

EXPERTISE. Connoisseurs... (Harvard, 11.-12.10.02)

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Call for papers

EXPERTISE:

Connoisseurs, Consultants, and Con Men

An Interdisciplinary Conference at the Harvard Design School

October 11-12, 2002

Send abstracts of 1-2 pages and a c.v. to:

HT+ Conference

Harvard School of Design

Room 417 Gund Hall

48 Quincy St.

Cambridge, MA 02138

Proposal deadline is (postmarked) June 30, 2002.

Proposals are sought for "Expertise," a conference hosted by the Harvard HT+ (History Theory Plus) Colloquium that will investigate transformations in disciplinary claims to proficiency in the fields of architecture and urban planning. The conference is open to faculty and advanced doctoral students from all disciplines.

Expertise, from its emergence concurrent with the rise of professionalism in the 19th century, has been employed to justify various design practices and to differentiate between contiguous and competing fields of knowledge. More recently the interdisciplinary category of history and theory has claimed a domain of expertise apart from that of professional practice. Although distinctions are drawn between professional and scholarly activity, the boundaries between practice and history and theory are constantly negotiated through mutually dependent claims to expertise.

This conference invites proposals that examine moments in the historical relationship between expertise and design practice, as it extends from the 19th century connoisseur, to the 20th century practitioner, to the contemporary consultant; it welcomes critical inquiries into the role of the "expert." Submissions are also sought from fields as varied as history, art history, history of science, visual culture, literature, economics and law that explore expertise at the disciplinary level.

The conference aims to pose a series of questions on the status of expertise: How have notions of expertise emerged and evolved in the context of architecture and urban planning practices? How has practice employed the concept of expertise in order to extend its boundaries? Does the discipline of history and theory rely upon these same claims to expertise, or has it evolved its own? What is the nature of expertise within a discipline, and what sort of openings or constraints does it provide? How have technological and epistemological expertise been aligned or opposed at different historical moments?

The Expertise conference is sponsored by the Harvard History Theory Plus Colloquium with the generous support of the Graham Foundation. The HT+ Colloquium was founded by the PhD program in History and Theory to extend investigations of methodologies, practices and techniques beyond the disciplines of architecture, urban planning, and landscape architecture. Please excuse multiple postings.

Reference:

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