

Conceiving the Plan

Nuance and Intimacy in the Construction of Civic Space

In Honor of Diane Lewis (b.1951 — d. May 2, 2017)

October 8 >> November 21

Opening, symposium, events, screenings > October 8–10, 2021

PADIGLIONE ITALIA

alla 17. Mostra Internazionale di Architettura –
La Biennale di Venezia

Pavilion Curator: Alessandro Melis

Architect of temporary exhibition:

Yael Hameiri Sainsaux

Pippo Ciorra | Marco D'Annunziis
Luca Di Lorenzo Latini | Sara D'Ottavi |
Gilda Tormenti | Claudia Vagnozzi | Martina Pompei
SAAD University of Camerino

Preston Scott Cohen | Harvard University

Dieter Dietz | Teresa Cheung | Patricia Guaita
Lucia Jalon Oyarzun | Ruben Valdez
Daniel Zamarbide | EPFL ALICE

Holger Kleine | Hochschule RheinMain

Peter Lynch | Anna Asplind
Patrick Bellan | Martin Heidesjö
Mats Nordahl | KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Sotirios Kotoulas | University of Manitoba

Laila Seewang | Uri Wegman
Portland State University | EPFL

David Turnbull | University of Portsmouth

Mersiha Veledar | The Cooper Union

Catherine Venart | Dalhousie University

Georg Windeck

Dorian Wiszniewski | Kevin Adams
Neil Cunning | Chris Frencz
Maria Mitsoula | Paul Pattinson
Leo Xian | University of Edinburgh

Videos: Merrill Elam and Helen Han

Text: Barry Bergdoll | Columbia University
Daniel Sherer | Princeton University

Ed. advisors: Matthew Hitscherich | Peter Schubert



Diane Lewis and Anita Sieff, April 25, 2013 taken by Mersiha Veledar during "On the Bowery"
Architecture of the City studio they taught together at The Cooper Union.--

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In Honor of Diane Lewis
(b.1951 -d. May 2, 2017)

The exhibition presents twelve civic architecture projects for twelve different localities by twelve architects, side by side with videos that feature the late architect and longtime Cooper Union professor Diane Lewis. The videos—presented publicly for the first time at the Biennale Architettura 2021—thus confront the diverse proposals exhibited and bring them into a contemporary dialogue with the literary dimension of architecture. For Diane Lewis the city was not only the result of a great number of historical, inextricable strata of form and memory. It was also greater than the sum of its individual architectures, and a mental universe all its own. Apart from her drawings, models and built projects, she most effectively conveyed her insights through the medium of film, which captured her unique presence and unmistakable voice—among the most characteristic distillations of the architectural “message” of Cooper Union from the 1970s to the mid-2000s. Architectural historians Daniel Sherer and Barry Bergdoll converse about the themes and approach in this series of short films, created in the final months of her life. In these captivating on-screen testimonials not only did the architect narrate the past of the city through the indices of its present, and in light of its possible futures, she opened up a dialogue with urban phenomena through the moving image, which captured succinctly her ideas and singular persona as a designer and pedagogue. Through these lenses the exhibition touches on critical questions—narratological, ecological, social and metahistorical—providing and provoking spatial architectural identities.

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