



Symposium

THERMODYNAMIC MATERIALISM II

Polyvalent Porosity:

Architectural, structural and thermodynamic investigation into the interaction of solid and void.

Modern architecture has been exploring the notion of space and the understanding of spatial relationships as the embodiment of human activities. For the architectural historian Bruno Zevi, space should be at the focus of architectural thinking thereby confirming H.P. Berlage who predicted “the aim of our creations is the art of space, the essence of architecture” a statement made in his lecture series *Grundlagen und Entwicklung der Architektur* at the Museum of Applied Arts in Zurich in 1908. This focus on space making has resulted in a dematerialization of architectural production and the abstraction of matter onto its ability to demarcate a space. Contemporary architecture, however, has started to question such sole emphasis of space over matter. Nowadays, the need for sustainable architecture is shifting interest towards performative aspects of architectural design resulting in a reevaluation of the void-solid relationship: a renewed interest in the spatial potential of building structures and thermodynamic regulation by means of material and spatial distribution.

Through a series of short lectures and presentation of case studies the symposium is trying to map some of the current approaches towards a rethinking of the interaction of solid and void and the inherent potential for architectural design. The event follows the symposium *Thermodynamic Materialism* held at Harvard University in April 2013 as part of a research collaboration between the Chair of Iñaki Abalos at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University and the Chair of Structural Design at the ETH Zurich.

Featured Speakers:

- 9:00 **Joseph Schwartz** (welcoming)
- 9:10 **Toni Kotnik** (opening)
- 9:30 **Iñaki Abalos** (GSD Harvard)
- 9:50 **Kiel Moe** (GSD Harvard)
- 10:10 **Mathias Schuler** (GSD Harvard)
- 10:30 **Joseph Schwartz** (ETH D-ARCH)
- 10:50 Coffee Break
- 11:10 **Salmaan Craig** (GSD Harvard)
- 11:30 **Renata Sentkiewicz** (GSD Harvard)
- 11:50 **Juanjo Castellón** (ETH D-ARCH)
- 12:10 **Pierluigi D’Acunto** (ETH D-ARCH)
- 12:30 **Toni Kotnik** (closing)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Discussion & presentation of students work

Fri 29.11.13 - HIL E 67.1.