

Master's degree programme in Architecture
Design Seminar SS 2016

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London: new forms of public engagement



Image : Assemble Studio. The Cineroleum. Photograph by Assemble Studio.

This Design Seminar will investigate different schools of thought within the realm of the architectural discipline and its relation to the public. London as an exceptional metropolitan city will offer us a rich tableau of multiple forms for mediating architecture and different methods of mediating architectural knowledge. We understand architects not as mere service providers but active public figures initiating and implementing communal improvements. Therefore, special attention will be paid on the role of the architect and thus of architecture in form of communal events and on the idea of activism as a method of conceiving and transforming space. In order to provide insight into activities that engage the public through actions, events and spaces we will visit several projects that highlight an inclusive approach to design. They can stem from a variety of institutions and activists, including schools of architecture, professional bodies, community groups and individuals. We will visit schools of architecture such as the Architectural Association School of Architecture, one of our Design Studio partners, or the Bartlett and meet their faculty and students. We will engage in a discourse with participants organising architectural festivals, exhibitions and other public events, as well with experts from local councils to understand the impact public engagement can have on a community. Finally, we will of course also meet practitioners and architects who's initiatives have had a lasting impact on London.