Moving Images - Static Spaces: Architectures, Art, Media, Film, Digital Art and Design

• Paper / Proposal Title:
A Vision of Complexity. From Meaning and Form to Pattern and Code.

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:
  i. submit a written paper only (and not attend/present)

• Abstract (300 words):
The proposal analyzes as case studies two exhibitions produced by Charles and Ray Eames; 1959, Moscow’s “Glimpses of the USA” and the “Information Machine” Pavilion (specifically the multimedia presentation “Think”) at the 1964’s New York World’s Fair. The exhibitions focus on rapid cutting of still images transferred to motion-picture footage techniques that first, embody the mutating relationship between space and the moving image (moving image and architecture in coexistence) and second, redefine perception and cognition in terms of feedback and patterned interaction between spaces, objects, and subjects. Through these precedents the paper emphasizes the advent of moving imagery and visual patterns that promulgated new conceptualizations in vision, perception and cognition and resulted in renewed ways of seeing and sensing information based on pattern and code.

The paper argues the importance of tracing the role of information and the moving image in the shaping of environments via constructing a hand in hand history of communication and cybernetics to a history of design. Articulating the nuances of these intersections opens up possibilities for critiquing human-image interactivity and offers an
opportunity for both historical reflection and prospective thinking. Thus, leading the discourse to the understanding of space as a composition made of linkages, relays, diversions and holes. As Reinhold Martin puts it “It is a space uncontained and perhaps uncontainable”, like the space of an image.

Concluding, the interconnectedness between moving images and static spaces, dating as early as the 1920s and broadly manifested after the postwar decades, not only changed the ways of seeing and perceiving information but also sparked a new material notion of representation as a process, method and environment rather than as an identity and meaning.

“...you could take apart everything that had meaning and form and could show it as a simple combination of yes-no binary choices”

Charles Eames


• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Loukia Tsafoulia is a registered architect TEE-TCG, educator and researcher. She received her Post Professional MS in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University in New York with a fellowship from the Gerondelis Foundation and she is currently a PhD candidate at NTU Athens, researching on responsive environments and constructing a hand in hand history of performance and cybernetics to a history of design. She is the cofounder of PLB studio and faculty at Pratt Institute, Parsons The New School, CCNY, the Spitzer School of Architecture, and NYCC of Technology. She has collaborated professionally with Studio Dror, LEESER Architecture and Jorge Otero Pailos in NY, and K+T Architecture as well as the NTU Urban Environment Lab in Athens. Her work has been published and exhibited in international design fairs, the London 3d print show and ICFF in New York amongst others. She has lectured in academic institutions in New York, Athens and various cities of China. She is currently working on two book publication projects titled “Transient Spaces, Building Shelter in Crisis Contexts” and “How Technology Shapes Our Future?” respectively.

Severino Alfonso is a New York-based architect, educator and researcher. He received his MS in Advanced Architectural Design from Columbia University and holds an MS in Urban Design from ETSA Madrid where he is currently a PhD candidate. He is the cofounder of PLB Studio and Fabula&Syuzhet based in New York and has worked with various international architectural studios such as Carme Pinos, Angel Fernandez Alba and Federico Soriano in Spain, Lomar Arkitekter in Sweden and Per-forma Studio, KDF Architecture and Natalie Jeremijenko in the United States. He has lectured at the GSAPP, Columbia University, the Environmental Health Clinic at NYU, the Pratt Institute and at the NYC College of Technology and he currently coordinates design studio courses at
Parsons, at Barnard + Columbia Architecture and at Pratt Institute. He also teaches Urban Design, Building Technology and Advanced Digital Fabrication seminars at Pratt Institute, at NYCCT and at NYIT.