



World
Architecture
Festival
Singapore
1-3 October 2014
Marina Bay Sands

Art and Public Spaces

Cultures in Cities

Presented by the British Council

2 October 2014
12.00 - 12.40 PM
Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre

Introduction

This year's theme at WAF is Architects and the City. In this session we take a broad look at the theme from the perspective of cities and culture. Cultural activity is almost unthinkable without the creative interaction that cities offer, and almost all cultural advances have taken place in and through cities.

Architecture is both a cultural activity and a contributor to making cities, but it is not the only way of engaging with culture and not uniquely responsible for the urban environment. Our discussion will look at how different arts play a vital role, combining with architecture – as well as planning and engineering – in creating a public urban realm that is stimulating, enjoyable and inclusive.

That can take many forms. Permanent artworks can be commissioned for public spaces, bringing different experiences and meanings and fostering collective and personal memories that architecture alone could never achieve. Public space, with or without imaginative artworks, might foster spontaneous creative reactions; institutions can then focus and intensify particular forms of cultural activity, taking them to new levels of achievement through the architectural qualities of rarified space.

Our panellists will discuss the nature of creative relationships and interactions in enhancing urban life, and how cities themselves can foster these activities. We will also look at how the public realm can be, to paraphrase the words of Richard Rogers, a place where all people, all races and all creeds can meet and benefit from each others' company.

Moderator

Jeremy Melvin



Jeremy Melvin has been curator of WAF since the first Festival in 2008, developing themed content for talks, films and exhibitions. He was until recently Consultant Curator for Architecture at the Royal Academy of Arts, where he curated the acclaimed exhibition Richard Rogers: Inside Out which ran from July – October 2013, and was the RA's first major exhibition about a contemporary architect for over a decade. He studied architecture and the history of architecture at the Bartlett School, UCL. Curating has always been a part of his career, but in the past combined it with teaching architectural

history and writing for the professional, national and international press, papers in academic journals and several books, including ...Isms: Understanding Architecture.

Jeremy Melvin

Curator
World Architecture Festival

Panellists

Roland Davies



Roland Davies was born and brought up on the island of Anglesey in North Wales and his early education was bilingual: Welsh and English. He studied History at the University of London. After obtaining the RSA Certificate TEFL he worked for a private language school in Turkey before joining the British Council in 1991.

He worked in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as a Consultant, Teacher and Teacher-trainer. From 1993 to 1998 he worked in Tokyo, Japan, first as a Teacher and then Manager of Corporate Services, before taking up the post of Manager of the British Council in Nagoya, Japan. He completed a Masters degree in Education Management in 2001. In the same year, Roland

moved to British Council headquarters in London to take up post as Deputy Regional Director for East and South Asia. After four years in the UK he moved to Singapore in July 2005 and worked as Deputy Director for four years where he was principally in charge of the Council's English language work.

From August 2009 to July 2013, Roland worked as Director South Korea where he was responsible for all British Council activity in the country across English language, education, arts, social enterprise and climate change.

Roland returned to Singapore in August 2013 as Director.

Panellists

Professor Sir Peter Cook



Professor Sir Peter Cook RA (born 22 October 1936) is a notable English architect, lecturer and writer on architectural subjects. He was a founder of Archigram, and was knighted in 2007 by the Queen for his services to architecture and teaching.

He is also a Royal Academician and a Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres of the French Republic. His achievements with Archigram were recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 2004, when the group was awarded the Royal Gold Medal.

Former director of London's Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, Professor sat the Staedelschule in Frankfurt-Main, Director of Art Net in London and curator of the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. He was awarded the Royal Gold Medal of the RIBA as a member of 'Archigram'.

The Tschumi Medal of the UIA and has won a number of competitions.

Some of which have been built, such as his arts building, the Kunsthaus (aka 'The Friendly Alien') in Graz, Austria (with Colin Fournier) which brought his work to a wider public.

In 2013 he (along with his studio CRAB) completed the Vienna Business and Economics University's new law faculty) and Australia's newest school of architecture, the Abedian School of Architecture at Bond University on the Gold Coast.

Cook has also built in Osaka, Nagoya, Berlin and Madrid. His continuing work as a lecturer takes him to cultural institutions around the world.

He practices with Gavin Robotham as CRAB studio (Cook Robotham Architectural Bureau).

Honor Harger



Honor Harger is the Executive Director for ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands. A curator from New Zealand, she has a strong interest in artistic uses of technologies and in science as part of culture. Honor brings with her over 15 years of experience of working at the intersection between art, science and technology. She is responsible for charting the overall direction and strategy for ArtScience Museum.

Prior to joining Marina Bay Sands, she was the artistic director of Lighthouse in Brighton, United Kingdom, from 2010 to 2014. In that role, Honor curated projects which showed the cultural impact of scientific ideas, such as Laboratory Life, Invisible Fields and Solar System. She also organised exhibitions by artists such as Trevor Paglen, Timo Arnall and David Blandy, commissioned new work by Semiconductor, Hide&Seek, The Otolith Group and James Bridle, and co-founded Brighton Digital Festival.

Through her career, Honor has held several key appointments in the United Kingdom, New Zealand

and Australia, and has curated many international exhibitions and events around the world. From 2009-2010 she was guest curator of Transmediale, an international festival of art and digital culture in Berlin. From 2004–2008, she was the director of the AV Festival, the UK's largest biennial of media art, film and music. She was the first webcasting curator for Tate Modern in London from 2000-2003, where she also curated events and concerts on art and technology. Honor has also worked for Radio One and Artspace in New Zealand, and the Australian Network for Art and Technology in Australia.

Honor's artistic practice is produced under the name *radioquailia*, which is a collaboration with Adam Hyde. One of their main projects was Radio Astronomy, a radio station broadcasting sounds from space.

Honor has lectured widely including at the conferences TED, and LIFT, as well as at the European Space Agency, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, California Institute of the Arts and the American Film Institute.



The World Architecture Festival

The World Architecture Festival is the largest live, inclusive and interactive global awards programme for the architecture community.

Attracting an international selection of visitors and entrants, WAF is a unique meeting place for architects, suppliers and clients: the profession's only annual forum to network and celebrate its global achievements while discussing today's major industry issues.

WAF is a superb opportunity to meet and speak with influential clients, keep up-to-date with the world's most innovative and exciting architecture and enjoy keynote speeches from renowned architects, commentators and clients.



British Council

For over 75 years the British Council has created international opportunities for the people of the United Kingdom and other countries and to forge relationships worldwide. The British Council is active in over 100 countries, working with millions of people, connecting them with the UK, sharing its culture and its most attractive assets: English, the Arts, Education and our ways of living and organising society.

The British Council works with governments to transform whole education systems to increase opportunity and employability through English. We also deliver English teaching and training of teachers in developing and post conflict countries.

In the Arts we work with the best of British and international artistic and creative talent to develop events and collaborations which link thousands of artists, organisations and audiences worldwide. In addition to staging shows and exhibitions, we partner with others on joint Arts projects and help develop creative leadership, professional networks and cultural educational programmes worldwide.

Acknowledgements

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Professor Sir Peter Cook, RA

Honor Harger

Executive Director of ArtScience Museum at MBS

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