

Architecture and Pedagogy after Carbon: Three Conceptual Figures

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This presentation will explore three conceptual figures for architectural pedagogy in a period when carbon emissions are no longer socially viable.

1. Thermal Practices suggests that there are two main contributions to the carbon emissive properties of a buildings – that of the architectural design, and that enacted by the user. The design process not only entails the provision of mechanical services or other conditioning elements, but also cultivates novel habits and practices by which the user will best enact and realize these potentials. How can spaces be designed such that their practices of occupation rely as little as possible on carbon powered comfort technologies?

3. Stranded Assets: some of the most treasured buildings in the history of modern architecture are also the worst performing. They were built in an era when fossil fuels were cheap and the social costs were not well understood. Stranded Assets asks: how can we develop a perspective on architectural history that takes the (poor) performance of many architectural icons into account? And second, what do we do with these jewel-boxes? How will we heat and cool them? How will they be occupied as the power that feeds their life support systems comes under pressure.

3. Emergency Exits: The framework of emergency is itself cause for alarm, a “state of emergency” has led to increased oppression. Emergency exits, as a conceptual figure, seeks to keep focus on the role of architecture in negotiating equity and urgency.

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