

Symposium

Title

Connected / Augmented / Fictional. Architecture in the network

Introduction

On the ninth of April 2019, architecturaltheory.eu organizes a symposium on different relationships between architecture and digital media, whether it's the impact of the Internet, the ability to add meaning and atmospheres, or the opportunities to make invisible things visible and create fictions. Digital technology encompasses such a vast field today that in architecture it stretches from design software to robotics and from the Internet to AI. Whether it's the technology itself or the billions of people using it, changing it and being influenced by it, there increasingly seems to be something secretive and uncontrollable about it. In this symposium, authors, artists and architects search for *dei ex machina*, to shed light on the situation, face our demons, surprise us and maybe even suggest ways out.

Connected

The first panel is dedicated to the different ways in which the Internet connects humans with humans, humans with machines, and machines with machines. The data that circulate at high speed through the Web are not confined within the borders of its digital networks, but migrate outside of them, affecting people and objects, their function and position in space. The Internet is not any more a novelty, but a banality that generates an environment defined by ubiquitous authorship, attention as currency, the collapse of digital into material space and the infinite reproduction and mutation of cultural products. How can architecture and art confront this condition?

Augmented

The second panel of the symposium will deal with the possibilities of realities: physical, augmented and virtual. Next to the question about the role of architecture, and architects, in the design of virtual worlds or in the extension of the physical environment through augmented reality, another important issue will be the bodily impact of these transitions. Still seen as temporary escapes, the panel will discuss about how these installations may change or extend our human experience, knowledge and values.

Fictional

The third panel of the symposium will discuss the relationship between Fiction and architecture. By showing different approaches to the topic, the panel will address issues related to representation and the fabrication of fictional realities. Fiction will be presented as a reality in itself, fabricated by an author, or as a way through which it is possible to problematize, represent and critically engage the material reality of architecture. Next to these issues, it will be discussed how architecture itself can be seen as a fictional discipline that, thanks to its aesthetics, its language and its meaning, can infiltrate the construction of our cultural imaginary. Simultaneously seen as a strategy and as a reality in itself, the panel will discuss about how the question of fiction can variously influence our realities.

Evening Program

The evening program will be dedicated to film and architecture. There will be the book launch of Melanie van der Hoorns latest book *Spots in Shots: Narrating the Built Environment in Short Films* and we will present one film: Johannes Mücke's first feature film, after having been intensely involved in movies like *Independence Day – Resurge* (2016) and games like *Assassin's Creed: Identity* (2015). Also, in Mücke's own *UI: Soon We Will All Be One* (2018) CGI plays an important role, but he has written and directed the movie as well.

Program

10:00-10:30. Bart Lootsma / Introduction

Connected

10:30-11:00. James Taylor-Foster

11:00-11:30. Thomas Feuerstein

11:30-12:00. Davide Tommaso Ferrando

12:00-12:30. Discussion moderated by architecturetheory.eu

Lunch break

12:30-13:30

Augmented

13:30-14:00. Space Popular

14:00-14:30. Uwe Brunner & Cenk Güzelis

14:30-15:00. Alexa Baumgartner

15:00-15:30. Discussion moderated by architecturetheory.eu

Coffee break

15:30-16:00

Fictional

16:00-16:30. Giacomo Pala

16:30-17:00. Bettina Siegele

17:00-17:30. Johannes Mücke

17:30-18:00. Discussion moderated by architecturetheory.eu

Evening program

18:00-19:00

18:15-19:00. Book launch / Book signing: Mélanie van der Hoorn / *Spots in Shots: Narrating the Built Environment in Short Films* (2018)

19:00-20:00. Movie screening Johannes Mücke / *UI: Soon We Will All Be One* (2018)