

## **WEEK 13-PROJECT**

### ARCH-572, ARCHITECTURE THEORY AND CRITICISM

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As Rem Koolhaas states it, "Architecture is a profession trained to put things together, not to take them apart." (13) However, today's Architects have lost that impulse where inspiration and proportions were key factors. Architects refer to books like Neuferts, from where dimensions are blindly adapted, and follow the conventional norms and regulations as prescribed in the digital tools they work in. This week's exhibition by Liz, Peter and Gabriel is about challenging those norms of design by utilising the same elements of design.

Elizabeth Galvez's "9 Speculative Bathroom" is about challenging the notion of bathroom as a discrete and enclosed site. It questions the copy-pasting culture of bathroom plans in architecture offices, where bathrooms are one of the most complicated, yet least focused while designing. Historically, from ancient Roman Bath Houses to Japanese Sento Baths, bathroom cultures were considered to be public (15-16). However, bathrooms have today have been so atomised and have become so common in Europe and North America, that no-one can think of them in other ways (18). Like Agee and Penner, Liz's focus lies in the inter-relation between bathroom and its outside world by manipulating its elements, conditions and spaces to bring back the lost connection between architecture, society and the water system (9). The exposed and elegant copper pipes that runs naked across the bathrooms to the idea of extending the bathroom to the private bedroom, Liz tries to revive the meaning of bathroom and making one aware and conscious to the utility it holds and embodies the story of in-flows to outflows.

Gabriel Cuellar in his book, "The Interval of the Territory", highlights the Real Property's role in Architecture. Real property, better known as 'land', "is one of the foremost infrastructures responsible for the performance of environmental features such as buildings" (7). Gabriel identifies different ways throughout history in which the Real Property operates through various organisations. As an example, many United States cities have a plot size of 20'X100'. the reason behind this dimension lies behind the 19th-20th Century prevailing timber construction standards, where the largest available member was capable of spanning 20'. Understanding the property as an enterprise, it has facilitated the government with taxations and zoning. Gabriel proposes to create, articulate and fragment interests by exploiting "the fourth-dimensionality of property or implicate appurtenant resources, such as building materials, biomass, or ecosystem services, in the real property regime."

Peter Yi's project, '5 parts for 555' is a practical assertion to Rem Koolhaas's statement that the role of architect as a profession is to put things together (13). Peter brings up one way out of the many possible contemporary ways of re-thinking a new way in which timbers join together by creating 5 custom metal elements as hardwares for 555 possible interpretations of joineries to come up with an alternative approach of making architecture.

It can be noted that all three Taubman fellows' focuses lies in the same realm, where they question the origin of architecture that currently comes out as the result of restrictions and rules governed by the digital tools, and societal forces. All three fellows pick up different elements of architecture - bathroom, joineries and land, and brings our attention to these mundane elements to state that there lies a potential in each element if one has to re-think its usage and factors that brings the element into existence at the first place.