Rethinking site as field, field notes, observations and practices

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Aiming to introduce some key issues of

Enables an opening up of ‘the fi

AS- what is the ‘fi

Site and fi

signifi

from the fairly open call. The excellent papers selected for this journal  deal with methodologies of

nature of any

habits’.

of architecture, urbanism, landscape, sociology, anthropology, art. Taking seriously possibilities of re-making, reinventing and responding to and adapting habits, of therefore being able to think

the potential of work in a hidden fi

in the architectural and urban professions- always reassessing methods, reviewing ways of advancing means. Examples included the potential neutrality of a fi

change some aspect of the complex condition of the contemporary, contested public urban domain. He described his aims as exploring limits, tools and methodologies of existing modes and traditions of practice in the city

was focused on the idea of tools and practices in the urban context, of working with the overlooked and understanding the generative potential of a carefully crafted observational output which might activate and perhaps

The lingering register of Alan’s presentation set the subsequent keynote presentation up as an unexpectedly rich dialogue, where questions blurred into the beginning of Can Altay’s contribution. Can, an architect based in

and audio essays which are usually based in urban landscapes, and in this session he visually journeyed from a Birmingham industrial estate to Islington Mission Hall to Pentonville Prison to ongoing work at the changing

activities undertaken? 

cautioned the conference’s described intentions : perhaps  a tangling of questions, a saturated, thick concept which might be in danger of leading to a thin discourse if basic questions are overlooked. With rich territories, and
text and image intimations, what are the values that guide us? What values guide site and field/work activity in architecture and engineering? even define and situate the disciplinary field? to what end and whose benefit are these activities undertaken?

After a full day of diverse and stimulating papers, a view of the power presentations in the Matthew Gallery, and an enjoyable dinner in the early twentieth century space of the Sculpture Court, immersed with cases of the ‘glimazed’ Panthorn house, award winning UK Broadcast and oral histories. Alan Shih, opened the conference gathering on Saturday morning. He shared knowledges and practices of field/work, through his oral history and audio essays which are usually based in urban landscapes, and in this session he visually journeyed from a Birmingham industrial estate to Islington Mission Hall to Pentonville Prison to ongoing work at the changing

The opening presentation of a conference has capacity to act as an intellectual and ethical compass. Andrea Kahn, Founding Principal of consulting practice, designCONTENT, New York, and adjunct Professor of Urban Planning in the Graduate School of Columbia University, delivered this and set a clear tone which established some critical direction in the opening conference lecture of Field/Work. While revising her particular work as cooperating editor of Site Matters: Design Concepts, Historics and Strategies (with Carol Butte, 1995), she touched on how we apprehend site, how we delineate boundaries, how we understand site specifically, site scale, and actions of and as site construction. The critical motif that she offered and elicited was from John Dewey’s work, quoting and revisiting, “Thinking as a doubled the interstices between Art and Science” - She observed and continued the conference’s described intentions - perhaps a tangle of questions, a saturated, thick concept which might be in danger of leading to a thin discourse if basic questions are overlooked. With rich territories, and text and image intimations, what are the values that guide us? What values guide site and field/work activity in architecture and engineering? even define and situate the disciplinary field? to what end and whose benefit are these activities undertaken?

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