

The Death and Life of Great American Cities	Jane Jacobs
Hungry City	Carolyn Steel
The grid, the /cloud/, and the detail	Rosalind Epstein Krauss
Living a Feminist Life	Sara Ahmed

Reading Room

by Annexe, Women Writing Architecture

25 June, 2021

1 October, 2021

Over the weekend of 11/12 September 2021 the garden of ZAZ was populated by an event hosted by Annexe

Join us and our guests to browse through a selection of key feminist texts and hear about why they are important and relevant to read today. After browsing, reading, and discussing, photocopy your favorite passages and learn how to bind them together to create your own small 'Zine' with bookbinder Christa Wyss. Join cooking collective Kitchuan from 4pm to take part in the traditional social activity of dumpling folding, served from 7pm.

taking part were Milena Buchwalder, Dorothee Hahn & Sonja Flury, Emilie Appercé, Amy Perkins, Deborah Mühlebach, Gianna Ledermann, Myriam Reiber, Marlin Brun, Christa Wyss, with Shen He, Juliette Martin & Blanka Major aka Kitchuan, and Josephine Eigner.



50 Citations in this Collection:

The Problem of Speaking For Others	Linda Martin Alcoff
The Tale of Genji	Murasaki Shikibu
Manifesto for Maintenance Art	Mierle Laderman Ukeles

Une paysanne entre ferme, marché et associations: Textes d'Augusta Gillibert-Randin 1918-1940	Marthe Gosteli Peter Moser
Vom möblierten Zimmer bis zur Wohnung	Berta Rahm
Les années	Annie Ernaux
Yvonne Rainer: Raum Körper Sprache	Barbara Engelbach (editor) Yilmaz Dziewior (editor)
Queer Phenomenology Orientations, Objects, Others	Sara Ahmed
A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None	Kathryn Yusoff
I'm Every Woman	Liv Strömquist (illustrator)
The Argonauts	Maggie Nelson
Die Schweizer Frau in Kunstgewerbe und bildender Kunst	Doris Gäumann-Wild Maria Weese
Die moderne Frau und die Handarbeit	Maria Geroe-Tobler
Colour Strategies in Architecture	Fiona McLachlan
Blick-Wechsel: Konstruktionen von Männlichkeit und Weiblichkeit in Kunst und Kunstgeschichte	Ines Lindner (editor)
Frauen, Kunst, Geschichte: Zur Korrektur des herrschenden Blicks	Cordula Bischoff (editor)
Niki de Saint-Phalle : projets & realisations d'architecture	Niki de Saint Phalle
Der gute Gott von Manhattan	Ingeborg Bachmann
Politics Of Study	Sidsel Meineche Hansen (editor) Tom Vandeputte (editor)
Self-Organised	Stine Hebert (editor) Anne Szefer Karlsen (editor)
Die drei Leben des Saffa-Hauses	Beate Schnitter (editor) Dorothee Huber (editor) Felix Fuchs (editor)
La Mujer Habitada	Gioconda Belli
Kein Ort, nirgends – Auf der Suche nach Frauenräumen	Sibylla Hege (editor) Sabine Kraft (editor)
Chratz & Quer. Sieben Frauenstadtrundgänge in Zürich	Verein Frauenstadtrundgang Zürich (editor)
Extracts 2: Women Writing Architecture	Helen Thomas (editor)
Death Comes for the Archbishop	Willa Cather
Ahmed for Architecture Students	Brady Burroughs
Architectural Flirtations: A Love Storey	Brady Burroughs Beda Ring Henri T. Beall
The New Woman's Survival Catalog	Kirsten Grimstad (editor) Susan Renni (editor)
Breaking Ground book on buildings by women 'is both needed and problematic'	Mimi Zeiger
The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution	Carolyn Merchant
Frauenetzwerke in Architektur und Planung	Barbara Zibell (editor) Maya Karácsony (editor)
Women in Architecture: Past, Present, and Future	Ursula Schwitalla (editor)
Lisbeth Sachs: Architektin, Forscherin, Publizistin	Rahel Hartmann Schweizer
A City Inside	Tillie Walden
Apsara Engine	Bishakh Som

Eileen Gray: A House Under the Sun	Charlotte Malterre-Barthes Zosia Dzierzawska
Men Explain Things to Me	Rebecca Solnit
Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics	bell hooks
Staying with the Trouble	Donna Haraway Michael M. J. Fischer (editor) Joseph Patrick Dumit (editor)
Decoys and Disruptions: Selected Writings	Martha Rosler
The Artistic Mode of Revolution	Martha Rosler
Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation	Silvia Federici
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The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designs for American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities	Dolores Hayden
The Master's Tools will Never Dismantle the Master's House	Audre Lorde
Le livre de la cité des dames	Christine de Pizan
Pornotopia: An Essay on Playboy's Architecture and Biopolitic	Paul B. Preciado
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Fantastic refuge by Helen Thomas

17 January, 2021

Throughout history, women have relied on places outside the mainstream in order to find a place where they can accomplish intellectual work. Sometimes these are physical places, other times they are mental constructions or propositions.

This collection brings together some example citations from the Women Writing Architecture bibliography that can be used as a starting point for discussion, and any suggestions are welcome. Please send them to editors@womenwritingarchitecture.org and they will be added to the list.

8 Citations in this Collection:

Sultana's Dream	Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain
A City Inside	Tillie Walden
Herland	Charlotte Perkins Gilman
A Room of One's Own	Virginia Woolf
Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz in Seventeenth-Century New Spain and Finding a Room of One's Own	Deborah Weigel
Primero sueño/First Dream	Juana Inés de la Cruz
The Hearing Trumpet	Leonora Carrington Pablo Weisz Carrington (illustrator)
Le livre de la cité des dames	Christine de Pizan

references such as Andrea Fraser's Museum Highlights or Martha Rosler's Kitchen Semiotics were concise examples. These artist's methods were examined and interpreted for a representation of the text content, followed by lively discussions. In this way, important elements in the development of architectural projects were created within this performative text-work, which supplemented the work with other references, discussions, and construction sites.

The assumption that a text generates specific knowledge through an artistic-performative examination and subsequently releases specific skills or options for action is supported by the results of the Reading Circle Performances, which were created in the context of the architectural studio in the past semesters. The performance experiment, beyond the limits of close reading, brought about a deep understanding of the content read, promoted a lively culture of discussion, and allowed individual perspectives and foci to emerge and be implemented in architectural projects. In addition to exciting results in design projects, promoting the students' ability to criticize and express themselves was a terrific result of the experiment, which can be expanded and further developed.

Martina Bischof



41 Citations in this Collection:

Dear Conchi	Lucia Berlin
Manifesto for Maintenance Art	Mierle Laderman Ukeles

Loudreaders by Loudreaders Trade School

24 June, 2021

Loudreaders is an open pedagogical platform and free trade school, that engages with architectural education as a form of mutual aid and critical solidarity in the age of COVID-19. It is based on the emancipating and persecuted alternative practice of education performed by lecturers like Luisa Capetillo in the tobacco factories in the Caribbean. The practice was simple. While tobacco workers engaged in the alienating labour of rolling cigars, they would hire one of their own to read aloud for them during the entire work-day. While the readings consisted mostly of newspapers, magazines, and literature, the Loudreaders focused on Darwin, Bakunin, Kropotkin, Marx, and Engels fomenting an anti-capitalist, decolonial imagination. As the practice of loud-reading grew, the lectures (Loudreaders) will become travelling performers with an international audience, creating new networks of solidarity all around the Caribbean as well as a massive, shared, and open access oral library to workers who were denied any other form of formal education. The tobacco workers turned the mind-numbing characteristics of their repetitive, manual, and boring work of rolling cigars into an advantage, using the same space and tools of their capitalist exploitation to create an anti-capitalist underground culture.

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ETH Zurich Studio Caruso Semester Readings (2011-2021) by ETH Zurich Studio Caruso

20 May, 2021

The images show the covers of the text collections of Studio Caruso, chair for architecture and construction at the DARCH of ETH Zurich, led by Prof. Adam Caruso. Since 2011, these textbooks have been compiled and printed at the beginning of each semester with reference to the semester's topic. Here, the marked positions exemplarily show the representation of female authors up to the present day. In 2019, in addition to raising the visibility of female authors, an attempt was made to challenge the common format of Close Reading as a method to discuss the texts with the transdisciplinary experimental teaching format of a Reading Circle Performance.

The Reading Circle at Studio Caruso uses artistic performance as a methodological approach in architecture teaching, with the aim of discussing texts in a new way. The idea for this came about as part of an exchange of ideas with Helen Thomas in February 2019 and myself. Helen thought about how it is possible to promote the expressive skills and thus the standing of women in architecture, while I, as a research assistant at Studio Caruso, was inspired by the content of a Hauptseminar at the University of Bern on the subject of text formats and artistic production of theory and took up the task of thinking about the reorganization of the Reading Circle. Supported by Helen's encouragement, the idea solidified to think about an approach that can strengthen the expressive possibilities of young adults and sharpen their arguments.

Performance as an artistic practice should therefore be tested for its applicability in mediating architecture. Basically, it was assumed that the performance in its structure as a situational and action-orientated artistic methodology emphasises the artistic event while including the human body, objects and space. In relation to the proposed project, the first question that came up was how a text that is closely related to a semester topic in architecture can be analysed and contextualized using a performative practice.

The staging or the embodiment of a classic lesson's content – here the text – by means of performance is at the same time an investigation of how the body and the space surrounding the body – we are also talking about the digital space with regard to the times of the pandemic – can become a central subject of research if body knowledge is generated through sensory experiences and thus an expansion of the concept of knowledge takes place. Suddenly, insights of an intuitive, sensual and subjective nature become possible, which do not arise through the purely cognitive process of reading and in the present case can have a direct effect on the architecture production, the student projects. In groups of three to four, selected artistic positions were studied to get prepared, which each presented specific contents in different ways. For example,

Simians, Cyborgs and Women	Donna Haraway
Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity	Judith Butler
Mrs Dalloway	Virginia Woolf
The Need for Aged Buildings	Jane Jacobs
Space and Structure; High Rise	Phyllis Lambert (editor)
Narrative Time: the question of the Gates of Hell	Rosalind Epstein Krauss
Richard Serra, a Translation	Rosalind Epstein Krauss
Cybernetic Theory and the Architecture of Performance: Cedric Price's Fun Palace	Mary Louise Lobsinger Sarah Williams Goldhagen (editor) Réjean Legault (editor)
Kentucky Is My Fate	bell hooks
The Generators of Diversity	Jane Jacobs
Passages in Modern Sculpture	Rosalind Epstein Krauss
The Need for Small Blocks	Jane Jacobs
Richard Serra / Sculpture	Rosalind Epstein Krauss
The Triumphant Progress of Market Success	Isabelle Graw
Grids	Rosalind Epstein Krauss
Twentieth-Century muf (1995-1999)	Helen Thomas
Premature Gratification and other Pleasures	Katherine Shonfield
The Home as a Workshop, The Housewife	Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Feminist Politics and Domestic Life	Dolores Hayden
The Human Condition	Hannah Arendt
Feminist theory and Hannah Arendt's Concept of Public Space	Seyla Benhabib
Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy	Nancy Fraser
The City of the Floating World: Paris	Elizabeth Wilson
Staying with the Trouble	Donna Haraway Michael M. J. Fischer (editor) Joseph Patrick Dumit (editor)
Decoys and Disruptions: Selected Writings	Martha Rosler
The Artistic Mode of Revolution	Martha Rosler
The Promise of The Flat Field: a Reflection on Non-productive Expenditure	Helen Thomas
Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation	Silvia Federici
The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins	Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing
The Mediated Plant	Teresa Castro
A Room of One's Own	Virginia Woolf
Pride and Prejudice	Jane Austen
The Grand Domestic Revolution: A History of Feminist Designs for American Homes, Neighborhoods, and Cities	Dolores Hayden
The Hearing Trumpet	Leonora Carrington Pablo Weisz Carrington (illustrator)
Testo Junkie	Paul B. Preciado

