

Postgraduate Seminar & Reading Series

2001-2002

MURKY

Methodologies and Urban "K"ontroversy



Traditionally the depression in the MURKY shadow lands of Edinburgh's bridges linking city and university has been filled by the miasma from the north loch, the belching of steam trains, and the detritus of various markets. **MURKY** (*Methodologies and Urban 'K'ontroversy*) signifies the emergence of the year of provocation, an engagement with hot issues and seminal readings at the University of Edinburgh, Department of Architecture.

Each year international postgraduate students run a successful seminar series open to the department, the city and the world giving exposure to the latest design technologies. Building upon the success of last year's series of seminars entitled, 'VISIONS', this year's 'MURKY' series promises to create even more smoke and fumes. The doctoral students are joined by the major force of the Edinburgh Design and Digital Media Programme - students from China, Dominica, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Northern Ireland, Scotland, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States. All bring global perspectives to open up the murky Edinburgh winter - to design: new web pages; postmodern cities; and hopefully new worlds in the 21st century.

Seminar Coordinators:

Hsiu-ling Kuo and Bruce Currey

Holly Kinnear

Hoon Park

Jessica Hall

Yiannis Pagalos



Autumn Term

- **November 7th**
Seminar Title: *Deconstruction and Peter Eisenman*
Speaker: Hana Elayan (University of Edinburgh)
- **November 14th**
Reading: Baudrillard, J., 'Simulacra and Simulations'
Discussion Hosts: Aglab Al-Attili & Imanuel Steele (University of Edinburgh)
- **November 21st**
Reading: Le Corbusier, *The City of Tomorrow and Its Planning*.
Seminar Title: *Surface of Control, tracing parallels with architectural excursion: Modern Walls & Messy*
Speaker: Sachin Anshuman
- **November 28th**
Seminar Title: *Urban Conservation and Its Problems*
Speaker: Dr. Dorothy Bell
- **December 5th**
Seminar Title: *Design in the Digital Design Studio*
Speaker: Hoon Park (University of Edinburgh)
- **December 12th**
Reading: *Communication from the Commission: A Sustainable Europe for a Better World: A European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development*
Discussion Host: Mohamed Eid (University of Edinburgh)

Winter Term

- **January 9th**
Seminar Title: *Research Methodology of History*
Speaker: Clive Fenton (University of Edinburgh)
- **January 16th**
Reading: Siegfried Kracauer, *Mass Ornament: Weimar Essays*, Harvard Univ. Press, 1995; Georg Simmel, *The Metropolis and Mental Life*, 1998.
Seminar Title: *The Part and the Whole: modernity in the inter-war German city*
Speaker: Dr. Anthony McElligott (University of St. Andrews)
- **January 23rd**
Seminar Title: *What is Nature? (from The Space and Time of Nature)*
Speaker: Professor Kate Soper (University of North London)



January 30th

Reading: W. Holford, 'A new capital city for Brazil', *Architectural Review* 122 (Dec. 1957)
J. Holston, *The Modernist City: An anthropological critique of Brasilia* (Chicago, 1989)
Valerie Fraser, *Building the New World* (London, 2000)
Seminar Title: *Seeing Brasilia*
Speaker: Dr. Richard Williams (University of Edinburgh)

February 6th

Seminar Title: *Secularisation and Architectural Modernism*
Speaker: Professor Iain Boyd Whyte (University of Edinburgh)

February 13th

Seminar Title: *Illustration as a Historical Process*
Speaker: Amin Mahdavi (University of Edinburgh)

February 20th

Seminar Title: *Historiography*
Speaker: Dr. James Lawson (University of Edinburgh)

February 27th

Reading: Alois Riegl, 'The Modern Cult of Monuments: Its Character and Its Origin'
Seminar Title: *The Conservation Movement A Cult of the Modern Age?*
Speaker: Miles Glendinning (Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments)
Session Chair: Holly Kinnear

March 6th (Cancelled)

Seminar Title: *The Murky City*
Speaker: Christian Hermansen (Mackintosh School of Architecture)

March 13th

Seminar Title: *Computers and the Historian*
Speaker: Professor Bob Morris (University of Edinburgh)

Spring Term

April 17th

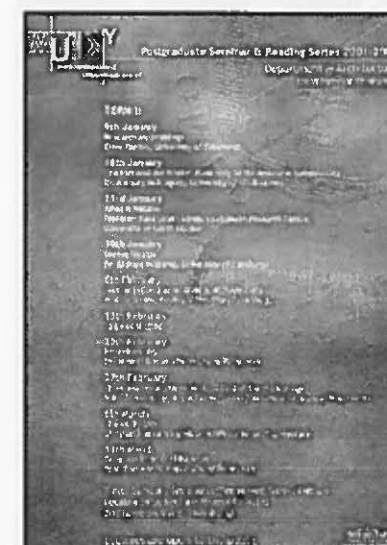
Seminar Title: *Approaches to Modern History*
Speaker: Professor Jim McMillan (University of Edinburgh)

April 24th

Seminar Title: *Louis Khan: in the realm of architecture*
Speaker: Rawan Majzoub (University of Edinburgh)

May 1st

Seminar Title: *The Heritage Debate*
Speaker: Dr. Stana Nenadic (University of Edinburgh)





May 15th

Seminar Title: *Design, the Gift, and the Cynic*

Speaker: Professor Richard Coyne (University of Edinburgh)

Chair: Yiannis Pagalos

• May 22nd

Seminar Title: *Will Cyborgs Inherit the Earth?*

Speaker: Professor Kevin Warwick (University of Reading)

Chair: Professor Richard Coyne

• May 29th

Seminar Title: *Making Money Investing in Quoted Companies in the Building*

Industry

Speaker: Harry Nimmo (Standard Life)

• June 5th

Seminar Title: *"Traumatised Bystanders"?: Reporting on the Urban in Contemporary Britain*

Speaker: Dr Simon Grumble (University of Cambridge)

• June 12th

Reading: R E Somol, "Dummy Text" in *Peter Eisenman, Diagram Diaries*.

Seminar Title: *Map/Diagram/Gesture*

Speaker: Dr Mark Dorrian (University of Edinburgh)