



PIPES IN REVOLT

ADVANCED DESIGN STUDIO · GSAPP COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

ANDRÉS JAQUE / OFFICE FOR POLITICAL INNOVATION
with PATRICK CRAINE · FALL 2015

I. Society, environments and bodies are constructed by pipes, by the architecture of pipes.

EVIDENCES: 1The environmental performance of New York estuaries depends and is affected by NY's combined-sewage system's design. 2In 321 Park Avenue, Carrara-marble bathtubs with helicopter-views have become the ultimate feature to attract the wealthy to buy high-end condominiums, and therefore contributes to the making of the growing NYC's social inequality. 3Wellness culture has become the architectural plus to the fastest-growing corporative body-making corporation: EQUINOX FITNESS. 4The great financial cost of developing and regulating underground sanitary networks is preventing funeral homes to move away from NYC, becoming the last industry (an endangered architectural spicity) to leave town. 5The circuit of EDM dance clubs is only composed by those clubs that probe to succeed engineered their pipes to maximize their capacity to connect the flow of blood, sweat and drugs.

Pipes are society and contribute to construct society; operating simultaneously at heterogeneous scales (from environment to bodies, from ecosystems to pills). Pipes are radical architectures, from which chained interscalar designs are prompted everyday. Architecture as a practice can be challenge by the alternatives we can introduce to pipes, and to the way a number of diverse entities relate to pipes.

II. Shifts

The studio proposes three shifts in the way architecture deals with pipes:

SHIFT 1: Pipes are not technical problems to be automatically shorted out, but urbanisms in which politics, science, ethics and aesthetics are assamblaged.

SHIFT 2: Pipes are not the domain of plumbers but they affect to numerous entities, each one operating in different spaces, with diverse evolutions, interests and materiality. The work will consist on changing the pipes so the relationship between those numerous entities can be rearticulated.

SHIFT 3: We will move from the idea of revolution as a total replacement and a 360° twist in power, to Peter Sloterdijk's idea of revolution as an inflational project, in which a reality is expanded to then get reassembled to incorporate new presences and tensions in the previous compositions.



III. What is that that we will be doing?

Step #1 What is happening in this super-relevant infrastructures?

The studio members will account rapidly the way pipes are constituted and the way they participate to the making of four socially-super-relevant infrastructures:

1. Equinox Fitness Club, Manhattan
2. Funeral Home, Manhattan
3. Output Dance Club, Williamsburg
4. Newton Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, Queens

The whole studio will visit all the locations as field work excursions

Talk by Andrés Jaque: The Politics of Infrastructures, From Description to Prescription (COSMO, Escaravox, Democratic Sponge, PHANTOM Mies as Render Society as Case Studies)

Step #2 What can-we/should-we do as architects when intervening in them?

The studio members will detect what are the technological, political, cultural tensions that the super-relevant infrastructures are participating; we will consider those tensions as the matrix of needed evolutions the design will cater to.

Talk by Andrés Jaque: The Embodiment of Politics in Architecture (50 ways of making architecture political)

Step #3 Development: design as the obtaining of allies

The studio members will progressively introduce complexity in the project by introducing new sectors of society, and expanding the scope of the project to cater to them. "Revolting" here will be practiced as an enrolment-based activity.

Talk by Albená Yavena (University of Manchester)

Talks by Andrés Jaque and Patrick Craine on the use of models, drawings and performative documents in the enrolment-based development of architectural designs.

Step #4 Edition and discussion

The studio members will elaborate their researches and designs so they can ensure their capacity to intervene professional, scholarly, cultural and political contexts.

IV. ADVISORS (They will provide advise, expertise, reviews and access to restricted facilities):

The Department of Environmental Protection of the City of New York
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

V. ONE DAY TRIP OR VISIT:

The studio will engage on a number of one-day trips including the Newton Creek Wastewaterplant, the Crompton Reservoir and underground wastewater facilities of the City of New York among others.