

Storefront for Art and Architecture

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Reading Images: Instant Culture March 29th, 2013, 7-9pm

Participant Bios

Eric Schuldenfrei is a designer focusing on the evolving relationship between urbanism, architecture, and art. Architectural projects completed in collaboration with Marisa Yiu have been featured in many international biennales: 'Urban Pastoral' for the 2008 Venice Biennale; 'Human Motor' in Ljubljana; and 'Mediated Labour' for the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale. Past projects include an art installation commissioned by Agnes Gund, President Emerita of the MoMA in New York. Together with Marisa Yiu, Schuldenfrei was awarded the 'Architectural League Prize for Young Architects' and the Perspective '40 under 40' award. Their work has been published in MIT Thresholds, A/D, DomusChina, Architectural Record, and he has recently published *Instant Culture*, a book co-edited with Marisa Yiu. Schuldenfrei served as the Curator for Exhibition, Education, Film, and Media for the 2009 Hong Kong-Shenzhen Bi-City Biennale. He has presented at the inaugural International Design Alliance congress, Harvard University AsiaGSD lecture series; Columbia University; the University of Cambridge; and at the V&A museum in London.

Marisa Yiu has been researching issues of production and consumption relating to the cultural landscape of Hong Kong since 2000. Her essay 'Image Construction: Hong Kong since 1967-8' published in *LOG Journal* examined Hong Kong's relationship to the Pearl River Delta and global networks. Yiu served as the Chief Curator of the 2009 HK SZ Bi-City Biennale of Architecture\ Urbanism- curating over eighty exhibitions and spearheading inventive events located at the West Kowloon Cultural District waterfront. Her past works include community driven projects such as 'Brandspider' for Whitney Museum ISP exhibition; 'Place Markers' with placeMatters, New York; and Chinatown Design Lab. Along with her partner Eric Schuldenfrei of ESKYIU their projects include 'Chinatown WORK 2006' an interactive public arts project commissioned by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and The Department of Cultural Affairs in New York City; 'SINO' shown at the Brooklyn Museum; 'Nutritious: an aeroponic facade' exhibited at Architectural Association in London, and projects for various international biennales. Prior to establishing ESKYIU, Marisa has worked on international renowned buildings and urban developments at Kohn Pederson Fox Associates PC (NY), Marble.Fairbanks Architects (NY), and taught in Spain with Ben Van Berkel and Caroline Bos of UNStudio.

Mark Wigley is the Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University and has written extensively on the theory and practice of architecture and is the author of *Constant's New Babylon: The Hyper-Architecture of Desire*(1998); *White Walls, Designer Dresses: The Fashioning of Modern Architecture*(1995); and *The Architecture of Destruction: Derrida's Haunt*(1993). He coedited *The Activist Drawing: Retracing Situationalist Architectures from Constant's New Babylon to Beyond*(2001).

Wigley has served as curator for widely attended exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Drawing Center, New York; Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal; and Witte de With Museum, Rotterdam. He received both his Bachelor of Architecture(1979) and his Ph.D. (1987) from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Jing Liu is a co-founder of the award-winning SO-IL architecture firm in New York City.

Combining a host of experience from the worlds of museum architecture, academia, corporate architecture, and the hospitality industry, SO - IL is a small studio with a global reach. Founders Florian Idenburg and Jing Liu set up their Brooklyn-based studio in 2007 to be a creative catalyst, involved at all scales and all stages of the architectural process to develop singular, beautiful and functional solutions. SO - IL's recent projects include a house for designer Ivan Chermayeff in upstate New York; a shell-shaped

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wedding chapel in Nanjing, China; a museum for contemporary art near The Hague; as well as a project space for Kukje Gallery in Seoul. They are one of five finalists for in an international competition for architects under the age of 35 to design student housing in Athens, Greece.

Laura Kurgan is Associate Professor of Architecture at Graduate School of Architecture, Preservation, and Planning at Columbia University, where she is Director of the Spatial Information Design Lab (SIDL) and the Director of Visual Studies. Her work explores things ranging from digital mapping technologies to the ethics and politics of mapping, new structures of participation in design, and the visualization of urban and global data. Her recent research includes a multi-year SIDL project on "million-dollar blocks" and the urban costs of the American incarceration experiment, and a collaborative exhibition on global migration and climate change. Her work has appeared at the Cartier Foundation in Paris, the Venice Architecture Biennale, the Whitney Altria, MACBa Barcelona, the ZKM in Karlsruhe, and the Museum of Modern Art (where it is part of the permanent collection). She was the winner of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship in 2009, and named one of Esquire Magazine's 'Best and Brightest' in 2008. She has published articles and essays in *Assemblage*, *Grey Room*, *ANY*, *Volume*, and *Else/Where Mapping*, among other books and journals.

Jeffrey Johnson is a co-founding principal of SLAB and the founding director of China Megacities Lab, an experimental research unit at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University, where he also teaches. Research at China Megacities Lab focuses on contemporary issues related to the spatial and social transformation of China's urban landscape. Current projects include research on post-industrial urban transformation, the exportation and influence of Chinese urbanism and design through China's global expansion, and China's large-scale superblock development, the latter included as part of a book Johnson is co-editing provisionally entitled *The China Lab Guide to Megablock Urbanisms*.

David Benjamin is Principal at architecture firm The Living, and Director of the Living Architecture Lab at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. The practice and the lab emphasize open source research and design. Recent projects include *Living City* (a platform for buildings to talk to one another), *Amphibious Architecture* (a cloud of light above the East River that changes color according to conditions underwater), *Living Light* (a pavilion in Seoul that displays air quality and collective interest in the environment), and *Proof* (a series of design studios at Columbia that explore testing as a design methodology and evolutionary computation as an exploration technique). Before receiving a Master of Architecture degree from Columbia, Benjamin graduated from Harvard with a BA in Social Studies. www.thelivingnewyork.com

Damon Rich is a designer and artist, and currently serves as the Urban Designer for the City of Newark, New Jersey. His design work has been exhibited internationally at venues including the 2008 Venice Biennale, Storefront for Art and Architecture and SculptureCenter (New York City), the Canadian Centre for Architecture (Montréal), and the Netherlands Architecture Institute (Rotterdam). In 1997, he founded the Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP), a New York City nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to improve the quality of public participation in urban planning and community design, where he was the Creative Director for 10 years. In 2007, he was a Loeb Fellow in Advanced Environmental Studies at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. His solo exhibition *Red Lines Housing Crisis Learning Center* was on view at the Queens Museum of Art May 31–September 27, 2009.

Thomas Yu is Executive Director of Downtown Manhattan Community Development Corporation (DMCDC) and Managing Director of AAFE (Asian Americans for Equality). Mr. Yu has been with AAFE since 1997 and has overseen the development of over 350 units of low-to very-low income family housing

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in Chinatown, Lower East Side and Queens, and bringing \$55 million of public and private housing and infrastructure reinvestment into these communities. Mr. Yu has also participated and contributed to numerous comprehensive planning studies and plans in Lower Manhattan and Flushing, Queens. Mr. Yu has been recognized by TimeOut NY as one of the up and coming new leaders in community activism, and received an Affordable Housing Finance Young Leader Award in 2008 from AHF. For the past two years, Mr. Yu has served on Manhattan's Community Board #3, as chair of the Parks, Landmarks, and Waterfront Redevelopment committees, and has recently helped chair the Chatham Square Redesign Taskforce. Mr. Yu received an A.B. from Harvard University and a Masters in Urban Planning from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service.