Architectural Association
School of Architecture
Prospectus 2014–15
Public Programme
The AA Public Programme is the world’s largest year-long series of public events dedicated to contemporary architectural culture. Evening lectures, exhibitions, publications, open workshops, symposia, performances and other events bring together audiences who are interested in new kinds of architectural projects, ideas and emerging forms of practice. Every year the AA attracts hundreds of visitors – architects, artists, designers, scholars and other creative individuals and practices at the forefront of contemporary culture – who present their ideas through the AA’s numerous channels.
Lectures

The AA’s main lecture hall has played host to the world’s leading architects over many decades – from the 1995 launch of *S, M, L, XL* by Rem Koolhaas and Bruce Mau, to after-dinner speeches in the 1930s by Alvar Aalto, to an evening conversation with Mies van der Rohe in the 1950s and Le Corbusier’s first-ever UK speech a decade before. It has also been the site of iconic, era-defining presentations by non-architects, including the physicist Stephen Hawking, NASA astronauts, Salman Rushdie and countless others. More jazz club than auditorium, the intimate atmosphere of the lecture hall remains a central focus of the school’s larger cultural life – one that extends to dozens of similar venues across the five continents that host the annual AA Visiting Schools.
(Clockwise from opposite) Andrea Branzi, 2010; Format lecture series 2014; Le Corbusier visits the AA, 1953
Peter Eisenman in conversation, 2010 (above) and Robert Venturi, 2009 (right)
Cedric Price, Mohsen Mostafavi, Akira Suzuki and Shin Egashira at the AA’s 150th Birthday, 1997 (above); audience at Ren Koolhaas’ lecture, 2007; Paul Elliman, 2007 (above, opposite) and Grayson Perry, 2010 (right)
Peter Smithson, 1988 (opposite, above) and John Pawson, 2010 (left); Owen Hatherley, 2011 (this page, above) and Keller Easterling, 2013 (right)
In the academic year 2013–14 AA Exhibitions organised, designed and built 20 major exhibitions across the school’s five gallery spaces, working with contributors from within the AA as well as a diverse group of architects and artists from Milan to Montreal. This past summer AA Exhibitions collaborated with the Chilean studio, GUN Architects, to build ‘Rainforest’ in Bedford Square – a hugely popular pavilion and part of the London Festival of Architecture. In addition, the AA’s manifestation of Le Corbusier’s Maison Dom-Ino, designed by vbvb studio and built by AA Exhibitions, was a key component of the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale.

The upcoming academic year begins with a takeover by London-based Ordinary Studio, which promises a live laboratory of experimental materials. The year will also see the reconstruction of Maison Dom-ino here in Bedford Square, major exhibitions by Cedric Libert and Didier Faustino and investigations into Bolivian kitsch, wartime pillboxes, the amazing Archigram and the extremely varied outputs of Muriel Cooper.
(Clockwise from left) Rainforest by GUN Architects, 2014; OMA Book Machine, 2010; Inter 2 Summer Pavilion, 2009
(Clockwise from left) Rob Voerman, Bad Buildings, Good Spaces exhibition, 2006; Panel, by Pedro Alonso and Hugo Palmarola, 2014; Bookable Space, 2010; Pergola, by Dan Graham, 1997
Zaha Hadid at the Planetary Architecture exhibition opening, 1983; furniture design by Zaha Hadid, 1988; Cedric Price Wish We Were Here, 2011.
(Clockwise from left) Swiss Design, 2010; Inter 2 Summer Pavilion, 2007; Future Systems, 1987; Foreign Office Architects, 1993; Mary Miss’ installation. Bedford Square, 1987
Publications

AA Publications is one of the world’s leading architectural publishers. The 2014/15 editorial programme includes the launch of more than two dozen titles by architects, artists, AA tutors and students. The AA’s own Print Studio includes architectural editors, graphic designers and an art director.

AA Publications incorporates an in-house imprint, Bedford Press, publishing books and ebooks at the intersection of architecture, visual art, graphic design and theory. School Director and AA Publications Director, Brett Steele, is the founder and editor of two regularly appearing series of architectural books: AA Agendas, which has published more than a dozen monographs on the work of AA students, units and programmes; and Architecture Words, a quarterly series of books that includes the recent critical writings, translations and transcriptions of Rem Koolhaas, Peter Eisenman, Lina Bo Bardi, Toyo Ito, Denise Scott Brown, Kengo Kuma and many others. 2014–15 titles in the series feature writings by Anthony Vidler, Sylvia Lavin and Alessandra Ponte.

In 2012 the AA opened its enlarged specialist AA Bookshop on the ground floor of 32 Bedford Square. The bookshop is open throughout the year and carries a wide range of books related to contemporary architectural culture. The shop hosts book launches and other special events related to architectural publishing.
(Opposite Page, clockwise from top left) 2014 AA Publications – *Little Worlds*, edited by Natasha Sandmeier; *Third Natures: A Micropedia*, by Cristina Díaz Moreno and Efrén Gó Grinda; Panel, by Pedro Alonso and Hugo Palmarola; *Architecture Words* available for e-readers; *AA Files* 68; (this page) AA Print Studio (above) and AA Bookshop (right), photos Brotherton-Lock
Panel book launch, June 2014 (left); Contestations book launch, November 2013 (above); (opposite page): Bedford Press 2013/14 publications: Any Part, Any Form, All Possible Futures; Real Estates, and Bedford Press ebooks
Increasingly, AA public events include overseas exhibitions, presentations and public forums. In recent years major retrospectives and presentations of unit and programme work have been arranged at the Tanaka Corporation in Tokyo, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and other museums and galleries. Exhibitions curated and arranged by AA Exhibitions and the AACP Curatorial Projects team have travelled extensively throughout Europe, Asia and North America. AA Visiting School short courses and design workshops frequently feature public lectures and other special events, which are announced online throughout the year.
(Clockwise from left) Taiwan Visiting School, 2014; Daejon Visiting School, 2010; Bedford Press at the LA Art Book Fair, 2014
Membership

The Architectural Association was founded as a membership-based organisation in 1847, and today AA Membership still plays an integral role in the AA School. Becoming a member means being part of an inspiring and dynamic global community of professionals, alumni, students, researchers and academics from many fields with a mutual interest in architecture. All registered AA Students are AA Members with access to numerous benefits, including exclusive trips and building visits. They can become involved in the life of the AA in a variety of ways, from organising events to helping shape the AA’s future. Several students hold positions on AA Council.
Members’ trips (clockwise from left) Hooke Park, 2012; the Institute of Making, UCL, 2013; Liverpool, 2014.
Members’ trip to Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, 2013 (above); all other photos Vienna and Brno; (overleaf) Projects Review Members’ Evening.
www.aaschool.ac.uk/events