MSC News

This year’s MSC students visited Istanbul in March, to undertake an intensive study of development and design issues in a critical urban context, focusing in particular on the proposed development of the Haydarpasa train station and container port site on the Sea of Marmara, in the Asian part of the city (for more information see the Cities website). The field trip was generously supported by the Ove Arup Foundation.

Studio Publication: On 1 July Cities launches the 2009-10 MSc City Design and Social Science Research Studio publication Olympic Fringe: a studio exploration of urban seams, focusing on the areas surrounding East London’s Olympic sites.

Masterclasses in the Summer Term were held by Hashim Sarkis, Aga Khan Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urbanism, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, and Richard Sennett, who has just retired as Professor of Sociology at LSE (see below).

PhD Student News

Corinna Dean is curating the pop-up exhibition, ‘Bankside on Call’ at 7 Chancel Street SE1 from 23 June-4 July, offering a unique insight into the gritty underbelly of Bankside, with a sonic collage by sound artist Bruce Gilbert, and souvenirs which take their cue from the quieter unsung elements of Bankside.

Suzanne Hall, Melissa Fernandez Arrigiota and Cecilia Dinardi are delighted to announce the publication of Writing Cities: How do views shape words? How do words shape cities? The book is a collection of working papers, and has emerged out of a collaboration between the Cities Programme (LSE), the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (MIT), MIT Media LAB, Harvard Graduate School of Design and Harvard Law School.

The regular Summer edition of the peer-reviewed Graduate Journal of Social Sciences (GJSS), co-edited by Melissa Fernández and Gwendolyn Beetham - an LSE PhD colleague from the Gender Institute - was published June 2010. The Volume can be accessed and downloaded at: GJSS.org.

Alumni News

Jeff Risom and Maria Sisternas (Class of 2009) are presenting a paper based on their thesis at The Second International Conference on Sustainable Architecture and Urban Development in Amman, Jordan from 12-14 July 2010. The title of the paper is: ‘Revisiting London’s first Garden Cities: failed utopian vision or a sustainable 21st century model?’

Elias Redstone is curating Poland’s national pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale, which opens on 29 August. The installation by artist Agnieszka Kurant and architect Aleksandra Wasilkowska, seeks to exceed the logic of urban reality through the creation of urban portable holes. The title ‘Emergency Exit’ refers ironically to the health and safety regulations in buildings and urban space that seek to plan, control risk and eliminate the accidental and unexpected. Visitors will be invited to jump off a building (safely).

Faculty News

Dr Ayona Datta was invited to talk in the Dept of Geography, University College London in March 2010 on “Legitimate” Domesticities: Home, family and rule of law in a Delhi squatter settlement’.

From July to September 2010, Ayona will be visiting Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, India under the ESRC-ICSSR India-UK Scholar Exchange Scheme. Her research is titled ‘Politics of Sustainable Devlopment along the Mumbai-Pune Expressway’.

Juliet Davis is working with the Architecture Foundation to create ‘Temporary Stratford Museum’, an interim cultural use of the Stratford Shopping Centre (open to 11 July) forming part of the 2010 London Festival of Architecture. This focuses on documentation of processes of urban change in Stratford through a combination of artifacts, maps, film and photography. It is supported by Design London and the London Borough of Newham.

Juliet presented a paper at the symposium ‘Legacy Plus: Interim Uses and East London’s Olympic Legacy’ in March 2010 organized by the Architecture Foundation. She wrote a
Dr Catharina Gabrielsson left LSE in March to take up a residence fellowship at the Swedish Institute of Research in Istanbul, where she has been a guest lecturer at the Dept of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University.

Catharina is presenting a co-authored paper ‘As Found’, at the University of Copenhagen 17-20 June, and has submitted two papers for publication:


**Cities Events**

LSE held its second Space for Thought Literary Festival in February 2010, with two Cities-linked events: ‘Reading London’, an LSE Cities Programme discussion chaired by Fran Tonkiss with architect Will Alsop, Professor Rosemary Ashton, Leo Hollis and Hans Ulrich Obrist, and ‘Sociology as Literature’, a talk by Richard Sennett.

On 14 May the Sociology Department held a conference on ‘Richard Sennett: The Sociology of Public Life’ to mark his retirement as Professor of Sociology at LSE. The second panel, on cities and the public realm, was chaired by Ricky Burdett with panellists Richard Rogers, David Adjaye and Geoff Mulgan joined on stage by Richard Sennett to discuss his writing on cities. In the evening Richard was joined by Dr Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, for a dialogue ‘On Narrative and Ritual.’

**LSE Cities** has a programme of public lectures and events. On 7 June Stephen Graham, Professor of Cities and Society at Newcastle University, talked about his new book Cities under siege: the new military urbanism. For information on other events, past and forthcoming see: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/LSECities/outreachAndEvents/Home.aspx

**We are moving** this summer and by the new academic year should be settled in our new offices next to LSE Cities, in Tower 2, 8th Floor (students will be on the 5th floor).