

criticality and radicality

conference

17th & 18th september 2021 online



Climate crisis, resource depletion, social segregation and other societal challenges - humans are increasingly threatening their own conditions of existence. The necessity for systematic change appears to be obvious, but how to enact this radical transformation is still unclear.

Within the last three decades discussions concerning 'sustainability' have in architectural debates and practices become mainstream and caused much confusion and haziness, in which easy rhetorical use masks lack of real change, commitment and responsibility.

The project Radical Architecture Practice for Sustainability (RAPS) is characterised by a departure from narrowly instrumental debates and instead geared towards re-thinking architectural design and research practice for sustainability with the aim to advocate innovative approaches and systemic change. This project seeks to explore the role of architecture and architects in promoting sustainability. We argue that architecture / architects need to be more aware about their potential contributions throughout the entire design process in order to play an important and proactive role in this transformation.

Sustainability in architecture is necessarily interdisciplinary and complex. Thus, this project aims to propel a broad understanding of sustainable architecture that includes diverse interdisciplinary perspectives: technology, materiality, responsibility, ethics, knowledge production, philosophy, social sciences, aesthetics, politics, agency and more. A broader understanding of sustainability in architecture, that includes questions how knowledge is generated, problems are framed, design targets defined, concepts created, choices made and how these shape design development, building materialization and operation.

Thus, this project aims to explore, create, develop and encourage future concepts, propositions and scenarios geared towards radical change.

Our first online conference on 'Radicality' aims to explore, imagine and radically shift conceptualisations of architecture practice for sustainability.

Our premise comes from our interest in understanding how we get to and overcome 'the root of something' and how radical architecture can manifest and thrive in its multiple and many modes that shift current dominant paradigms of evidence based and quantifiable measures to deliver sustainable outcomes.

A radical approach specifically aims to uncover root causes as opposed to surface explanations, viewing ecological problems as rooted primarily in socio-political notions of nature, multispecies activity and needs, building and not building, activating and resisting as well as entangling.

RAPS <https://www.rapsresearch.com/>

RAPS 'Radicality' Conference, Bristol

All times shown are British Summer Time
Each session and each keynote has one Zoom link

	FRIDAY 17 th September 2021		SATURDAY 18 th September 2021			
1000	Gathering		1000	Gathering		
1015	<p>Welcome and Opening ZOOM LINK JM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/93732460794 Meeting ID: 937 3246 0794 Passcode: 671657</p> <p>Sonja Dragojlovic-Oliveira [Bristol UWE] Jonathan Mosley [Bristol UWE] Torsten Schröder [TU Eindhoven]</p>		1015	<p>Radicality Visions Across and Beyond ZOOM LINK JM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/99133911504 Meeting ID: 991 3391 1504 Passcode: 845283</p> <p>Sonja Dragojlovic-Oliveira [Bristol UWE] Jonathan Mosley [Bristol UWE] Torsten Schröder [TU Eindhoven]</p>		
1030	<p>Session 1 ZOOM LINK JM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/93732460794 Meeting ID: 937 3246 0794 Passcode: 671657</p> <p>Green Dream A Chairs: Torsten Schröder [TU Eindhoven] Jonathan Mosley [Bristol UWE] Yahya Lavaf-Pour [Bristol UWE]</p>	<p>Session 2 ZOOM LINK SO https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/91075455111 Meeting ID: 910 7545 5111 Passcode: 550539</p> <p>NOT Building Chairs: Ana Betancour [Umeå University] Fidel Meraz [Bristol UWE] Davide Landi [Bristol UWE]</p>	1030	<p>Session 5 ZOOM LINK JM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/99133911504 Meeting ID: 991 3391 1504 Passcode: 845283</p> <p>Architect as Activist in Practice Chairs: Roberto Cavallo [TU Delft] Davide Landi [Bristol UWE] Jonathan Mosley [Bristol UWE]</p>	<p>Session 6 ZOOM LINK SO https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/97479008111 Meeting ID: 974 7900 8111 Passcode: 972247</p> <p>Architect as Activist in Education Chairs: Andjelka Bnin-Bninski [UoBelgrade] Eleonora Nicoletti [Bristol UWE] Sonja Dragojlovic-Oliveira [Bristol UWE]</p>	<p>Session 7 ZOOM LINK FM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/92111385702 Meeting ID: 921 1138 5702 Passcode: 724115</p> <p>Utopian Realism Chairs: Chris Younes [Ecole Spéciale d'Architecture, Paris] Sophia Banou [Bristol UWE] Elena Marco [Bristol UWE]</p>
	8: Jenkins, Blom, Verdegaal, van den Dobbelsteen [TU Delft]_The urban amethyst: Architectural and energetic	50: Medici & Cavallo [TU Delft]_Circular Architecture of Degrowth		38: Buck [Public Works/Welsh SoA] & Belfield [Public Works]_Lessons from R-Urban Poplar: Eco-	60: Jones, Howles [UoBirmingham City], Orchard-Webb, Doron, Prescott [Co-Lab]_Educating activist practitioners: A case study of	19: Agyin & Yegenoglu [TU Eindhoven]_ Green Paranoia: The Sustainable U(dys)topia of Post-sapiens

	potentials of symbiotic vertical farms			Prototyping as activist practice	regenerative design on a UK High Street	
	18: Ness [UoSouth Australia]_Rebalancing built resources to match global needs	7: Boris & Krag [Aarhus SoA]_Scenario for a radically transformed rurality-a station town redeemed		5: Brooks [Anthropocene Architecture School]_Should Extinction Rebellion Give It Arrest? Does their theory of system change need to evolve?	13:Rainha [CIAUD/UBI]_ "REWIND TO REVIEW: (RE)EDUCATE through (RESEARCH)"	42: Kemal [Bath]_ How will decisions we make today manifest themselves tomorrow?
	57: Zhong [TU Eindhoven]_Not Simply Green-The State of Practice of Nature by Design	43: Lovesmith [Bristol UWE] & Plimmer [Bristol City Council]_Libraries reclaimed-A radical experiment empowering service users as creative agents		44: Zannotto [IUAV Venice]_Learning from Global Tools. A Radical Approach to Sustainable Design	39: Adamo [La Rivoluzione delle Seppie]_ Welcome to Belmondo	25: Aernouts [TU Eindhoven]_ Visualising cities of 2050
1130	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	1130	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
1145	59: Betancour & Vesterlund [Umeå University]_ Green Imaginaries: Exploring the relationship between nature and culture	46: Stamenovic & Bulajic [UoBelgrade]_To be and not to build-A contingent manifesto for Sustainable Belgrade	1145	23:Chapman and Roberts [UoNewcastle, AU]_Contrapiano [counterplan]: architecture, politics and radicality in the Italian neo-avant-garde	64: Nan [TU Eindhoven]_ Sustainability and Global Entangled Complexities. Reexamining a profession.	27: *Presentation and exhibit*Galley_Changed Lands - How can the creation of imagined places voice our individual and collective hopes, fears, and requirements for future urban and rural spaces?
	6: Boris & Krag [Aarhus SoA]_ Small scale interventions as catalysis for radical transformation in Bedsted	36:Hilley [UoEdinburgh] Artificial Grounds-Designing with an ecology of oil		10: Elarji [UoLiechtenstein]_Minor modes of initiating environmental care: the cases of the floating university Berlin and Agrocité Paris.	62: Sara [UoBirmingham City]_The Extinction Rebellion Architecture Studio: Architecture Education as Activism	26:Macasaet [RMIT] & Tan [Superscale]_WANDER WONDER
	54:*Film* Granta [Bristol UWE]_Pure Bristol-A new framework for Europe	52: Greub [North Dakota State University]_Land art as agent for Not building		48:ORA Collective_GET REAL		4: Brooks [Anthropocene Architecture School]_Lockdown Festival of Architecture
1245	<i>Lunch Break</i>		1245	<i>Lunch Break</i>		

1330	<p style="text-align: center;">ZOOM LINK SO https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/94628065534 Meeting ID: 946 2806 5534 Passcode: 559965 Keynote Malene Natascha Ratcliffe (CEO, SUPERFLEX)</p>		1330	<p style="text-align: center;">ZOOM LINK FM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/95099084167 Meeting ID: 950 9908 4167 Passcode: 976403 Keynote Maarten Gielen (ROTOR)</p>	
1415	<i>Break</i>				
1430	<p>Session 3 ZOOM LINK SO https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/97291437541 Meeting ID: 972 9143 7541 Passcode: 887141 ECOLOGICAL Entanglements Chairs: Torsten Schröder [TU Eindhoven] Ana Betancour [Umeå University] Sonja Dragojlovic-Oliveira [Bristol UWE]</p>	<p>Session 4 ZOOM LINK FM https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/93699617305 Meeting ID: 936 9961 7305 Passcode: 955422 Green Dream B Chairs: João Manuel Barbosa Menezes de Sequeira [CIAUD-UBI, Beira] Sophia Banou [Bristol UWE] Wendy Colvin [Bristol UWE]</p>	1430	Panel with chairs - closing remarks, Q&A and next steps	
	58: Crociani, Mosley, Williams[Bristol UWE], Warren [Warren and Mosley]_ Architecture on the Couch: Exploring the psychology of the architectural assemblage as a radical reconceptualisation of how it may be sustained	53:Marco, Oliveira & Sinnett [Bristol UWE]_The enforced lockdown experience of architects-Exploration of resilient design considerations post Covid19			
	17:Carrasco Hortal, García-Valero, Francés García [UoAlicante]_A Rural Land based on Faulkner's tales and Mockbee's standards unveiled by tetralemmas,	51:Chiganze [NOMA Architects]_Dreaming of biodiversity net Gain- How geo-centric celtic belief systems can be applied within Bristol			

	empathic writings & stereographs			
	32:Koch [KarlsruherIT]_ Beyond Gravity - Towards a manifesto for the framework of virtual architecture	37: Cascone & Laddaga [UoWestminster]_African Offgrid Housing		
1530	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>		
1545	22:Oliveira, Badarnah, Barakat, Chatzimichali [Bristol UWE] & Atkins [UoBristol]_SocioSpatial Technology encounters-your home to mine	33:Lavaf & Meraz [Bristol UWE]_Architectural Form and environment through the lens of integral theory		
	24:Hopewell [UoWellington]_Suburbia and Sympoetic Tangling	30:*Exhibition*Windsor [UoWestminster]_MISSION ASTRAEA-Trawling for treasure in the celestial sea		
	56:Grimes and Davis [SAIC Chicago]_The Black Metropolis, ecological Speculation and the Radical Black Tradition			
1645	<i>Virtual and Real Drinks</i> ZOOM LINK SO https://uwe-ac-uk.zoom.us/j/95615524893 Meeting ID: 956 1552 4893 Passcode: 482833			

RAPS 'Radicality' Conference, Bristol

Book of Abstracts [DRAFT]

Radical Architecture Practice for Sustainability

First international conference

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A R E N A
ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH NETWORK



43: Libraries reclaimed-A radical experiment empowering service users as creative agents

Authors: George Lovesmith, architect / critical-friend, UWE Bristol and Joanna Plimmer, arts officer, Bristol City Council, Rising Arts Agency

Abstract:

An invitation to reclaim has been the catalyst in the My Library MySpace engagement programme, being led, in Bristol, by Rising Arts Agency throughout 2020 & 2021

Commissioned by Bristol City Council, this has been an arts-led, alternative approach to considering how their existing estate of library buildings might more sustainably serve the city, & in particular, it's young people.

Art practices of every stripe have been deployed, not to suggest a need for more civic buildings but to test what more these civic buildings might be. This is a process of radical experimentation that is interdisciplinary in order to be socially sustainable & which is creative in order to break new ground.

Led by young producers, strategists and artists, engaging and empowering an audience of building / library users, service users become creative agents in a new form of shared ownership. The objective is both shared ownership of the public buildings themselves: but arguably, more importantly, ownership over the processes, methodologies & vision.

Experimental & virtual test-pieces and events are being used to prototype new ways in which the buildings might be inhabited and a cohort of young mentees have been recruited to form and inform the visions. And as the creative agents virtualise & envisage through creative formats of dance, poetry, interview, spoken word and film, new futures for old buildings emerge.

46: To be and not to build-A contingent manifesto for Sustainable Belgrade

Authors: Pavle Stamenović, PhD. Assistant Professor at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture and Đorđe Bulajić, M. Arch. Research Assistant at University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture

Abstract

More than 100 years after the Manifesto of Futurist Architecture written by Antonio Sant'Elia and reinterpreted by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, the founder of Italian Futurism, we are once again questioning our ventures and an ongoing course of our discipline. The Italian futurists radically speculated that our houses would last less long than we and that each generation, would have to build its own city. But our

thoughts about architecture and design altogether are nowadays fundamentally altered. The pandemic situation we are currently living in shows how frozen globalized production systems are, as Bruno Latour argues, not only seen as a great opportunity for the ecologists, rather as a vast potential for the reconceptualization of our working models. So what does this mean for architects and architecture discipline?

This research project aims to design a narrative for the (un)built environments of the future; a narrative that is at once economically realistic and ecologically positive. The concept of sustainability in this research is represented in the state of not building anything ever again: The only sustainable architecture is the one that is built upon the existing built environment. What can't be rebuilt or built upon becomes the third landscape: no extra land is to be occupied by architecture ever again. The proposed scenario for the future does not evolve from architectural motivation- rather, architecture is an agency that reacts to changing circumstances.

This work is a design-based manifesto. It is embedded in the research that was conducted in the city of Belgrade as proving grounds. By using the research-by-design method this research attempts to make a small contribution to the long-lasting culture of manifestos in the architectural discipline. This design-based manifesto is conceived through research that has been developing through an elective course at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture for the past 3 years.

36: Artificial Grounds-Designing with an ecology of oil

Authors: Mark Hilley, ESALA, The University of Edinburgh

Abstract

A significant area of “ground” above and below the surface of the region of West Lothian in the “central belt” of Scotland is artificial. These artificial grounds are largely post industrial and have been abandoned due to their low productivity or use value within the regime of integrated world capitalism (IWC); they are, we are told, spaces in material, cultural, economic and social decline. However, despite the apparent hopelessness of the situation recent environmental research tells us that “nature” is reclaiming these territories. Principally these territories are abandoned Oil-Shale Bings, Bing being the local colloquial term for mounds of spoil or waste from a mining operation. The reason nature is re-establishing is that these territories lie unused beyond the agrilogistic reach of IWC therefore nature is literally taking refuge away from the unsustainable monoculture of pesticide driven war that humans are waging on the adjacent landscape.

However, the highly ambiguous and loaded term nature is problematic, recent work by British philosopher Timothy Morton, extending ideas that are rooted in the work of Deleuze & Guattari who in turn extended the work of Gregory Bateson's ecology of mind has removed the ontological barrier to thinking about
