TEACHING-LEARNING-RESEARCH: DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENTS

• Paper / Proposal Title:
  Notes on the Event in Two Unpublished Projects of Peter Eisenman

• Author(s) Name:
  Michael Jasper

• University or Company Affiliation:
  University of Canberra

• Abstract:
This paper examines the idea and device of the event in the 1990’s work of architect Peter Eisenman (b. 1932) and their potential translation into an advanced university research studio.

In order to approach the concept of the event, the paper interrogates Eisenman’s period writing with an emphasis on close readings of his “The City of Memory and Immanence” (1986), “Unfolding Events” (1992), and “Presentness and the ‘Being-Only-Once’ of Architecture” (1995). The paper further investigates possible architectural manifestations of the event by analysing two unpublished projects, Atocha 1-2-3 Hotel (1989-1993) and Yokohama Port Competition (1993). Documents on these projects held in the Eisenman Archive, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montréal, provide materials for the formal analysis.

The paper asks: By what means and in what forms does event – as idea and composition device – appear in the thought and design projects of Eisenman at this time? Which heretofore latent architectural aspects are revealed, and which new conditions are made possible, by means of Eisenman’s engagement with and use of the event? Which form generation devices and strategies are rendered in the Atocha 1-2-3 and Yokohama Port Competition projects? Adopting the research findings as heuristic frames, how might one teach the event in an advanced architecture studio?
The paper adds to scholarship on Eisenman through examination of a little studied aspect of his work, brings to light previously unpublished projects from a transformational period in his work and that of architectural discourse more broadly, and contributes to theories of architectural pedagogy.

The paper aligns with the conference key theme “Teaching Practice” in its staging of potential resonances and disjunctions between research and teaching.

• Author(s) Biography:

Michael Jasper is an architect, educator, and scholar based in Australia. He is Professor of Architecture at the University of Canberra where he directs the Master of Architecture degree and teaches in the major projects studio and advanced architectural analysis streams. Prior to joining University of Canberra, Professor Jasper was a Partner in Cooper Robertson & Partners, a prominent New York architecture and urban design firm, where he directed many of the firm’s major institutional and urban scale projects. His clients included Yale University, California Institute of Technology, and the Cities of Baltimore, Detroit, District of Columbia, and Miami. Jasper’s research investigates two strands in the practice and theory of architecture, the first focusing on architecture composition at multiple scales, the second engaging the theorisation of modernist architectural discourses with a particular focus on the second half of the 20th century. He was Visiting Scholar (2015) at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, and Visiting Scholar (2019) at the American Academy in Rome. He is the author of Architectural Aesthetic Speculations, Deleuze on Art, and the forthcoming Architectural Possibilities in the Work of Eisenman, and Trajectories in Architecture.