



FORART LECTURE 2013

Mark Wigley: Architecture in the Age of Radio:
Pipeless Dreams

Friday, October 11, 6-8 pm
Litteraturhuset, Amalie Skram

FORART SEMINAR 2013

Architecture in the Age of Radio:
Broadcasting Shelter

Saturday, October 12, 1-3 pm
Arkitekturmuseet, Sverre Fehn

FORART LECTURE

Mark Wigley: Architecture in the Age of Radio: Pipeless Dreams

This lecture will explore architecture's nervous encounter with liquids – the material that flows in pipes and the immaterial flow of radio waves – by using Buckminster Fuller as a reference point for thinking about the key questions we face today.

Our buildings, like ourselves, are filled with pipes. Water, gas, electricity, and information flow inside walls, floor and ceilings, crisscross basements, and run across rooftops. A complex interconnected net of tubes supports each space, from the largest waste pipes to the finest wires. Yet these tubes are rarely allowed to enter these spaces. They are asked to bring things in or take things away but are meant to remain outside. A pipe can only enter a room if concealed. Pipes must always be close to us yet unseen and unheard. A huge effort is made so that the sound of the movement within them cannot enter. No evidence of flow is allowed. No rustle, gurgle, whoosh, hum, shudder, click, or thud. Architecture itself might be largely defined by this psycho-sexual embarrassment. After all, the basic definition of interior has now less to do with walls, doors, and windows and more to do with the countless valves that regulate the flows in all the tubes and the array of orifices through which material is allowed to enter and leave our spaces. And the ever-expanding repressed world of pipes always has its leaks, blockages, and occasional overflows. Buildings and the discipline of architecture occasionally gets covered in what it wants to exclude. There is an astonishing architecture of pipes – a radical liquid architecture.

Mark Wigley is Dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University. An accomplished scholar and design teacher, Mark Wigley has written extensively on the theory and practice of architecture and is the author of *Constant's New Babylon: The Hyper-Architecture of Desire* (1998); *White Walls, Designer Dresses: The Fashioning of Modern Architecture* (1995); and *The Architecture of Deconstruction: Derrida's Haunt* (1993). He co-edited *The Activist Drawing: Retracing Situationalist Architectures from Constant's New Babylon to Beyond* (2001). Wigley has served as curator for exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Drawing Center, New York; Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal; and Witte de With Museum, Rotterdam. He received both his Bachelor of Architecture (1979) and his Ph.D. (1987) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.



FORART SEMINAR

Architecture in the Age of Radio: Broadcasting Shelter

This seminar builds on the FORART Lecture given Friday, October 11 at Litteraturhuset (6-8 pm). The overall title for the two-day event is: Architecture in the Age of Radio. Whereas the Lecture will explore how contemporary society go a long way to hide the structural and functional elements of buildings, the Seminar will be a forum to discuss how the increasingly complex amount of information that is passed through the radio waves that surround us, is a neglected fact when objects and materials are used to define our world. The Seminar will be conducted as a panel discussion between Mark Wigley and respected academics from The Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO), Thomas McQuillan, Kelly Shannon, and Mari Lending.

All objects, including ourselves, seem to have a radio attached to it. Every event is suspended in countless overlapping waves of communication. Our environment is completely flooded with signals. The space of radio we inhabit is more infinitely complex than the space of visible buildings. We still engage with physical objects, even encounter them as a kind of anchor or resistance against all the unseen flows, but the physical environment is much more intimately sensed and engaged by hidden signals – so closely and continuously that it is not so much an encounter between the world that is visible and that which is invisible, but a kind of symbiosis, a vibration between objects and radiation. The line between them is no longer clear. The defining characteristic of radio is its disinterest in objects. It literally passes right through them. Yet the objects around us are located, marked, connected, exposed, infiltrated, monitored, reorganized, promoted, locked, archived, protected, dissolved, and even destroyed in the space of radio transmissions. Objects and radio have become inseparable. There is an unprecedented blurring of objects, information, territory, and maps. It is as if every object lives only to broadcast itself. Architectural discourse is afraid of radio, and with good reason.

Participants:

Mark Wigley is Dean of the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation at Columbia University.

Mari Lending is a Professor at The Institute of Form, Theory and History at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design.

Thomas McQuillan is Head of the Institute at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design.

Kelly Shannon is a Professor at The Institute of Urbanism and Landscape at The Oslo School of Architecture and Design.

FORART– Institute for Research within International Contemporary Art is an independent foundation established in 1989 to support research projects within contemporary art. FORART focuses on new phenomena within this genre and is involved in interdisciplinary research that is carried out by prominent experts. Documentation and distribution of research results is an important part of the institute's activity.

Both events are free and open for everyone