

**concrete
geometries
spatial form
in social
& aesthetic
processes**

Concrete (adjective): capable of being perceived by the senses; not abstract or imaginary

Geometry (noun): a part of mathematics concerned with questions of size, shape, relative position of figures and with properties of space



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The Architectural Association School of Architecture has led a decade of innovation in geometry: its production, controlling and optimisation have all led to an extensive technical understanding in mastering novel forms of spatial and material production. Their cultural evaluation however, currently lags behind.

concrete geometries

is an attempt to shift the notion of geometry from its technologically driven stronghold and position it in a wider cultural debate. This involves a shift in criteria. From the technical to issues of use, practice and experience. 'Concrete Geometries' is the proposal to think about spatial geometry as a potent, socially engaged and experientially relevant tool.

‘Concrete Geometries’ is a research initiative at the Architectural Association School of Architecture investigating the intimate relationship between spatial form and human processes – be they social or aesthetic – and the variety of new material entities this relationship might provoke. By bringing together art, architecture, design and the humanities, the cluster aims to provide a platform beyond disciplinary boundaries. ‘Concrete Geometries’ is directed by Marianne Mueller and Olaf Kneer.

Background

Over the past decade architecture has witnessed a revolution in design and fabrication tools available to the discipline that has changed the way we imagine space forever. Digital design methods for form finding and implementing have produced an influential body of work, preoccupied with the development of novel, complex and heterogeneous spatial form. This form, simply referred to as ‘geometry’, is often evaluated through performance driven issues focusing on the environmental and structural parameters that shape it. Yet, the emergence of new spatial forms and with them new architectural styles, bear significance beyond technology but in relation to what they offer to the human condition in terms of aesthetic and social processes – issues currently under-represented by the discourse.

Research

‘Concrete Geometries’ is a work-in-progress term derived from the notion of ‘concrete’ as existing in reality or actual experience and ‘geometries’ as an abbreviation for spatial form. Like Concrete Science, Music or Art, ‘Concrete Geometries’ is interested in the particular and immediate, concerned with actual use or practice.

‘Concrete Geometries’ is an attempt to expand this current debate.

How does spatial form choreograph human processes? Can it stimulate emotional or behavioural responses or create particular aesthetic experiences? Can social cultures be patterned through formal configurations of space? How can the articulation of a space support acts of inhabitation, appropriation or other types of direct engagement? What kind of associations emerge between spatial geometry and social actors?

To advance this research, the cluster started its work by launching an internal and interdisciplinary call for submissions providing practical or theoretical contribution. The material drawn from this call forms the basis for future events: an exhibition, a symposium and a publication project are all part of an unfolding process of research addressing the issue of spatial form in social and aesthetic processes from different angles.

Thematic Field A: Geometry & Perception

1. Perception & Cognition

Walter Benjamin argues that the interaction with architectural space happens in a state of distraction ('Zerstreuung') or low level of consciousness. For works in this category processes of perception and their relation to geometry are in the foreground. Being revealed to a user / viewer, these often reach a state of awareness.

2. Sensory Engagement

This thematic block includes works that explore immediate sensory experiences, involving the bodily senses, a type of immersion. Dealing with atmosphere and phenomenological presences, perception is here defined as a process of engagement, involving the user / viewer as a participant, a process that might involve a response or might develop a social dimension.

Thematic Field B: Geometry & Social Processes

3. Relational Space

Works in this category are exploring the notion of spatial form as providing literal and immediate support for the unfolding of social situations, the creation of human relations and their social contexts as a practice, the geometry of social environments and the production of intersubjective encounters.

4. Social Contracts

Legal systems use spatial and territorial configurations to organize how we live together. The basis of this is a type of contract or agreement. Works in this category investigate how societies are organised through spatial and geometric means. This involves an aspect of aspiration – we are searching for utopian rather than dystopian interpretations.

Timetable of Events

International Open Call for Submissions

January – April 2010

In January 2010 the cluster launched an international and interdisciplinary call for submissions with two thematic fields: 'Geometry and Perception' and 'Geometry and Social Processes'. It attracted 415 entries from artists, architects and designers from around the globe. In May 2010 the cluster's curatorial board selected 20 image-based and 14 text-based submissions for further consideration.

Preview Exhibition

15 May – 5 June 2010

The 'PREVIEW' exhibition was held in the AA's Back Member's Room and gave an overview of the works submitted – a simple preview. It featured almost 50 works drawn from the wealth of submissions received by the cluster.

Public Symposium

15 October 2010

A public symposium takes place at the Architectural Association's Lecture Hall on 15th October 2010. 22 international artists and architects are discussing the potential of spatial form as a socially engaged and experientially relevant tool. The day is again structured into two thematic fields: 'A. Geometry and Perception' and 'B. Geometry and Social Processes'. There are four discussion blocks which have the following working titles: 'Perception and Cognition', 'Sensory Engagement', 'Relational Space' and 'Social Contracts'. The symposium is part of the AA's Public Programme, an extensive series of public events dedicated to contemporary architectural culture. The symposium will be in English and the admission is free.

Public Exhibition

4th – 26th March 2011

This exhibition, held at the AA's Front Member's Room, will feature a selection of works from artists, architects and designers exploring the relationship between spatial form and social and aesthetic processes through projects. It is scheduled for the Spring Term 2011 and will also be part of the Public Programme of the school. It will be developed in conversation with its participants and might include site specific and purpose designed pieces.

Publication

Summer 2011

A publication documenting the work of the cluster is planned for the academic year 2010/2011. It will comprise the collated and edited material generated from the call, symposium, exhibition and other events and include a number of text contributions not yet published. It will be launched in the Summer term of 2011.

The Architectural Association



Unique, dynamic, independent and international, the Architectural Association School of Architecture was originally set up in 1847 as a public forum and learned society, in/ famously founded by 'a pack of troublesome students'. The AA is much more than the UK's oldest school of architecture; the school is the nexus of a global conglomeration of contemporary architectural culture, as well as its pasts. The AA's incarnations include:

- a professional association;
- a vibrant membership organisation comprising more than 3000 members;
- a registered charity;
- AA Publications, publisher of books and journals;
- AA Bookshop, one of London's leading architectural booksellers; and
- a high-profile public events programme, including a wealth of exhibitions, lectures, symposia, seminars, conversations, research clusters and visits.

All this takes place at the AA's newly consolidated campus home on its historic site in Bedford Square in Bloomsbury, central London and its site in Dorset for the development of rural architectures and sustainable technologies.

Research Clusters



AA Research Clusters are a programme of 18 month-long special projects, activities and events that bring together diverse groups of AA staff, students and outside partners for the purpose of realising a body of focused research. As originally conceived in 2005, Research Clusters are mechanisms for triggering and integrating discussion and exchange across the school. Operating in part as 'vertical units', they are intended as platforms through which to consolidate expertise within the school, exploring and enhancing existing and new territories and modes of research. It is the ambition of the clusters to take the lead on enhancing the culture of applied research in the school. In addition to developing diverse areas of expertise and projects, Research Clusters are expected to challenge existing forms of research and presentation — exploring alternative ways in which work can be produced. These methods have been in the form of events, symposia, conferences, workshops, performances, publications, off- or on-site exhibitions, fabrications and inter-disciplinary collaborative research and competitions. Research Clusters not only bring audiences, researchers and specialists into the school, they are effective platforms in which the school's teaching staff gains valuable experience and develops expertise by connecting to research activity outside the AA.

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Symposium / Programme Outline

The core of this event will be held on 15 October 2010 in the Lecture Hall of the Architectural Association. 22 international artists and architects will discuss new ways of thinking about spatial geometry as a socially engaged and experientially relevant tool.

14 October 2010

Arrival and introductions
18.00h
Introduction by the organisers
Open Room 6

15 October 2010

This one-day symposium is structured into two thematic fields and four discussion blocks. The format of each block is a series of short illustrated presentations followed by a round table discussion. All sessions will be chaired by Marianne Mueller and Olaf Kneer together with an invited guest.

Morning Session:
Thematic Field A: Geometry and Perception

9.45h
Brett Steele

9.50h
Marianne Mueller & Olaf Kneer
(Directors, Concrete Geometries)

10.00h – 11.30h
Block 1: Perception and Cognition

Dr Toni Kotnik (studio master and senior researcher, The Architectural Association and ETH Zürich), Christine Rusche (artist, Germany), Eric Martijn (artist, Netherlands), Jaime Gili (artist, Venezuela/UK), guest chair: Christian Derix (head of computational design and research, Aedas R&D)

11.45h – 13.15h
Block 2: Sensory Engagement
Jane Hutton (landscape designer, Canada) & Adrian Blackwell (visual artist and urbanist, Canada), Craig Scott (principle Iwamoto Scott Architecture, USA), Susanne Hofmann (founding director Die Baupiloten, Germany), Sandra Manninger (founder SPAN Architecture & Design, Austria)

13.15h – 14.00h
Lunch

Afternoon Session:
Thematic Field B: Geometry and Social Processes

14.00h – 15.15h
Block 3: Relational Space
Kathrin Böhm (public works, UK), Fran Cottell (artist, UK), Isabelle Doucet (researcher, Manchester Architecture Research Centre), Robert Mantho & Joanna Crotch (researcher, Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art), guest chair: Kieran Long (architectural critic and broadcaster)

15.30h – 15.45h
Coffee

15.45h – 17.15h
Block 4: Social Contracts
Graziela Kunsch (artist, Brazil) & Rafi Segal (architect and writer, USA), Sabine Müller (SMAQ architecture, Germany), Lukas Einsele (artist, Germany), Vincent Wittenberg (designer, The Netherlands), guest chair: Ines Weizman (architect and theorist, London Metropolitan University and the Architectural Association)

17.15h
Roundup

20.00h
Participant's Dinner

16 October 2010

10.00h
Conclusions and next steps.
Front Members Room

Afternoon
Optional visit of the Frieze Art Fair
Departure

1. Perception and Cognition

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Atelier Tekuto, Japan

Mineral House: building project, polyhedral volumes and reflections deviate from the restrictiveness of the site

124

Christine Rusche, Germany

Room Drawing: installation, transforming existing spaces with graphic yet space creating means

77

Rachel Harding, UK

Hidden Habitat: documentation project, visual maps of a terraced house that explore hidden spaces within the home

183

Eric Martijn, Netherlands

Sloped Floor: project proposal for a sloping floor installed in the AA gallery. The slope registers the façade's subsidence allowing visitors to experience the deformity of the building

63

Jaime Gili, Venezuela

Diamante de las Semilitas: art installation in a neighbourhood in Caracas

2. Sensory Engagement

374

Easton Combs, USA

Lux Nova: design proposal for a multicolored polycarbonate structure that produces luminous atmospheres drifting with daylight

372

Jane Hutton and Adrian Blackwell, Canada
Dymaxion Sleep: installation in the public realm, structure of nets suspended over a field of aromatic plants

314

Barkow Leibinger, Germany

Smart Material House: building project, combining performative aspects with formal / spatialising possibilities

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Iwamoto Scott Architecture, USA

Voussoir Cloud: site specific installation, system of vaults, exploring the structural paradigm of pure compression coupled with an ultra-light material system

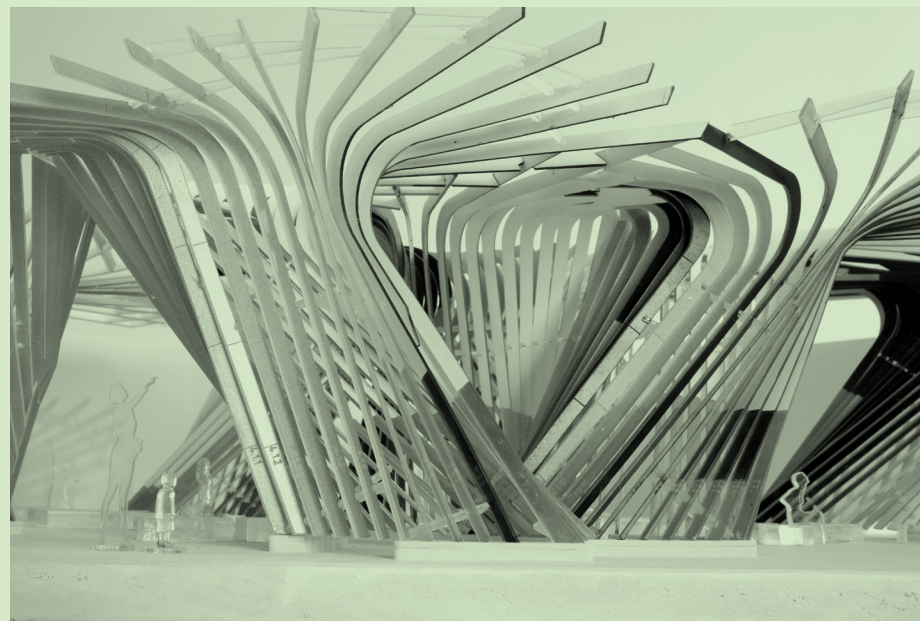
233

Susanne Hofmann, Germany

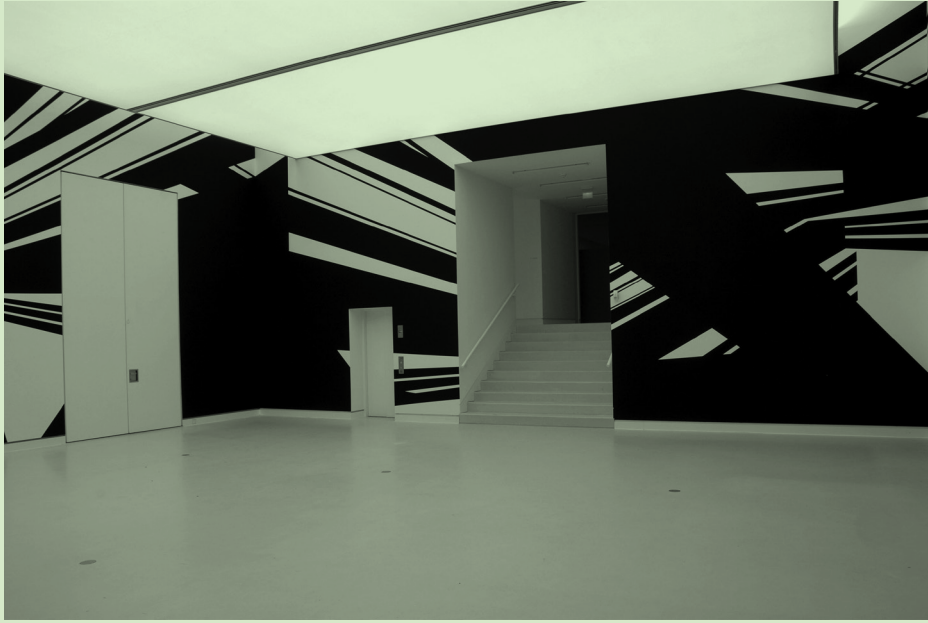
Form Follows Fiction: building project for an elementary school, exploring participatory design processes and sensory experiences



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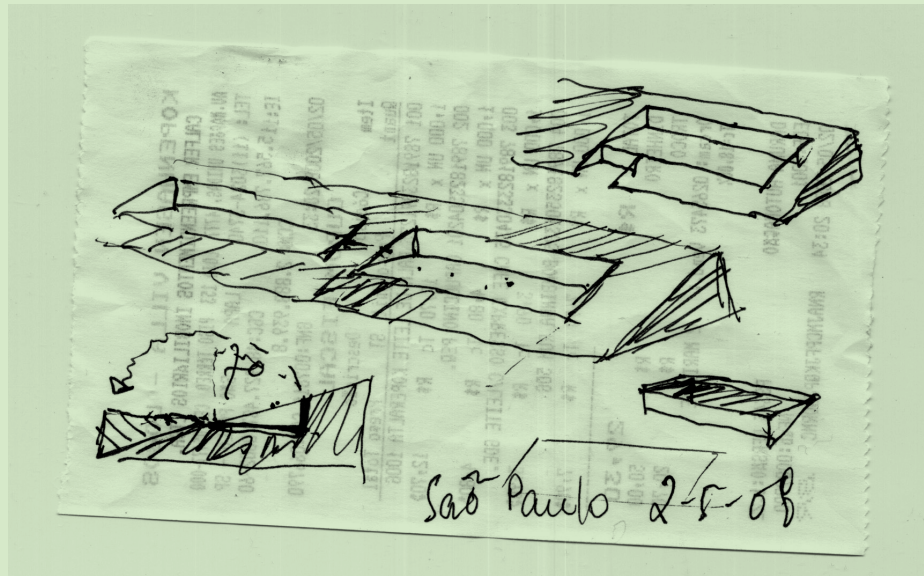
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Exhibition: List of Exhibits (continued)

3. Relational Space

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Antony Coleman UK

Photographs depicting social clusterings:
Fishing competition, Canary Wharf, Westfield
Shopping Mall, Sports Hall, North Sea, Camber
Sands

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BARarchitekten, Germany

Mischen Possible: building project, exploring
the idea of spatial-social interaction at various
scales

87

Elmo Vermijs, Netherlands

Connecting Corridor: installation connecting
two buildings, the chosen form causes people
to unexpectedly run into one another

139

Fran Cottell, UK

House Installation Project: installation project
in an existing domestic setting, a raised plat-
form acts as a walkway for visitors, sculptural
system and concrete space

4. Social Contracts

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Kai Schiemenz, Germany

model for a spherical building, Splendid Mod-
ernism (practising democracy): art installation,
served as a venue for temporary events which
transformed the familiar formats of speech and
lecture into a dialogue between visitors and
speakers

396

Brandhuber + ERA,
Emde, Schneider, Germany

Brunnenstrasse 9: building project, shaped by
legal rule systems and an existing ruin

260

Graziela Kunsch and Rafi Segal, Brazil / USA
Anti-Homeless Ramp: project proposal for the
documentation of the Anti-Homeless Ramp as
implemented by the city of Sao Paulo to evict
homeless people to the city's outskirts

150

Lukas Einsele, Germany

Moments of an M85 – Zenon's arrow retraced:
artistic project that documents the trajectory
of M85 bomblets: from a spot where they
exploded (or not) back to their origins

347

SMAQ, Germany

Charter of Dubai: urban design proposal that
re-adjusts the urbanity of Dubai's iconic Palm
Jumeraih

46

Vincent Wittenberg, Netherlands

Familiar Site: public realm project, the com-
munal replacement of a fence returns a space
temporarily to its neighbourhood

Marianne Mueller
United Kingdom

Marianne Mueller is director of Mueller Kneer Associates / Architects, a London based architectural practice that builds, researches and writes. Mueller Kneer was identified by the 'AJ Corus 40 under 40 Award' as part of an emerging generation of architects in the UK. Marianne is a graduate of the Architectural Association in London and has worked with 'CHORA' / Raoul Bunschoten. She has been teaching at the University of East London, School of Architecture and the Visual Arts, was guest professor at the Technical University of Berlin, leading the chair of Design and Construction and is now Diploma Unit Master at the Architectural Association School together with Olaf Kneer. Since 2009 they are also Programme Directors of AA Berlin Laboratory and the Concrete Geometries Research Cluster. www.muellerkneer.com
www.aadip1.net

Olaf Kneer
United Kingdom

Olaf Kneer trained at the University of Dortmund and the Architectural Association. He worked with Ian Ritchie and Llewelyn Davies Yeang before founding Mueller Kneer Associates in London in 1997 with Marianne Mueller. Olaf is a member of the Newham Design Review Panel which evaluates and provides independent and professional design advice on key developments in the Borough. Olaf taught the MArch Urban Design course together with Colin Fournier at the UCL Bartlett from 2005 to 2007. Olaf is now Diploma Unit Master at the Architectural Association School together with Marianne Mueller. Since 2009 they are also Programme Directors of AA Berlin Laboratory and the Concrete Geometries Research Cluster. www.muellerkneer.com
www.aadip1.net

Advisors

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Author, Editor and Architecture Critic

Stefano Rabolli Pansera
Director Beyond Entropy Research Cluster,
The Architectural Association

Michael Weinstock
Director Emergent Technologies,
The Architectural Association

Matthias Ballestrem
Germany

Matthias Ballestrem is an architect living and working in Berlin. Since his Fulbright scholarship at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles in 1999 he has been investigating the interrelationship of architectural space and the human nervous system. He finished his degree at the Institute of Technology of Berlin and worked for several architecture offices in Germany including Barkow Leibinger Architects. During his time there he was leading the competition team and was part of the design team for the TRUTEK Building. Matthias has established a small architectural practice in 2006. At the same time, he started to teach as assistant professor at the Department of Architecture of the Institute of Technology in Berlin. Matthias has served as a guest design critic at various institutions including the GSD Harvard. Student work of his design studio has recently been exhibited in the Pavilion show at the Deutsches Architekturmuseum in Frankfurt and the 2009 International Architecture Biennale, Rotterdam. Matthias is currently working on his PhD on the ambiguity of spaces.

BAR berlin – Base for Architecture and Research
Germany

BAR was founded in 1992 by Antje Buchholz, Jack Burnett-Stuart, Jürgen Patzak-Poor and Michael Matuschka. Since then BAR's architecture and research practice has explored three main themes: Documentation of urban everyday space, Use of models to explore both spatial and conceptual ideas, Redefinition the architect's role through direct involvement in the initiation, financing, and construction of projects. Projects range in scale from the Durchgangsbad (1993), a prototypical passage bathroom for one-room apartments, to strategies for urban infill in towns in Mark Brandenburg (1996). BAR's activity has focused recently on mixed-use buildings in Berlin (Oderberger Strasse 56, 2007–2010, and Schwedter Straße 26, 1999–2002), and on urban research and development projects (City in Conflict, 2003–2004; Building Initiative, 2004–2005).

Members of BAR have taught at SCI-ARC and Woodbury University in Los Angeles, at the TU and FU in Berlin, the University of Ulster, Belfast and the TU, Cottbus. BAR has received several awards, most recently the KfW-Award

2010 for the mixed use project Oderberger Strasse 56. BAR's work has been exhibited at Archilab 2004 in Orléans and at the NAI in Rotterdam in 2006.

Kathrin Böhm – public works
United Kingdom

'Public Works' is an art and architecture practice working within and towards public space. All public works projects address the question of how the public realm is shaped by its various users and how existing dynamics can inform further proposals. Their focus is the production and extension of a particular public space through participation and collaborations. Projects span across different scales and address the relation between the informal and formal aspects of a site. The work produces social, architectural and discursive spaces. Outputs include socio-spatial and physical structures, public events and publications. public works is a London based non-for-profit company. Current members are Kathrin Böhm, Torange Khonsari, Andreas Lang and Polly Brannan who work with an extended network of project related collaborators. The practice has been growing organically since 1999, with its initial founding members Kathrin Böhm, Sandra Denicke-Polcher, Torange Khonsari, Andreas Lang and Stefan Saffer working in different constellations until 2004. Current and recent projects include "Today's extension" for South London Gallery, "Colchester Inn" for firstsite, "Chodzenie" for the Polish Festival in Southend, "1000 Bags here and now" for Whitechapel Gallery, London, "Folk Float" for Creative Egremont, and the "International Village Shop" a joint initiative with myvillages.org and Grizedale Arts. www.publicworksgroup.net

Brandlhuber+ ERA, Emde, Schneider
Germany

Arno Brandlhuber is the founder of brandlhuber+ Berlin (since 2006). Since 2003 he has held the chair of architecture and urban research at the Academy of Fine Arts, Nuremberg and is directing the nomadic masters programme a42.org. He is co-founder of the public seminar Akademie c/o, currently researching the spatial production of the Berlin Republic. His architectural practice extends from the 'Neanderthal-Museum' (Düsseldorf/Mettmann

1996) to multi-usable structures such as the 'Kölner Brett' (Cologne 2000) and currently the HybridHouses (IBA Hamburg 2010–2012). For 'Brunnenstrasse 9' he collaborated with ERA (Bruno Ebersbach, Philipp Reinfeld, Florian Steinbeck), Markus Emde (professor for designing and engineering at Hochschule Regensburg) and Thomas Schneider.
www.brandlhuber.com

Anthony Coleman
United Kingdom

Anthony Coleman is a photographer based in London. He began his career in photography working for the features desk at the Daily Telegraph. Having achieved a first degree in architecture he went on to graduate with an MA in fine art photography from the Royal College of Art in 1997. Since then he has worked as a photographer chiefly for architects and magazines and continues to pursue personal photographic projects and exhibition participations.
www.anthonycoleman.com

Fran Cottell
United Kingdom

Fran Cottell is an artist and Senior Lecturer at Camberwell College of Arts in MA fine art/BA Context. In 2008 she curated 'Concrete Dreams: Art, Architecture and Social Space' with Liz Harrison for Apt gallery/Open House, bringing together 27 artists, motivated by diverse issues such as pathos, humour, desire, history, power, wealth and neglect (www.concretedreams.org). Other exhibitions include 2005/6—'Collecting Time: the Living and the Dead', 2003/4—'Still Live' and 2001—'Display' which are an ongoing series of live installations displaying the contents, visitors and occupants of her house. Her 2008 work 'Gold Balls' is a large scale public art project, part of the Deptford X projects, From 1996–1998 she worked on public art projects/design teams with Terry Watts, London Boroughs of Merton and Newham, Mike Walker, David Powell Associates, Price and Myers, Electrosonic, Common Ground and Levitt Bernstein Associates. She has been Executive of the Public Art Forum from 1997–2002.

Christian Derix
United Kingdom

Christian Derix set up the Research & Development initiative at Aedas Architects, London in 2004. He is Head of the Computational Research and Design group [CDR] where new

design methodology is developed from a blend of computing science and other disciplines. The research has been implemented over various scales on many live projects such as furniture; VITA shelving system, 2008, architecture; World Trade Centre Memorial Museum visual analysis, 2007 and urban design; Masdar City Mixed neighbourhood MIST 340, 2009. Christian has been a senior lecturer of the Masters' in Computing & Design at the University of East London since 2001. He set up the Centre for Evolutionary Computing in Architecture (CECA) in 2002 with Paul Coates, and has taught Algorithmic Architecture at the Milan Polytechnic, Technical University Vienna and University College London. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Simulation of Spatial Conditions at TU Vienna.

Isabelle Doucet
Belgium

Isabelle Doucet is a Lecturer in Architecture and Urbanism at the University of Manchester, School of Environment and Development / Manchester Architecture Research Centre. She completed her PhD research at the Delft University of Technology, Architecture Theory, with Prof. Arie Graafland, under the title 'From Penser la Ville to Faire la Ville: Brussels and Architecture's Engagement with the Real'. Recent publications include, the fourth issue of Footprint Journal, on the theme 'Agency in Architecture: Reframing Criticality in Theory and Practice', co-edited with Kenny Cupers (www.footprintjournal.org); and the book 'Transdisciplinary Knowledge Production: Towards Hybrid Modes of Inquiry in Architecture and Urbanism', co-edited with Nel Janssens, Springer Verlag, forthcoming 2010.
www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/architecture/staff/doucet-isabelle.htm

Easton + Combs
USA

EASTON+COMBS are an architectural practice based in New York. With over 30 years of combined experience at the ownership level, EASTON+COMBS represents a broad range of professional experience at all levels of design and construction. With experience locally, nationally and internationally, the firm has a solid understanding of the process of working in different cultural contexts and adjusting to local conditions in the construction industry as well as the contract procurement process. EASTON+COMBS address each commission in a creative way, which is about problem solving

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and establishing an opportunity for an accomplished product that will have a lasting value to their clients and users. They have experience in a range of building types; public, private and commercial, large and small. With strong skills in communication, EASTON+COMBS understand the process of design and construction as collaboration with the client and consultants in order to pursue a common goal.

Lukas Einsele
Germany

Lukas Einsele is an artist. He lives and works in Darmstadt. He is represented in the following collections: Militärhistorisches Museum der Bundeswehr, DG Bank, Deutsche Bank, Hessisches Landesmuseum Darmstadt, Grafische Sammlung der Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Max Planck Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems, Dresden, Museum für Kommunikation, Frankfurt. He received the German Photo Book Award 2006/07 for the book 'One Step Beyond' and was Nominated for the Deutsche Boerse Photography Prize 2008. Recent exhibitions include 2010—'War / Individuum' Ausstellungshallen f. Zeitgenössische Kunst Münster, 2009—'Territories of the (In-) Human', Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart, 2009—'The Bitter Years Contemporary', Kunstforum Casino, Luxemburg, 'War and Medicine' Deutsches Hygienemuseum, Dresden. He works for several NGOs internationally, from 1999–2000 he was appointed Guest Professor at Merz Academy, Stuttgart.
www.one-step-beyond.de

Studio Elmo Vermijs
The Netherlands

Studio Elmo Vermijs is a studio that works on the intersection of visual art, architecture and design. In 2006 Elmo Vermijs graduated with honours from the department of architectural design of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam. The studio designs and realises autonomous architectural objects, which arise from a social context in combination with fascinations for a location, space, material or construction. It is the intention to make people aware of what the influence of space has on every person, physically and mentally. Realised projects include: Cupboardcrates (crates which are built up as a cupboard), Peopleskitchen (mobile cook&eat event), Connectingcorridor (two narrow corridors of 17 metres between two buildings.), 'From plinth to ceiling' (exhibition design for CODA museum Apeldoorn),

Extrapoolpavilion (pavilion for artist collective Extrapool presented at the Kunstvlaai 2008), Cratecupboard (cupboard of old wooden crates, beams and wedges), Kastzitbeeld (installation for gallery E105, Bonn), Staircasepavilion (proposal for Noord/Zuidlijn, Amsterdam), Settlingtankkitchen (open caboose on a former water purification area). Works in progress include: Floating Bridges (a village of floating bridges for the Sloterplasfestival), Swingpavilion (pavilion with 50 swings), Hooliganpavilion (pavilion/stadium where hooligans can fight), Hammockpavilion (floating pavilion with 30 hammocks), Deejaypancakeset (mobile set to play records and bake pancakes at the same time).

Bettina Gerhold
Switzerland

Bettina Gerhold was born in Munich, studied architecture at the Technical University of Munich, the Academy of the Arts in Vienna and colour design at the International Association of Colour consultants in Salzburg. She is working as an architect and colour designer in Munich, Vienna and Salzburg.

Jaime Gili
Venezuela

Jaime Gili, born in 1972, grew up in Caracas, and started art studies in Prodisegno in the 1990's he moved to Barcelona to continue studies at the University of Barcelona. He has been based in London since 1996, when he started an MA in painting at the Royal College of Art. In recent works he depicts the clash of utopia and reality, his work always engaging with the surrounding architecture. His paintings expand to take over visually and physically ever larger spaces, as in his "Superestrellas" at Riflemaker in 2008, and at the warehouses of Periférico Caracas in 2006. Recent exhibitions include Bienal do Mercosul in Brazil in 2007 and Demons, Yarns and Tales', a tapestry project seen in London and Miami and John Moores 25 in Liverpool. Future exhibitions include Kunsthalle Winterthur in Switzerland in October 2009, and NEWSPEAK: British Art Now at Saatchi Gallery. He is represented by Riflemaker in London. Since 2002 his work has been contextualised as continuing a tradition of Latin-American abstract art, especially the Venezuelan optical and kinetic tradition of artists such as Carlos Cruz-Diez and Alejandro Otero, with an input from popular art and London's energy. He recently won an international competition for

one of the world's largest public art project (261,000 sq.ft or 25,000 m²). The tops and sides of 16 large oil tanks along the Fore River in South Portland, Maine will be painted with a site-specific design by Jaine. Work started in 2009 and will take a few years. www.jaimegilli.org

Rachel Harding
United Kingdom

Rachel Harding designs fictional curiosities for grisly scenarios. Her work is driven by the aesthetics of human dysfunction, it provides a glimpse into the possible futures that we might expect as a result of our current desires and fears. Based on rigorous scientific and cultural research, her designs are hybrids of technological possibility and societal ruin.

Susanne Hofmann
Germany

Susanne Hofmann was born in 1963. She received a DAAD scholarship and a Diploma from the Architectural Association. She was nominated for the RIBA Silver Medal in 1992. She has been teaching since 1997 at several universities (RMIT, Melbourne, Westminster University, HCU, Hamburg, Technical University of Berlin), and is now a guest Professor at the Technical University of Berlin. She is the founding director of the Baupiloten at the Technical University of Berlin—an experimental new architectural studio bridging education, practice and research. There have been worldwide publications, exhibitions, workshops and lectures detailing her innovative design strategy of Participation and Architecture.

Jane Hutton and Adrian Blackwell
Canada

Jane Hutton is a researcher and landscape architectural designer, currently teaching at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. Her practice focuses on collaborations with activist groups re-thinking constructed urban ecological systems, and a detailed investigation of materials of landscape architecture. Recent projects include a prototype soil regeneration project at Downsview Park, a fruit orchard in a public Toronto park, and a study of public housing landscapes in Toronto. In 2010 she curated *Erratics: a genealogy of rock landscapes* at the Gund Hall Gallery at Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

Adrian Blackwell is an artist and urban and architectural designer, whose work focuses on

the spaces and forces of uneven development produced through processes of Postfordist urbanisation. Since 1996 his art projects have altered existing spaces to encourage common uses. *Public Water Closet* (1998) and *How to Open a Car Like a Book* (1999) open private enclosures to the city. Recent works such as *Light Net* (2004), *Car Pool* (2005) and *Model for a Public Space* (2000, 2006) produce new locations for collective action and public discourse. In 2005 Blackwell co-edited *Unboxed: Engagements in Social Space* and in 2007 he won the competition to redesign Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square in collaboration with three other design practices. He is an assistant professor of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Toronto. criticalspatialpractice.blogspot.com

Tim Ireland
United Kingdom

Tim Ireland is a registered architect in the UK, having worked for large commercial and small scale private practices. He has worked on various building and project types, in the UK and overseas. After studying architecture he worked with the Bauhaus Foundation in Dessau on the regeneration of the residence and workplace of Lucas Cranach the Elder (a German Renaissance painter), before spending two years working in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He moved to London, where he has been practicing and researching architecture, since 2000. His research focuses on the application of the computer, from an artificial life perspective, to generate systems of architectural production. In 2008 he was awarded an EPSRC research grant and so resigned from his position as senior architect to focus on his research full-time. He is currently engaged in his PhD full-time at the Bartlett School of Graduate Studies, University College London under the guidance of Professor Philip Steadman and Paul Coates. www.thearchitectureofspace.co.uk

IwamotoScott Architecture
USA

IwamotoScott Architecture is a San Francisco-based architecture and design practice led by Lisa Iwamoto and Craig Scott. As a practice committed to pursuing architecture as a form of applied design research, ISAr engages in projects at multiple scales and in a variety of contexts. These include full-scale fabrications, museum installations and exhibitions,

theoretical proposals, design competitions and commissions. Their design approach proceeds from in-depth research coupled with creative experimentation. Responses to project circumstances and client requirements are directed along multiple lines of inquiry, where generative concepts are tested through speculative form-finding and iterative modeling in both physical and digital media. The work of ISAr centres on amplifying the perceptual performance of architecture, establishing strong environmental and site relationships, and pursuing innovation in use of material and configuration of space.

Toni Kotnik
Switzerland

Toni Kotnik is an architect and founder of kotnik.architecture, a Zurich-based architectural office. He studied architecture and mathematics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, the University of Tübingen, and the University of Utah. He received a Master of Advanced Studies in Computer Aided Architectural design from the ETH Zurich and a doctoral degree from the University of Zurich. He was research fellow at the Center for the Representation of Multi-Dimensional Information (CROMDI), postdoctoral researcher at the ETH Zurich, assistant professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Lucerne, and principal researcher in OCEAN, an interdisciplinary design research network. Currently, he teaches at the Architectural Association and works as senior researcher at the ETH Zurich with focus on the interplay of architectural design, geometry and construction.

Graziela Kunsch and Rafi Segal
Brazil, USA

Graziela Kunsch is an artist based in Sao Paulo. She is currently developing the *Projeto Mutirao*, a never-ending video project formed by one take videos that show the collective production of a new city. She also assumes curatorial and editorial roles as forms of her artistic practice. Between 2001–2003 she opened her house as a 'public space' (Casa da Grazi) and there she organised many residencies and exhibitions, involving collaborations from all around Brazil. Since then she has opened her personal library for public use, and brings parts of the library to exhibitions. She is co-organiser of the project *Art and the Public Sphere* and editor of the magazine *Urbana*. Among her current shows are the 29th Sao

Paulo's Biennial (2010) and *The Grand Domestic Revolution* (Casco, Utrecht, 2010). She is a member of the architecture collective USINA, which works with community design in Brazil.

Rafi Segal is a practicing architect and a writer. His work includes the Palmach History Museum, designed with Zvi Hecker and built in Tel-Aviv (1999), and Villa 003 of the ORDOS100 project currently under construction in Inner Mongolia. He is co-editor of *Cities of Dispersal* (Wiley and Sons, 2008), *Territories—Islands, Camps and Other States of Utopia* (KW, Walther König, 2003), and *A Civilian Occupation—The Politics of Israeli Architecture* (Verso, Babel, 2003), which gained extensive recognition and led to a series of exhibitions at Storefront, New York City, KW Berlin, Witte de Witte, Rotterdam, Kunsthall, Malmö, and UC Berkeley, among others. In addition to architecture, Rafi has been continuously involved in both the study and practice of urbanism. Between 2006–2009 he led urban design projects as an Associate Principal at Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates in NYC and is currently teaching Urban Design and Planning at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. www.rafiasegal.com

Kieran Long
United Kingdom

Kieran Long is an architecture journalist, critic and teacher in London. He has also curated exhibitions, written two books and appeared on a wide variety of broadcast media commenting on architecture and the city. Kieran is currently the architecture critic of the *Evening Standard* newspaper, is filming a television series about historic architecture for BBC2, and is pursuing a PhD in the history and philosophy of architecture at London Metropolitan University. One of his main activities at the moment is consulting for the London Development Agency and Design for London. He has previously been editor-in-chief at *Architectural Review* and *Architects Journal*, the launch deputy editor of *Icon* magazine in 2003, and its principal architecture critic for three and a half years. He is also the former deputy editor of *Building Design* and *World Architecture* magazines.

Robert Mantho, Martyn Horner & Jo Crotch
United Kingdom

Martyn Horner studied Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics at the University of Cambridge from 1968 to 1977. After that he worked

in commercial software, variously creating or co-creating the earliest image processing packages and 3d modellers on mainframes, minicomputers and PCs with his own companies and the global brand-leaders in the field. After a period in the 2000s working on Semantic Web search engines and on Web standards definition, he joined the Glasgow School of Art as a research programmer and is now the RCUK Academic Fellow at the Digital Design Studio.

Joanna Crotch graduated from the Mackintosh School of Architecture in 1986. She practiced with several Glasgow offices working on a variety of projects and competitions before establishing the partnership of Crotch Design Associates. In 1998 she began teaching part time. Joanna became a full time studio tutor at the Mackintosh School. She has worked exclusively in the undergraduate programme and currently runs the Stage 3 and teaches Structures. Joanna's research is centred on digital processes relating to space generation as well as the development of the 'Review' as a learning and teaching tool and she has presented papers in London, Brighton, Lisbon, Antwerp & Montreal.

Robert Mantho graduated from the Architectural Association in 1991. He has practiced with a variety of firms in New York., London, Portland, and Vermont, working on a wide range of building projects and competitions. Robert has taught at The University of East London, The Architectural Association, and Norwich University and is currently the Stage 2 leader at the Mackintosh School of Architecture at the Glasgow School of Art. Robert's research is focused on collaborative design, the exploration of spatial definition and digital processes in the generation of space. This research has been presented in Portugal, Antwerp and Aberdeen. Robert has exhibited widely in Vermont, Glasgow and Virginia.

Eric Martijn

The Netherlands

Eric Martijn is an artist working with site specific installations, Exhibitions include 2010 'Turning the Tiles', the Hague 2009 'Van Straten en Huizen', JCA de Kok, the Hague, 'Against Pragmatics', Departement voor Filosofie en Kunst (DeFKa) Assen, 'Blind Chance, Possible Futures', Nieuwe Vide, Haarlem, 2008 — De Kraai van Walter, Departement voor Filosofie en Kunst (DeFKa) Assen, 'Gelijk waar mogelijk, afwijkend waar nodig MuseumgoudA, Gouda. He lives and works in Amsterdam.

Christine Rusche

Germany

Christine Rusche is a German artist. Residencies include Cité Internationale des Arts Paris, Los Angeles, Academie of Fine Arts Stuttgart, Chicago and the DAAD postgraduates residence grant, Rotterdam. She has had Solo Exhibitions at PIT/Argument, Tilburg, Gallery Realace, Berlin, Konsortium, Düsseldorf, Kasseler Kunstverein, Fridericianum, Kassel, Gallery ZINGERpresents, Tilburg, International Art Biennial, Robert Bermann Gallery, Los Angeles. Group shows include Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Kunsthalle Mainz, KIT Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, VAN ABBEMUSEUM, Eindhoven, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Villa Merkel, Esslingen, Commissions/Art in public space include Room-Drawing for Kranbau, Eberswalde (2010), CROSS CUT, Room-Drawing, Project: SKOR Amsterdam, CIRCUIT, Room-Drawing, Project: Rijksgebouwendienst, (Netherlands, 2008) RAK — Rechtsanwaltskammer, Room-Drawing, Munich, (2003) From 2008–2009 she held a guest professorship at Kunstakademie Münster.

www.christine-rusche.de

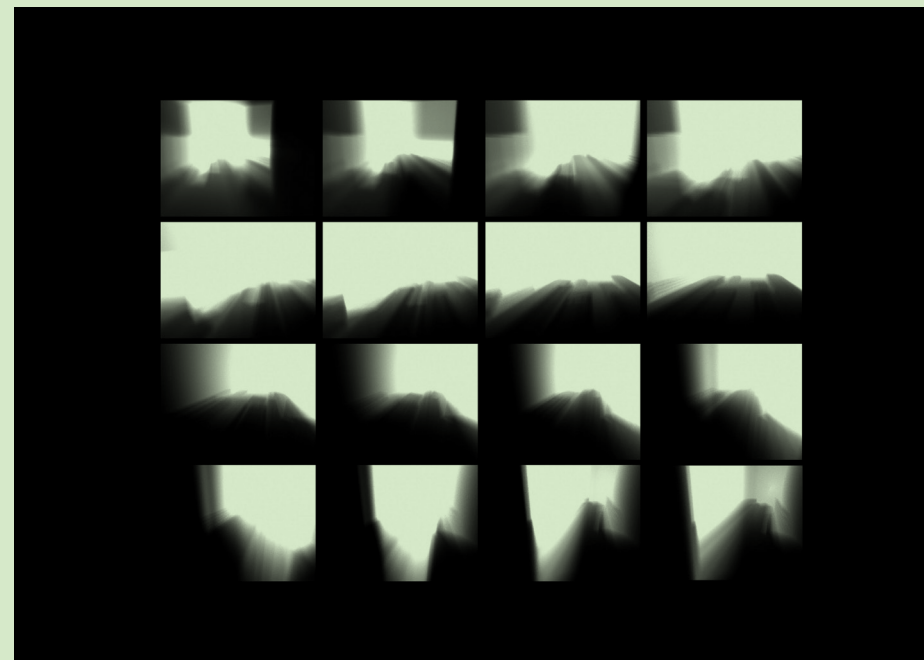
Kai Schiemenz

Germany

Kai Schiemenz was born in 1996 in Erfurt and lives and works in Berlin and New York. From 1992–1998 he studied Visual Cultural Studies at UdK Berlin and in 1999 took a Master's class in Visual Cultural Studies under Prof. Lothar Baumgarten, UdK Berlin. He received the 2000 Gasag Promotion Award in Berlin and in 2001 and 2004 he received a working grant from the Senate of Science, Research and Culture of Berlin. In 2004 he received a Projects Grant from Kulturfonds, in 2005 a fellowship from Villa Aurora, Los Angeles, in 2006 a grant from the City of Madrid and in 2007 a catalogue grant from Stiftung Kunstfonds. In 2008 he was Artist in Residence at Monash University Melbourne and in 2009 he had a one year residence in New York City (alias PS1 residency programme). He has had work at the 2010 International Garden Festival Berlinische Galerie, 2009 — Kappatos Gallerie, Athens, Harburger KV, Buga Schwerin, 2008 — Skulpturen Quadrinale Riga, Villa Romana, Florenz, Kappatos Gallerie, Athens, Auswärtiges Amt, Berlin, 2007 — Galerie Fahnemann, Berlin, Kunstraum München; club Transmediale, Berlin, Open Space, ArtColone, 2006 —

24

25



77



63

74 plus



117



87

INVISIBLE CITY/IDEAL CITY, Zamosc (PL)/ Potsdam, Westfälischer Kunstverein, Pori-Art-Museum (FI), Madrid Procesos, 2005 — Westfälischer Kunstverein, Kupferstichkabinett Berlin, Badischer Kunstverein, Robert Birch Gallery, Toronto and Galerie Koch und Kesslau, Berlin.

SMAQ — architecture urbanism research
Germany

SMAQ is a collaborative studio that operates in the field of architecture, urbanism and research. **SMAQ** was founded by the architects Sabine Müller and Andreas Quednau and is based in Berlin. Sabine Müller is an architect and an assistant professor at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany where she teaches architectural and urban design and urban theory. Andreas Quednau is an architect and professor of Architecture and Urban Design in the Faculty of Architecture at Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design. **SMAQ** has conducted urban research projects as well as architectural, landscape and urban projects in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America and received an AR Award for their public bath in Stuttgart and the Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction for their masterplan Xeritown, Dubai. Their current projects include an art hotel in Beijing, and a masterplan for the urban regeneration of the harbour area in Magdeburg, as a science quarter as well as a sustainable masterplan for the regeneration of a suburban centre in Oslo. **SMAQ**'s work has been published and exhibited widely, most recently at the International Architecture Biennales in Rotterdam and Venice.
www.smaq.net

SPAN Architecture & Design
Austria

Vienna based Architecture Firm **SPAN**, headed by Matias del Campo and Sandra Manninger, is driven by a compulsive desire to speculate about architectural opportunities in the presence of animated matter, organic entities and their underlying geometrical and mathematical presence. Their award winning architecture designs are informed by a manifold variety of sources reaching from Science Fiction and Fashion to Biology and Botany. The multiplicitous inspirations are fused into projects applying the most advanced digital design tools and casted into form by computer controlled machinery. Their activities include architectural design, exhibitions and lectures as well as teaching in various countries and institutions, such as the

University of Applied Arts Vienna, the Bauhaus Dessau and the ESARQ in Barcelona.
www.span-arch.com

Kim Steele
USA

Kim Steele is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Arizona State University. She received a master of architecture, a master of landscape architecture and a bachelor of arts in mathematics from the University of Colorado as well as a master of arts in art history from the University of North Carolina. Working from the belief that design and research must breach traditional categories to be relevant today, **Kim Steele** seeks to transform narrow disciplinary boundaries in her own work as well as in her role as an educator. She has worked on a variety of design/research projects ranging from public art installations to master planning and developing design guidelines for residential communities for adults with autism. Her current research and creative work investigates design in the public interest addressing disability and healthy communities. The former focuses specifically on autism and the impact the built environment has on people with autism both perceptually and pragmatically. The work on healthy communities takes a broader view, exploring how design may be employed to promote environmental and social justice and contribute to active, healthy living in the Maryvale neighborhood of Phoenix, Arizona.

Atelier Tekuto
Japan

Atelier Tekuto is a Japanese architecture studio established in 1991 and renamed **Atelier Tekuto** in 1995. The firm has received numerous awards including the Japan Association of Architectural Firms award, Excellent prize, the Archip Architecture Award, the Japan Society For Finishing Technology in Japan, Residential Award, Wallpaper Award, Good Design Award, ar+d award and many others. Their work has been published extensively nationally and internationally.
www.tekuto.com

Laura Vaughan
United Kingdom

Dr Laura Vaughan is a Senior Lecturer in Urban and Suburban Settlement Patterns at University College London the Bartlett, Faculty of the Built Environment. She has written widely

on the spatial form of society, with a focus on space syntax as a method for fine grain analysis of built form. Currently she is heading the UCL Grand Challenge: Sustainable Cities on 'Cities and Migration'. She has recently finished work with colleagues on a three-year Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPSRC) research project 'Towards Successful Suburban Town Centres: a Study of the Relationship between Morphology, Sociability, Economics and Accessibility' (www.sstc.ucl.ac.uk). Prior to that she headed a two year EPSRC study into 'Space and Exclusion: the Relationship between Physical Segregation and Economic Marginalisation in the Urban Environment space.bartlett.ucl.ac.uk/projects/exclusion/

Ines Weizman
United Kingdom

Ines Weizman is an architect and theorist based in London. She is director of the MA, Cities, Design and Urban Cultures at the Department of Architecture and Spatial Design, London Metropolitan University. She also teaches History and Theory at the Architectural Association, and Syracuse University Architecture Programme, London. In 2001–2004 she was a Diploma Unit tutor of Diploma 12 at the Architectural Association. In 2005 she was guest professor at the Berlage Institute of Architecture in Rotterdam. Ines is currently working on a book about the urbanism of East Germany. Recent projects include 'Celltexts: Books and Other Works Produced in Prison' (with Eyal Weizman) (www.celltexts.org) and a reenactment of Adolf Loos' House for Josephine Baker (1927, Paris) in Ordos, Inner Mongolia (with Andreas Thiele). www.bakerhouse.org

Vincent Wittenberg
The Netherlands

Vincent Wittenberg is a designer always looking for the latent potential of a location, considering design less in terms of problems and more as a discovery of hidden possibilities. He was born in 1980 in Winterswijk. He graduated in 2009 from the Design Academy Eindhoven and studied photography at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Ghent and the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam. He started Studio Public Space, in collaboration with designer Jan Pieter Meeuws (2009). He did his internship at ZUS, [Zones Urbaines Sensibles], Rotterdam (2008) and set up a non-profit organisation and work-expo- and project space VERS, Eindhoven (2008). Projects include a submission selected for open call Urban Action, International Biennial of Landscape Urbanism in Bat Yam, Israel (2010), Familiar Site (2009), Museumstreet, public facade-expo, Eindhoven (2009). Expositions include: Dutch Design Week, Design Academy, Eindhoven (2009), (o) verhuizen, Dutch Design Week, Woonbedrijf, Eindhoven (2009), Scale model Mortoduct Borkeld, IAMA1 manifestation, AkkuH, Hengelo (2008), No 36 (Photographic work), Gra-stumble & FOAM photography museum, Amsterdam (2005)

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