RECONCILING POETICS AND ETHICS IN ARCHITECTURE

HISTORY AND THEORY PROGRAM
McGILL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
CANADIAN CENTRE FOR ARCHITECTURE
13-15 SEPTEMBER 2007
MONTREAL, CANADA

Academic Committee:

Alberto Pérez-Gómez  
Saidye Rosner Bronfman Professor of the History of Architecture, McGill University

Lily Chi  
Director of Graduate Studies, Field of Architecture, Cornell University

Marco Frascari  
Director of the School of Architecture, Carleton University

David Leatherbarrow  
Chair of the Graduate Group in Architecture, School of Design, University of Pennsylvania

Louise Pelletier  
Professeur, École de design, Faculté des arts, Université du Québec à Montréal

Alexis Sornin  
Associate Head of the Study Centre, Canadian Centre for Architecture

Organizing Committee:  
(History and Theory of Architecture Program, McGill University)

Alberto Pérez-Gómez  (Chair)  
Lian Chang  (Co-Chair)  
Diana Cheng  (Co-Chair)  
Peter Olshavsky  (Co-Chair)  
Andre Majaes  (Accounting and Data)  
Andrea Merrett  (Accounting)  
Jason Crow  (Audio-Visual)

Volunteers:

Abe Gomel  
Alex McIntosh  
Aliki Economides  
Andrea Merrett  
Andrea Pukteris  
Ayesha Qaisar  
Bo Liu  
Bori Yoon  
Candace Wiersema  
Claudia Barra De  
Vincenzo  
Currim Suteria  
Dana Margalith  
Don Toromanoff  
Emad Ghattas  
Emily Dovbniak  
Emma Greer  
Hamza Alhbian  
Heather Powers  
Isabel Potworowski  
Jack Dodgson  
Jonathan Powers  
Jose Jacob  
Joyce Raybuck  
Junia-Elli Jorgji  
Kalandar Kamalkhan  
Katherine Lapierre  
Lori Riva  
Luciana Adoyo  
Marco Marini  
Maria Elisa Navarro  
Marie Khediguian  
Megan Spriggs  
Nazanin Nayini  
Pari Riahi  
Peter Sealy  
Raphaëlle Gendron  
Renee Chang  
Stephanie Chan-Thim  
Steve Parcell  
Tsz Yan Ng  
Valérie Lechêne  
Vedanta Balbahadur  
Yixiong Rang

Administration:

The able and enthusiastic assistance of the staff of the McGill University School of Architecture and the Canadian Centre for Architecture have been invaluable in the organization of this conference. In particular, the efforts of Luciana Adoyo (McGill School of Architecture, PhD Program and History and Theory Program Administrator) have been above and beyond the call of duty.
Thursday, September 13, 2007
McGill University School of Architecture
Macdonald-Harrington Building, 815 Sherbrooke Street West

Registration
17h00 – 17h50
First Floor Lobby

Opening Address
18h00 – 19h30
Lecture Theatre (G-10)

Welcome and Introduction
Michael Jemtrud, Director, McGill University School of Architecture

“Architectural Longing after Ethics and Aesthetics”
Alberto Pérez-Gómez, Saidye Rosner Bronfman Professor of the History of Architecture
This lecture is organized in conjunction with the McGill School of Architecture Lecture Series, and is open to the general public.

Reception and Vernissage
19h30 – 21h00
Exhibition Room (114)

“A Cabinet of Curious Things Including: a box, a book, a pair of eyes, a suit, a plant, a nipple, a panorama, a cake, and one large nose. Slightly Revised Edition.”
This vernissage, for the exhibition of the 2007 McGill University History and Theory of Architecture Graduate Studio, is open to the general public.

Launch of Chora 5
The fifth volume of Chora: Intervals in the Philosophy of Architecture, edited by Alberto Pérez-Gómez and Stephen Parcell and published by McGill-Queen’s University Press, will be officially launched and available for sale.

Launch of Architecture, Ethics, and the Personhood of Place
The book entitled Architecture, Ethics, and the Personhood of Place, edited by Gregory Caicco, resulting from the 2004 conference “Ethics in Place: Architecture, Memory and Environmental Poetics” and published by the University Press of New England, will be officially launched and available for sale.
Friday, September 14, 2007
Canadian Centre for Architecture
1920 rue Baile

Registration
8h00 – 9h00

Plenary Address
9h00 – 10h30

Welcome
Lian Chang, Diana Cheng, and Peter Olshavsky, Conference Organizing Committee
Mirko Zardini, Director, Canadian Centre for Architecture

Introduction
Alberto Pérez-Gómez, McGill University

“Architecture Made Otherwise”
David Leatherbarrow, Chair, Graduate Group in Architecture, University of Pennsylvania
School of Design

Coffee Break
10h30 – 10h50

Morning Session
10h50 – 12h20

I. Empathy and the Other
Moderator: David Leatherbarrow, University of Pennsylvania

- **David Gersten**, Cooper Union School of Architecture
  “No More Shall We Part”
- **Nada Subotincic**, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture
  “Freud at the Dining Table—an Architectural Act, Part II, Act V, Scene 5”
- **Gregory Caicco**, Independent Scholar
  “Architecture, Ethics and the Personhood of Place”

II. Biology, Bodies and Modernity
Moderator: Aliki Economides, Harvard University

- **Terri Fuglem**, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture
  “The Architecture of Survival: the influence of evolutionary theory in modernist design”
- **J. Kent Fitzsimons**, Rice School of Architecture Paris
  “More than Access: When Disability Inhabits Architecture”
- **Alice Guess**, Independent Scholar
  “How to draw a crooked line. Or, a case for the sublime in contemporary architecture.”
III. Phenomenological Approaches

Moderator: Pari Riahi, McGill University

- Stephen Parcell, Dalhousie University School of Architecture
  “Architects Since Birth”
- Rachel McCann, Mississippi State University, College of Architecture, Art + Design
  “Wild Beauty: A Sensuous Ethics of Architecture”
- Ricardo Castro, McGill University School of Architecture
  “Ambulating Through Choreographed Landscapes: Teaching Phenomenological Principles in Situ”

Pause for Lunch and Tours
12h20 – 14h00
Lunch is not provided. Your registration package includes a map of a variety of nearby restaurants.

CCA Study Centre and Library Tour
A tour of the CCA Study Centre and Library with Alexis Sornin, CCA Study Centre Associate Head. The tour begins in the Shaughnessy House at 12h20 and can accommodate up to 20 people. This tour will be offered again at 16h20.

CCA Public Galleries Tour
A tour of the CCA Main Exhibition and Public Galleries with CCA guides. The tour begins in the Shaughnessy House at 12h20, and can accommodate up to 40 people with two guides. This tour will be offered again at 16h20.

First Afternoon Session
14h00 – 16h00

IV. Sustainability

Moderator: Howard Davies, Atelier Big City and McGill University

- Mark West, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture
  “C.A.S.T. Architecture”
- Royce M. Earnest, Judson College Department of Architecture
  “Land-Use Ethic: Background and Contemporary Issues”
- Theodore Sandstra, Behnisch Architekten, Stuttgart
  “Poet and/or Technician: The Architect as Environmental Activist”
- Raymond J. Cole, Director, University of British Columbia, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
  Daniel Pearl, Université de Montréal, Faculté de l’aménagement
  “In the Pursuit of “dynamic quality”: Blurring Boundaries in the Theory and Practice of Sustainable Design”

V. Narratives of Utopia

Moderator: Donald Kunze, Penn State University

- Lawrence Bird, McGill University School of Architecture
  “A step forward, a glance back: metropolis as prosthetic utopia”
• **Ralph Ghoche**, Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
  “Explosive Beauty: Art and Utopia in Émile Zola’s novel *Travail*”

• **Helmut Klassen**, York University and Ryerson University
  “Life ‘as it is’: A Critical Renovation of the Architectural Project”

• **Graham Livesey**, University of Calgary, Faculty of Environmental Design
  “The Gardener as a Modernist Urban Figure”

**VI. Visions of Modernity**

Shaughnessy House B

Moderator: Alexis Sornin, Canadian Centre for Architecture

• **Jean-Pierre Chupin**, Université de Montréal, École d’architecture
  “Modulor or the Misfortunes of Virtue”

• **Ute Poerschke**, Penn State University, Department of Architecture
  “Connecting Poetics and Ethics in the work of Hannes Meyer (1889-1954)”

• **Stephen Phillips**, California Polytechnic University
  “An Architect’s Ethics: To Design the Shrine of the Book”

• **Irena Latek**, Université de Montréal, Faculté de l’aménagement
  “Passages, déplacements et flâneries autour du Mémorial Walter Benjamin”

**Coffee Break**

Shaughnessy House

16h00 – 16h20

**Second Afternoon Session and Tours**

16h20 – 17h50

**VII. Ethics of Uncertainty**

Paul Desmarais Theatre

Moderator: Lily Chi, Cornell University

• **Donald Kunze**, Penn State University, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
  “The Natural Attitude”

• **Torben Berns**, University at Buffalo, Department of Architecture
  “The Morality of Happiness: Consent and Wisdom *in absentia*”

• **Caroline Dionne**, Independent Scholar
  “Architecture as ‘Fair Play’”

**VIII. Virtual Constructions**

Shaughnessy House A

Moderator: Michael Jemtrud, McGill University School of Architecture

• **Christophe Guignard**, fabric | ch, studio for architecture and research, and University of Art and Design, Lausanne (ECAL)
  “Architecture ex-dimensionnelle”

• **Jose Cabral Filho**, Federal University of Minas Gerais School of Architecture, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
  “Digital Sacrifice: the space between architecture, body and information technology”

• **Patrick H. Harrop**, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture
  “Uncertain Projections: Autokinetic Tactics for Disrupting Architectural Fabrication”
IX. Building for Revolution

Moderator: Louise Pelletier, Université du Québec à Montréal

- Christina Contandriopoulos, McGill University School of Architecture
  “Pierre levées, nationalisme et territorialité dans le discours de J.-A. Dulaure (1755-1835)”

- Jennifer Carter, McGill University School of Architecture
  “A New Order for a Revolutionized Society: Culture, pedagogy, and historiography at the Musée des monuments français (1795 – 1816)”

- Rita Velloso, Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
  “In the darkness of the lived moments: 1871 Paris Communes, barricade fighting and architectural experience in Walter Benjamin’s Arcades Project”

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Pause

17h50 – 18h00

Keynote Address

18h00 – 19h15

Welcome
Mirko Zardini, Director, Canadian Centre for Architecture

Introduction
Alberto Pérez-Gómez, McGill University

“On Artistic Expression, Generosity and Humility—reality sense and idealization in architecture”
Juhani Pallasmaa, Principal of Juhani Pallasmaa Architects

Reception

19h15 – 20h30
Sponsored by the Embassy of Finland, Ottawa, the Canadian Centre for Architecture, and the History and Theory of Architecture Program, McGill University
Saturday, September 15, 2007
McGill University School of Architecture
Macdonald-Harrington Building, 815 Sherbrooke Street West

Registration
8h30 – 9h00
First Floor Lobby

Coffee
8h30 – 9h00
Exhibition Room (114)

Plenary Address
9h00 – 10h20
Lecture Theatre (G-10)

Welcome and Introduction
Michael Jemtrud, Director, McGill University School of Architecture

“Honestamente bella: Alvise Cornaro’s architectural phronesis and sophrosine”
Marco Frascari, Director, Carleton University School of Architecture

Coffee
10h20 – 10h40
Exhibition Room (114)

Morning Session
10h40 – 12h10

X. Politics and Identity in Quattrocento Northern Italy
Lecture Theatre (G-10)
Moderator: Marco Frascari, Carleton University

- Robert Kirkbride, Parsons The New School for Design, Product Design
  “Speak, Stone: Geometries of Rhetoric in a Late Quattrocento Façade”

- Manuela Antoniu, Architectural Association School of Architecture, London

- Indra Kagis McEwen, Concordia University, Department of Art History
  “World Heritage, Urbino”

XI. Uses of Fiction in Pedagogy
Lecture Room (212)
Moderator: Tsz Yan Ng, McGill University

- Marc Neveu, University of Manitoba, Faculty of Architecture
  “Educating the Ethical Practitioner”

- Hui Zou, University of Florida, School of Architecture
  “Architectural Fiction and Late-Eighteenth Century Chinese Gardens”

- Panos Leventis, Drury University, Hammons School of Architecture
  “Form Follows Fiction: Pedagogy and the stories of Architecture”
XII. Éthique et architecture
Crit Room (101)
Moderator: Martin Bressani, McGill University
- Maurice Lagueux, Université de Montréal, Département de philosophie
  “Y a-t-il une problématique éthique propre à l’architecture?”
- Thierry Mandoul, École d’architecture de Paris-Malaquais
  “Au-delà de la forme”
- Céline Poisson, Université du Québec à Montréal, École de design
  “Éthique et architecture chez Wittgenstein”

XIII. On Silence
Crit Room (102)
Moderator: Gregory Caicco, Independent Scholar
- Gordon A. Nicholson, Clemson School of Architecture, Charleston Architecture Center
  “Silent Space”
- Negin Djavaherian, McGill University School of Architecture
  “Mirage as Architecture: The Soil of Desert, the Soul of Man”

Pause for Lunch and Tour
12h10 – 13h40
Lunch is not provided. Your registration package will include a map of a variety of nearby restaurants.

Rare Books Exhibition Tour
A 35 minute tour of the McGill Rare Books and Special Collections Division exhibition, “Drawing from Ideas, Building from Books: Architectural Treatises in McGill University Collections,” curated by Jennifer Carter and Yelda Nasifoglu. The tour, given by Jennifer Carter, can accommodate 20 people. The tour will be offered twice and will begin in the Macdonald-Harrington First Floor Lobby, at 12h10 and 13h00.

Afternoon Session
13h40 – 15h10

XIV. Historical Studies: Imaginative Constructions
Lecture Theatre (G-10)
Moderator: David Theodore, McGill University
- Nicholas Roquet, McGill University School of Architecture
  “The Ethics of Imitation”
- Razan Francis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, History, Theory & Criticism of Architecture
  “The Renaissance and the Medieval Arabic Imagination”
- Carole Lévesque, Université de Montréal, Faculté de l’aménagement
  “Actions in indeterminability: exploring the possibilities of temporary architecture”

XV. Messy Urbanisms
Lecture Room (212)
Moderator: Diana Cheng, McGill University
- Ana Paula Baltazar, Federal University of Minas Gerais School of Architecture, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Silke Kapp, Federal University of Minas Gerais School of Architecture, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
“Learning from favelas”
• Santiago de Orduna, McGill University School of Architecture
  “Tree, Cross, Umbrella: ethics and poetics of sacrifice”
• Jacqueline To, University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy
  “The New Urban Lite”

XVI. 20th Century Poetic Constructions
Crit Room (101)
Moderator: Ricardo Castro, McGill University
• Carlos Naranjo, National University of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia
  “Thematizing Strata: Poetic evidence of ethical stances in the work of Rogelio Salmona”
• Carlos Rueda, McGill University School of Architecture
  “An Experiential Tale of Two Buildings by Rogelio Salmona”
• Juan Manuel Heredia, University of Pennsylvania School of Design
  “Ethical-Poietics, Typicality and Tectonics: On Greek School Rationalism”

XVII. Ethical Stances in Antiquity
Crit Room (102)
Moderator: Indra K. McEwen, Concordia University
• Lian Chang, McGill University School of Architecture
  “Violence, Desire and the Architectural Act of Articulation”
• Lisa Landrum, McGill University School of Architecture
  “Act like an architect”
• Leonidas Koutsompos, University of Edinburgh
  “Reconciliatory Praxis: Bridging Ethics and Poetics in the Design Studio”

Coffee
Exhibition Room (114)
15h10 – 15h30

Plenary Session
Lecture Theatre (G-10)
15h30 – 17h45

“Site and Contemporary Global Practice”
Moderator: Alberto Pérez-Gómez, McGill University
• Lily Chi, Cornell University Department of Architecture
  “On Site in a ‘Global’ World”
• Michael Jemtrud, Carleton University School of Architecture
• Katsuhiko Muramoto, Penn State University, Department of Architecture
• Danielle Wiley, Carleton University, Cultural Mediation
  “Defining the Digital Mediated Collaborative Environment: A Participatory Design Studio Between Carleton University and Pennsylvania State University”
• Gregory Henriquez, Henriquez Partners Architects
  “The Ethical Challenges of a Practicing Architect”
Banquet
19h30 – 24h00

“70 Architectes sur l’éthique et la poétique”
The banquet will take place among the works of this exhibition celebrating the 20th anniversary of the History and Theory of Architecture Program at McGill University. Each of the 70 pieces in the exhibition is an architectural object measuring 1 square foot or 1 cubic foot, and represents the recent work of one of 70 participating architects and designers. The exhibition will be officially opened on Wednesday, September 19 at 18h00 with a vernissage that is free and open to the general public, and will run until October 21, 2007.

Banquet
Drinks will be served at 19h30, and dinner will be served at 20h00. Please note that the banquet is only open to those who have pre-purchased tickets, and tickets are now sold out.