



"The Arsenal of Exclusion & Inclusion" by Interboro

Architectures of Resistance & Empowerment

In an age of late Capital

The right to beauty is as important as the right to drainage....And when a new, planned building rises in the slum - be it a public toilet or a sewing co-operative - it immediately becomes a monument. It was conceived by an architect, it indicates things are changing...The philosopher Felix Guattari once said that aesthetics are fundamental and revolutionary!

- Jorge Mario Jáuregui, "Brazilian Heatwave: Mr. Jáuregui's Neighborhood [Interview]," *Visionaire*, August 2001

We must defend architecture from the pessimism that has been attributed to it in order to utilise the practice's true potential. Such action, intellectual and practical, calls for a deeper reorientation between politics and aesthetics, not simply a reordering of power relations between groups, but the creation of new subjects and heterogeneous objects.

- Camillo Boano, *Architecture must be defended: informality and the agency of space [Interview]*, April 2013

If the normative production of architecture entails its inevitable collusion with the forces of capital, the present age of late neoliberal capitalism has only seen an intensification of this trend. Architects have increasingly lost the ability to shape cities, to real estate and market driven trends; reduced to designing condominiums for the one percent. That architecture can and should have a socially and politically progressive agenda was, after all, a defining attribute of modernism - to bring design to the masses, to produce not only a new aesthetic, but also a new egalitarian order. Form thus became a political instrument of reducing social inequity and shaping the city. The present global crises of housing, economic disparity, ecological armageddon, and political obscurantism have led some architects to seriously question the dominant tropes of architecture as both discipline and praxis. What are the tactics, strategies, manifestos and actions through which architects can resist, upend, destabilize and reinvent normative mechanisms of architectural production? How do such practices seek new modes of conceiving the architectural project and its representation; radically reinvent the brief, site, program, construct, tectonics and/or notions of ownership? The seminar seeks to unpack new ways of conceiving architectures of resistance and empowerment through researching both, the terms of architectural engagement as well as how forms of representation develop and convey meaning within the architectural project.