



Project

Origins – A Project by Ordinary Architecture Architecture Space and other sites across Burlington House

15 October 2016 – 15 January 2017

This Autumn the Royal Academy has commissioned Ordinary Architecture to create a series of interventions throughout Burlington House that offer an intriguing contemporary counterpoint to the ‘origin myths’ of architecture. The history of architecture is full of ‘origin myths’, stories of how and where architecture began. What makes these ‘origin myths’ important is the way they describe the point at which architecture becomes culture, when the act of building becomes imbued with cultural meanings that can be read and interpreted.

Origins – A Project by Ordinary Architecture takes these myths as the starting-point for a series of interventions around the RA that are intended to pose a new, provocative allegory of the foundations of contemporary architecture. Several of the interventions occupy prominent spaces that are currently empty or in transition during the ongoing redevelopment of the RA, thus forging an intriguing dialogue with the building’s own history. Other interventions can be found in lesser-known or often overlooked parts of the building, resulting in a reassessment of how the spaces are experienced.

Realised through a number of techniques and materials, the interventions are grouped according to particular themes which together pose a new set of ‘origin myths’ of architecture. Embracing the creative possibilities of erroneous theories, misunderstood histories, personal mythologies and speculative ideas, *Origins* offers a powerful new perspective on the myths, conventions and histories that guide how architecture is both created and experienced.

About Ordinary Architecture

Ordinary Architecture was founded by Charles Holland and Elly Ward at the end of 2013. Prior to starting Ordinary, both partners worked at FAT Architecture where Charles was a director for nearly twenty years. The practice’s name refers to an interest in popular culture and an architecture that draws inspiration from the ordinary and the everyday. They work with a diverse range of scales from the city masterplan to the domestic interior. Both Charles and Elly are involved in teaching. Elly runs a studio at the University of Westminster and Charles is a Professor of Architecture at the University of Brighton.

Admission free

Dates and Opening hours

Open to public: Saturday 15 October 2016 – Sunday 15 January 2017
10am – 6pm daily (until 10pm Friday)

Origins Events

For information or to book, visit royalacademy.org.uk/events or telephone 020 7300 5839. Reductions are available for students, jobseekers and individuals with disabilities with recognised proof of status.

Where Architecture Begins

Monday 24 October

Charles Holland and Elly Ward of Ordinary Architecture introduce *Origins* before a discussion with Joseph Rykwert and artist Kieren Reed on the broader capacities of architecture to carry narratives and meaning, before a panel discussion and questions from the audience. Speakers are Charles Holland (Director, Ordinary Architecture; Founder, FAT), Kieren Reed (artist and Head of Undergraduate Sculpture, Slade School of Fine Art, UCL), Joseph Rykwert (Architectural historian; author of 'The Idea of a Town', 1963, and 'On Adam's House in Paradise', 1972) and Elly Ward (Director, Ordinary Architecture).

Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

The Destruction of Memory – Film Screening and Q&A

Monday 31 October

A screening of a new documentary 'The Destruction of Memory' that tells the story of the war against culture and the battle to save it. The screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with Robert Bevan, author of 'The Destruction of Memory: Architecture at War' (second expanded edition, Reaktion, 2016).

Sir Hugh Casson Room, Royal Academy, 6.30–8.30pm; £12/£6 concessions

What if...? Counterfactual Architectural History

Monday 21 November

A panel of architectural historians explores a range of 'what if' scenarios in the history of architecture, posing alternative narratives that lead us to re-think how existing accounts are written and perpetuated. Speakers are Gillian Darley (writer and broadcaster on architecture; author with David McKie of 'Ian Nairn: Words in Place', 2013), Douglas Murphy (architect and writer; Architecture Correspondent, Icon magazine) and Alan Powers (architectural historian and writer on architecture; Leader of Historical Studies, London School of Architecture).

Sir Hugh Casson Room, Royal Academy, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

Autumn Architecture Events

Architecture on the Edge

Monday 19 September

A panel of architects and designers present projects and methodologies that exist on the edge of conventional practice. Speakers are Raoul Bunschoten (Founder of CHORA, Professor of Sustainable Urban Planning and Urban Design at the TU Berlin) and Keiichi Matsuda (Designer and film-maker) and Wolfgang Tschapeller (Architect, Head of the Institute of Art and Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna).

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm, £12/£6 concessions

Forgotten Estates

Monday 26 September

A panel of speakers debate how Britain's post-war housing estates have become a battleground of differing political and architectural ideologies. Speakers are Jessie Brennan (Artist and author of 'Regeneration! Conversations, Drawings, Archives & Photographs from Robin Hood Gardens', 2015), Mark Crinson (Professor of Architectural History, Birkbeck, University of London), Owen Hopkins (Architecture Programme Curator, Royal Academy of Arts, chair), Kate Macintosh (Architect, formerly of the London Boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth, and East Sussex and Hampshire County Councils; designer of Dawson's Heights, East Dulwich, 1964–72) and Paul Watt (Reader in Urban Studies, Birkbeck, University of London).

Royal Institution, Piccadilly, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

International Series: Heneghan Peng

Monday 3 October

Dublin-based Heneghan Peng Architects discuss the ideas behind the works that have won them recognition across the world, including the Giant's Causeway Visitors' Centre and the recently completed Palestinian Museum.

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

Infrastructure for the 21st Century

Monday 10 October

Looking beyond traditional notions of infrastructure, speakers put forward a range of propositions for ensuring London's maintains its status as a global city over the next few decades. Speakers are Ben Campkin (Director, UCL Urban Laboratory), Usman Haque (Founding partner, Umbrellium), Lee Mallett (Director, Urbik; former editor, Building Design and Estates Times) and Timothy Lang (Professor of Food Policy at City University).

Sir Hugh Casson Room, Royal Academy, 6.30-8pm; £12/£6 concessions

International Series: Johnston Marklee

Monday 17 October

Californian architects Johnston Marklee talk about their work which combines geometrical complexity with a calmness and efficiency in form and material.

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

London Beyond Brexit

Monday 7 November

A panel discusses what the implications of Brexit on London's development will be and to its status as a global city over the next few decades. Speakers are Iwona Blazwick (Director, Whitechapel Gallery), Paul Finch (Programme Director, World Architecture Festival and columnist, Architects' Journal), Carol Patterson (Director - UK, OMA) and Ben Rogers (Director, Centre for London, chair).

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

International series: Christ & Gantenbein

Monday 14 November

Christ & Gantenbein, designers of the recently opened Kunstmuseum in Basel and the extension to the Swiss National Museum in Zurich, discuss their acclaimed work.

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

Future Estates

Monday 28 November

Following a previous debate exploring the changing status of Britain's post-war housing estates, this event looks at estate regeneration and the range of alternatives that exist to the growing threat of demolition. Speakers are Geraldine Dening (architect and founder, Architects for Social Housing), Adam Khan (Founder, Adam Khan Architects), John Lewis (Executive Director Thamesmead, Peabody) and Oliver Wainwright (architecture critic, The Guardian, chair).

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

Zaha Hadid RA in Focus

Monday 12 December

Speakers from across the architecture world each offer incisive reflections on the work and legacy of a towering figure of twenty-first century architecture.

Geological Society, Piccadilly, W1, 6.30–8pm; £12/£6 concessions

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @architecture_RA

#Origins

The Architecture Programme at the Royal Academy of Arts is made possible through the Drue Heinz Endowment for Architecture.

Turkishceramics is the lead supporter of the 2016 season.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site.

The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video

For public information or to book events, please print 020 7300 8090 or visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J OBD

For further press information, please contact Annabel Potter on 020 7300 5615 or email press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

14.09.16