



Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Nantes Métropole, Franklin Azzi. (Photo: Luc Boogly)

Permanence & Mutations Restructuring the Industrial Nantes

Seminar Week Spring Semester 2019

What future for buildings that have lost their original function?

The city of Nantes is proposing an original answer to the question of permanence and reuse with the restructuring of its industrial and port wastelands. A major industrial centre in France since the 19th century, Nantes suffered an economic and social crisis at the end of the 1980s. Successive closures of industrial food processing sites and shipyards left iconic steel and concrete cathedrals unoccupied in vast urban brownfields, testimonies of the intense port activity of the city. Rather than radically breaking with its industrial past, the innovative approach of the ongoing urban project *Ile de Nantes* experiments with a way of building the city from the “already-here”, accompanying the urban and programmatic changes of the place.

Along with photography as a medium of representation and reflection, our seminar week will trace the ongoing architectural and urban transformations of Nantes’ wastelands, focusing on the relationship between the existing and the new, the permanent and the muted. More widely, we aim to identify the qualities (mutability, durability, flexibility, etc.) that make a building, a structure, able to withstand programmatic obsolescence. Among the projects that will be visited in Nantes and its surroundings are the *Lieu Unique* (Patrick Bouchain), the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Nantes Métropole* (Franklin Azzi), the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Nantes* (Lacaton & Vassal), the *Moulins de la Loire* (one of the first famous Hennebique structures), the *Cité Radieuse de Rezé* (Le Corbusier) and the submarine base in Saint-Nazaire harbour city (transformed by LIN Finn Geipel + Giulia Andi). Architects, urban planners, historians and engineers will guide our different visits as our explorations will be accompanied by Zurich based architectural photographer Hannes Henz.

Guest: Hannes Henz, architectural photographer

Transportation, accommodation, visits, daily photography workshop and reader included.

Sun 17. – Sat 23.03.2019 | max. 14 participants | cost range C

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