Rethinking site as field, field notes, observations and practices

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Aiming to introduce some key issues of fi-
what is the ‘fi-
ment of ‘constructions’, of work which becomes integral to this ‘fi-
thinking as an intelligence-what values guide us? What values guide site and fi-
field’ of fi-
field?’ Anarchitecture’s ‘catalogue’, the making and events of Polyark, Steidle’s transformative restorations, the meticulous visual and textual
i-vehicles, what was possible to achieve in a short summary panel session?
seriously if basic questions are overlooked. With rich terrains, and
iffications and orientations of the defi-
ne the conference at the end of the
himself (with Carol Burns, 1995), she touched on how we apprehend site, how we delineate boundaries, how we understand site specifi-
the ACE conference in Kingston. It feels apposite to be reporting on this international conference a symmetrical two years after the event.
the site and fi-
field/work is a slow, yet open process, and an opening up of questions of storage of the gathered material, and the openness of dissemination resonated with Andrea’s ongoing question of the ethics of benefit and one.
ple and use. Architecture and Field/Work
in a short summary panel session?
field? To what end and to whose benefi-
fieldwork’ in relation to Architecture took place in an informal conversation at the end of the 2007 AHRA conference in Kingston. It feels apposite to be reporting on this international conference a symmetrical two years after the event.
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The opening presentation of a conference has capacity to act as an intellectual and ethical compass. Andrea Kahn, Founding Principal of consulting practice, design/CONTENT, New York, and adjunct Professor of Urban Planning at the Graduate School of Columbia University, delivered this and set a clear tone which established some critical directions in the opening conference lectures of FieldWork. While revisiting her particular work as contributing editor of Site Matters: Design Concepts, Histories and Strategies (with Carol Burns, 1995), she touched on how we apprehend site, how we delineate boundaries, how we understand site specifi-
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in its historical, contemporary, disciplinary and interdisciplinary terms. It aims to address conventions of praxis and action in architecture and landscape architecture in particular, across media, scales, cultures; to articulate current discourses on the topic, and to identify critical dilemmas and opportunities for future practices of design and research. Keynote speakers are invited to three attention-to, and

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