Positive strategies for documenting, conserving and re-inhabiting 'outmoded' spaces in Poland and East Central Europe

Global Dynamics of Cultural Productions: Four Workshops over Four Semesters East Central European Center at Columbia University
This workshop will contribute to a growing counter-commentary that reckons with ‘outmoded’ motifs in the built landscapes of East and Central Europe. Socialist building projects are too often savored as ruins and filed away as elegies to utopian thought. Signatures of moved and dispersed populations in the topography of these regions are often memorialized in a discourse of nostalgia that forecloses on the future.

Are there other stories to tell about buildings and spaces that have outlived their original ideological assignments? Can we swap out a forensic account of obsolescence for a discussion of how these environments were lived in and made use of? What options exist today for repurposing, preserving and re-inhabiting these time-stamped sites: how can we accommodate their particularities, and how can they once again accommodate us?

Throughout two days of conversations, we will reflect on these questions and voice some strategies for enlivening and caring for the heterogeneous landscapes of today’s East and Central Europe.
DIAGNOSTIC STRATEGIES:
The Health, Welfare And Maintenance Of Built Environments

5:30 - 8:00 PM

CHAIR: Alan Timberlake
(Columbia University; East Central European Center)

Jana Berankova
(Columbia University)
“Forgetting the Future?
Urban Amnesia in Post-Communist Czechoslovakia”

Andrzej Szczerski
(Jagiellonian University)
“Krakow Wasn’t Built in a Day: Modernist Architecture After 1956 and the Question of Heritage”

Markian Prokopovych
(Institute for East European History, University of Vienna)
“Habsburg Cities: Lessons of Cohabitation from the Austro-Hungarian Empire”

RESPONDENT: Ani Kodzhabasheva
(Columbia University)
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

HEYMAN CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

SECOND FLOOR COMMON ROOM
HABITATS AND REFUGE:
Historicizing and Accommodating Catastrophe

9:30 - 10:00 AM  Coffee and Welcome

10:00- 12:30 PM
CHAIR: Tarik Amar
(Columbia University)

Michael Meng (Clemson University) & Erica Lehrer
(Concordia University)
“The Futures of Jewish Spaces in Contemporary Poland”

Sofia Dyak
(Lviv Center for Urban History)
“Engaging with Jewish and Soviet Sites: Heritage, Legacies and Public in Lviv”

Eagle Glassheim
(University of British Columbia)
“Ecological and Cultural Restoration in the Cleansed Czechoslovak Borderlands: Past, Present, Future”

RESPONDENT: Anna Kats
(Blouin Artinfo)
KEYNOTE:

12:30 - 2:30 PM  Lunch

2:30 - 4:00 PM

Lukasz Stanek  
(University of Manchester)

"Mobilities of Architecture between Eastern Europe and the Gulf, 1970s-1990s"

INTRODUCTION:  Malgorzata Mazurek  
(Columbia University)

RESPONDENT:  Srdjan Jovanovic Weiss  
(Columbia University)
EMOTION, AFFECT AND AFTERIMAGES OF MODERNITY:

4:00 - 6:30 PM

CHAIR: Eliza Rose  
(Columbia University)

David Crowley  
(Royal College of Art)

“Emotion and its Effects on the Post-Socialist Cityscape”

Adam Mazur  
(University of the Arts in Poznan)

“Modalities of Modern Architecture. Photographic Atlases of Nicolas Grospierre and Wojciech Wilczyk”

Vladimir Kulic  
(Florida Atlantic University)


RESPONDENT: Juliet Koss  
(Scripps College)
Małgorzata Mazurek
(Associate Professor of Polish Studies)

Alan Timberlake
(Professor of Slavic Languages; Director, East Central European Center; Deputy Director for Humanities Programming, Harriman Institute)

Eliza Rose
(PhD Student in Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature)

This event is supported by the East Central European Center at Columbia University and the Heyman Center for the Humanities. It is part of the Campus Project organized by Culture.pl.

[Links to websites] accommodations2015.wordpress.com