

Dear ACS members

Here are some news that may be of your interest.

FIRST is by ACS member **Leslie Kavanaugh** who is announcing her new book entitled *Meditations on Time*

http://www.amazon.com/Meditations-Time-Leslie-Kavanaugh-ebook/dp/B00OAA0736/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1429091520&sr=8-1&keywords=Kavanaugh%2C+Leslie

This is A companion to her other earlier book called *Meditations on Space*. She informed me that there is Kindle version is available on Amazon.com, but there is also a limited edition on handmade paper and bound with red silk Japanese cord available from studiokav.com <<http://studiokav.com>>

SECOND is a note on American National Public Radio about the "The World's Most And Least Religious Places" that came out a couple of days ago. If interested, follow this link:

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2015/04/13/399338834/new-survey-shows-the-worlds-most-and-least-religious-places>

THIRD is information about three meetings:

Architecture for Liturgy

a liturgy week

26-29 May 2015
Tuesday to Friday
following Memorial Day

At St Benedict's Abbey, Mount St Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, Kansas

Liturgy Week

The celebration of liturgy determines not only the functional aspects of church design and arrangement, but even more the dimensions inherent in liturgical celebration are expressed through art, architecture and the arrangement of churches. Much attention is given to architects who design transcendent buildings, but insufficient attention has been given to the ritual and liturgical theology inherent in the celebration of liturgy and how these are determinative of the dimensions of church buildings and their artistic narratives.

Liturgy Week 2015 begins with a pictorial journey through the ancient basilicas of Rome and from these develops an understanding of the baptistery and font, the hall and ambo, the dais and altar-ciborium. The rich and classical chapels of Mount St Scholastica Monastery and St Benedict parish church give examples to illustrate the liturgical principles presented, or they present a canvas upon which to write a more developed artistic and architectural expression that allows for an ever more prolonged and synthetic celebration of liturgy.

The opportunity to pray with these two monastic communities in their churches and to join

them for meals in their monastic refectories (dining rooms) gives greater insight into the communities that shaped their respective places of worship and that are shaped by them as well.

Liturgy Week 2015 is intended for anyone interested in the dimensions inherent in liturgy that prompt a fuller celebration which in turn requires a more developed architectural and artistic expression. Liturgy Week 2015 is designed for:

- Parishioners preparing to renovate or build a church or chapel (send a group of parishioners)
- Architects desiring to deepen one's appreciation of the liturgical dimensions of design
- Diocesan directors of offices of worship or commissions that govern the building or renovation of churches
- Oblates desiring a deeper appreciation of their prayer life in its context.

The presentations will be clear and given in ordinary language for the informed person and will be richly illustrated by pictorial journeys. This accessibility gives direct and immediate access to the more inherent dimensions of liturgical celebrations.

For more information: <http://architectureforliturgy.com/liturgy-week-2015/>

Reading Architecture Across the Arts and Humanities

An AHRC-Funded Interdisciplinary Conference
University of Stirling, UK
December 05 2015 - December 05 2015

The organisers of this one-day multidisciplinary conference seek to solicit proposals for 20-minute papers that consider the creation, expression and representation of architecture, architectural space and the built environment from students and scholars working within all subject-areas across the Arts and Humanities. Papers should seek to address the creation, understanding, circulation and cultural impact of both real and imaginary sites of architectural construction throughout time, either in Britain or in other national and international contexts. Original and creative accounts of how architecture might variously be 'read' and interpreted across such disciplines as literature, law, history, art history, heritage studies, politics, film and media studies and philosophy are particularly welcome.

Possible topics may include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

- Historicism • Responses to, and recreations of, the architectural past • Reflections upon architectural styles and 'movements' • Assessments of architecture and architectural practices • Representations of architecture in film • Architecture and the law • Antiquarianism and architecture
- Architectural ruin and the tourist industry
- Architectural conservationism • The politics of architectural form • Literary representations of architecture • Lives of architects • The aesthetics of architectural form • Historiography • Architectural Heritage

300-word proposals should be emailed to the conference organisers Dr Dale Townshend and Dr Peter N. Lindfield (architecture@stir.ac.uk) by 26 September 2015.

The School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Stirling has generously agreed to fund a number of postgraduate travel-bursaries for this event. Please contact the conference organisers for further details.

This Thing Called Theory
12th International Architectural Humanities Research Association Conference
Leeds Beckett University
November 19 2015 - November 21 2015

This conference proposes Theory as a form of architectural practice which opposes the instrumentalization of its use. It aims to explore the status of Theory in architecture through an examination of instances in current practice, and invites critical reconsiderations of the role of Theory in architecture, its successes and shortcomings. It seeks to trigger discussions, arguments and polemics around *this thing called Theory*.

CALL FOR PAPERS

***This Thing Called Theory* 12th AHRA International Conference**

<http://www.thisthingcalledtheory.org/>

http://cagd.co.uk/public/research/design_and_creativity.php

Leeds Beckett University

School of Art, Architecture and Design

Leeds, United Kingdom

19th-21st November 2015

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SYNOPSIS

Since the Architectural Humanities Research Association was created twelve years ago to promote and develop research in the architectural humanities, the practices of architecture have transformed and diversified, and so has the relationship between the designs, representations and makings of architecture and their surrounding discourses.

After semiotics, psychoanalysis, deconstruction's flirt with Derridean philosophy, and Deleuzian redefinitions of folds and diagrams, the impact of the digital in architecture seemed to have vanquished the 'need' for architecture to refer to discourses from the humanities. Whilst concerns of the humanities are converging with the sciences, they are also simultaneously diverging and dissipating with notions of network, apparatus and agency. The recent imperative in architecture to withdraw from claims of singular design visions has also been characterised by the gathering of individuated credits and subjecting to commodified distribution in the production of theory.

Today, in an age of extreme specialization and thus far inconceivable intersections of fragmented

strands of knowledge, architecture continues to reinvent itself. As architecture reconsiders its status as a discipline in relation to digital technologies, material sciences, biology and environmental transformations, it continues to resort to and introject thoughts and practices developed 'outside' architecture. It is indeed the very openness and connectedness of architecture that can offer a line of continuity in the ongoing process of self-definition and reinvention that has always characterized architecture as a practice of the multiple and of the critical. As a discipline that never simply makes physical environments, architecture will continue to act in and through all its intersections with its 'other' as a critical **and cultural agent**.

CALL FOR PAPERS

While architecture's discourse seemed to have been muted with the shift from the alphabet to the algorithm (Mario Carpo, 2011), it has more recently emerged that even for the digital it is already not only possible but indeed necessary to construct an archaeology (Greg Lynn, 2013), and this has to be both *historical* and *critical*. Log's 'Stocktaking' issue (summer 2013) borrowed Reyner Banham 1960's instrumental opposition of tradition and technology to resume (or restart) a critical discourse on contemporary architectural practices, attempting to relate them to recent and not so recent disciplinary pasts, while the 'Ways to Be *Critical*' *proposed* by Volume 36 (Archis 2013, no. 2) seems to reduce the issue of criticality to a series of positions of militant criticism.

Beyond the mediatory function of theory (Michael Hays, 2000) and its problematic tag of authorship and authority (Giorgio Agamben, in 'What is a Paradigm', 2002), this conference proposes that theory, far from dead, extinct or rejected, remains crucial to the discipline. In the age of post-digital architecture and *digital materiality*, *This Thing Called Theory* aims to explore current **practices of theory**.

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We have identified three main areas for **discussion and argumentation**:

THIS THING CALLED THEORY

THOUGHT

Theory as Criticism
Theory as **Architecture**
Theory as History

ACTION

Theory as Politics
Theory as Praxis
Theory as Material

SPECULATION

Theory as Utopia
Theory as Science
Theory as Media

We invite individual and group proposals for 20 minute papers and full sessions from architectural historians, theorists, designers and practitioners, as well as those working on the issues identified in the synopsis from other disciplines, including film-making, art practice and performance.

We welcome contributions that explore contemporary developments and project future trends, as well as those that offer retrospective theoretical and critical interrogations.

Please send a 500 word abstract, including title, and a 50 word biographical note to

T.Stoppani@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
and

D.Bernath@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Deadline for abstracts of papers: 4th May 2015

Please note that full papers will be required prior to the conference for panel chairs and to begin *the editorial process* for publication in the This Thing Called Theory volume of the Routledge 'Critiques' series, and for a special conference issue of **Architecture and Culture, the AHRA journal**.

CONFERENCE

Thursday 19th - Saturday 21st November 2015

VENUES

Rose Bowl Building, City Campus, Leeds Beckett University, and other venues in Leeds (UK) city centre.

WEBSITE

<http://www.thisthingcalledtheory.org/>

http://cagd.co.uk/public/research/design_and_creativity.php

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Professor Teresa Stoppani, Head The Leeds School of Architecture, Leeds Beckett University, E:

T.Stoppani@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Dr Doreen Bernath, Senior Lecturer in Architecture and Leader of the BA Architectural Studies course, The Leeds School of Architecture, Leeds Beckett University, E: D.Bernath@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Braden Engel, Undergraduate History and Theory Coordinator, Academy of Art University, San Francisco and PhD Candidate, The Leeds School of Architecture, Leeds Beckett University

George Themistocleous, Part Time Lecturer, and PhD Candidate, Leeds Beckett University

Julio Bermudez, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

The Catholic University of America
School of Architecture and Planning
Crough Center of Architectural Studies
620 Michigan Ave NE
Washington, DC 20064

(202) 319-5755 (phone)

bermudez@cua.edu (email)

<http://faculty.cua.edu/bermudez> (web)

"leap and the net will appear"