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

• Paper / Proposal Title:
Performing Casa Malaparte: An Animated Building Portrait

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• Presentation Method. I would like to:

  i. present in person (with a written paper)
  or

  ii. present via skype (with a written paper)

My aim is to manage to be there in person

• Abstract (300 words):
Time-based media, such as photography, video, and mixed media animation techniques provide the technology of capturing space in time. However, the way animation and film techniques have been used in architecture so far, both in education as well as in the profession, is limited in its scope and implementation. Acting in two polarized directions, on one hand as photorealistic representations and on the other as digital constructions of fantasy worlds, these animation and film approaches focus on the imaginary without paying sufficient attention on the existing context of specific sites. Performing Casa Malaparte explores instead how an architect can creatively use the
moving images in order to critically read and interpret a site through working in between experiential analysis and design.

Performing Casa Malaparte (11 minutes and 28 seconds, 2012) is an incomplete animated portrait of a building: the house of Italian writer Curzio Malaparte built in Capri, Italy, between 1938-1942. The animation is a reconstruction of the house based on my visits and seven-day occupation of it. I propose the idea of making a building portrait through mixed media animation techniques (combining photography, video and digital drawing) as a design research method for studying existing buildings.

I introduce the concept of the architect-performer, an active subject attuned to movement that has multiple roles: a user, an observer and a filmmaker who both interprets and designs. The architect-performer interweaves knowledge acquired from direct place experiences with insight from historical, theoretical and design research. Through the making of a building portrait I explore how the lived experience of a place becomes a performative practice for critically reconstructing visually an existing building that draws on its temporal qualities. Through my filmic voice, I aim to make visible invisible conditions of atmosphere, affect and the imaginary.

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

Popi Iacovou is an architect interested in trans-disciplinary models of thinking and practicing architecture. She received her PhD from The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, funded by A.G Leventis Foundation and the FfWG (UK). She holds an MPhil in Architecture and the Moving Image from the University of Cambridge and a Diploma in Architecture from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her research focuses on the intersection between architecture, film and performance. She has extensive teaching experience in design studio teaching and history and theory. She has taught at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, University of Cyprus, University of Nicosia and Neapolis University Pafos. She has published internationally and her films and architectural design work has been shown in various film festivals and architectural exhibitions.