



Berlin Colloquium

June 25, 2009

in the Kubus* (by Volksbuehne)

Rosa Luxemburg Platz

Berlin

Urban Interior Research Group, RMIT University Melbourne, Australia
in cooperation with
Architecture Design Innovation Program (ADIP), TU Berlin

*The Kubus is a temporary public interior by Volksbuehne Berlin
and is designed by the stage set designer Bert Neumann, Volksbuehne Berlin.



Participants

Urban Interior Research Group:

all RMIT School of Architecture & Design

Suzie Attiwill

Mick Douglas

Rochus Urban Hinkel

Key Respondent

Matthias Heyden, TU Berlin & mitBAU_AGENTInnEN /

/ ISPARA - Institut für Strategien partizipativer Architektur und räumlicher Aneignung

Associated Guest

Dr Hélène Frichot, RMIT Melbourne, Architecture and Philosophy Lecture Series

External Partners / Participants

Khadija Z. Carroll	Harvard University and Humboldt University Berlin
Nancy Couling	LB Staedtebauliches Entwerfen und Design, Prof Zillich, TU Berlin
Sarah Davies	RMIT University, Interior Design graduate
Prof Gini Lee	Landscape Architecture, QUT Brisbane, Australia
Elena Giunta	PhD candidate, Politecnico di Milano
Birgit Klauck	Architecture Design Innovation Program (ADIP), TU Berlin
Thomas Kusitzky	Forschungsstelle Auditive Architektur UdK Berlin
Gabi Schillig	Institut für Transmediale Gestaltung, UdK Berlin
Alex Schweder	Artist and co-founder of Look Design, Berlin

Interior Design, RMIT University Students

Alex Brown, Alice Kohler, Joyce Ho, Sarah Jamieson, Schuyler Lin

ADIP, TU Berlin Students

Antoine Martin (F) / Ivan Andonow (BG), Jakob Pawlowski (PL), Catalin Werb (D) /
Elba Garcia-Clark (ESP), Caitlyn Parry (AUS), Laure Severac (F)

Links:

<http://www.urbaninterior.net> and

<http://www.urbaninterior.net/berlin>



SCHEDULE THURSDAY 25 June 2009

- 12.00 Arrival – Welcome – Lunch Snacks
(in the KUBUS, by Volksbuehne)
- 12.15 **Alex Schweder, Its Form Will Follow Your Performance**
Gallery Talk, Magnus Mueller Gallery (Rosa Luxemburg Platz)
- 12.45 **Introduction** (in the KUBUS, by Volksbuehne)
- 1.00 **RMIT STUDENT presentations re UI OCCUPATIONS**
Alex Brown, Alice Kohler, Joyce Ho, Sarah Jamieson, Schuyler Lin
- 1.30 Response Discussion
- 1.45 **Invited Guest Presentation** (20min presentation + discussion)
Matthias Heyden
- 2.15 **UI Presentations re Occupation** (10min each)
Suzie Attwill
Mick Douglas
Rochus Urban Hinkel
- 2.45 Response Discussion
- 3.00 **Associated Guest Presentation**
Hélène Frichot
- 3.15 **ADIP STUDENT presentations re URBAN OCCUPATIONS**
Antoine Martin / Ivan Andonow, Jakob Pawlowski, Catalin Werb / Elba Garcia-Clark, Caitlyn Parry, Laure Severac
- 3.45 Response Discussion
- 4.00 **Drinks, Snacks & Discussion**
Observations
Open discussion
- 4.30 END
- 5.00 **Visit to Olafur Eliasson's Institut fuer Raumexperimente**
Am Pfefferberg, Berlin
Lecture (in English) **by Prof Peter Weibel, ZKM Karlsruhe**



UI statement

Urban Interior {UI} research group investigates the relation between people and the urban condition. For the first time in history, the number of people living in cities exceeds those living in rural environments. While many of the implications of this shift are yet to manifest, it is unquestionable that the urban fabric and in turn people's lives will change significantly as density increases and issues of security and sustainability become fore-grounded. Already a substantial amount of research is being conducted in the areas of urban planning, urban design and environmental sustainability in relation to cities.

Urban Interior positions its research within this context with a focus on the relation between people and the urban condition, hence the word 'interior' where interior is to be understood not as built fabric so much as a person's relation to and hence inhabitation of urban environment. Paul James, Director of RMIT's Global Cities Institute, describes globalism as the 'extension of social relations across world space in a given time'. In the contemporary world, power has moved to the abstract and electronic and how this impacts on people's lives and environments is a critical issue. UI addresses the material, sensory, physiological, cultural experiential dimensions which create and affect social relations. This focus brings with it an attention to and concern for the aesthetic dimension of this relation and posits it as an essential quality of life. UI argues that aesthetics is hence a critical and urgent concern in the face of what appears to be an increasingly instrumental approach to ways of inhabiting the urban environment when faced with a perceived crisis of survival and that this concern should not be restricted to the First World but have a global concern.

As a research group, UI is composed of individuals from a range of disciplines including fashion, sound, interior design, architecture, industrial design and art. As a collective, individual research trajectories cover a breadth of practices, scales and concerns from the intimacy of bodies to events within the public realm. Individual projects have in common a focus on the spatial and temporal dimensions of the inhabited, urban environment through a concern with material, social, psychological, physiological, poetic, aesthetic, experiential, sensory, historical, political relations. This brings a level of complexity to any research project undertaken by UI.

The acronym UI is also suggestive of the objectives of the research: there is an attention to both the individual and collective nature of the habitation of environments; the research is to have impact in terms of the urban condition understood as composed of both individuals and collectives; and addresses this at the local in the context of the global.

Urban Interior is supported by the Design Research Institute (DRI) and the School of Architecture and Design, both RMIT University