

A Talk by Fabrizio Gallanti
Las Ciudades del Boom

Economic Growth, Urban Life and Architecture in the Latin American City, 1989 – 2014

Chatham Building, Room 809, Tuesday 2 May 2017 @ 6:00

Talk Abstract

The lecture illustrates some aspects of the ongoing research “Las Ciudades del Boom”, which explores the consequences of the economic growth experienced in Latin America in the past 25 years on the social and spatial organization of cities. The research analyzes how the modification of political systems and the parallel neo-liberal restructuring of economy have impacted on the production of space. Critical analysis considers the connections between new phenomena of urban transformation, renewed social articulations and the surge of responses from the design fields.

Within the general frame of a contemptuous concept as “Latin America”, the research explores for local differentiations and particularities, through the observation of a series of case-studies. The role of informality in Lima, Peru; the surge of gated communities in Santiago de Chile and Buenos Aires in Argentina; the use of architectural design as a political tool in Curitiba, Brazil or Medellin, Colombia are some of the examples touched by the research.

Latin America is one of the most urbanized areas of the planet, with an active role played by cities since the colonization by Spain since the XVI century, therefore it represents a powerful field for study, anticipating tendencies and threads that have later occurred in other contexts. The research intends to detect, describe, map and analyze specific local conditions, with the objective of identifying the common patterns and tendencies or on the opposite of highlighting differentiations that may characterize the contemporary Latin American city.

Different themes such as “Public infrastructure and collective equipment as a reaction to neo-liberal development” or “The response from architecture: education, new professional roles and media” will be explored in the lecture. The research is supported by grants from the Mellon Foundation and the Graham Foundation.

About the Speaker

Fabrizio Gallanti is an architect, curator and writer based in Montreal, Canada. He is course lecturer at the School of Architecture of McGill University and visiting professor at the Architectural Association in London. In 2003, he founded with Francisca Insulza FIG Projects, an experimental studio that explores the boundaries between architecture, urban research and visual arts. FIG Projects curated the exhibition “The World in Our Eyes” at the 2016 Lisbon Architecture Triennale. Between 2007 and 2011 he was architecture editor at Abitare magazine and between 2011 and 2014 he was the Associate Director Programs at the Canadian centre for Architecture in Montreal.

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This event is co-organized by postgraduate research students in architecture, The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University.