

EXECUTIVE CITY LIVED CITY CITY

ARCHITECTURE AS A POLITICAL ACT

Architecture can provide leadership and can reflect the will of the people. This potential can also be denied. The capacity of architecture to engage in social transformation and simultaneously be an autonomous discipline, will be explored.

In cities there are an interplay between the structure given to settlement through the actions of government and the actions of people. In new, well-managed settlements the actions of government precedes the actions of people, in poorly managed settlements these actions happen in reverse. In well designed settlements the imposed urban structures assist people in living, working and socialisation, in badly designed settlements the design frustrates the efforts of people to live, work and socialise.

ARCHITECTURE OF CONSEQUENCE

This studio will explore the reciprocity between the executive city and the lived city to better understand the power and responsibilities of architects. The executive city is made by politicians, government, administrators, designers, professionals, laws, building regulations, etc. The executive city tries to shape the future of the city. The lived city is the physically transformed fabric that comes about through the actions of people in the conduct of their lives, be it as individuals or groups.

This studio will focus on realising design intentions which will contribute to city structures that will assist citizens in their efforts to live, work and socialise.

RADICAL REPRESENTATION

Ways of seeing are integral to ways of thinking. The studio will involve exercises in radicalising our ways of representing ideas and the city. New techniques of representation will assist in generating new conceptions of the city.

CAPE TOWN

Propositions will be localised by working on a site in Du Noon, Cape Town. The studio will rely on research conducted by Heinrich Wolff in Du Noon over the past five years, focusing on how people shape the environment in the context of poverty.

PROGRAMME

The course will be structured in four projects:

- Ideologies
- Radical representation
- Urban proposition
- Architectural proposal

Students will develop, articulate and illustrate their own position on the future of the city. Each student will develop their own architectural proposal.

SEMINAR WEEK

Heinrich Wolff will lead a seminar week to Cape Town. As part of the seminar week, we will visit Du Noon and spend two days investigating the site. Attendance is optional.

PROFESSOR HEINRICH WOLFF

Assistants: Thireshen Govender & Karina Hüssner
Heinrich Wolff is an architect and academic based in Cape Town.
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Introduction: Tuesday, 16 September 2014 - 10 am
ONA studio area - Neunbrunnenstrasse 50, 8050 Zürich

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