

Architecture is witness to a myriad of uses of history. For contemporary designers, history can often either encumber or validate a project. Whether they accept it as a source for design or not, designers must contend with history, either 'contextually,' 'typologically' or by simply addressing patron demands and other influences originating outside of the profession. The result frequently alludes to a historical context, type or cultural tradition through notions of the 'local' or evokes a historical antecedent. Thus, history plays a role in contemporary design practice whether or not its significance, or even relevance, is appreciated.

It is not enough, however, to simply problematize these issues, but to explore them as potent tools that engage contemporary architectural practice. The relationship of the historian with regard to contemporary design has always been that of critic, and the relationship of practitioner to history has largely been tenuous and fraught with controversy.

The intent of this workshop is to bring together scholars and practitioners of architecture to discuss critical approaches to the role of history within contemporary practice. The situation, we suspect, demands a re-assessment of the theoretical relationship between architect and historian and we suggest that a renewed responsibility toward the discipline and society at large is needed. How can we conceptualize this critical practice?

history

EXPLORING THE ROLE OF HISTORY

practice

IN CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE

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10am - 5pm

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Bush Room 10-105

<http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg>

This event is free and open to the public.

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