British Working Class
Dustin Valen (Concordia University)

Where are the Bodies?: Indoor Climates and Human Energy
Betsy Frederick-Rothwell (University of Texas at Austin)

Trajectories of Modernity: Spatial Evolution and Energy Demand in Middle-Class Housing in Lahore, Pakistan
Rihab Khalid (University of Cambridge)

17:00-17:30 BST  Concluding Remarks