Planning, Contingency & the Image of the Modern City I (Basel, 9 Mar-30 May 16)

eikones Forum, Rheinsprung 11, 4051 Basel, Mar 9–May 30, 2016

Heike Freiberger, eikones - NFS Bildkritik

Grand Gestures: Planning, Contingency and the Image of the Modern City

Part 1

From Brasilia to Boston, from Bucharest to Chandigarh, Grand Gestures are not the same as the Great Deeds they were intended to become. Whereas the Great Deed is a retrospective historical construct, the Grand Gesture is a projective fantasy, a performance in which the intention never determines the result, and agency is not necessarily synonymous with sovereignty. The discrepancy between plan and result, which characterises the phenomena in question, gives rise to skepticism about the historiographic category of intentionality, for the sheer scale of such projects mutates them into enterprises that cannot be controlled by individual authors, but rather entail a multiplicity of actors—each with their own entanglements and interests.

This lecture series asks prominent contemporary scholars to illuminate the history of interventions that have attempted to reimagine the modern city. This investigation is not limited to the circulation of mass media images that are produced to further grandiose visions, for even a preliminary consideration of the phenomena exposes dynamics that we cannot reduce to mere effects of the mediated city. Rather, the raw dimensions of such a great enterprise often results in a substantial transformation of those material and social conditions under which the plan was originally conceived. This lecture series will therefore ultimately attempt to address the material and iconographic agency of architecture, and how it might perturb the real, imaginary and symbolic economies of the city.

Konzept: Stefan Neuner, Adam Jasper Smith, Pathmini Ukwattage

PROGRAMM

4. April 2016 - 18.15 Uhr
eikones Forum
Adrian Lahoud
Fallen Cities: Architecture and Reconstruction

25. April 2016 - 18.15 Uhr
eikones Forum
Sarah Nichols
Sonnenberg: Dark Days Ahead

9. Mai 2016 - 18.15 Uhr
eikones Forum
Kenny Cupers
Le Corbusier and the Banlieues

24. Mai 2016 - 20.00 Uhr
Seminarraum 201, Rheinsprung 9
Keller Easterling
Extrastatecraft

30. Mai 2016 - 18.15 Uhr
eikones Forum
Michael Kubo
Speculation and Spectacle: Oil and Modernization in Kuwait

eikones NFS Bildkritik, Rheinsprung 11, CH - 4051 Basel

Reference:

ANN: Planning, Contingency & the Image of the Modern City I (Basel, 9 Mar-30 May 16). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 11, 2016 (accessed Nov 22, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/12440>.