



2020-12-15

Communications

Exhibiting Architecture, or Architectural Exhibitionism

7,5 credits
Spring/Summer 2021

Abstract

This doctoral course is concerned with the communication of architecture through exhibition. Exploring the architectural exhibition both as subject and method, this course will investigate means for scholars in architecture and related fields to correlate critical discourse with societal concerns, and to communicate such means both inside and outside their disciplines. Concerned about architectural exhibitionism, or how architecture has exhibited itself over time, this course argues that contemporary architecture is not only put on stage but is likewise (re)constructed and (re)defined through the very means of communication itself. Hence, to communicate architecture through exhibition is a contemporary act.

Guided by close readings of the history and theory of architectural exhibitions, we will ask: What are the communicating aspects of architectural exhibitions, both now and then? Are the preoccupations of architecture through exhibition continually changing, cyclical, or constant? What are the objectives of institutions, curators, designers, and critics in and around these architectural exhibitions? How can other means of knowledge dissemination supplement the exhibition format, such as catalogues, articles, book chapters, and movies? What works are included, and which are excluded? What role do architects play in the exhibition of their own field? And how might revisiting these canonical exhibitions shape not only our understanding of how contemporary architecture has been communicated over time, but also our capacity to influence the future of architecture through the medium of staging exhibitions? How can we as architectural researchers deploy the exhibition as a medium to develop and share new knowledge?

Purpose & aims

The ultimate goal of this seminar is to leverage the architectural exhibition as a medium to advance doctoral research. Its aim is to generate new knowledge through direct public engagement, specifically through the act of conceptualizing and realizing an architectural exhibition and/or event. In addition to discussing their roles in the design, curation, and analysis of exhibitions, invited guest lecturers and critics will offer diverse perspectives on how to advance contemporary architectural research.

Course design

Seminar 1: Architectural Exhibitions as Subject & Method

26-29 April 2021 (afternoon sessions CET)

This seminar unpacks the history and theory of architectural exhibitions as both subject and method. How, we ask, has architecture exhibited itself throughout time, and how has the architectural exhibition been leveraged to offer an ever-evolving definition of the contemporary? Specifically, we will look at a range of architectural exhibitions from the mid-20th century to present. Invited guests will present and discuss recent curatorial projects as a means to (re)conceptualize the form and content of exhibitions.

*Post-seminar assignment: Each doctoral student will create an exhibition proposal based on their current research interest/focus, to be presented and critiqued in Seminar 2.

Seminar 2: Exhibiting Doctoral Research

9-10 June 2021 (afternoon sessions CET)

This seminar will focus on how each doctoral student is proposing to deploy the exhibition as a method to advance and promote their current research interest/focus. Invited critics will offer focused feedback on how to refine and develop these exhibition proposals, analyzing both the potential of the research topic and specifically how it can more effectively leverage the exhibition itself as a space to both develop new knowledge and well as engage new and expanded audiences.

*Post-seminar assignment: Doctoral students will work together to stage an environment for an architectural exhibition to take place in September 2021 during "Architecture Days" at the Form/Design Center in Malmö, Sweden.

Seminar 3: The Future of Architectural Exhibitions

During the Architecture Days, Preliminary 1-2 September 2021

Doctoral students will showcase a discussion about the future of architectural exhibitions.

Teachers & lectures

Course Leaders: Per-Johan Dahl (Lund University) & Whitney Moon (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee).

A cohort of seminar critics, presenters, scholars, and experts on curatorial practices will be invited, thus added to the course program.

Participation

The course is open to ResArc students and other doctoral students with an interest in the course theme.

Examination

For a passing grade, the participant must demonstrate approved course assignments as well as at least 80% attendance at seminars, lectures, and group presentations.

Location

The course is comprised of three seminars and, until further notice, will be transmitted via Zoom (online platform).

Application Requirements

To apply, candidates should please submit the following to ResArc at LTH (resarc@arkitektur.lth.se) by 7 April 2021:

- The candidate's name and contact information,
- a statement of interest with motivation for participating in this course,
- PhD start date, title of the research project, name of supervisor(s), and home institution.

Contact

ResArc at LTH: resarc@arkitektur.lth.se

Per-Johan Dahl: per-johan.dahl@arkitektur.lth.se

Whitney Moon: moonw@uwm.edu