

SPRING 2010 LECTURE SERIES ENVELOPE CONVERSATIONS

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
PRINCETON, NJ 08544



PRINCETON SPRING 10 LECTURE SERIES ENVELOPE CONVERSA- TIONS

ALL LECTURES TAKE PLACE AT 6:00 PM IN BETTS AUDITORIUM, ARCHITECTURE BUILDING.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 609-258-3741, E-MAIL SOA@PRINCETON.EDU, INTERNET [HTTP://SOA.PRINCETON.EDU](http://soa.princeton.edu). LECTURES MADE POSSIBLE BY THE JEAN LABATUT MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND. THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, IS REGISTERED WITH THE AIA CONTINUING EDUCATION SYSTEM (AIA/CES) AND IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING QUALITY LEARNING ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AIA/CES CRITERIA.

THIS SERIES WAS ORGANIZED BY ALEJANDRO ZAERA-POLO WITH URTZI GRAU AND STAN ALLEN.

ENVELOPES AND ENVELOPING STRATEGIES HAVE BECOME A CRUCIAL SUBJECT FOR CONTEMPORARY CULTURE. AFTER A FEW DECADES OF RELENTLESS GLOBALIZATION, WE ARE NOW ENTERING A STAGE WHERE THE ILLUSION OF A BORDER-FREE WORLD AND THE UTOPIA OF A FREE-WHEELING, FREE-FLOWING SPATIALITY HAS CEASED TO BE THE PRIMARY GOAL OF SPATIAL AND MATERIAL PRACTICES: WE MUST ADDRESS THE FACT THAT THE SPACE WHERE WE LIVE IS NOT WITHOUT BORDERS. THE BUILDING ENVELOPE IS POSSIBLY THE OLDEST AND MOST PRIMITIVE ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT. IT MATERIALIZES THE SEPARATION OF THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE, NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL; IT DEMARCATES PRIVATE FROM PUBLIC AND DELIMITS OWNERSHIP. WHEN IT BECOMES A FAÇADE, THE ENVELOPE OPERATES AS A REPRESENTATIONAL DEVICE IN ADDITION TO ITS CRUCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND TERRITORIAL ROLES. IT FORMS THE BORDER, THE FRONTIER, THE EDGE, THE ENCLOSURE AND THE INTERFACE. PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN ENERGY AND SECURITY CONCERNS HAVE REPLACED AN EARLIER FOCUS ON CIRCULATION AND FLOW AS THE CONTENTS OF ARCHITECTURAL EXPRESSION, THE BUILDING ENVELOPE EMERGES AS ARCHITECTURE'S PRIMARY POLITICAL SUBJECT. SIMULTANEOUSLY EXISTING AS BOTH THE ARCHITECTURAL SURFACE AND ITS ATTACHMENTS, THE ENVELOPE IS A POINT OF CONTACT, A MATERIAL LINK, BETWEEN ARCHITECTURE AND OTHER SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROCESSES. ENVELOPE IS SUDDENLY A LOADED WORD ACROSS DISCIPLINES. PHILOSOPHERS, ANTHROPOLOGISTS, ARTISTS, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERS, PRODUCT DESIGNERS, MARKETING EXPERTS, ECONOMISTS HAVE IDENTIFIED IT AS A CRITICAL ASPECT OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE. THIS SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WILL EXPLORE THE ENVELOPE'S POTENTIAL ACROSS A BROAD RANGE OF PRACTICES, REVITALIZING ARCHITECTURE AS A POLITICAL AGENT AND RELOCATING IT IN A BROADER CULTURAL FIELD.

ALEJANDRO ZAERA-POLO IS IN THE SECOND YEAR OF A THREE-YEAR APPOINTMENT AS THE LABATUT VISITING PROFESSOR AT PRINCETON'S SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE. AS A FOCUS FOR HIS DESIGN STUDIOS AND SEMINARS AT PRINCETON, ZAERA-POLO HAS FORMED THE PRINCETON ENVELOPE GROUP, A THINK TANK DEVOTED TO DEVELOPING A UNITARY THEORY OF THE ENVELOPE, AS WELL AS NEW ARCHITECTURAL PROTOTYPES. IN COLLABORATION WITH

PRINCETON GRADUATE STUDENTS, THE GROUP CONDUCTS TECHNICAL AND THEORETICAL RESEARCH, AND ORGANIZES PUBLIC EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS, INCLUDING THE SERIES OF "ENVELOPE CONVERSATIONS" THAT CONSTITUTES THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE'S SPRING LECTURE SERIES. THE GROUP IS COMPILING AND EDITING A MANUAL OF THE ENVELOPE TO BE PUBLISHED BY ACTAR IN 2011.

10 FEBRUARY — BORDERS

A CONVERSATION ABOUT ENVELOPES IN THEIR ROLES AS BOTH PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES AND AS HEURISTIC DEVICES THAT CAN BE APPLIED IN A BROADER DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF BORDERS, DIVISIONS, AND OTHER SUCH RELATIONSHIPS OF MEDIATION.

RICHARD SENNETT, PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY AND LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS

EYAL WEIZMAN, ARCHITECT; DIRECTOR,
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ARCHITECTURE,
GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE, LONDON

TEDDY CRUZ, PROFESSOR IN PUBLIC
CULTURE, VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

GERALD E. FRUG, LOUIS D. BRANDEIS
PROFESSOR OF LAW, HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

25 FEBRUARY — ATTACHMENTS

A DISCUSSION OF THE FORCES AND IDEAS, TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE, WHICH GIVE THE ENVELOPE ITS SHAPE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON UNDERSTANDING THE ENVELOPE AS A LIMIT, DELINEATION, OR DEFINITION AND HENCE ON THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN BOTH MODELING THE ENVELOPE AS AN OBJECT AND IN UNDERSTANDING THE ENVELOPE ITSELF AS A KIND OF MODEL OF ITS ATTACHMENTS.

BRUNO LATOUR, PROFESSOR AND VICE-
PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCES
PO, PARIS

GREG LYNN, PRINCIPAL OF GREG LYNN
FORM; O.UNIV. PROF. ARCH.,
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED ARTS, VIENNA;
PROFESSOR, UCLA

AXEL KILIAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE

DR. ALBENA YANEVA, MANCHESTER
ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH CENTRE
(MARC), UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

24 MARCH — GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES

A DISCUSSION OF THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ENVELOPE DESIGN, ASSEMBLY, AND OPERATION, EMPHASIZING THE ENVELOPE'S PERFORMANCE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL MEMBRANE AND THE CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE VARIED PERFORMANCES DEMANDED FROM ENVELOPES DEPLOYED AROUND THE GLOBE.

MATTHIAS SCHULER, ENGINEER AND
CEO, TRANSSOLAR, STUTTGART;
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES,
GSD, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

SASKIA SASSEN, ROBERT S. LYND
PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY, COLUMBIA
UNIVERSITY

MARC SIMMONS, PARTNER, FRONT, INC.
NEW YORK; LECTURER, PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

ULRICH KNAACK, ENGINEER,
CO-FOUNDER, IMAGINE ENVELOPE,
THE HAGUE

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29 MARCH — ENVELOPES

AN EXAMINATION OF THE BUILDING ENVELOPE AS AN ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT THAT BRINGS TOGETHER TECHNICAL, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ISSUES, AIMED AT ITS CONTEMPORARY DEFINITION AND LOCATION WITHIN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN PRACTICES.

JEFFREY KIPNIS, PROFESSOR, KNOWLTON
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, OHIO STATE;
VISITING PROFESSOR, PRINCETON

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
JESSE REISER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE; PRINCIPAL, REISER +
UMEMOTO RUR ARCHITECTURE P.C., NY

ALEJANDRO ZAERA-POLO, VISITING
PROFESSOR, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE; PARTNER,
FOREIGN OFFICE ARCHITECTS, LONDON
BEN VAN BERKEL, PRINCIPAL, UNSTUDIO,
AMSTERDAM

7 APRIL — BRANDING/IDENTITY

AN EXPLORATION OF THE ENVELOPE AS A SITE WHERE IDENTITIES ARE CONSTRUCTED AND AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MODES OF EXPERIENCE THROUGH WHICH THESE IDENTITIES ARE DISSEMINATED AND ABSORBED.

PETER ARNELL, FOUNDER AND CEO, THE
ARNELL GROUP, NEW YORK

THOM MAYNE, MORPHOSIS, SANTA MONICA

12 APRIL — OPEN HOUSE LECTURE

MUSAC OUTTAKES:

LUIS MANSILLA AND EMILIO TUÑÓN,
PARTNERS, MANSILLA+TUÑÓN
ARQUITECTOS, MADRID

19 APRIL — KASSLER LECTURE

UGLY IN AMERICA: DAVE HICKEY,
FREE-LANCE WRITER OF FICTION AND
CULTURAL CRITICISM; PROFESSOR
OF MODERN LETTERS, UNIVERSITY OF
NEVADA LAS VEGAS

21 APRIL — FACIALITY

A CONVERSATION FOCUSING ON THE ENVELOPE AS EXTERIORITY, AND IN POSSIBILITIES OPENED BY SUCH A CONDITION, WHICH RANGE FROM THE CREATION OF OBJECTS WITHOUT INTERIORS TO REFRAMING PROBLEMS OF POLITICAL IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIPS - FOR EXAMPLE THE COSMOPOLITAN - IN TERMS OF PURE SURFACE.

JEFF KOONS, ARTIST, NEW YORK

SYLVIA LAVIN, DIRECTOR OF CRITICAL
STUDIES AND MA/PHD PROGRAMS AND
PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORY AND THEORY AT UCLA

ELIZABETH DILLER, ARCHITECT, DILLER,
SCOFIDIO + RENFRO, NEW YORK;
PROFESSOR, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE