

Front to Rear: Architecture and Planning during World War II

Conference co-organized by the Institute of Fine Arts, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal, and Princeton University's School of Architecture

Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8, 2009

Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
1 East 78th Street, NYC

Scholarly direction: Jean-Louis Cohen

Introductory remarks: Stan Allen, Jean-Louis Cohen, Mirko Zardini

Keynote speaker: Kenneth Frampton

Closing remarks: Joan Ockman

Moderators: Jeffry M. Diefendorf, Hartmut Frank, Antoine Picon, Anthony Vidler

Speakers:

Lucia Allais, Pep Avilés, Maristella Casciato, Marina Dmitrieva-Einhorn, Carola Hein, Alicia Imperiale, Benoît Jacquet, Paul B. Jaskot, Anna Jozefacka, Joy Knoblauch, Roland May, Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen, Edmund Potter, Enrique Ramirez, Vladimír Šlapeta, Ioanna Theocharopoulou, Pieter Uyttenhove, Anna Vallye, Roberto Zancan

Considered by most historians of 20th century architecture as a void between peaceful periods of active architectural production, the Second World War remains an unwritten chapter in most textbooks. It corresponds however to an intense body of experience, which can be observed from Japan to the United States, passing through Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and England. WWII was a key moment in the process of modernization, and manifold issues are raised by the preparation of war, the total mobilization of territories and cities and their eventual occupation, destruction and reconstruction.

The conference brings together research investigating a wide range of architectural activities, taking place in diverse geographical locations, and occurring between the bombings of Guernica in 1937 and Hiroshima in 1945. A group of nineteen scholars will present architects' contributions in the preparation for the war in terms of new forms of infrastructure and management; engagement in development of offensive and defensive tactics; and their assistance in the armed conflict, be it on the front lines, within occupied territories, or on the home front. A number of papers will explore connections between architectural practice and wartime technology and production. Also addressed are wartime preparation for peacetime reconstruction, commemoration and memorial architecture.

Saturday, March 7

10:00am: *Introductory remarks:*

Jean-Louis Cohen, Sheldon H. Solow Professor in the History of Architecture, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU
Mirko Zardini, Director, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal
Stan Allen, Dean, School of Architecture, Princeton University

Session One/Morning: Wartime Infrastructure: Preparation, Deployment, Management

Moderator: Hartmut Frank, Professor, Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg

Anna Vallye, Ph.D. Candidate, Columbia University

Architecture as an "Administrative Function": From the New Deal to War Mobilization

Pep Avilés, Ph. D. Candidate, Princeton University

Italy 1938: The Autarchic Debate

Roland May, Independent Researcher, Germany

Building bridges – burning bridges

Paul B. Jaskot, Professor of Art History, DePaul University and President of the College Art Association

Architecture, War and Genocide: Military Goals and the Development of SS Concentration Camp Architecture

Ioanna Theocharopoulou, Adjunct Professor, GSAPP, Columbia University

Constantinos A. Doxiadis: The War and the Archive

LUNCH BREAK 1:00-2:30

2:30pm Session Two/Afternoon: Air-raid, Camouflage, Technology

Moderator: Antoine Picon, Professor, Department of Architecture, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design

Roberto Zancan, Professor of History and Theory of Environmental Design at the UQAM, University of Montreal

Gimme shelter: Destruction and Reconstruction Landscapes from the Tecton's Air Raid Precautions Plan for Finsbury Borough

Joy Knoblauch, Ph. D. Candidate, Princeton University School of Architecture

Mobilization of Modern Design: Architects' and Artists' Pursuit of Camouflage during World War II

Enrique Ramirez, Ph. D. Candidate in History and Theory of Architecture at Princeton University

The Shape of the World to Come: Aviation, Cartography and Globalism in MoMA's Airways to Peace

Lucia Allais, Behrman-Cotsen Fellow, Princeton University Society of Fellows

"Unwitting Urban Planning": The Roberts Commission and the total value of architecture in war

Alicia Imperiale, Ph. D. Candidate, Princeton University

System Theories: Science, War, Construction

6:00pm: Keynote address:

Kenneth Frampton, Ware Professor of Architecture, GSAPP, Columbia University

RECEPTION

Sunday, March 8 [daylight saving time begins]

10:00am: Session One/Morning: Occupation

Moderator: Anthony Vidler, Dean, Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture, Cooper Union

Vladimír Šlapeta, Dean, School of Architecture, Brno
Architecture in Bohemia and Moravia 1939-1945

Anna Jozefacka, Ph. D. Candidate, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University
False walls and double attics: fortifying Warsaw's inner city

Pieter Uyttenhove, Professor, Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University
Architecture, urbanism and national heritage during German occupation in Belgium: The Modern Movement and the Commissariat-Général pour la Reconstruction du Pays

Maristella Casciato, Professor, School of Architecture "Aldo Rossi", University of Bologna
Italy 1942: Visions of the Future Dwelling

Benoît Jacquet, Maître de conférences at the Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO, French School for Asian Studies) and Visiting Associate Professor at Kyoto University (Institute for Researches in the Humanities)
Compromising Modernity: Japanese Monumentality during World War II

LUNCH BREAK 1:00 – 2:30

2:30pm: Session Two/Afternoon: Year Zero: Imagining the Future

Moderator: Jeffrey M. Diefendorf, Pamela Shulman Professor in European and Holocaust Studies, Senior Faculty Fellow, College of Liberal Arts, New Hampshire University

Eava-Liisa Pelkonen, Assistant Professor, Yale School of Architecture
Alvar Aalto: Planning Finland, c. 1940

Edmund Potter, Adjunct Professor, Mary Baldwin College
Neville Chamberlain: An Unlikely Influence in Post-War British Planning

Marina Dmitrieva-Einhorn, Ph.D., Researcher at Centre of History and Culture of Central and Eastern Europe (GWZO) in Leipzig, Germany
War as a Challenge to Architecture. Andrei Burov's Civic Designs at the Time of World War II

Carola Hein, Associate Professor, Program in Growth and Structure of Cities, Bryn Mawr College
City and War. Foreign Influences, the Pacific War, and the Japanese City between 1937 and 1945

5:30pm: Closing remarks:

Joan Ockman, Professor of Architecture, GSAPP, Columbia University