A Day in the life of an Architecture Practice

Citation for published version:

Link:
Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer

Document Version:
Early version, also known as pre-print

General rights
Copyright for the publications made accessible via the Edinburgh Research Explorer is retained by the author(s) and / or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing these publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy
The University of Edinburgh has made every reasonable effort to ensure that Edinburgh Research Explorer content complies with UK legislation. If you believe that the public display of this file breaches copyright please contact openaccess@ed.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.
On the 4th of September 2009, a Twitter account was registered by the London office of Foreign Office Architects. The login details were distributed to all staff, and everybody in the office was asked to Tweet on their activities as they changed throughout the day.

The subsequent stream of information chronologically documented the different range of tasks, jobs and processes that supported the work of the architecture practice. Detailed as though it was a monologue from one individual, the variety of activities hints at the complexity of sustaining a contemporary office.

Architecture appears by organising labour, and is political as it is aesthetic. Architecture establishes policies that create a distribution of the sensible — a system of sensible facts that disclose the existence of something in common and define the respective parts and positions within it. Architectural policies establish the terms of work employed by building, and determine the relative visibility of that work, awarding some work a public appearance, and other work obscurity. Historically, architecture has given pride of place to the fineness of decoration over the utility of building, the fantastic image of the machine-work over the evidence of the handcraft, and to the free-floating component over its defining fixing. Architecture often makes claims concerning its transparency — about its ability to immediately make manifest work as work, without an intervening hierarchy of visibility — claiming to simply present the immanent logic of some kind of material, distribution, fabrication, assembly, maintenance or demission. However, this appears to be precisely what it can’t do, in organising construction, resolving building junctions, architecture can’t help but put one kind of work before another.

10:00 a.m. Preparation for night office; time can be used to catch up on work.
10:00 a.m. Noontime (light silence) during luncheon or meeting
10:00 a.m. Dinner
12:10 a.m. Get
12:30 p.m. Dinner
2:00 p.m. Nocturns
3:30/4:00 a.m. Matins (lauds) at daybreak; wash and change
5:00 a.m. Trina oratio
Reading
6:00 a.m. Prime
7:00 a.m. Mass
8:00 a.m. Sex
9:30 a.m. Reading

**FOALondon: opening SMN at 9:00**

- **FOALondon: checking email correspondence**
- **FOALondon: preparing a finishes list for the QS to price**
- **FOALondon: doing hotel research!**
- **FOALondon: having breakfast in front of the monitor**
- **FOALondon: preparing prints for a meeting later**
- **FOALondon: picking up milk from corner shop**
- **FOALondon: and preparing prints for a meeting later**
- **FOALondon: updating the diagrams**
- **FOALondon: rendering the columns**
- **FOALondon: learning how to use the twitter...**
- **FOALondon: updating the diagrams**
- **FOALondon: moveable walls**
- **FOALondon: discussing the reconfiguration of an art gallery**
- **FOALondon: email correspondence**
- **FOALondon: talking about water filters**
- **FOALondon: Research hotels for visiting client**
- **FOALondon: reading about world architecture festival**
- **FOALondon: figuring out how to say something**
- **FOALondon: downloading drivers for external hard drive**
- **FOALondon: finishes again**
- **FOALondon: correspondence to the bank**
- **FOALondon: preparing for the discussion**
- **FOALondon: waiting for the other rendering to be finished**
- **FOALondon: beam take-offs**
- **FOALondon: correspondence to AOR and engineer - lets get that work done! Coordination time**
- **FOALondon: coordinating movable walls with the structure**
- **FOALondon: another e-mail to the engineer**
- **FOALondon: updating the drawing in panels**
- **FOALondon: checking out Birmingham from the top on Google Earth**
- **FOALondon: off to the corner shop for sweets**
- **FOALondon: redrawing prototype for manufacture in a 2 part cast**
- **FOALondon: being relaxed after discussion for a sec**
- **FOALondon: thinking about projects with interesting top lights, let me know if you know any...**
- **FOALondon: 3metros drawn, one to go**
- **FOALondon: updating the presentation**
- **FOALondon: correspondence about travel arrangements for a conference**
- **FOALondon: prints for discussions on Tuesday morning and all...**