

NO SPACE WITHOUT TRAITS

Territorial and Spatial Perception Through the Arts

An open source programme of collective investigations focusing on initialising and supporting individual and common strategies of perceiving physical, political and social space in the urban context, explored through the arts, humanities and literature

Proposal for collaborative enquiries and programme partners

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

The definitions of space are as diverse as the disciplines in which it plays a fundamental role - from science to philosophy and the arts - and within each field the assessments of space are often simplified or reduced to one dimension. With such an approach, we refuse ourselves access to 'new spaces', whose definitions and perspectives, strategies and processes of perception from all fields of human activity are too rarely considered in a cohesive manner. This is where the ANCB programme 'No Space Without Traits' comes in: particularly through artistic approaches, it aims to open doors into spatial worlds that until now have remained closed.

This programme enables investigations from different methodologies, practices and objectives from art and science, based on creative, behavioural and cultural science positions and processes. By crossing the 'boundary' to the arts, we aim to generate a stimulated discourse on perception, the evaluation of space and its political and social dimensions. In the course of this process, new strategies of space, perception, evaluation and design may be generated and subsequently their creative, social and political relevance can be investigated and tested. The transfer and implantation of the specialist practices of a discipline to those of a different field act as an experimental approach to creative strategy development and ultimately to a change of perspective.

ANCB invites protagonists from disciplines concerned with the creation of space as well as those from other fields to participate in this international, public discourse. The programme provides a platform for the renegotiation of perception, cultural and technological strategies and for the exchange of experiences and methods.

TIME FRAME AND SELECTED EVENTS SO FAR

In-Between. Spatial Discourse in Visual Culture 2014-15

Interdisciplinary exhibition series and accompanying events bringing together artistic positions that critically explore spatial discourses in contemporary visual culture.

Jerusalem - Berlin: Strategies of Knowledge. Public Space and the Arts May 2014

Symposium focusing on the various ways of raising public and political consciousness through artistic and architectural interventions in public space, examined through the case studies of Jerusalem and Berlin. Followed by a design studio with the Technion Haifa and TU Berlin.

Silence as Everyman's Right May 2014

Public debate considering how people in today's world find and experience silence in cities.

Perception in Architecture. Here and Now June 2014

Symposium reflecting upon new spatial concepts with the aim of accessing 'new spaces' of definitions and perspectives, strategies and processes of perception in architecture. Followed by a design studio with the University of Sydney.

Water as Ritual August 2014

International workshop in cooperation with Axor hansgrohe bringing together students and young professionals from various disciplines to investigate the significance of water in daily, cultural or religious rituals and their spatial contexts.

Dancing About Architecture September 2014

Public debate as part of an international event series bringing together diverse positions from dramaturgy, dance, music, architecture and urban space to discover new spatial landscapes and thereby tell a narrative of the city through the bodily experience of being.

FRAMING THE ANCB PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

As an interdisciplinary cultural platform, ANCB does not focus solely on any single knowledge field. Instead it aims with each programme to bring together a range of different viewpoints and areas of expertise in order to stimulate a multi-faceted dialogue with an international outlook. Questions from each programme are framed within ANCB's ongoing 'urban challenges' to activate a broad-ranging exploration and understanding of the subject. Below are a range of starter questions on perception.

PARTICIPATION

How can we examine changing perspectives with regards to perception, construction and social implementation through artistic participatory strategies within a spatial discourse? How might artistic, self-initiated urban planning strategies be developed to prevent the extinction of important public spaces in cities?

SECURITY

How is our individual and collective perception of the city and security impacting our experience of the urban realm? How does the emphasis on security that is becoming increasingly prevalent in our cities affect social relations? What artistic and interdisciplinary strategies can be developed to influence these relationships and experiences?

COMMUNICATION

Experiential and more qualitative factors are disappearing from spatial mapping and planning in favour of factors that are readily quantifiable. How can we return the qualitative to these depictions to more accurately represent and weight the functional and experiential qualities of space?

MATERIALS

How does the physical, sensory experience affect perception? To what extent does the physical, material world around us influence our perception of place? How might space, sound and the virtual world also be considered as design materials?

POSSIBLE DESIGN STUDIO QUESTIONS

What role does perception play in dis- and reassembling the substantial character of art and architecture? How can new information be activated through observation and interaction? How do we perceive spatial structures and conditions of art and what does this organisation say about itself, about us and our perception and about the structure of the world?

ANCB FORMATS

Public Debates

Key figures from a range of disciplines take on questions within the framework of the programme, whether as single events or as a series of debates. Short and provocative presentations jumpstart the discussion between peers, involving a public audience.

Design Studios

University tutors and their students explore an urban challenge defined by the programme enquiry through case study sites. The studios are enriched with lectures and urban tours tailored to the specific topic.

Symposium and Workshop

Thematic focal points of the programme are brought together and reflected upon in a symposium. Defined questions are then drawn out as a basis for workshop proposals by advanced students and young professionals.

Publication and Archive

Results from all of the events are collated and summarised in the programme publication and as part of an ongoing, living archive on the ANCB website.

ABOUT ANCB

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory is a unique cultural and educational platform focusing on the future of our cities. Building upon three decades of expertise in the communication of architecture culture - through exhibiting and publishing the work of internationally acclaimed and pioneering architects and urban planners - Aedes Architecture Forum established, in 2009, an additional urban research and workshop programme - ANCB.

It is from these foundations that ANCB positions itself as the hub at the centre of an extensive international and interdisciplinary research network, based on a structure of cultural exchange and knowledge transfer. ANCB is uniquely placed to bring together key figures from different fields to debate the most pertinent urban questions of international concern and to search for new potential to improve global urban living conditions. Through interdisciplinary idea exchanges and workshops with international university partners, ANCB brings together social, cultural and technical research with governance processes, industry products and the proposals of the urban design and planning professions, generating the cross-sector collaborations necessary to offer innovative insights, positions and visions.