WHAT IS AGENCY IN THE CONTEXT OF ARCHITECTURE?

In what ways can research be transformative? How can we make sure that transformative research is progressive? Can a Research Centre which is not hierarchically organised and one that is based on informal collaborations have a place in an academic institution? How can we foster transdisciplinary dialogue and critical action? Can transformative research become performative? Can activist research have a place in the academic institution?

WHAT IS PARTICIPATIVE RESEARCH IN ARCHITECTURE?

What is the politics of the knowledge we produce? As architects, do we think about the users of our research in the same way we think about the users of our buildings? What is needed for true collaborations in the research process? What is the economy of our research projects?

HOW CAN RESEARCH BE MORE ACCESSIBLE TO NON-ACADEMICS?

What kind of communication can make it accessible? What kind of education do we support? How could we link a student-powered education with a user-powered practice? Why is it important to link practice with research and with education? Why does architectural practice need to change? ‘Who’ and ‘What’ will empower this change?
-/practice

In November 2008 AGENCY hosted the 5th AHRA (Architectural Humanities Research Association) international conference at ICOSS, The University of Sheffield (Sheffield, 2008). AGENCY has initiated a number of projects at the intersection between research, education, practice and civic action. One of these is the formation of ‘Inconspicuous Yellow Office’ (IYO) in partnership with atelier d’architecture autogérée (Paris), public works, GLAS, citymined, PS2, EcoRoof (Paris, 2009-2010) (www.ecoroof.ning.com) - Inconspicuous Yellow Office

This initiative ‘Inconspicuous Yellow Office’ and its architectural practice and theoretical foundation are a platform to support and encourage the development of research into architecture and urbanism through a more collaborative and less exclusive approach. “Inconspicuous Yellow Office” was set up in 2006 by members of the nascent Research Centre AGENCY in partnership with atelier d’architecture autogérée, public works, GLAS, citymined, PS2, EcoRoof (Paris, 2009-2010) (www.ecoroof.ning.com)

The IYO projects shown here are about the spaces and ideas that are not only vital to the future practitioner but are frameworks of emerging territories, of competing new activations, of the future of the city.

Members of AGENCY Collaborative include Susan Jakab, Emma Penrice, Felipe Silvestre, Rodney Eynon, Heather Walker and Peter Maclean of the Paul Watts,View Research Centre, Sheffield School of Architecture.

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- Inconspicuous Yellow Office
- - Inconspicuous Yellow Office

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Members of AGENCY have published articles individually and collectively on the topic of agency in the city.

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Research/centres/agency.html

AGENCY projects and publications are available on the website www.spatialagency.net/

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Research

Agencies are emerging as important political and cultural agencies that are responding to fragmented social, political and economic conditions. This includes non-governmental organisations,民间组织, local community groups and many others involved in the transformation of urban spaces and the organisation of urban life. The issue of agencies is increasingly significant within both urban sociologies and architectural theory.

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