

EUROPEAN ART PROJECTS

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Tomás Saraceno, *3 x 12MW (Air Port City)*, 2007/08, installation view Megastructure Reloaded, Berlin. Photo: David Brandt

MEGASTRUCTURE RELOADED - SYMPOSIUM

VISIONARY ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN OF THE SIXTIES
REFLECTED BY CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS

DATES: 18/19 OCTOBER 2008

WWW.MEGASTRUCTURE-RELOADED.ORG

“Megastructure is dead. It is thus high time to place it within the history of architecture.” Under this title Reyner Banham gave a series of lectures at the architecture department of Naples University in 1973. Today, megastructural planning is again attracting the interest of a younger generation of designers, architects as well as artists. The reason for which might be the visionary power and the easiness with which they redefined fundamental questions of architecture and the human environment, an aspect which the mostly pragmatic architecture and urban planning of today is lacking.

MEGASTRUCTURE RELOADED intends not a documentary representation of the sixties ideas; instead the megastructuralists are to be tested for their currency and relevance to the problems of contemporary urban design. The focus of the project is the connection, so significant for these designs, between spatial structures and visual art, as well as on actual architectural and urban-design issues, while examining whether megastructures offer a feasible conceptual approach for the problems of fast-growing mega cities. We will continue to discuss these topics in a Megastructure **symposium on 18th and 19th of October.**

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Excerpt from the program of the symposium

Dominique Rouillard and **Thilo Hilpert** will provide a comprehensive introduction into the subject, **Marie-Theres Stauffer** and **Gian Piero Frassinelli** will discuss the visual strategies of Superstudio and Archizoom, **Florian Urban** and **Wolfgang Fiel** look at similarities and differences in the concepts of the Japanese metabolists and the European protagonist of the spatial city, **Laurent Stalder** will introduce the *Megacity Montreal* (quote Reyner Banham) while **Carsten Krohn** presents Megastructures in Berlin, **Stephan Schütz** from gmp Architects will present the urban design of Lingang New City in China and **Dennis Crompton**, **William Menking**, **Philipp Oswalt** and **Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz** will discuss the feasibility of Megastructure for Megacities.

The symposium will take place in the kitchen monument by **raumlabor_berlin**, a pneumatic architecture which is installed in the courtyard of our exhibition venue, the former State Mint. You enter via the entrance to the exhibition on Molkenmarkt 2, Berlin-Mitte, directly across from Rotes Rathaus (Red Town Hall), nearest public transport station is Alexanderplatz.

If you wish to participate in the symposium please register at symposium@megastructure-reloaded.net. The symposium will be held in English. Please note that there is a limited availability and participation will be upon confirmation. The fee of 20 EUR (10 EUR for students) is payable at the door and includes the entrance to the exhibition. Times: Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday 11 am-6pm

Lecture by Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz about the Metaeder

On Tuesday, **21 October** at **8 p.m.** there will be a lecture by Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz, one of the pioneers of the spatial city concept. By means of the metaeder model on view at the exhibition he will introduce his spatial theory. *The universality of the Metaeder is the theoretical basis of structural architecture, inasmuch as it consists of equal, or similar or different, but coordinated elements. It contains the elementary cells of a structural architecture, it provides the sum of possibilities of regular space divisions.*

About the exhibition

The investigations into Megastructure were the starting point for ten projects by contemporary artists: José Dávila (Mexico), Simon Dybbroe Møller (Denmark), Ryan Gander (GB), Erik Göngrich (Germany), Franka Hörnschemeyer (Germany), Victor Nieuwenhuijs & Maartje Seyferth (Netherlands), Tobias Putrih (Slovenia/USA), Tomás Saraceno (Argentina/Germany), Katrin Sigurdardottir (Iceland/USA) and Tilman Wendland (Germany). Aside from these contemporary statements the exhibition shows drawings, collages and models of megastructure projects from the 1960s by Archigram, Archizoom, Alan Boutwell, Yona Friedman, Günther Domenig & Eilfried Huth, Constant Nieuwenhuys, Eckhard Schulze-Fielitz. In addition, we show Gordon Matta-Clark's film on his Parisian installation *Conical Intersect*, which was set-up in 1975 across from the construction site of the Centre Pompidou, one of the few realized megastructure 'look-alikes'.

On the occasion of the exhibition a comprehensive bilingual catalogue has been published by Hatje Cantz (order no. ISBN 978-3-7757-2216-2) with 368 pages and more than 150 color illustrations.

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