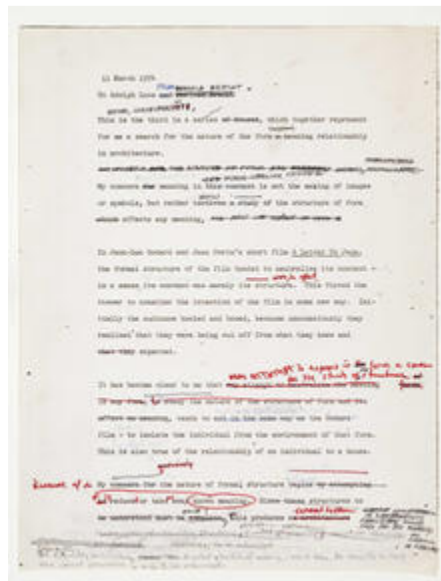


communiqué / press release

For immediate distribution

The CCA presents the exhibition *Take Note*

A selection of pivotal moments in the ongoing relationship between writing and architecture.



*Peter Eisenman, 1932- . House III, Lakeville, Connecticut.
Letter to Adolph Loos from Bertold Brecht. 1974.
Peter Eisenman Archive.*

Montréal, 1 February 2010 — From 4 February until 30 May 2010, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) presents the exhibition *Take Note*, which traces selected pivotal moments in the ongoing relationship between writing and architecture over the past fifty years. *Take Note* is the fifth in a series of CCA exhibitions developed in collaboration with universities. *Take Note* is the result of a research seminar led by Sylvia Lavin in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Mirko Zardini, Director and Chief Curator of the CCA comments: “*Take Note* concludes the first phase in a series of CCA exhibitions developed in collaboration with universities. It reflects the CCA’s mandate as an international research centre that initiates close partnerships with academic and cultural institutions worldwide.



This research and exhibition are of crucial importance at a time when we are re-examining the role of architecture within a changing society and environment. Sylvia Lavin and her group have done some incredible work in bringing to our attention the different ways the intellectual dimension of architecture is taking form.”

Presented in the CCA’s Octagonal Gallery and seven Hall Cases, the exhibition explores the intellectual dimension of architecture, specifically the ways in which architects visualise their ideas and transcribe them in their notes, producing writings that contribute to cultural advancement and transform architecture by tying it to developments in various spheres. The exhibition includes nearly 80 objects from the CCA Collection and archives, representing 18 artists and architects, including Gordon Matta-Clark and John Hejduk, and significant contemporary architecture firms such as Gehry Partners, Greg Lynn FORM, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Stan Allen Architect, Bernard Tschumi, and Reiser+ Umemoto RUR Architecture.

In the 1960s, architects pursued ways of establishing a counterculture by opposing dominant habits of the profession – writing instead of building, writing as a form of drawing, and reading as a way of understanding. According to *Take Note* curator Sylvia Lavin, “a small oppositional element in architecture forged its own counterculture by turning its energies away from building toward writing. In its hands, the page became a site for design and texts became architectural works in their own right. Born of a desire to foreground the intellectual dimension of architecture by associating it with developments in conceptual art, linguistics, and philosophy, this turn toward writing soon engaged architecture with broader questions of pop culture, mass media, advertising, and emerging technologies, setting in motion a fundamental transformation of the discipline whose momentum remains unabated to this day. *Take Note* offers an album of snapshots of key episodes in that transformation.”

With outlines echoing the contours of the works on display, the CCA-designed exhibition installation draws an imaginary line symbolising the logic of the architects and highlighting their theoretical discourse, posted above each object. The central essay, presented in the Octagonal Gallery, is anchored to seven points of reference, representing the seven architects whose related documents (essays, photographs, animated objects, posters and booklets) are cross-referenced in the display cases using footnote numbers. Two multimedia animations introduce the exhibition’s spatial theme and concept, designed by the American production and animation company *Imaginary Forces*, well known for frequent collaboration with architects.

THE PROJECT

This exhibition is the work of Hi-C, a collaborative group of doctoral and design students from UCLA under the direction of Sylvia Lavin focusing on scholarly research and critical approaches to contemporary design. The origins of *Take Note* lie in a seminar on the historiography of Formalism that led to an exhibition and a



series of ongoing research projects related to the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies. Peter Eisenman, founding director of the IAUS, is the author of *Notes on Conceptual Architecture*, the work that provided the students with the historical and theoretical ground zero for *Take Note*.

Sylvia Lavin, Professor and Director of Critical Studies and M.A./Ph.D. Programs in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), is known for her scholarship and criticism in contemporary architecture and design. She has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and elsewhere. Lavin's next books *The Flash in the Pan and Other Forms of Architectural Contemporaneity* and *Kissing Architecture* are forthcoming. Lavin's design/research collaborative Hi-C, which is committed to advancing the public consideration of architectural culture through exhibitions, symposia, and publications that establish a forum for wide discussion of experimental work in architecture, recently curated *Craig Hodgetts, Playmaker* which opened at ACE Galleries, Los Angeles in October 2009.

RELATED PROGRAMS

The CCA hosts a Gallery Talk on Thursday, **4 February at 7 pm** with curator Sylvia Lavin and two of her students, Whitney Moon and Esra Kahveci. Presented in English. Free admission.

ABOUT THE CCA

Take Note follows the earlier exhibitions *Total Environment: Montréal 1965-1975* (with the Université de Montréal 2009 and Alessandra Ponte (2009); *Utopia's Ghost: Postmodernism Reconsidered* with Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and Reinhold Martin (2008); *Clip/Stamp/Fold 2: The Radical Architecture of Little Magazines 196X – 197X* with Princeton University and Beatriz Colomina (2007); and *Inside the Sponge: Students Take on MIT Simmons Hall* with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's SENSEable City Laboratory and Carlo Ratti (2006).

The CCA is an international research centre and museum founded in 1979 on the conviction that architecture is a public concern. Based on its extensive Collection, the CCA is a leading voice in advancing knowledge, promoting public understanding, and widening thought and debate on the art of architecture, its history, theory, practice, and role in society today.



PARTNERS

The Canadian Centre for Architecture acknowledges the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, and the Department of Canadian Heritage for their support.

#

High-resolution digital photographs are available online at www.cca.qc.ca/press under the heading "Exhibitions." The login is **general** and the password is **journal**.

Source:

Isabelle Huiban
Head of Press Relations
Phone: 514-939-7001 ext. 2607
ihuiban@cca.qc.ca
www.cca.qc.ca