

Elissa Rosenberg, Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture

“Topography and Memory”

This work examines contemporary memorial design in light of the shifting meaning of memory and commemoration. No longer designed as a single object, the memorial has been transformed into a place to be experienced; rather than representing a single redemptive narrative, it is often ambivalent, open to multiple interpretations and resistant to closure. Landscape has been critical to this aesthetic and cultural transformation. My focus is on the shaping of the ground and the commemorative practice it instigates through the experience of walking. In each of the memorials I will discuss, walking becomes an active means of engaging loss and absence--through the body and the haptic experience of movement, through the casual everyday encounter of the urban walker, or through the contact with the ground as a charged surface, a membrane between the living and the dead. How does the topographic strategy of walking suggest a new aesthetic for memorial design, and, perhaps more important, how does it change the way we remember?

Richard Price, Lecturer
Architecture/Urban and Environmental Planning

“Transforming Sprawl: opportunities in the belly of the beast”

Just as the environmental and social consequences of sprawl are becoming widely appreciated, consumer taste is shifting from the edge city to revitalized areas of the traditional city, leaving a staggering array of suburbia ripe for redevelopment.

The design professions have enormous opportunities to lead the transformation of auto-centered development into urban patterns that are environmentally sensitive and socially sustainable. However, the skills required to affect change transcend design, and include economics, finance and regulatory reform.

The talk will focus on recent work that exemplifies the evolutionary transformation of sprawl, including suburban infill, phased renovation, and the re-planning of the suburban fringe, and will highlight the opportunities and challenges faced by design professionals in the coming decades.

Julie Bargmann, Associate Professor
Landscape Architecture

William Morrish, Quesada Professor
Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Planning

“WATT’S GOIN’ ON ?”

The Master Plan is dead; if it isn’t completely, we should drive a stake through its heart. We gotta walk it and talk it; the more they walk it, the more they get it. Marvin sang about it; he knew what was happenin’ and the local non-profit is struggling to make it happen. Two faculty members, five students tried to get dysfunctional agencies to listen to the words; did they hear?

Faculty Research Symposium VI

01.26.07

Moderator: Lisa Reilly

1:00PM A. Bruce Dotson
Opening Remarks

1:15PM Kristina Hill
“Flow of Cities: the ecological waterfront”

1:45PM Jenny Lovell
“Depth of Surface:
building envelope beyond skin deep”

2:15PM Dell Upton
“All History Is Local:
civil rights memorials and urban politics
in Birmingham”

2:45PM BREAK

3:00PM Daphne Spain
“In the Spirit of Jane Addams:
moral crusades and the American city”

3:30PM Elissa Rosenberg
“Topography and Memory”

4:00PM Richard Price
“Transforming sprawl:
opportunities in the belly of the beast”

4:30PM Julie Bargmann/William Morrish
“Watt’s Goin’ On ?”



Lisa Reilly (Moderator)

Associate Professor, Architectural History

Kristina Hill, *Associate Professor, Director,
Landscape Architecture*

“Flow Cities: the ecological waterfront”

Urban waterfronts have played major roles in urban culture and commerce, both historically and in recent decades. The biological potential of the nearshore urban environment has been little known, however, and has only recently become a design goal. Very few cities have designed their waterfronts to reveal and support flows that influence the distribution and abundance of marine organisms. Yet the survival of many economically and culturally significant species depends upon the landscape ecology of shallow marine and freshwater environments, and these areas are increasingly impacted by urban expansion. To complicate matters further, changes that are predicted for global storm and rainfall patterns within the next decades will place increasing stress on the functional role of waterfronts and the capacity of urban infrastructure generally. The question I have been asking in my recent design scholarship is, what representational and spatial strategies could address these challenges in ways that are functional, socially equitable, and poetic? Seattle’s urban waterfront provides a useful example, but my interest is in developing strategies that could be used from Seattle to San Diego and New Orleans to Newfoundland.

Jenny Lovell, *Assistant Professor
Architecture*

“Depth of Surface: building envelope beyond skin deep”

This short presentation will include the results of the ‘HOTHOUSE’ workshop taught by Jenny Lovell at Washington University St. Louis in spring 2006. What are the important criteria for a building envelope that is to meet design aspirations together with environmental expectations and requirements in the Twenty-First-Century? 15-20% of a building’s energy consumption might be attributed to building envelope – given this, small shifts in strategy have the potential to make a considerable ‘sustainable’ contribution and positive impact. What if we could make even single percentage improvements on all office envelopes designed from today onwards? Building envelope strategies must address basic performance criteria through a complex multi disciplinary collaboration; an architect (now more than ever) needs to be aware of processes and technologies that will impact the visual perception and experience of a building. Exploration of ‘building construction’ within an academic setting often removes many of the pragmatics of practice. Given an architectural design has the potential for a

[Lovell cont.]

multitude of construction responses, the majority are driven by factors far beyond the proverbial drawing board. There is a requirement for architects now to look more at process and to allied professions to gain an understanding of how a material or technology can be applied in construction rather than looking at the building as an ‘object’. ‘What do you want to see’ is fundamental in terms of design but, if you want to achieve success on site, so is how a building can be realized through the multitude of available and emerging materials and construction responses & technologies.

Dell Upton, *Harrison Professor, Chair,
Architectural History*

“All History Is Local: civil rights memorials and urban politics in Birmingham”

My presentation looks at the ways that Birmingham’s urban geography and its politics between the 1970s and 1990s affected the choice of themes and sites chosen for the city’s civil-rights memorials in Kelly Ingram Park. Far from being a product of “public memory”, these monuments, like all monuments, tell a story closely linked to contemporary urban politics, and particularly to the need of the city’s first African-American mayor, Richard Arrington, Jr., to forge a governing coalition that linked two very disparate constituencies, downtown businessmen and poor and middle-class African-Americans.

Daphne Spain, *Page Professor
Urban and Environmental Planning*

“In the Spirit of Jane Addams: moral crusades and the American city”

This presentation is part of a larger project examining the role of moral crusades in American cities during the 19th and 20th centuries. Major theories from the Chicago, L.A., and New York Schools attribute urban change to technology, transportation, race relations, culture, or the political economy. I propose that grass-roots social movements fueled by moral values also shape the city. Jane Addams and the settlement house movement were at the nexus of an overlapping web of social movements that qualify as moral crusades. These include abolition, temperance, and suffrage in the 19th century, and civil rights, women’s liberation, and the environmental movements in the 20th century. Many, but not all, have been led by women. My thesis is that one of the processes by which cities change is the closing and/or opening of public spaces identified as significant by moral crusades. In this presentation I focus on the 19th century settlement house movement and the 20th century women’s liberation movement to illustrate how they opened spaces that influenced urban form. and through the hard surfaces of buildings and asphalt.