

M1 Graduate Studio, Rome, Jan 2010

Arch 692 Untimely Fabrications; materiality, architecture and globalization.

Winter Term 2010, Location: Rome Studio

Instructor: Professor Ryszard Sliwka: contact rsliwka@uwaterloo.ca

Tues. 1.30pm -5.00pm, Wednesday 9.30am -5.00pm and Thurs 1.30pm- 5.00pm

Introduction

We expect architecture to shelter us, but we also expect it to evoke or stir something important in us. Indeed, for better or worse, modern architecture has never ceased to reflect images of who we are. The term 'untimely' describes in some way a contemporary condition where architecture "affords the refuge of a brief moment of poetic and creative intensity," brought about by "sudden, unanticipated coagulations of reality." (Solà-Morales). Within the context of accelerated globalization and environmental warming, the term 'untimely' suggests a particular reading, distillation and response to the current cultural landscape. In this spirit, Thesis work that demonstrates architectural design as a distinct mode of critical inquiry will be the focus of the Rome studio. .

Thesis based research is provided through;

(i) documentation, analysis and survey of contemporary texts

(ii) field trips

(iii) design exercises that develop architectonic responses to individual thesis positions.

The design exercises examine specific thesis propositions at three different scales; **small** ((un)grounded objects, (Grade 25%), **medium** ((un)canny habitations (Grade 30%) and **large** ((un)stable topographies (Grade 45%).)

At the most intimate scale, materiality becomes the particular focus that delimits the work of architecture. At the largest scale, new 'aesthetics of existence' are examined within a broader design discipline that considers the architecture of the 'event', infrastructural systems and natural ecologies as strategic responses to pervasive condition of the 'non-place.'

All work must be completed on the assigned presentation dates and submitted before May 27, 2010. A 5% penalty per month is applied to each paper received beyond the deadline

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Note for Students with Disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Ryszard Sliwka Jan 24, 2010