

ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN IN ARCHITECTURE

ACADIA 2010

2010.10.28

LIFE in:formation

ON RESPONSIVE INFORMATION AND VARIATIONS IN ARCHITECTURE

Welcome

The **ACADIA 2010** conference will focus on the changing nature of information and its impact on architectural education, research and practice. With the ever-increasing integration of information technologies in the design laboratory, the discipline of architecture has changed profoundly in recent years. The emerging fields of digital fabrication, generative and evolutionary modeling among others, are now at the core of investigations in a growing community of digital design practitioners and researchers.

ACADIA 2010 will explore the ways designers, architects, engineers and scientists collect, analyze and assemble information through computational systems that redefine the notions of design performance and optimization, evolutionary and responsive models. These notions are today inherently related to the possibilities and limitations offered by our increasing computational capabilities, and the way information shapes relations between the human, the environment, and the machine.

ACADIA 2010 will gather leading practitioners, theorists, and researchers who will examine the relation that architecture has with technology and information, and how the latter propels today's most innovative design experimentations and research. The conference will be centered on a series of peer-reviewed paper sessions and a groundbreaking exhibition including peer-reviewed projects.

ACADIA 2010: October 21st to 24th 2010, The Cooper Union, NY

Conference Chairs:
Pablo Lorenzo-Eiroa, Aaron Sprecher, Shai Yeshayahu

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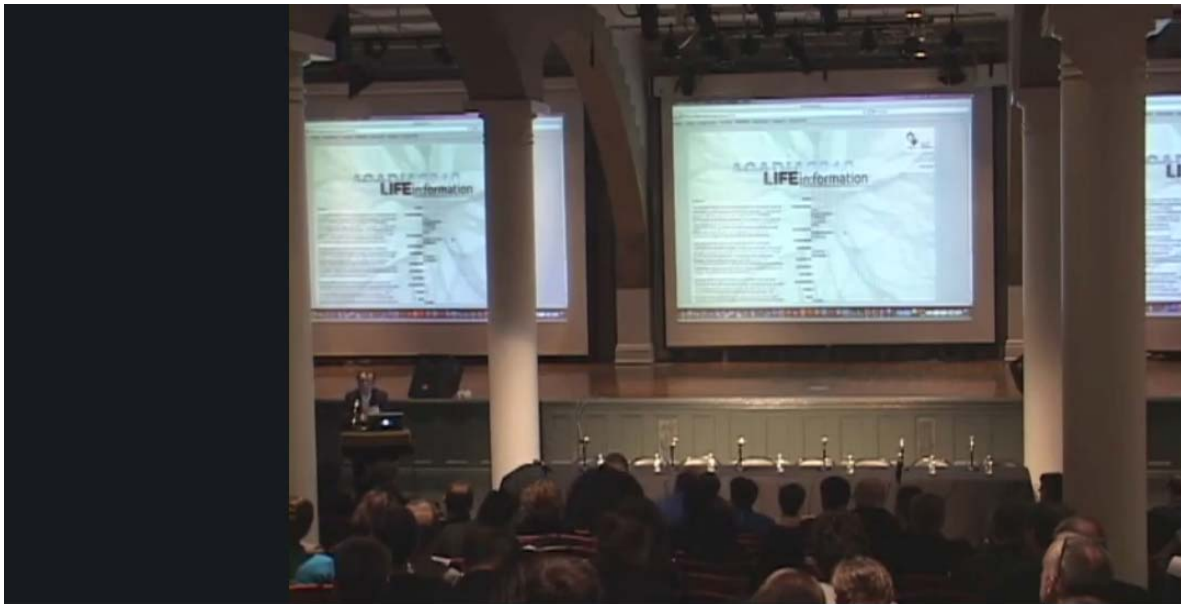
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ACADIA 2010 The Cooper Union - Life in:formation Pablo Lorenzo-Eiroa, Aaron Sprecher and Shai Yeshaya

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Introduction to ACADIA 2010 Conference at The Cooper Union. Thursday October 1, 2010

Pablo Lorenzo-Eiroa, co-Conference Chair

It is great to welcome you all to the Great Hall of The Cooper Union. As a conference Chair and a professor at this institution I have to say that having this conference in this space implies multiple things. One of them is related to how this building works as an island within an island ...but I would also echo David Gersten about the function of this space...where external voices pass through these foundations and that may eventually inform the schools above.

But why Information at Cooper?

The first idea is to construct an alternative axis to the visual that has dominated previous decades. To construct an alternative that may integrate a deeper conception of the perceptual, rather than as a reaction to structuralism. Such axis focus on the relevance of codes and structures that organize reality and operate at a deeper level than superficial perceptual processes that rely on the media-based spectacular effect of the visual.

It is becoming quite clear that if architects do not break or displace the given source codes of algorithms and create their own, their work is trapped by the predetermination of the set of ideas contained within those programs. What this concept questions is authorship in the design process, the necessity to question and create structures that organize and process information. This is the reason why algorithms as structures are part of a larger metaphysical project in occidental culture, rationalized since the modernism of the renaissance.

There is a metaphysical common structure between algorithms and the output form of the projects generated by these processes.

Form striated by those interfaces gives relevance to a neo structuralism, a structuralism that needs also to be displaced, to avoid the philosophical totalitarianism of categories and that may find through topology an alternative solution.

The growing array of interfaces that striate the work are layers where information is represented, crossed, manipulated and ultimately presented. These intermediary spaces relate to all of Panofsky's structuralist theories on representation. If interfaces are spaces of representation, they are spaces of differentiation, and since there is no information without representation, these spaces activate a generative capacity, as architecture content is constituted in a responsive topological loop between form and content.

Following Derrida's critique on the origin of the work of art, the frame is the context within which the work is made possible, implying a topological relationship between the apparently formless flow of data that is seen extrinsic to form, structure, the interfaces involved and how information is constituted. Interfaces that structure information contain sets of ideas and favor certain relationships that if not recognized hide certain problems.

Ultimately architecture may inform and be relevant to technology, as opposed to architecture being relative to technological actualization, the fundamentals that established form as technique in constructivism.

Cooper has always been concerned with representation where both structuralists and poststructuralists approaches have found the opportunity for the construction of a performance intrinsic to architecture. This enables a responsive generative capacity where architecture problems are activated by the questioning of the frame through which they are constituted. Architecture is then possible at that moment, when the interface performs within the work, constituting an autonomy, a reality, and a metaphysics only possible within the discipline.

Such autonomy has not yet entered the digital....

You may find this conference interesting, but it would be better if all of us here actively collaborate to construct arguments between the stage and the auditorium that may eventually inform the studios above.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank Dean Anthony Vidler for his strong support to this event, Associate Dean Elizabeth O'Donnell for all of her support in the organization. Monica Shapiro for her sharpness and Patt Dangelis in making things move. David Greenstein Director of Continuing Education, for all of his assistance in securing this incredible space.

I would like to thank my partners in this long endeavor Aaron Sprecher, Shai Yesayahu and the exhibition chairs Axel Schmitzberger, Chandler Ahrens and Michael Su and also the students that continuously gave energy to this process, especially Zulaikha Ayub. Veronica Barrow for her site coordination and also to Meredith Bostwick for all kinds of help.

We developed this conference in conjunction with Pratt Institute and for that I would like to thank Dean Thomas Hanrahan, Bill Mac Donald and David Ruy and for their open support for the exhibition. Now I would like to introduce conference chair Aaron Sprecher, Assistant Professor at Mc Gil University that will explain the parts of the conference.

Thank you and I hope you find this event relevant and interesting.