

# CRITICAL SUBJECTS



MANTOWNHUMAN  
MANIFESTO:  
TOWARDS A NEW HUMANISM  
IN ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN SUMMER SCHOOL 2014



In partnership with

THE  
ARCHITECTURAL  
REVIEW



## CRITICAL SUBJECTS SUMMER SCHOOL 2014

Critical Subjects Architecture and Design Summer School takes place in London from 13th - 19th July 2014. Over the course of the week, students will explore topics such as visionary architecture, social criticism, historical-thinking and the nature of good design. Workshops will provide an open dialogue on classic texts, as well as sessions on ethics, the politics of design, human creativity, culture, global development, artificial intelligence, internships, the role of expertise and much more. Design exercises will require students to engage in a series of architecture, design, construction and product innovation challenges.

## MANTOWNHUMAN



mantownhuman was founded to initiate a debate over the future of architecture and to build a new educational tradition. We believe that only by critically engaging with ideas that are widely accepted and seldom debated can we develop an architectural vision for our time.

Together with an alliance of designers, practitioners and educators willing to take intellectual and practical risks, we hope to make a contribution to the contemporary debate in order to create opportunities in, and for, the future.

## CRITICAL SUBJECTS DIRECTORS

**ALASTAIR DONALD:** project director for the British Pavilion for Venice Architecture Biennale 2014, associate director of the Future Cities Project

**AUSTIN WILLIAMS:** director Future Cities Project and associate professor of architecture, XJTLU, Suzhou, China

## CRITICAL SUBJECTS ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Julia Lasek, Magdalena Melon, Nick Pocock, Simhika Rao, Rowan Morrice, Sarah Shuttleworth, Josh Broomer, Guillermo Dochao Naveira, Kate Holt

## HOSTS



**ALLFORD  
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MORRIS**



AMIN TAHA ARCHITECTS

Zaha Hadid Architects



**ARUP  
ASSOCIATES**



## CRITICAL SUBJECTS SUMMER SCHOOL 2014 PARTICIPANTS

**Rosalind Alexander**, University of Dundee; **Patricia Arcilla**, University of Sydney; **Felicity Barbur**, Bartlett School of Architecture; **Christelle Bertho**, Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville; **Matt Bloomfield**, University of Lincoln; **Pedro Calmon**, Leeds Metropolitan University; **Sara Kristine Casey**, Danish Royal Academy of Fine Arts; **Philip Chan**, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture; **Meichin Chiew**, Leeds Metropolitan University; **Lucy Fisher**, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture; **Patricia Fraile**, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid; **Anisha Ghosh**, University of Sheffield; **Ruxandra Grigoras**, University of Architecture and Urbanism, "Ion Mincu" Bucharest; **Anna Hadjimitsi**, University of Nottingham; **Chloe Spiby Loh**, Cambridge; **Will McMahon**, Leeds Metropolitan University; **Marta Pabel**, TU Delft; **Ross Pirie**, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture; **Joana Polonia**, University of Porto; **Gabriela Popa**, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture;

**Savini Rajapakse**, University of Bath; **Aparna Ramesh**, Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur; **Bas Rongen**, TU Eindhoven; **Angela Rosa**, University of Trento; **Christopher Scarffe**, Leeds Metropolitan University; **Louise Bjørnskov Schmidt**, Bartlett School of Architecture; **Stefanie Weber Tuck Schneider**, College Escola da Cidade São Paulo; **Bogdan Stanciu**, Manchester School of Architecture; Benjamin Strak, London Metropolitan University; **Jingyuan Tian**, University of Liverpool & XJTLU, Suzhou; **Ozan Toksoz-Blauel**, Westminster University; **Alexandra Vafiadis**, Leeds Metropolitan University; **Gitte Susanne Holt Vistnes**, Aarhus School of Architecture; **Shalmali Wagle**, Harvard Graduate School of Design; **Lucas Williams**, University of Sheffield; **Nana Zaalishvili**, Tbilisi State Academy of Arts, Georgia; **Martin Zemlicka**, University of Prague





## **SUNDAY 13TH JULY - The Building Centre/ China Design Centre**

### **5 PM: OPEN PUBLIC EVENT: What is Architecture for?**

*Does architecture actually have to be “for” anything at all?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Vicky Richardson**, director, British Council; **Victoria Thornton**, founding director, OpenCity; **Michel Mossessian**, design principal Mossessian & Partners

## **MONDAY 14th July - Arup Associates, 8 Fitzroy Street, London**

### **9 -12:30 PM: DESIGN CHALLENGE**

#### **1 PM: What is Critical Thinking?**

*Is critical thinking an inherently good thing, or a recipe for never reaching a conclusion?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Dennis Hayes**, professor, University of Derby; **Steve Parnell**, lecturer, Nottingham University

#### **2 PM: When is Engineering, Architecture?**

*With architects, engineers and other designers on the panel, this debate is intended to draw some professional boundaries.*

**SPEAKERS:** **Steve Webb**, director, Webb Yates Engineers; **Paul Reeves**, senior technology manager, Dassault-Systemes R&D, engineering software; **David Marks**, managing director, Marks Barfield; **John Roycroft**, structural engineering director, BDP

#### **3 PM: Masterplanning the Future**

*Is the philosophical embrace of limits acting as a brake on the human-centred arrogance required to master plan the future; or is master-planning actually too audacious, technocratic and authoritarian?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Lucy Bullivant**, author; **Alan Stewart**, partner, John Thompson & Partners; **Helen Castle**, editor, Architectural Design (AD)

#### **4 PM: Whatever happened to the avant garde?**

*This session looks for the Big Idea and asks who is in the vanguard, and who is in the guard's van: who is leading, and who is following?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Kim Quazi**, director, Arup Associates; **Catharine Rossi**, senior lecturer, Kingston University; **Joseph Young**, founder, The NeoFuturist Collective; **Michael Daley**, director, ArtWatch UK

## TUESDAY 15th July - Zaha Hadid Architects

### 9 AM: What's Modern about Modern Architecture?

*Is modern architecture a Rhino software package, an ironic term, a dated concept, a positive aspiration... or something else?*

**SPEAKERS:** Penny Lewis, lecturer, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture; **Robert Adam**, director, Adam Architecture, Dickon Robinson, chair, RIBA Futures

### 10 AM: Artificial Intelligence v Humans

*Could human consciousness really be superseded by our own creations?*

**SPEAKERS:** Dr Rachel Armstrong, University of Greenwich; **Sandy Starr**, Progress Educational Trust

**CHAIR:** Rob Lyons, science writer, broadcaster

### 11:15 AM: Parametricism: Style or substance?

*Is Parametricism simply a software package masquerading as a philosophy, or a non-ideological reflection of our times? Is it shape-making or ground-breaking?*

**SPEAKER:** Patrik Schumacher, partner, Zaha Hadid Architects

## 12:30 - 3:30 PM : DESIGN CHALLENGE

### 4 PM: Education vs Skill: What is education for?

*How can we tackle the diminution of education?*

**SPEAKERS:** David Gloster, director, RIBA; **Matthew Barac**, senior lecturer, London South Bank University; **Andrew Crompton**, head of School of Architecture, University of Liverpool; **Alan Dunlop**, director, Alan Dunlop Architect;

## TUESDAY 15th July - Royal Academy of Arts

### 7 PM: What is Good Architecture?

*This debate will ask the panel to give their considered opinion about what constitutes "good" architecture; yesterday, today and forever.*

**SPEAKERS:** Jane Hall, founding member, Assemble design collective; **Tony Chapman**, Head of Awards, RIBA; **Alastair Donald**, project director for the British Pavilion for Venice Architecture Biennale 2014; **Robert Sakula**, founding partner, Ash Sakula; **James Pallister**, architecture and design journalist



	0900	0930	1000	1030	1100	1130	1200	1230	1300	1330
Sunday 13/7 THE BUILDING CENTRE										
Monday 14/7 ARUP ASSOCIATES	09:00 – 12:30  DESIGN CHALLENGE 1								13:00 – 14:00  What is “critical thinking”?	
Tuesday 15/7 ZAHA HADID ARCHITECTS	09:00 – 10:00  What’s modern about modern architecture?	10:00 – 11:00  Artificial Intelligence v Humans			11:15 – 12:15  Parametricism: Style or Substance			12:45 – 15:45  DESIGN CHALLENGE 2		
Wednesday 16/7  ORMS  AMIN TAHA ARCHITECTS					11:00 – 12:15  The problems of Evidence-based design			12:30 – 13:30  The global 10 billion: is it something to celebrate?		
					11:00 – 12:15  The Return of Craftsmanship?			12:30 – 13:30  What is 'Nature'?		
Thursday 17/7 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW	09:00 – 10:00  Critics Take Criticism	10:00 – 10:30  What is journalism?	10:30 – 11:00  Architectural Representation	11:00 – 16:00  ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW CRASH COURSE						
Friday 18/7 ALLFORD HALL MONAGHAN MORRIS			10:00 – 11:15  What happened to the Public Realm?			11:30 – 12:45  Social (ir)responsibility - Thinking the unthinkable				
Saturday 19/7 THE BUILDING CENTRE			10:00 – 12:30  DESIGN CHALLENGE 3 CONDENSING COMPLEXITY						13:00 - 14:30  Pros and Cons of the Review	

1400	1430	1500	1530	1600	1630	1700	1730	1800	1830	1900	1930	2000
						17:00 – 18:00 ARRIVALS & WELCOME ADDRESS		18:00 – 19:00 <i>What is architecture for?</i>				
14:00 – 15:00 <i>When is engineering, architecture?</i>		15:30 – 16:30 <i>Masterplanning the Future?</i>	16:30 – 17:30 <i>Whatever happened to the avant garde?</i>						19:00 – 20:30 BUILDING CENTRE BALLOON DEBATE  <i>The best architectural innovation ever</i>			
N CHALLENGE 2				16:00 – 17:00 <i>Education vs Skill: What is education for?</i>						19:00 - 20:30 ROYAL ACADEMY DEBATE:  <i>What is Good Architecture?</i>		
Orms VISIT:  Building case study: 95 Wigmore Street									18:15 - 20:00 BOOKSHOP BARNIE at FOYLES  Jonathan Meades on 'An Encyclopaedia of Myself'			
Amin Taha VISIT:  Building case study: 115 Golden Lane												
ITICS CHALLENGE				16:00 – 18:30 ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW CRITICS CHALLENGE Presentations & reviews								
14:00 – 15:00 <i>Internships: Exploitation or necessity?</i>	15:00 – 16:00 <i>Whatever happened to prefabs?</i>	AHMM VISIT:  Building case study: The Angel Building								19:30 – 21:00 READERS' GROUP  <i>From Bauhaus to Our House</i>  by Tom Wolfe		
Farrell	14:30 – 16:30 Jury – Critics and Presentation					AWARDS DRINKS RECEPTION						

## WEDNESDAY 16th July - ORMS

### 11 AM: Evidence-based architecture

*This debate explores what research means; whether correlation is the same as cause; and will examine whether architects rely too much on research – and junk science – to justify their work.*

**SPEAKERS:** Dominic Meyrick, director, Hoare Lea; John McRae, director, Orms; Lee Mallett, director, Urbik

**CHAIR:** Martyn Perks, technology consultant

### 12:30 PM: The global 10 billion: is it something to celebrate?

*Are people the solution or the problem? Are they the cause of the planet's imminent demise or its salvation?*

**SPEAKERS:** Philippe Legrain, Open Political Economy Network; Danny Dorling, University of Oxford; Daniel Ben-Ami, writer and journalist



## WEDNESDAY 16th July - Amin Taha Architects

### 11 AM: The Return of Craftsmanship

*Is there anything inherently meaningful in hand-crafted (or artisan-made) buildings and products, compared to factory-produced ones?*

**SPEAKERS:** Annie Warburton, director, The Crafts Council; Amin Taha, director, Amin Taha Architects, Josh Broomer, Critical Subjects committee member, Bartlett School of Architecture

**CHAIR:** David Bowden, editorial, press & special projects manager, Institute of Ideas

### 12:30 PM: What is 'Nature'?

*Are we part of nature, or are we separate from it?*

**SPEAKERS:** Martin Durkin, managing director, WAG TV; Kate Soper, professor, London Metropolitan University; Cany Ash, founding partner, Ash Sakula

**CHAIR:** Karl Sharro, director, PLP Architecture





## **THURSDAY 17th July - The Architectural Review**

### **9 AM: Critics Take Criticism**

*What role is there for a professional commentariat in a era of an informed Twitterati, inquisitive social media chatrooms and citizen journalism?*

**SPEAKERS:** Owen Pritchard, Icon magazine; Phineas Harper, Architectural Review; Edwin Heathcote, Financial Times; Shumi Bose, Blueprint magazine

### **10:15 AM: What is journalism?**

*What is journalism and what is a press release? When does reporting become obsequy? And when does "criticism" become "critique"?*

**SPEAKERS:** George Brock, committee member, International Press Institute; and board member, World Editors Forum

### **11:15 AM: Photography & representation**

*What is the purpose of photography? Is it to reflect a factual reality or to convey a narrative story?*

**SPEAKERS:** Pauline Hadaway, Manchester University



## FRIDAY 18th July - AHMM

### 10 AM: Where is the Public Realm?

*Who owns the commons? And when does the public realm become private... and perhaps more importantly, when is private space, public?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Josie Appleton**, convenor, Manifesto Club; **Daniel Moylan**, chair, Urban Design London; **Teresa Stoppani**, head, The Leeds School of Architecture

**CHAIR:** **Michael Owens**, commercial director, Bow Arts Trust

### 11:30 AM: Social (ir)responsibility - Thinking the unthinkable

*Should architects play politics... or is this exactly what architects do as a matter of course?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Tim Abrahams**, editor, Machine Books; **Dagmar Binsted**, associate, GMW Architects; **Nick Stokes**, senior associate director, LCE Architects; **Philip Graham**, project architect, Cullinan Studio; **Stephen Herbert**, vice-president & senior project architect, HOK

**CHAIR:** **Martyn Perks**, technology consultant

### 2 PM: Internships: Exploitation or necessity?

*Should working for free be a normal part of becoming an architect? Or are internships a different order of exploitation that should be outlawed?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Rory Stott**, ArchDaily; **Nick Pocock**, Critical Subjects committee member, MArch Leicester; **Vinesh Pomal**, The Architecture Students Network

### 3 PM: Whatever happened to prefabs?

*Does the existing Dickensian construction industry - based on 200 year old "wet-trades" - need a shake-up, or a shake-down?*

**SPEAKERS:** **Greg Lomas**, director, Foster Lomas; **Bernhard Blauel**, principal, Blauel Architects; **Simon Allford**, director, AHMM

**CHAIR:** **Tim Abraham**, editor, Machine Books





## **SATURDAY, 19th July - The Building Centre/ China Design Centre**

**10:30 AM -12:30 PM: DESIGN CHALLENGE**

### **1 PM: The pros and cons of the Farrell Enquiry into Architecture**

*Come and open up a discussion on the themes of this report.*

**SPEAKERS:** Max Farrell, director, Terry Farrell & Partners

**RESPONDENTS:** John McRae, director, Orms; Greg Lomas, director, Foster Lomas; Alastair Donald, project director, British Pavilion, Venice Biennale; David Howarth, director, DRDH Architects; Dan Hill, executive director, Future Cities Catapult; ex-CEO, Fabrica

## **ADVISORY PANEL: CRITICAL SUBJECTS SUMMER SCHOOL 2014**

**Tim Marlow**, Royal Academy of Arts; **Li Xiangning**, Tongji University CAUP; **Patrik Schumacher**, Zaha Hadid Architects; **Edwin Heathcote**, The Financial Times; **Shane Epting**, University of Texas at El Paso; **Vicky Richardson**, British Council; **Victoria Thornton**, Open City; **Farshid Moussavi**, Farshid Moussavi Architecture; **Jim Eyre**, Wilkinson Eyre; **Kevin Carmody**, Carmody Groarke; **Lara Rettondini**, University of Creative Arts Canterbury; **Louise Wilson**, artist; **Jonathan Glancey**, Biennale Books; **Laura Iloniemi**, architectural press & PR; **Kristen Richards**, ArchNewsNow.com; **Joe Kerr**, Royal College of Art; **Owen Pritchard**, Icon magazine; **David Marks**, Marks Barfield Architects; **Teresa Stoppani**, The Leeds School of Architecture; **Bernhard Blauel**, Blauel Architects; **James Soane**, Project Orange; **Robert Adam**, Adam Architecture; **Robert Easson**, Phaidon Atlas of Architecture; **Robert Sakula**, Ash Sakula Architects; **Hans Haenlein**, Hans Haenlein Architects; **Richard J Williams**, University of Edinburgh; **Pascal Hartmann**, logon Architects; **Luis T Pereira**, [A] ainda arquitectura architecture studio; **Paul Hyett**, HKS Architects;

**Karl Sharro**, PLP Architecture; **Tim Abrahams**, Canadian Centre for Architecture; **Pedro Bismark**, Revista Punto; **Tiffany Jenkins**, Sociology Compass journal; **Nick Stokes**, LCE Architects UK; **Chris Hardie**, Schmidt Hammer Lassen architects; **Roger Hawkins**, Hawkins\ Brown; **Dale Russell**, Royal College of Art; **Will Alsop**, ALL Design; **Jonathan Bell**, Wallpaper\*; **Catherine Slessor**, The Architectural Review; **Phineas Harper**, The Architectural Review; **Angela Brady**, Brady Mallalieu Architects; **Shumi Bose**, Blueprint; **Matthew Barac**, London South Bank University; **Jamie Shorten**, Barker Shorten Architects; **Michael Owens**, Bow Arts Trust; **Catherine Croft**, Twentieth Century Society; **Colin Tweedy**, The Building Centre; **Robin Nicholson**, Cullinan Studio; **Maisie Rowe**, author; **Nico MacDonald**, Media Futures Project; **Qu Zheng**, China Design Centre; **Tony Pierce**, Brentwood Borough Council; **Andrew Calcutt**, University of East London; **Elisabetta Gasparoni**, University College London; **Alan Dunlop**, Alan Dunlop Architect; **Penny Lewis**, Foundation for Architecture and Education; **Steve Webb**, Webb Yates Engineers



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### CONTACT

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