

Exhibition Press Release

Architectural Association School of Architecture
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Clip, Stamp, Fold: The Radical Architecture of Little Magazines, 196X–197X

12 November to 7 December 2007
AA Gallery

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of international interest in the architecture of the 1960s and 1970s. Yet the role of the many experimental publications that were the engine of that intensely creative period has been largely neglected. The exhibition *Clip, Stamp, Fold: The Radical Architecture of Little Magazines, 196X–197X* tracks the critical function of the little magazine in architecture during these years, when a remarkable outburst of publications disseminated and catalyzed a range of experimental practices. Coined in the early twentieth century to designate progressive literary journals, the term ‘little magazine’ was remobilised during the 1960s to grapple with the contemporary proliferation of independent architectural periodicals that appeared in response to the political, social and artistic changes of the period. *Clip, Stamp, Fold* investigates how an internationally diverse group of architectural little magazines informed the development of postwar architectural culture. During that fertile period, the AA too acted as an incubator for a number of ephemeral, feisty titles – including ‘White Rabbit’ and ‘ARse’ – that testify to London’s key role in the culture of ‘little magazines’.

In the exhibition, the terms ‘little’ and ‘magazine’ are not taken at face value. In addition to short-lived, self-published magazines, *Clip, Stamp, Fold* includes pamphlets and building instruction manuals, as well as professional magazines that experienced ‘moments of littleness’, influenced by the graphics and intellectual concerns of little magazines. The exhibition charts the temporal progression and transformation of the phenomenon of little magazines through the design of their covers, and also takes stock of different magazine forms, introducing rare originals from private collections and providing facsimiles accessible to the public. These displays will be complemented by a selection of interviews with editors and designers of these publications.

If the little magazines of the 1960s and 1970s were the engine of an intensely creative period of architectural design, they also provided a space for architectural theory to flourish and an arena for critical discussion of the role of politics and new technologies in architecture. With their dissemination, these innovative and energetic documents also established a global network of exchange amongst architectural students, avant-garde architects and theorists. An implicit aim of the exhibition, then, is to invite reflection on contemporary uses of media in architecture, and how this fits into a broader historical context. Assembled together for the first time, these remarkable documents offer a unique view of a key period of architectural innovation and challenge today’s architects to provoke a similar intensity.

Clip, Stamp, Fold originated at the Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York and then toured to the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal and Documenta XII, Kassel. The Architectural Association School of Architecture is proud to host the London ‘issue’ of the exhibition, curated by Beatriz Colomina with Craig Buckley, Anthony Fontenot, Urtzi Grau, Lisa Hsieh, Alicia Imperiale, Lydia Kallipoliti, Daniel Lopez-Perez and Irene Sunwoo from Princeton University, with the collaboration of Olympia Kazi.

Two ‘little symposia’ will accompany the show. The first, on Saturday 10 November, will bring together key protagonists from the 60s and 70s in a series of conversations surrounding the necessary rise and fall of ‘little magazines’ in those times of change. On Wednesday 21 November, a younger generation of magazine editors, publishers and designers will speak about the influence of ‘little magazines’ on their own work.

Private view Friday 9 November 6.30pm

Open to the public from Monday 12 November to Friday 7 December 2007

Symposia Saturday 10 November & Wednesday 21 November

Opening times Monday to Friday 10.00am–7.00pm; Saturday 10.00am–3.00pm

Press images are available from Simone Sagi
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