THIS IS TEMPORARY
HOW TRANSIENT PROJECTS ARE REDEFINING ARCHITECTURE
CATE ST HILL

ABERRANT ARCHITECTURE / ASSEMBLE / EXYZT /
FOLKE KOBBERLING AND MARTIN KALTWASSER / GRUPPE /
GUN / MORAG MYERSCOUGH / PLASTIQUE FANTASTIQUE /
PRACTICE ARCHITECTURE / STUDIO WEAVE / THE DECORATORS /
THE LIVING / WE MADE THAT
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ABOUT THE EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Cate St Hill is an architecture and design writer, currently writing for the bi-monthly publication Blueprint, and previously for Building Design. She has also worked at the British Council and as a researcher for FAT Architecture and Crimson Architectural Historians British Pavilion for the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2014. Cate completed her Part 1 at the Bartlett School of Architecture, before working for a couple of years in practice and receiving a master’s in Architectural History, also from the Bartlett. Cate currently lives in London and has a popular self-titled design and architecture blog: catesthill.com. This is her first book.

Cany Ash graduated from Cambridge and the University of Westminster. She worked in London, Berlin and New York before founding Ash Sakula Architects with Robert Sakula in 1994. Ash Sakula has established a reputation for working in unpromising sites and creating strong identities for places with mixed public and private clients. The practice is passionate about the intelligent reuse of existing space, passive technologies and innovative construction.

Mariana Pestana is a Portuguese architect and curator. She lives and works in London, where she co-founded the collective The Decorators. Mariana lectured in spatial design at Central Saint Martins and Chelsea College of Arts, and is developing a PhD at the Bartlett School of Architecture. She currently works as a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Shumi Bose is a London-based writer, editor and teacher. She teaches architectural history and theory at Central Saint Martins and at the Architectural Association. She is a contributing editor at Blueprint magazine, also writing for The Architectural Review, PIN-UP and Domus. In 2012, Shumi worked curatorially alongside David Chipperfield on the 13th Venice Biennale of Architecture. She is particularly interested in the relationship between architecture and financial speculation.
Not many architectural competitions or commissions are open exclusively to young architects or small practices – they are few and far between. The UK’s annual Serpentine Pavilion, a commission to create a temporary structure on the lawn of the Serpentine Galleries in London, is increasingly inviting younger, lesser-known talent such as Madrid-based selgascano and Chilean Smiljan Radic, but even then, young in architectural terms can mean a practice with several years’ experience and a director with an average age of 40. There are some exceptions, though, and it’s often contemporary art galleries that are paving the way, fusing art and architecture practices to curate pop-up events, temporary installations and residencies.
RISK ASSESSMENT

WEDNESDAY 30TH MAY 2012

BEWARE WORKING OVER EDGE.
DON’T LEAVE TOOLS ON LADDERS OR ANYWHERE ABOVE HEAD HEIGHT.
BEWARE LIVE CABLES.
DON’T LEAVE TOOLS IN WALKWAYS.
ASK FOR HELP IF NEEDED.
BEWARE STEEL BRACKETS ON FLOOR ARE TRIP HAZARD.
BEWARE TRAILING CABLES.
WEAR SUNCREAM.
WEAR BOOTS.
STAY SAFE!
DRINK WATER!

FIGURE 4.25: above/ Practice Architecture’s risk assessment and site safety

[134]
Temporary architecture is flourishing in our urban public spaces. Branded ‘pop-ups’ and follies to provide a moment of light entertainment, they are in fact borne of a long history of more holistic architecture that is subtly suggesting how we could live, work and play more harmoniously together.

Featuring revealing interviews with 13 young, emerging and socially-minded practices, this book analyses the phenomenon in critical essays by well-respected practitioners and thinkers. It provides a highly personal insight into the architects’ experience, the design process, the challenges they encountered and how it affected their practice.

Including highly illustrated and imaginative projects ranging from a floating cinema and tiny travelling theatre, through ad-hoc structures made of found objects and discarded materials, and blow-up plastic bubbles, to a community lido and market restaurant this will open your eyes as to what is possible in architecture.

Exploring alternative modes of practice this will provide inspiration for all architecture students, architects, artists, designers, planners and developers wishing to create empowering and unique structures in neglected, disused and sometimes inaccessible parts of our cities.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR / Cate St Hill is an architecture and design writer, currently writing for bi-monthly publication Blueprint, and previously for Building Design. She has also worked at the British Council and as a researcher for FAT Architecture and Crimson Architectural Historians’ British Pavilion for the Venice Architecture Biennale in 2014. Cate completed her Part 1 at the Bartlett School of Architecture, before working for a couple of years in practice and receiving a Masters in Architectural History, also from the Bartlett. Cate currently lives in London and has a popular self-titled design and architecture blog: http://catesthill.com.

As designers we claim to be individually radical but collectively, in the face of permanence, good design becomes a set of well-judged compromises. Thank goodness then, that when we see things as temporary, we are able to give our imagination the freedom to deliver such an extraordinary kaleidoscope of inventiveness as seen in this book. I am sure the experiences gained realising these temporary works will steer the future compromises necessary to create the best permanent architecture.

/ Ivan Harbour, Partner, Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners

This book is the first general account of a new phenomenon – architect-designed temporary works for public use, catalysts to community involvement. Cate St Hill presents a variety of projects from all over the world, and her interviews with their makers tell us about their ideas and ambitions, their optimism and their ingenuity. The works and their stories will be an inspiration to any young designer or would-be designer.

/ Adrian Forty, Principal Research Associate, Emeritus Professor of Architectural History, The Bartlett School of Architecture

Temporary is a particular condition for architecture, offering freedoms or locations not available in permanent projects but also the opportunity to highlight possibilities in cities and invigorate neighbourhoods. In this broad ranging book, Cate St Hill has brilliantly captured the voice of the catalyst, experimenter and social actor. Perhaps required reading for the urbanist and politician alike it suggests there may be something quite powerful in architecture about the project that lingers in the memory after it has gone.

/ Tim Bailey, Partner, xsite architecture LLP