

**Seminar**  
**Columbia GSAPP / Fall 2014**  
**Srdjan Jovanović Weiss, PhD**  
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 location: [Avery 505](#)  
 time: [Mondays, 11am - 1pm](#)

## Course Topic

### **Architecture vis-a-vis New Ideologies**

This seminar is designed to explore possible roles of a future designer in practice engaged vis-a-vis emerging aspects of *new urban ideology* that affect fields of architecture, urbanism, art and activism. In this seminar *urban ideology* is positioned as a conceptual twin, driver, enabler, of spatial dis-charge for architecture in contested urban situations. The trigger for this seminar is the emerging, and expanding discourse around urban occupation of the *Zuccotti* park in down-town New York orchestrated by the *Occupy Wall Street*. Such public dissent is seen as a node in a mesh of global protests such as the Arab Spring in North Africa as well as recent uprising in Istanbul in Turkey that started because of the architectural student rage about the plans to dismantle an urban park for commercial use. Rather than, as philosopher Slavoj Žižek comments, “to congratulate ourselves” on these creative uses of the city it may be better to look at emerging spatial practices, both in art, architecture and activism as operations that are engaging with the problem of caused by the economical crisis.

The output of this seminar will be a graphic novel book based on spatial desires of ideological leaders, their stylistic trappings and exposed desires. This book will be exhibited at the forthcoming *Romancing Power* exhibition at The Anderson Gallery on 5th Avenue at 13th street in New York scheduled for February 2015.

A number of emerging (and some established) practices of architecture, often working with art practices, find the mediation of the eroding ideological situation in the array of architecture of biennials and triennials, such as the most recent edition of Venice Architecture Biennial entitled *Common Ground*. Others upcoming events include Lisbon Architecture Biennial entitled *Design for Protest* as well as Shenzhen-Hong Kong Biennial for Architecture and Urbanism with the topic of Urban Borders. Architectural practices such as *Decolonizing Art and Architecture Residence* (DAAR) based in Palestine research and analyze the use of city squares in Cairo and other North African capitals which witness radical changes in political power in North Africa. Other more interdisciplinary groups such as the *School of Missing Studies* look at the city as continuously generating subjects of knowledge that are lost and waiting for to be rediscovered. [www.schoolofmissingstudies.net](http://www.schoolofmissingstudies.net)

This will lead the participants in the seminar to more established, yet radical approaches to the emerging aspects of ideology. The memorialization of mass murder as it was designed by architect Peter Eisenman and built in Berlin as the *Memorial to the Murdered Jews in Europe* will be one of the spatial interventions looked at in the seminar. Today this designed location is the place of both calming experience, and it is also a place for living urban life by cooking,

grilling and hanging out at this artificial landscape. As a living death memorial, what is it actually as architecture? We will also look at the design projects at the very beginning of the economic crisis and the strategies that the large and established offices like Herzog & de Meuron and OMA made to continue working on the global market.

Clearly the role of an architect in those examples are multiple and contested. This may be so because architecture is the practice that most often succumb to deliver not only good news with its design expertise that surpasses art, but also well edited excerpts of *bad news*.

This investigative seminar will discuss approaches that merge architecture with art interventions such as the ongoing Flint Public Art Project in Michigan. This initiative is using art, design and architecture to revitalize and bring forward lost industrial plants to the new public use. Similarly recent New York's MoMA architecture exhibit entitled *9+1 Ways of Being Political* curated by Pedro Gadanho will be looked in retrospect of its elastic relationship of architecture to politics or ideology. One of the highlights of the seminar will be the study of contemporary dissident culture exemplified in the art and architecture of Ai Weiwei.

We will also look into interpreting amount of books on the Eastern experience produced during the years of the Cold War. They are published by large institutions in the West with the clever interest to make the case that the other side was not that as nefarious as it was presented, and that it made some extraordinary pieces of architecture and the city because it was entangled with ideology.

To make it relevant as the goal of the seminar at Columbia GSAPP will be to pose a mirror question. What would a memorial to the Cold War be at the US academic side? As everyone in this seminar is born at the decline of the Cold War in 1980s, of after they may be the perfect students to take on this study.

The seminar atmosphere will be made as collaborative as possible, with active student participation, presentations, relevant literature, workshops and discussion based atmosphere in the classroom. This model is based on the educational experience developed by the Centre for Research Architecture at Goldsmiths University of London. The actual sessions and literature may be subject to adapt to any students' inputs.

The students will have access to the United Nations libraries as well as archives of the Slought Foundation based in Philadelphia.

Our product of the investigation will be a self-published book with chapters designed entirely by each student in the seminar with the content of their choice. A previous sample of the book can be found here: <http://www.lulu.com/us/en/shop/srdjan-jovanovic-weiss/architecture-at-the-scales-of-geopolitics/paperback/product-5168989.html>

### Schedule of Sessions

**1. September 8, 2014**

#### **Introduction**

*What is the role of an architect vis-a-vis elusive, if not evasive, contemporary meanings of ideology? What is an architecture entangled with ideology? What is spatial practice? What is meant by the vanishing act and the re-appearance of an ideological architecture in other unexpected ways? What is meant by the end of ideology? What is global about it? What is the aftermath of the disappearance of ideology in architecture? What is the forensic aspect of the disappearance of ideology? What is meant by geometry of ideology and geometry of dissent? How is contemporary spatial practice affected, or potentially recharged?*

Occupy Wall Street New York and global perspectives.

Slavoj Žižek, *The Politics of Batman* /

<http://www.newstatesman.com/culture/culture/2012/08/slavoj-žiček-politics-batman>

Slavoj Žižek, *On Architecture and Aesthetics*,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdbiN3YcuEI>

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2. September 15, 2014

### **Built ideology / Brief history of entanglement**

*How did architecture ever entangle with ideology? What geometries, forms, associations, reductions, expansions are prone to be ideological? Outside over inside. Inside over outside.*

Constructivist architecture / Stalinist architecture / relations to US

Nazi Architecture / Haus der Kunst, Munich / relations to US

Third Way / Socialist Yugoslav architecture for the Non Aligned Movement of countries

Chernikhov Iakov, *Architectural Fantasies: 101 Composition*. [Moscow]: Iakov Chernikhov

International Foundation, 2002. Print

Cooke, Catherine. "Soviet Architectural Competitions." *Soviet Architectural Competitions: 1920s - 1930s*. Ed. Catherine Cooke and Igor Kazus. London: Phaidon, 1992. 6-17. Print.

Gadanhó, Pedro. "Fictional Futures and Untold Plans." *Shrapnel Contemporary*. Pedro Gadanhó's Blog, 2009. Web. 03 Sept. 2012.

<<http://shrapnelcontemporary.wordpress.com/archive-texts/fictional-futures-and-untold-plans/>>.

Tarkhanov, Alexei, and Sergei Kavtaradze. "Introduction & The Style Is Found." *Stalinist Architecture*. [London]: Laurence King, 1992. 10-79. Print.

Built Ideology: *Haus der Kunst*, conversation between Jacques Herzog and Rem Koolhaas, moderated by Mark Wigley / <http://032c.com/2008/built-ideology-haus-der-kunst/>

Timeline of Change / Unpublished timeline study of Haus der Kunst by Herzog & de Meuron and OMA/AMO / PDF will be provided at or before session 1.

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3. September 22, 2014

a. **Follow up video discussion between Rem Koolhaas and Jacques Herzog on Haus der Kunst in Munich, 11 am -12 pm**

b. Discussion, 12 pm - 1 pm

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4. September 29, 2014

### **Monument For An Idea**

*Nostalgia for the (idea of) the future (from the past). Monument to the Victory of the Cold War. What is a monument to an idea? Ilya Kabakov art and architecture projects*

Grois, Boris. *Ilya Kabakov: The Man Who Flew into Space from His Apartment*. London: Afterall, 2006. Print.

Boym, Svetlana. *The Future of Nostalgia*. New York: Basic, 2001. Print. / [http://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Future\\_of\\_Nostalgia.html?id=7BbTJ6qVPMcC](http://books.google.com/books/about/The_Future_of_Nostalgia.html?id=7BbTJ6qVPMcC)

Buck-Morss, Susan. "Hypertext: Cold War Enemies." *Dreamworld and Catastrophe: The Passing of Mass Utopia in East and West*. Cambridge, MA: MIT, 2000. 2-9. Print.

Miessen, Markus. "Eastern promises: Markus Miessen on OMA/AMO at the Hermitage." *Artforum International* 47.2 (2008): 179+. *General OneFile*. Web. 3 Sep. 2012. <http://www.questia.com/library/1G1-187505536/eastern-promises-markus-miessen-on-oma-amo-at-the>

Bogdanović, Bogdan. Ed. Joanna Labon. *Balkan Blues: Writing out of Yugoslavia*. Evanston (Ill.): Northwestern UP, 1995. 37-74. Print.

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5. October 6, 2014

### **Deconstructing Ideology / Brief History of Disentanglement**

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*Lessons from art and philosophy. Theories of dynamic individualism. Forms "beyond" representations of ethics. Relational aesthetics. Relational geometry. Artificial Hells. Aesthetic regimes. Project 'Unite' Le Corbusier. Pierre Burdieu / Bruno Latour / Marina Abramovic / Anselm Franke / Animism*

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Bishop, Claire. *Artificial Hells: Participatory Art & the Politics of Spectatorship*. London: Verso, 2012. 26-30 & 195-206. Print.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1984. Print.

Deleuze, Gilles. "Intuition as Method." *Bergsonism*. New York: Zone, 1988. 13-36. Print.

Slavoj Žižek, "Cynicism as a Form of Ideology." *The Sublime Object of Ideology*. London, New York: Verso, 1989. 28-30. Print. / <http://www.egs.edu/faculty/slavoj-zizek/articles/cynicism-as-a-form-of-ideology/>

On Marina Abramović re-entanglement with architecture /

<http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/06/special-chairs-and-lots-of-time-marina-abramovic-plans-her-new-center/> /

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/04/garden/04location.html?pagewanted=all>

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6. October 13, 2014

### **Elastic ideology**

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*United States (New York) perception of ideology. What is the process of an "ending" of an ideology? How does this end occur, what is its timeline, and who are its actors. What is future for an ideology. Role in art and architecture in conceptualizing recent futures instead of permanent futures. Late Capitalism and Late Socialism. Empire and fragmentation if it? What Was Socialism and What Comes Next? What is Soft Socialism? (No) Future of Socialism. Harvard view of ideology?*

Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. "The Multitude Against Empire." *Empire*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 2000. 393-413. Print.

Verdery, Katherine. "The Elasticity of Land: Problems of Property Restitution in Transilvania." *What Was Socialism, and What Comes Next?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1996. 133-67. Print.

Kagan, Elena. "To The Final Conflict: Socialism In New York City, 1900-1933." Diss. Princeton University, 1981. *To The Final Conflict: Socialism In New York City, 1900-1933*. Princeton University. Web. <<http://dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/Kagan-princeton-thesis.pdf>>.

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7. October 20, 2014

### **Elastic Ideology II / Shenzhen**

Student projects and draft presentations

Craciun, Mihai. "Ideology: Shenzhen." *Great Leap Forward: Harvard Design School Project on the City*. Ed. Rem Koolhaas and Et Al. Köln: Taschen, 2001. 46-89. Print.

**Guest Lecture: Nina Rappaport / Vertical Urban Factory project, 10 am-12 pm /**

**<http://verticalurbanfactory.org>**

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8. October 27, 2014

### **The World of Matter**

Visit and your at The James Gallery, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 5th Avenue and 35th Street

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9. November 3, 2014

### **Romancing Power**

*Autocratic space, apparel and other trappings.*

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10. November 10, 2014

### **Workshop / Book-production**

Book layout and production

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11. November 17, 2014

### **Workshop / Book-production**

Book layout and production

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12. November 24, 2014

### **Presentation**

Projects presented

Final projects in the book format to be submitted by this date.

13. December 15, 2014

### **Party**

Projects presented and disseminated

Final projects in the book format to be submitted by this date.

Launch Party.

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