

On Balance

1st Annual School of Architecture Research Student Colloquium
22 June 2018, The Workshop, London

Schedule

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 - 14.00 Session I, moderator Francesca Dell'Aglio

14.00 - 14.15 Coffee Break

14.15 - 15.15 Session II, moderator Eleni Han

15.15 - 15.30 Coffee Break

15.30 - 16.30 Session III, moderator Francesca Forlini

16.30 Drinks

Participants and Abstracts

Adam Walker

Balance implies stability, but a stability continuously actively and reactively maintained. What happens when things topple over? This brief presentation will explore the unequal effect of moments of accidental or orchestrated imbalance with a specific focus on the unequally distributed privilege of resilience to imbalance and the unknown.

Art seeking to critically engage with the public sphere frequently questions and disrupts the balanced status quo, or at least attempts to. How does this artistic aim relate to its broader context though, particularly in terms of the processes of production and entangled relationships out of which the artwork emerges?

Tumpa Husna Yasmin Fellows

The research fieldwork and the site investigations are based in Bangladesh where my ancestors originated. The current research is a continuation of the architectural design work I have been developing over the past four years, in the Rajapur village. Being a practising architect, I instinctively used architecture as a medium to discover my heritage. I responded (through architecture) to the complex social in-equalities

faced by communities living in Rajapur. The project, Rajapur Women's Literacy and Healthcare Centre, allowed the discovery of rich construction skills and materials that are present within the community and available in the village.

To transfer the distribution of power and to achieve community-ownership, local community was involved from the outset, in design and in the final build.

To challenge the (im)balance social structure and to overcome cultural barriers to women working with men in public. Women in the village had the expertise to build with mud, therefore they were employed to make the rammed earth bricks, whilst local labour installed them on site.

Batel Yossef Ravid

Neighbourhood planning- democratization or privatization of the planning system?

By DCLG (2012) neighbourhood planning is "a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work" but how communities could do that de facto? What are the challenges which are involved with developing a plan like that?

Neighbourhood Planning presents a paradox, communities are asked to initiate and to make fateful decisions about their neighbourhood, but they have lack of planning skills. This paradox created gap in the planning system which invites entities to fill it so balance of planning responsibility is changing dramatically.

Halil Atasever

As the modern human beings we are trapped in certain forms of communication. If sanity can be regarded as a state of balance, we have tendency to keep it by justifying every action with a single principle; the cause and effect. What if we can change it for 10 minutes? Can we end up being insane? Or we just ignore what we have lived few seconds ago?

Itching, the performance, aims to force the audience to suspect their interpretations by altering their emotions. The performance is planned to be realized on numerous bathroom scales defining the ground of the act, also enabling the attendees to scale their weights and thoughts regarding to the questions risen during the performance and the events during the day.

Enrico Murtula

The discharge of radioactive waste into the sea has been an ongoing practice since 1946. The sea has been considered to have a "tremendous" (IAEA, 1961) capacity to dilute and disperse waste. And apparently, the slow currents of the deep-sea allow the

postponing of any adverse reckoning into the distant future. Yet, the impact of radioactivity on marine ecosystems is still by in large unknown. The practice has been justified as a balance between the needs of the nuclear industry and a level of “acceptable” level of hazard to humans. Nevertheless, it could be argued that it operates through spatial and temporal paradoxes.

Georgios Eftaxiopoulos

The Fun Palace (1961-64) was designed as the par excellence space of balance. Joan Littlewood and Cedric Price aimed to create a flexible platform that could accommodate both leisure and educational activities. It was a “laboratory of fun” for the idle masses to enjoy their free-time while becoming aware of their capabilities. However, far from being a naïve idea designed to serve society, the project emerged into a carefully orchestrated response to the British crisis of the 1960s. The performance will present how, through the use of the twofold notion of flexibility—enabling and restricting at the same time—, the Fun Palace unfolded as the precedent of today’s state of stasis.

Francesca R. Forlini

My presentation will focus on unbalance, in specific on the figure of Le Corbusier and the discrepancy between his architectural ideals and his own domestic environments, his 19th century attitude towards appropriation of interiors and his radical modernist “machines a habiter”. The presentation will compare the architect and the man and his radical architectures. Two of his projects will be the focus of the discussion, his house in Paris, and Villa au Lac, that he built for his parents. But I will also bring images of his “collection particuliere” in comparison with his “objets types” for a close understanding of the balance/unbalance between tradition and modernity in one of one of the fathers of the Modern Movement.

Eleni Han

If you had to name one place that incorporates both balance and imbalance, that in and of itself creates balance, but is also an instigator of imbalance, what would that be? This presentation will focus on the space and the void, the area that separates and unites, where regimes have risen and fallen, all in the name of creating equilibrium and the ideal. This will be a biographical depiction of the plaza and its tumultuous life through history.

Caroline Ward

The intricate relationship between soil acidity and alkalinity determines which plants thrive. pH is an indicator of acidity or alkalinity in soil and measured on a scale of 1 to 14, with pH7 being the dividing line. pH is a master variable, controlling

biogeochemical processes in soils, including which minerals are available or locked away within the soil, consequently influencing which plants can grow.

This posthuman provocation, explores how, through pH as a master variable in soil, we might critique the idea of balance to re-think the possibility of cultural difference, access and inclusion in relation to social justice, inequality and biopolitics. How might this analogy help us rethink habitual humanist tropes?