

ARCHITECTURE'S
NOW, NEAR & NEXT

JANUARY 25 2020
NEW YORK CITY

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WELCOME

Thank you for joining us today and welcome to this inaugural edition of The World Around, a new global forum committed to presenting the most exciting and critical ideas and spaces today: the now, near and next in architectural culture.

For this New York edition, we have invited 22 very different participants from six continents, each presenting one newly completed project or body of work. We hope the cumulative effect of these diverse forms of practice will resonate with the broader global forces leading contemporary architectural discourse, as well as revealing singular ways of thinking and seeing.

Through a series of quick-fire presentations, conversations and discussions, we will be introduced to new ways of reconnecting with and reconstructing the world around us. We will consider how our data and identity is being translated by and with technology, educational systems and architecture today. Our speakers will see that the work and influence of architectural thinking around us is seen not only in buildings, but also in artistic practices, books, films, exhibitions, research and planning.

Our aim is that this conference will inspire and challenge—but also give pause for reflection. This exploration into the expansive and stimulating culture of global architecture should open up the discipline to diverse fields and connect the people capable of sharing and solving the issues in our field today.

The World Around is deeply indebted to our founding, global and official sponsorship partners: AREA Capital, East Rock Capital, Facebook, M&T Bank and Arper, and our design, production and partnerships teams. We are proud to live-stream the whole event on www.dezeen.com and for selected schools of architecture across the country.

On behalf of myself and my co-founders, executive director Beatrice Galilee and managing director Alexandra Hodkowski, we look forward to having you with us today.

DIEGO MARROQUIN
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
THE WORLD AROUND

ARCHITECTURE-ISH

BEATRICE GALILEE

I owe my love of architecture to innumerable, cumulative experiences, but the times spent in hushed lecture halls or bent over books and magazines were formative encounters, where I joined the dots between thought and practice. Along with future visits to seminal places in Vals, Rome, Caracas, Venice and Beijing, it was these days of studying, tracing over drawings and highlighting words in auditoria and libraries that remain profoundly important.

Twenty years later, the ways to consume architectural culture are far more dynamic and diverse, while the sprawling domain of its practice has become polyphonic. It plays across mutating online media and a proliferation of digital worlds and spaces. Its protagonists occupy positions of power or influence, from politicians to climate scientists, material researchers or film directors. Their work is chewed and digested in equal parts by both the lives it immediately touches and those watching and learning through mediation. This diversity of formats and methodologies could come under the umbrella term of the *architecture-ish*.

It is into this fascinating and contradictory context of the *architecture-ish* that we introduce our new organization and platform for thought and exchange, The World Around. The heterogenous curatorial framework of this summit is organized around the premise of an annual gathering of truly global voices that will share the 'now, near and next of architecture'. Much like a time-capsule, we will present, then archive each work as a record of the most essential and critical architectural projects of our time. We have found buildings, films, publications, strategies, exhibitions and installations that will collectively reconfigure our relations to architecture and all its materials and potentialities, and propose ways of working and living that are full of promise and optimism. We also expect to reflect on aspects of our society that we must collectively address and improve.

The individuals and studios we have invited will share what *is* happening in architecture, as opposed to what *was* and what *may* be. These just-finished works are potent enough that the process of their making is still resonating in the present. Our *is* should not exclude the beauty and magic of the speculative or fantastical, but be considered as a way of untangling and converging a dazzling array of contemporary thought and practice at a single given time: in this case, January 25, 2020.

Architecture as a global discipline has migrated from the realms of the built environment to take on new forms of practice that require serious reflection. Last year, exhibitions such as 2019 Chicago Architecture Biennale, *And Other Such Stories* (2019), Sharjah Architecture Triennial, *The Rights of Future Generations* (2019) and the Oslo Architecture Triennale, *Enough: The Architecture of Degrowth* (2019), all demanded that design practice contributed to and reflected upon the highest level of current affairs. These include deep dives into planning processes, indigenous struggles, and provocative new economic and production models.

While these exhibitions explore themes in specific regional contexts, *The World Around NYC* probes similar concerns, drawing from case studies in East Asia, West Africa, North and South America, the Middle East and Europe. In responding to these pluralistic currents, the challenge of The World Around is to add to our colleagues' dialogue and see where to situate this next layer of discourse and with whom.

Almost all forms of information and communication in the Western sphere of influence are now being mediated by screens and new forms of design including live-editing and hyper-intelligent algorithms. As these boundaries dissolve in real-time, it seems that the discrepancies between first and second-hand experience are becoming harder to find, and more interesting to engage with.

For this first edition of The World Around, we believe in the immediacy of conversation and discourse. Indeed, in a tense moment of global politics where national boundaries have become ever more barbed and hostile, where rights are being eroded and cities under scrutiny, it is our aim to celebrate and appreciate the good work that is taking place in our field—both from the designers and the visionary clients and leaders who support them.

The World Around is a possibility; a place to change and exchange ideas. With over twenty speakers, four hundred audience members and an online community, we hope the experience will be stimulating and generate enthusiasm and vigor for and with the *architecture-ish* today.

The *is* will always be changing
We'll gather to meet it
When today's *is*, is a *was*

SCHEDULE

January 25 2020
10:30AM – 6:30PM
The TimesCenter
New York City

Instagram: @thewrldaround
Twitter: @thewrldaround
Facebook: /thewrldaround
#theworldaroundnyc

10:30AM	WELCOME
10:45AM	RECONNECTING WITH THE WORLD AROUND 1 PAOLA ANTONELLI: BROKEN NATURE 2 XU TIAN TIAN: RURAL REGENERATION IN SONYANG 3 MICHAEL WANG: EXTINCT IN NEW YORK 4 JOSH BEGLEY: BEST OF LUCK WITH THE WALL 5 DAVID OREILLY: EVERYTHING 6 IBRAHIM MAHAMA: A FRIEND 7 JULIA WATSON: LO—TEK 8 JUNYA ISHIGAMI: ART BIOTOP WATER GARDEN
12:45PM	BREAK
2:00PM	DESIGN FOCUS 9 BRUCE MAU: 24 PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN
2:30PM	TRANSLATING IDENTITY: DESIGN IN THE AGE OF BIG DATA MODERATED BY NICK AXEL 10 LIAM YOUNG: CHOREOGRAPHIC CAMOUFLAGE 11 CAROLINE CRIADO PEREZ: INVISIBLE WOMEN 12 SHUMON BASAR: AGE OF YOU 13 EVA FRANCH: ARCHITECTURE IN TRANSLATION
3:45PM	BREAK
4:15PM	IN CONVERSATION MODERATED BY BEATRICE GALILEE 14 ELIZABETH DILLER & CATHERINE INCE: V&A EAST
5:00PM	RECONSTRUCTING THE WORLD AROUND 15 EMMANUEL PRATT: SWEET WATER FOUNDATION 16 CECILIA PUGA: PALACIO PEREIRA 17 SOMETHING & SON: THE MANUALS 18 BAROZZI VEIGA: TANZHAUS ZÜRICH 19 NOURA AL SAYEH-HOLTROP: MUHARRAQ REVITALIZATION PROJECT 20 SHOHEI SHIGEMATSU: EXTENDING THE MUSEUM
6:30PM	CLOSING REMARKS

NOW
NEAR
NEXT
NOW
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PAOLA ANTONELLI

BROKEN NATURE



One of the most influential curators in the design world, Paola Antonelli is senior curator of Architecture & Design at The Museum of Modern Art, as well as MoMA's founding director of Research & Development. Her expansive and investigative approach to curating combines design, architecture, art, science

and technology. For *The World Around NYC*, Antonelli will be presenting her 2019 exhibition *Broken Nature: Design Takes on Human Survival*, shown at the XXII Triennale di Milano.

The exhibition highlighted the concept of restorative design and studied the state of the threads that connect humans to their natural environments. In exploring objects and concepts of all scales, and in all materials, *Broken Nature* celebrated design's ability to offer powerful insight into the key issues of our age, moving beyond pious deference and inconclusive anxiety. By turning its attention to human existence and persistence, the XXII Triennale promoted the importance of creative practices in surveying our species' bonds with the complex systems in the world, and designing reparations when necessary, through objects, concepts and new systems.



XU TIAN TIAN

RURAL REGENERATION IN SONYANG



Xu Tiantian is the founding principal of Beijing-based studio DnA_Design and Architecture. She has been recognized internationally for her work and was recently awarded the 2019 Moira Gemmill Prize for Emerging Architecture. She will be presenting her studio's extensive work in the revitalizing process of two rural

regions in China, Songyang and Zhejiang Province.

In particular, Tiantian will speak today about the practice's design of a theatre stage for the village of Hengkeng, a bamboo dome using a low-tech construction method that takes the rapid growth and bendable quality of the material into account. Once installed, the growing dome requires little regular maintenance; younger bamboo sprouts are woven into the existing dome and old poles are removed. This bioorganic architecture in natural surroundings facilitates activities ranging from village opera performances to individual meditation in nature.



MICHAEL WANG

EXTINCT IN NEW YORK



Michael Wang is an artist who lives and works in New York. His practice uses systems that operate at a global scale as media for art, addressing climate change, species distribution, resource allocation and the global economy.

The project Wang will present today is *Extinct in New York*, an exhibition on

Governors Island, in collaboration with the Swiss Institute, for which the artist researched native plant, lichen and algae species native to New York, but which no longer grow naturally in any of the five boroughs. He installed four bespoke greenhouses containing a selection of these organisms and trained a team of caretakers to maintain them. The plants were then reintroduced into parks and gardens in the city.

Wang’s work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at LMCC’s Arts Center on Governors Island, New York, US (2019) and at the Fondazione Prada, Milan, IT (2017), and was included in Manifesta 12 in Palermo, IT (2018) and the XX Bienal de Arquitectura y Urbanismo in Valparaíso, CL (2017).



JOSH BEGLEY

BEST OF LUCK WITH THE WALL



Using data to interrogate narratives that we cannot see, Josh Begley’s practice attempts to map the relationship between the body, the landscape, digital information and power. Begley is a data artist, filmmaker and the creator of Metadata+, an iPhone app that tracks U.S. drone strikes.

Best of Luck with the Wall is a documentary short observing in striking detail the changing geography, geometries and the expansive, complex landscape that comprises the 2,000-mile long US-Mexico border. The film was made by cutting and collaging over 200,000 satellite images downloaded from Google Maps.

Best of Luck with the Wall
Running time: 6 mins



DAVID OREILLY

EVERYTHING



David O'Reilly is a multidisciplinary artist based in Los Angeles and is the creator of the interactive experience and reality simulation game, *Everything*. His work is often characterized by the use of intentionally stripped-down 3D graphics. He is known for popularizing the use of low-poly 3D and the use of 3D software

as a personal and artistic tool.

Today, David will be sharing with us the story of *Everything*. Part game, part philosophical experiment, *Everything* allows players to assume the role of almost anything in the universe, from bacteria to a bear, starlings or molecules. The work offers a way to experience our reality as a phenomenon of interdependent systems that can all perceive, think and interact differently while being driven by the same underlying rules. The systems connecting the game are designed to create moments of peace, beauty, sadness and joy—and allow the players to do whatever they want. *Everything* requires no player input—it will play automatically if left unattended.



IBRAHIM MAHAMA

A FRIEND



Living and working in Accra, Kumasi and Tamale, Ghanaian artist Ibrahim Mahama engages in the formation of architectural spaces inspired by the promise and failure of modernity. He will be presenting his recent installation *A Friend*, which uses worn jute sacks, fabricated in South East Asia. The sacks are imported by the

Ghana Cocoa Boards to transport cocoa beans and eventually end up as multi-functional objects, used for the transportation of food, charcoal and other commodities. At the point of decay they are sewn together then superimposed onto architecture. Mahama started his practice through his interest in the history of materials and architecture. Residues and points of chaos, registered as marks within the forms he selects, present us with alternative perspectives of the materials/labor conditions of society. Mahama's work has been shown at the 56th, 57th and 58th Venice Biennales and documenta14.



JULIA WATSON

LO—TEK



Designer, academic and author Julia Watson is a leading expert on indigenous technologies, as seen in her monograph *Lo—TEK. Design by Radical Indigenism*, a global exploration of indigenous architectural innovations. *Lo—TEK*, derived from Traditional Ecological Knowledge, is a cumulative body of multigenerational

knowledge, practices, and beliefs, countering the idea that indigenous innovation is primitive and exists isolated from technology. Watson will share this compelling new research today, arguing that it is sophisticated and designed to sustainably work with complex ecosystems.

Watson teaches at Harvard and Columbia while also leading an experiential, landscape and urban design practice: Julia Watson Studio. After graduating from Harvard with the highest award for her work on conservation and spiritual landscapes, she has been widely published and co-authored the *Spiritual Guide to Bali's UNESCO World Heritage* with Dr. J. Stephen Lansing. Watson approaches design as a “rewilding” and has an impressive portfolio of projects including the *Reef Resilience Initiative* with the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, as well as private estates with the owners of PACE Galleries and the artist Rashid Johnson.



JUNYA ISHIGAMI

ART BIOTOP WATER GARDEN



Established by Junya Ishigami in 2004 in Tokyo, junya.ishigami+associates is at the forefront of contemporary architectural practice today. Having a special sensitivity towards the relationship between the natural world and the constructed environment, Ishigami gained international recognition following the completion of

the extraordinary Kanagawa Institute of Technology's KAIT Workshop Japan in 2007, as well as when the studio received the Golden Lion for best project at the 12th International Architecture Biennale in Venice.

At *The World Around NYC*, Ishigami will talk us through his work and vision behind the dream-like *Art Biotop Water Garden* in Nasu, Japan that was recently awarded the Obel Award and shortlisted for the Beazley Designs of the Year Award. The project emerged when the architect learned that hundreds of trees had to be felled to make room for a new hotel. Ishigami proposed replanting all 318 trees into an adjacent meadow, designing a labyrinth of artificial ponds with moss, wildflowers, pathways and miniature habitats for the local plant species and animal life; both transposing a forest and superimposing formerly separate layers of history in a single space.



BRUCE MAU

24 PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN



One of the most important names in design today, Canadian-born Bruce Mau has written and been involved with the design of more than 200 books, including the landmark *S,M,L,XL*, a seminal collaboration with Rem Koolhaas published in 1995. His life's work has been dedicated to applying the power of design to transforming the world. His new book, *MC24—The Principles for Designing Massive Change in Your Life and Work* will be published by Phaidon in 2020. Developed over the past three decades, the book is organized by 24 values that are at the core of Mau's philosophy. Featuring essays, observations, project documentation and design work by Mau and other high-profile architects, designers, artists, scientists, environmentalists and thinkers of our time, the book aims to equip readers with a tool kit and empowers them to make an impact and engender change on all scales. Mau will be presenting three of these principles today at *The World Around NYC*.

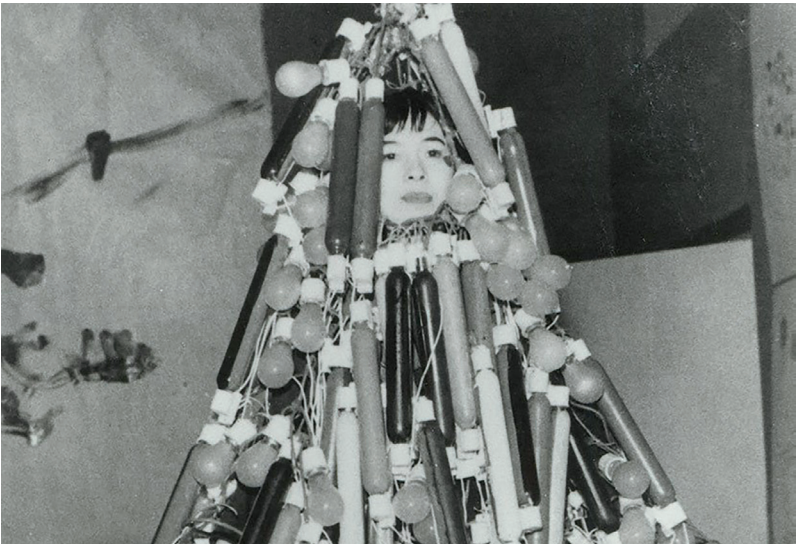


NICK AXEL

MODERATOR



Nick Axel is an editor, architect, educator and theorist. Head of the Architectural Design department at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie and the deputy editor of e-flux Architecture. In a new editorial project for e-flux, *Are Friends Electric?*, the publication asks: “at a moment when we can no longer imagine a world without technology, it is vital to ask how we—the human inhabitants of this planet—imagine the world and its technologies?” Nick is positioned to be taking part in the most relevant conversations in architecture today and will bring his experience and voice as moderator today for the panel discussion *Translating Identity: Design in the Age of Big Data*, which will explore the extraordinary and often unchecked power that data wields over the environment we are living in and designing for today.



LIAM YOUNG

CHOREOGRAPHIC CAMOUFLAGE



In a near future city that sees everything through a million sensors and scanners, an underground community has developed strategies to disappear from the eyes of the technology. Through Liam Young's collaboration with choreographer Jacob Jonas, a new vocabulary of movement has been designed to disguise the proportions of their bodies from the body detection algorithms used by the city's control networks. Dressed in machine vision camouflage textiles woven from iridescent silks that scatter the light of scanning technologies, the dancers become glitches and distortions in the city-wide data set.

To demonstrate these tactics the music video has been shot with the same laser scanning technologies used by autonomous vehicles and is overlaid with machine vision visualizations of the way skeleton detection algorithms are trying to read and recognize the body. Fashion and music have always developed in response to existing power structures. The animated film prototypes a sub-cultural movement that may soon emerge in response to imminent smart city technologies.

Choreographic Camouflage
Running time: 4 mins



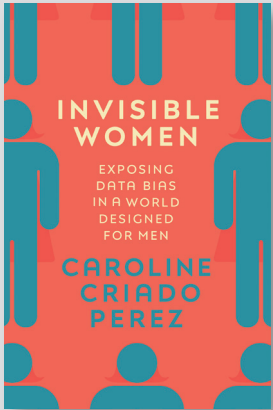
CAROLINE CRIADO PEREZ

INVISIBLE WOMEN



Writer, journalist and campaigner Caroline Criado Perez is the author of the best-selling book *Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*. She is a leading voice on equality and feminist issues in technology, health and the media in the UK. Her deep and critical research reveals the systematic, and often unconscious, bias behind the data and assumptions that construct our everyday life, arguing that women's accomplishments, experiences and needs are systematically erased by what is known as the "gender data gap". She will present her influential findings on a world built for men, from the dangerous presumption that male symptoms of heart attacks also apply to women, to the fact that crash-test dummies are modeled on the male frame.

One of the key areas of examination that Criado Perez will share with us today in New York is the increasing reliance many design industries have on data, which is usually produced by and used on men. Her research reviews the often shocking effects of this invisible bias on women and society as a whole from internet search results to urban planning, office temperatures, protective equipment and safety in the home and workplace. Alongside widespread critical acclaim, *Invisible Women* also won the prestigious Royal Society Science Book Prize.



SHUMON BASAR

AGE OF YOU



Guess what this century's most valuable resource is? It's you—and all your online behaviors, enriched data sets and millions of meta-data points. Writer, thinker and cultural critic Shumon Basar will today be presenting *Age of You*, an exhibition, commissioned and produced by MOCA Toronto, about what it means

to be an individual today. Curated by Shumon Basar, Douglas Coupland and Hans Ulrich Obrist, with graphic design by Daly & Lyon, it includes over 70 visual contributors from the worlds of art, design, filmmaking, photography, performance and electronic music. Visitors to *Age of You* walk through 13 immersive chapters that chart how individuality is changing today, from the psychological (such as beauty, belief and empathy) to the social (work, wealth and democracy). *Age of You* previews a forthcoming book by Basar, Coupland and Obrist, *The Extreme Self*, a sequel to their acclaimed previous title, *The Age of Earthquakes: A Guide to the Extreme Present* (2015). Basar is commissioner of the Global ArtForum; editor-at-large at *Tank* magazine; contributing editor at *Bidoun*; adjunct curator at Art Jameel and a member of the Fondazione Prada's Thought Council.



EVA FRANCH

ARCHITECTURE IN TRANSLATION



Eva Franch is an architect, curator, educator and lecturer of experimental forms of art and architectural practice. She specializes in the making of alternative architecture histories and futures. From 2010 to 2018, Franch served as the chief curator and executive director of Storefront for Art and

Architecture in New York. In August 2018, she became director of the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) in London. She will be speaking to The World Around about a new initiative, *Architecture in Translation*, a project that launched this year at AA with the goal of building a multilingual and multicultural approach to architecture today. As a school with more than 81 nationalities, where more than 40 languages are spoken, the project seeks to recognize the value of language in the production of space and ideas.



ELIZABETH DILLER AND CATHERINE INCE V&A EAST



Elizabeth Diller is a co-founding partner of Diller Scofidio + Renfro. Alongside co-founder Ricardo Scofidio, Diller’s cross-genre work has been distinguished with TIME’s *100 Most Influential People* list and the first MacArthur Foundation fellowship awarded in the field of architecture. Catherine Ince is chief curator of V&A East, a new two-site museum and collection research center due to open in London’s Olympic Park in 2023. The pair will discuss their respective work at the forefront of new critical institutional practice and in particular the highly anticipated V&A East project. The new cultural institution will create two interconnected sites—a new museum and a new collection and research center. The conversation will be moderated by The World Around’s executive director, Beatrice Galilee.



EMMANUEL PRATT SWEET WATER FOUNDATION



Emmanuel Pratt is an urban designer creating a model of resident-driven community development in neighborhoods that have suffered the effects of long-term disinvestment. He was awarded the MacArthur Fellowship *Genius Grant* in 2019. Pratt is also co-founder and executive director of the Sweet Water Foundation (SWF), a nonprofit organization based in Chicago’s South Side that practices Regenerative Neighborhood Development, a creative and regenerative social justice method that creates safe and inspiring spaces and curates healthy, intergenerational communities that transform the ecology of so-called “blighted” neighborhoods. As Pratt will be explaining today, SWF utilizes a blend of urban agriculture, art and education to transform vacant spaces and abandoned buildings into economically and ecologically productive and sustainable community assets that produce engaged youth, skilled workers, art, locally-grown food and affordable housing.



CECILIA PUGA

PALACIO PEREIRA



Based in Santiago, Chile, architect Cecilia Puga has run her practice there since 1995. She has undertaken various scales of design projects, from her iconic single family houses to social community work and urban planning. She will be presenting the years-long restoration and transformation of the historic

19th century Palacio Pereira in Santiago, Chile into a public library and exhibition hall. Palacio Pereira is one of the most historic palaces in Santiago, a key colonial building unique in its innovative platform. Puga’s proposition for the building considers the restoration of the existing palace, reconstruction of central space and the construction of a new structure in restitution of the disappeared area, using a contemporary architecture that respects the volumetry of the original building and maintains the uniqueness of the inner courtyard.



SOMETHING & SON

THE MANUALS



Something & Son, a project by Andy Merritt and Paul Smyth, explores social and environmental issues via everyday scenarios crisscrossing the boundaries between the visual arts, architecture and activism. They create permanent installations, functional sculptures and spaces for public

performance that build communities, create new ecologies and force a reappraisal and understanding of some of the biggest social and environmental issues of our time.

Today we will hear about *The Manuals*, a long-term project that explores a new culture where humans create rather than destroy ecosystems through our everyday actions and infrastructure. It centers around a book that will act as both a practical and philosophical guide and contain open source blueprints/visuals for new pieces of land art alongside background research on the ecological and social topics on which it touches.



BAROZZI VEIGA

TANZHAUS ZÜRICH



Founded in Barcelona in 2004 by Alberto Veiga and Fabrizio Barozzi, this impressive young office was awarded the Mies van der Rohe Award for European Architecture in 2015 for their Szczecin Philharmonic building, as well as the RIBA Award for International Excellence for the Fine Art Museum in Chur.

For The World Around, Alberto Veiga will present the recently completed Tanzhaus Zürich, one of the most important centers for contemporary dance in Switzerland. The project seeks to reactivate the promenade along the Limmat River, transforming and redefining the current residential conditions of its location. In this way, the building is defined as a simple and tiered volume of space integrated into the slope and barely noticeable from the outside. It is an element that enables a new public space to be generated on its roof and connects the existing itineraries at different levels that intertwine along its bank.



NOURA AL SAYEH-HOLTROP

MUHARRAQ REVITALIZATION PROJECT



Noura Al Sayeh-Holtrop is an architect and curator working at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) as head of Architectural Affairs, where she is responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of cultural institutions, museums and exhibitions. Since 2015, she has been

leading *Pearling, Testimony of an Island Economy* project, which received the Aga Khan Award for Architecture for the 2019 cycle as part of the Muharraq Revitalization Project. In Bahrain's former capital, a UNESCO World heritage site, the project relates the unique legacy of Muharraq's pearling industry era, through the architecture and the urban heritage of the old city as well as three pearl-producing oyster beds in the northern territorial waters of Bahrain. Taken together, the fifteen individual sites reflect the final expression and last example of a cultural tradition that dominated the Arabian Gulf from prehistory to the early 20th century.



SHOHEI SHIGEMATSU, OMA

EXTENDING THE MUSEUM



Shohei Shigematsu is a partner at OMA based in its New York office and has led the firm's diverse portfolio in the Americas for the past decade. Shigematsu will discuss his engagements within the art world to focus on the changing demands and needs of cultural institutions of different typologies.

His talk will focus on several cultural projects including the Faena Forum, a new multi-purpose arts and event space that accommodates a diverse range of programs; the redesign of Sotheby's New York headquarters that reorganizes and redefines the functions of the auction house; and in particular two museum expansion projects: the Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo and the New Museum in New York City. Through these projects, one can observe the growing public nature of cultural institutions and the design of the crucial spaces which are inserted in between art and the external environment.



IMAGES

- P10 ©Paola Antonelli, Broken Nature, 2019. Photo by Gianluca Di Iorio.
- P11 ©Xu Tiantian, DnA, The Songyang Story, 2019. Photo by Wang Ziling.
- P12 Photo by Zachary Tyler Newton courtesy LMCC
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- P20 Where the City Can't See: Choreographic Camouflage Dir. Liam Young, 2019. Portrait by Liam Young, Courtesy of Strelka
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- P23 Portrait by Stefan Ruiz
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NEAR
NEXT
NOW
NEAR
NEXT
NOW

NEAR
NEXT
NOW
NEAR
NEXT
NOW
NEAR

ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND

The World Around was founded in 2019 by executive chairman Diego Marroquin, executive director Beatrice Galilee, and managing director Alexandra Hodkowski with the goal of enriching and empowering architectural discourse. Through a robust series of international events and broadcasts, beginning with New York in January 2020, the platform seeks to connect and create a diverse and global network of thinkers and makers today.

For further information or to join our mailing list please email: inquiries@theworldaround.com

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