

Design and Mobility (New York, 26–27 April 2013)

New York, Parsons The New School for Design, Apr 26–27, 2013

Deadline: Jan 30, 2013

Ethan Robey, New York

Call for Papers

The Twenty-Second Annual Parsons/Cooper-Hewitt Graduate Student Symposium on the Decorative Arts and Design

"Design and Mobility"

Parsons The New School for Design, New York.

April 26 and 27, 2013.

Mobility has long been a central concern of the decorative arts and design. The word for furniture in French, "mobilier," includes the idea of mobility, as objects were made to be carried from room to room and castle to castle. It has become one of the defining traits of the age: new modes of living and transportation have created increasingly mobile lifestyles, aided by mobile communications networks, cultural products can move and spread across the globe with ease, and changing climate conditions are forcing relocations and rethinking of building patterns. On the individual scale, designers have worked with transformable and reusable products, or to help make individuals more mobile. Meanings and uses of designed objects can also be mobile, shifting over time, or from user to user.

We are seeking papers from students in a variety of fields that look at aspects of mobility in the decorative arts and design – on a macro or micro scale, from a literal or a metaphoric perspective. We are especially interested in papers that investigate design and the decorative arts historically: looking at issues of mobility in the past, or relating past practices to current ones.

Some possible subject areas might include:

Design and transportation

Design for the mobility impaired

Nomadic lifestyles, ancient and modern

Virtual mobility: telecommunication, etc.

Kinetic architecture and product design

Mobility in urban design

Changes in use or changes in meaning over time

Globalization and the mobility of cultural products

Design and the movement/dissemination of knowledge

Immobility

Professor Edward Cooke of Yale University will be the symposium's Catherine Hoover Voorsanger

ArtHist.net

Keynote speaker.

To submit a proposal, send a two-page abstract, one-page bibliography and a c.v. to:

Dr. Ethan Robey

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Deadline: January 30, 2013

Sponsored by the MA Program in the History of Decorative Arts & Design offered jointly by Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum and Parsons The New School for Design

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