Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Future Livable?

Dates: 22-23rd June 2017
Place: University of Derby
Organisers: AMPS | University of Derby

http://architecturemps.com/derbyconference/

Outline:

The complexity of our cities is well documented. The economies they are based on are multiple. Some are growing exponentially, others are shrinking. Some pride themselves on architectural heritage, others are seeking to build and rebrand. Some are old, some are new. Inevitably their urban fabrics vary. The communities that live in these places reflect these conditions. Some are are long-standing, others are new and in-formation. Sometimes they are active, on occasion homogenous. More generally they are diverse. These communities need, and want, a say in their futures. Some are well connect and affluent, others suffer deprivation and social exclusion. A constant in the mist of this complexity is their need to be housed – whether by themselves, the market, or governments.

This conference seeks to explore how the three issues of **city** development, sense of **community** and **housing** need, all combine to make lives in our cities livable – or not. How will our urban environments change in the near future? Are the cities we live in now likely to contract or expand? How will these changes impact on communities and the way they are housed? Will new technologies facilitate community engagement with planning? Will resident voices be heard by planners? Will unaffordable housing turn some cities into enclaves of the wealthy, or will the private sector and personal preference gate our communities?

Themes: Cities, Communities, Housing:

Taking on these three fundamental and interwoven issues, this conference seeks to explore and document the way in which our thinking about living in cities cannot be isolated into categories. The urban plans we develop respond to, and reflect, much larger socio-political forces. These forces determine the houses we build and urban services we offer. In turn, a city's public services facilitate inclusivity or allow exclusion.

The housing we build determine the growth, survival or evolution of the communities we form. All contribute to the livability of our urban environments.

Contributing to the broader research areas of the organisation initiating the conference, *Architecture, Media, Politics, Society* (AMPS) and the concerns of academics at the University of Derby, this event is interdisciplinary by default. Its city emphasis seeks the perspectives offered by urban designers, planners, economists and policy makers. Its community alignment calls for the expertise of sociologists, community activists and residents. Its housing focus needs the expertise of architects, housing professionals and builders.

The conference encourages debate and exchange between disciplines, and will promote and publish multiple voices. It seeks to better understand the relationships between cities, communities and homes.

Cities_Communities_Homes:

Cities: Addressing the needs of our current and futures cities is a complex issue. At any point in time, it is a question of immediate problems, thinking ahead, and responding to the legacy of the past. Each of our cities is different: their economies are based on different industries; their physical infrastructures come from diverse historical times; some are shrinking and suffer from abandoned housing stock; others are growing and struggle to house new residents. Some are 'healthy' and facilitate exercise through design; others address the issues of aging populations; some are remote and off-line; others are at the forefront of the digital age. They are all occupied by communities of peoples.

Communities: Each of our cities has its its own particular demographic profile; some of these are long-standing; others are continually changing. Some of our communities are racially and ethnically complex; some are more, and others less, affluent. The future is likely to bring a generation of home workers, smaller families, older and more independent individuals. Future communities are likely to be more tec-savvy than any previous generation. The communities surviving in, and constructed by, these diverse scenarios need to be understood, active, engaged, and placed at the forefront of how we design and plan in the future. Nowhere is this more imperative than in the context of housing.

Homes: Our sense of community is often formed around the need to house ourselves, and our children. Often this happens passively, with communities developing around housing built by the state or private developers. At other times it is more active – with the tradition of housing co-operatives, DIY housing initiatives, and various forms of self-build projects demonstrating the importance of the home. Today, various housing models have been engrained in planning and policy guidelines but still, the volume builder private house for sale, dominates the market. Generating profit, setting social aspirations and determining the make-up of our cities, this housing should only been as one option amongst many in a fully rounded city of diverse communities and various homes.

Formats:

The conference welcomes case studies; design proposals, research projects, investigative papers and theoretical considerations in various formats:

Conference Presentations (20 minutes)
Written Papers (3,000 words) *
Alternative Proposals Pecha Kucha; short films; photo essays etc.
In-person and virtual presentations (via Skype, etc.) are welcome.

Delegates are given the option to present their work at conference either with or without an accompanying full written paper.

* 3,000 word papers will be published online and later in an e-book. Subject to review, selected authors will be invited to develop longer versions of their papers for Special Issues of the _Architecture_MPS_ journal.

All abstracts and papers are fully double blind peer reviewed.

—

Forms and Registration:

For more details: **conference@architecturemps.com**

—

This event is organised by the interdisciplinary research organisation AMPS (Architecture, Media, Politics, Society); its academic journal _Architecture_MPS;_ and the University of Derby. People: Dr. Graham Cairns, AMPS; Rachel-Isaac-Menard, Architecture_MPS; Eleni Tracada, UoD. The event forms part of the AMPS program of events, Housing – Critical Futures.

For more details. Visit: http://architecturemps.com/housing-critical-futures/