Building with Light (London, 13-14 Nov 14)

London, Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, Nov 13–14, 2014

Valeria Carullo

'Building with Light: the Legacy of Robert Elwall' is an international symposium on architectural photography organised by the RIBA. The symposium's topics will cover broad research areas such as the historical and contemporary evocation of architectural interiors, buildings, place and landscape; forms of photographic response to genius loci and national identity; the reciprocal influence on and with publishing; and curatorial issues and approaches to architectural photography over time. The presentations and discussions will pay tribute to the late Robert Elwall, founder of the RIBA Photographs Collection and a distinguished curator and author whose influential international history of architectural photography 'Building with Light' has given the symposium its title. Keynote speakers will include architectural photographers and academics such as Geoffrey James, Hélène Binet, Iñaki Bergera and Hugh Campbell.

PROGRAM

Thursday 13 November
9.15 – 9.45 Coffee + registration
9.45 – 10.00
Welcome and introduction by Irena Murray, architectural historian and former Director of the RIBA British Architectural Library
10.00 – 10.40
Keynote
Geoffrey James, photographer, Toronto
Title TBC
10.40 – 11.10
Angelo Maggi, IUAV University, Venice
Capturing the Italian Townscape: the anti-idyllic photographs by Ivy de Wolfe
11.10 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 12.00
Justine Sambrook, Royal Institute of British Architects, London
Ordinary beauty: photography of the everyday

12.00 – 12.30
Andrew Higgott, architectural writer, Birmingham
Eric de Maré: the functional and the beautiful
12.30 – 13.00
Round table / discussion
13.00 Lunch
14.00 – 14.40
Keynote
Hélène Binet, photographer, London
Title TBC
14.40 – 15.10
Gary Winter, English Heritage Archive, Swindon
Getting Value from a Collection: Bedford Lemere & Co at the English Heritage Archive
15.10 – 15.40
Peter Sealy, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
After a Photograph, Before Photography
15.40 – 16.00 Coffee break
16.00 – 17.00
Dervla MacManus, University College Dublin
Cathedrals and Cattle – The Photographs of Frederick Henry Evans in Country Life Magazine

Aitor Acilu + Nerea Aranbarri, University of Navarra, Pamplona
Raoul Hausmann: "Mechanical sensibility" in Ibiza

John Schlinke, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island
Space and White Space: The Architectural Photography and Advertising of Alside Homes

Marsha Taichmann, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
The Photographs of Lynne Cohen and the Presence of Absence

Nadya Nilina, Moscow School of Architecture
The photography of Yuri Palmin

Sue Barr, Architectural Association, London
The Architecture of Transit: Photographing Beauty and Sublimity in Motorway Architecture from the Alps to Naples
17.00 – 17.30
Round table / discussion
18.00 – 19.00
Curator-led tour of the Edwin Smith exhibition (max 20 people, register with Valeria Carullo, valeria.carullo@riba.org)

Friday 14 November

9.30 – 9.45 Coffee
9.45 – 10.00
Intro by Gary Van Zante, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts
10.00 – 10.40
Keynote
Hugh Campbell, University College Dublin
The façade fills the frame
10.40 – 11.10
Valeria Carullo, Royal Institute of British Architects, London
Image-makers of British Modernism: Dell & Wainwright at the Architectural Review
11.10 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 12.00
Ruth Hommelen, Leuven University, Brussels-Ghent
Building with Artificial Light: Capturing the City and its Architecture at Night in the 1920s and 1930s
12.00 – 12.30
Davide Deriu, University of Westminster, London
Architectures of Vision: Photography and the Vertigo of the Modern City
12.30 – 13.00
Round table / discussion
13.00 – 14.00 Lunch
14.00 – 14.40
Keynote
Iñaki Bergera, University of Zaragoza
A parallel and unrevealed discourse: photography and modern architecture in Spain
14.40 – 15.10
Alona Pardo, Barbican, London + Elias Redstone, independent curator, Paris
Constructing Worlds: Photography and Architecture in the Modern Age
15.10 – 15.40
Emily Bills, Julius Shulman Institute, School of Architecture, Woodbury University, Los Angeles
Marvin Rand: Secrets of Los Angeles Uncovered
15.40 – 16.00 Coffee break
16.00 – 16.30
Marco Iuliano, University of Liverpool + Pierluigi Serraino, architect and author, San Francisco
Pairs or Peers? Architects and their Photographers after WWII
16.30 – 17.00
Karla Britton, Yale University, New Haven
Robert Damora: Total Architecture and the Pax-Americana
17.00 – 17.30
Round table / discussion

17.30 – 18.00
Conclusion
18.00 – 19.00
Curator-led tour of the Edwin Smith exhibition (max 20 people, register with Valeria Carullo, valeria.carullo@riba.org)

Reference:
CONF: Building with Light (London, 13-14 Nov 14). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 10, 2014 (accessed Nov 4, 2026), <https://arthist.net/archive/8611>.