PolyU Design Public Lectures

All lectures are open to general public

Online Registration: https://services.sd.polyu.edu.hk/publiclectures

Enquiry: (852) 2766 5454

Email: sdmktg@polyu.edu.hk

About PolyU Design Public Lectures Series
The talk series aims to introduce the wide range of design practice through the work of specialists’ practitioners in their fields. From Stage Design to Product Design, Architectural Design or Fashion Design the selected guest speakers will share their current research and projects but also use the framework of their discipline to participate to a wider discussion on the contemporary preoccupations of design.

Monday 25/02
7:00–8:30pm
Stage Design – Western Opera Design in a Conservatory Setting
Thomas C. Umfrid
www.theumfridstudio.com

Monday 25/03
5:00–6:30pm
Architectural Design – A Chinese Reality Through Project Practice
Marlène Leroux
www.archiplein.com

Wednesday 27/03
5:00–6:30pm
Climatic Architecture – Recent projects by dl-a: designlab-architecture, Geneva, Switzerland
Inès Lamunière
www.dl-a.ch

Monday 22/04
5:00–6:30pm
Product Design – Exploring the Territory Between Industry and Craft
Julie Progin & Jesse Mc Lin
www.latitude22n.com

Thursday 28/03
5:00–6:30pm
Territory Architecture – Appropriation of a Land
Ludovic Malbet
www.mu-a.fr

Monday April 08/04
5:00–6:30pm
Fashion Design – Fabricating Familiarity – Art and Design and the Everyday
Kain Picken
www.ffixxed.com

Additional Information:
- Admission will be on a first-register-first-served basis. Free admission.
- All lectures will be conducted in English.
- Programmes are subject to change without prior notice.
- All lectures will take place at Room A122 (Courtyard), School of Design, Core A, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University except the first lecture.
Fashion Design – Fabricating Familiarity –
Melbourne, ffiXXed established their own in-house production studio in Wutong Mountain, China.

About ffiXXed
Mr. Umfrid has been a theatrical design professional and university educator for 36 years. 2013 marks his 26th year as professor and senior resident scenic designer for the College Conservatory of Music (CCM) in the USA and his second year as Head of Design at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. Since 1987 he has created more than 66 theatrical designs for CCM including Dialogue of the Carmelites, Falstaff, Evita, Don Giovanni, Werther, On the Town, The Elixir of Love, Pelléas and Mélisande, Le Nozze di Figaro, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, The Crucible, Russkaja, My One and Only, Monon Le Moncho, The Secret Garden, The Rake’s Progress, Don Pasquale, and Albert Herring. For the HKAPA he has designed the operas The Cunning Little Vixen (2013), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (2012), Suor Angelica, and Gianni Schicchi (1997).

Climatic Architecture – Recent projects by dl-a; designlab-architecture, Geneva, Switzerland

Guest Speakers

Stage Design – Western Opera Design in a Conservatory Setting
Thomas C. Umfrid

- **Date & Time**: Monday 25/02, 7:00–8:30pm
- **Venue**: Room AG101 (Gallery), School of Design
- **Organization**: Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, College Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- **Profile**: Prof. of Set and Costume Design, Head of Department of Design, HKAPA, Senior Resident Designer; College Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Synopsis of the lecture
The talk will introduce stage design as an applied practice where the designer must be facile with the entire process: from the design idea all the way through performance. Using case studies of opera design in a conservatory setting Thomas will show the wide range of skills and processes a working stage designer must be familiar with and stress how collaboration and communication with the “manufacturing team” is vital for taking the stage design idea to realization.

About Thomas C. Umfrid
Mr. Umfrid has been a theatrical design professional and university educator for 36 years. 2013 marks his 26th year as professor and senior resident scenic designer for the College Conservatory of Music (CCM) in the USA and his second year as Head of Design at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts. Since 1987 he has created more than 66 theatrical designs for CCM including Dialogue of the Carmelites, Falstaff, Evita, Don Giovanni, Werther, On the Town, The Elixir of Love, Pelléas and Mélisande, Le Nozze di Figaro, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest, The Crucible, Russkaja, My One and Only, Monon Le Moncho, The Secret Garden, The Rake’s Progress, Don Pasquale, and Albert Herring. For the HKAPA he has designed the operas The Cunning Little Vixen (2013), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (2012), Suor Angelica, and Gianni Schicchi (1997).

Architectural Design – A Chinese Reality Through Project Practice
Marlène Leroux

- **Date & Time**: Monday 25/03, 5:00–6:30pm
- **Venue**: Room A122 (Courtyard), School of Design
- **Organization**: Archiplein Shanghai - Geneva; LAMU Lab - ETH/EPFL
- **Profile**: Architect ETH, founder partner of Archiplein Office, PhD candidate at EDAM/ETH/EPFL

Synopsis of the lecture
Archiplein Office daily practice considers the project not only as producing practice but also as knowledge creator. Each project, from a tea house in a sacred Taoist mountain to a new city master plan, always interacts with local specificity to create a new context. Through the prism of their practice Archiplein proposes a certain way of understanding the Chinese reality.

About Archiplein
Archiplein is an architectural group, composed of five partners: Marlène Leroux, Fang Weiye, Francis Jacquier, Feng Yang and Wang Mingbo based in Shanghai (China) and Geneva (Switzerland). Their work is constantly enriched by the exchanges between the poles of Europe and Asia. Marlène Leroux and her office are deeply involved in a reflective communication of the present Chinese situation; producing projects, articles, exhibitions (HK/SZ Biennale, Shanghai Art Biennale). She is now PhD candidate at LAMU Lab (Laboratory Architecture and Urban Mobility).

Product Design – Exploring the Territory Between Industry and Craft
Julie Progin & Jesse Mc Lin

- **Date & Time**: Monday 22/04, 5:00–6:30pm
- **Venue**: Room A122 (Courtyard), School of Design
- **Organization**: Latitude 22N
- **Profile**: MFA Ceramic Sculpture at Alfred State School of the Arts and Crafts, New York State; Associate Professor of Ceramic and Sculpture at Parsons, New York/BFA in textile design at ESAA

Synopsis of the lecture
Latitude 22N has been working for the past five years between cosmopolitan Hong Kong and China’s capital of porcelain craft, Jingdezhen. Through their experiences and stories Latitude 22N will explore the designer’s contemporary struggle to find balance between history, traditional skills and local craft versus global culture, mass production and technology.

About Latitude 22N
Latitude 22N is a Hong Kong based design studio co-founded by Jesse Mc Lin and Julie Progin. Since its inception in 2008, the studio has developed their own collections of contemporary porcelain tableware, accessories, lighting and furniture for their label Latitude 22N as well as more experimental, limited edition designs exploring the fine lines between art and design and the territory of industrial and craft processes for their label Julie&Jesse. Their work has received HK design for Asia Award, is being represented by international design galleries and retailers around the world and will be exhibited this year in Korea, Milan and Paris.

 Territory Architecture – Appropriation of a Land
Ludovic Malbet

- **Date & Time**: Wednesday 27/03, 5:00–6:30pm
- **Venue**: Room A122 (Courtyard), School of Design
- **Organization**: MU Architecture, Paris
- **Profile**: Co-founder of Mu Architecture, Studio Tutor at l’Ecole Spéciale d’Architecture (ESA)

Synopsis of the lecture
By choosing the mythical continent, MU is creating an identity that goes above and beyond mere architectural style. The field of exploration is projected in this land-continent. An initially hostile and infertile land, it finds its very definition in its experiences. In turn, these experiences create an eventually rich and unified landscape. All the encounters that have taken place in the development of these projects, with their varying objectives and scales, create a sort of mosaic, an increasingly coherent and singular image. This is a landscape that ultimately reflects the work that MU does.

About Ludovic Malbet
Ludovic Malbet has started his Architect’s career at the firm Wonderland Productions as project manager. His professional path has taken him to Tokyo where he worked at Atelier Bow Wow and to San Francisco in the heart of the Holt Hindshaw firm.

In 2009 Malbet has founded with Maira Caldorelli Vitaldi and Grégoire Dubreu Mu Architecture which is located in the heart of Paris. The office was awarded by the prestigious prize AAPJ 2012 (Les Albumes des Jeunes Architectes et Paysagistes). Since 2012 Malbet is running an Architectural Studio at l’Ecole Spéciale d’Architecture (ESA), Paris.

Fashion Design – Fabricating Familiarity –
Art and Design and the Everyday
Kain Picken

- **Date & Time**: Monday 08/04, 5:00–6:30pm
- **Venue**: Room A122 (Courtyard), School of Design
- **Organization**: RITXed
- **Profile**: Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, Australia. Co-founder and co-creative director of the international fashion and art project RITXed.

Synopsis of the lecture
The lecture will introduce the various activities of RITXed, how we have transitioned from a collaborative art project to a seasonal fashion brand, discussing how we work as a collaborative, cross-disciplinary practice. We will discuss how working between different contexts (art and fashion) has informed our practice and at what points these two fields intersect, presenting examples of previous projects, successes and failures. We also will discuss the underlying concept and vision that drives our activities, including examples of other works that have informed our own practice. We will conclude by elaborating on what we would like to achieve with our projects and what broader ideas with regard to the consumption of contemporary culture can be addressed.

About RITXed
RITXed is a collaborative art and design project initiated by artist/designers Kain Picken and Fiona Lai in Berlin, February 2008. Their focus is split between the production of a unisex, prêt a porter fashion label and elaborating a series of new and unexpected forms of trans-functionality for every-day basics.

In February 2010, after moving between studio spaces in Berlin, Hong Kong, New York and Melbourne, RITXed established their own in-house production studio in Wutong Mountain, China.