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Architectural Theory Review

Call for Papers

ATR Special Issue, 2008

Rethinking Architectural Spectacle

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French intellectual Guy Debord proclaimed that 'the spectacle is capital accumulated to the point where it becomes image' in his 1967 book *Society of the Spectacle*. With post-industrial cities being thoroughly commodified in our time, the built environment has been increasingly transformed into spaces

of spectacle. Being spectacular is so fundamental for cities and nation-states to boost their global visibility that signature architecture, theme parks, expo sites, Olympic parks have been built at a rapid pace throughout the world in the past two decades. What are the possible affiliations to the politics of spectacle? In what ways has architectural spectacle contributed to the identity construction and branding processes of cities and nations? How do global and local constellations of power play out in the making of spectacle? How have related processes and mechanisms transformed architectural practice and education? And in what ways should theories of the spectacle be rethought in relation to recent developments of transnational architectural practices, hyper-commodified culture, and globalised nationalism?

This special issue will explore these questions by bringing together articles ranging from critiques of selected projects and profession practices to broad concerns about the recent theorisation of the spectacle, the relationship between architecture and consumption, and the meanings of urban and national identity in a global era.

There will be a two-stage process. Please forward a 500-word abstract to d.lu@arch.usyd.edu.au by 1 December 2007 (in the subject line of the email write: 'Spectacle_your last name'). Full papers of 5,000–7,000 words will be required by 1 March 2008. All papers will be blind refereed by two readers.

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