

Dundee School of Architecture

# Doctoral Research Seminar Series

## Wednesday Lunchtimes

12:30→2:00pm

23<sup>rd</sup> February→30<sup>th</sup> March 2011



**work in progress**

doctoral research seminars

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## Alex Pearson

### Scottish Rural Housing an Appropriate Contemporary Alternative.

Within the UK a total of three million new homes are to be built by 2020, two million of them by 2016 (Communities, and Local Government, 2007). In 2009 the Scottish Government has stated that a significant proportion of new houses are to be provided in rural environments in small Scottish towns and villages. The doctoral research seeks to suggest an alternative form of rural development which is combines appropriate scale, identity and environmental aspects for a contemporary Scottish rural context.

Generally contemporary medium scale development is peripheral suburban style development, expanding accessible rural villages. This has blurred the relationship between the suburban and the rural, creating sub-rural. Sub-rural development utilises nationalised suburban housing models and construction methods, rather than models specific to rural areas, creating suburban estates in rural areas. Any rural development has a significant effect on the landscape of rural Scotland, this reinforces the view that any development should appropriately reflect and complement the existing rural identity (A+DS 2006).

The forthcoming seminar firstly aims to outline the field: contemporary Scottish Rural housing, outlining the issues in current practice. It will then define the boundaries of the research, explaining the terms; appropriate, contemporary and alternative in the context of the study. The seminar also unpacks some of the visual thinking processes utilized through out the research. Finally the draft framework for the research projects will be outlined and opened up for discussion.

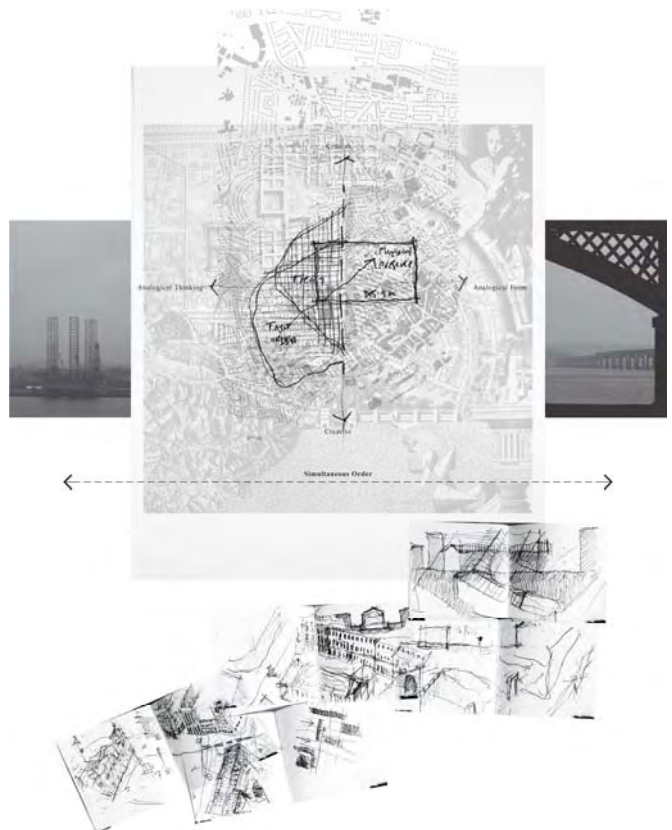


## Cameron McEwan

### The Architecture of Analogy

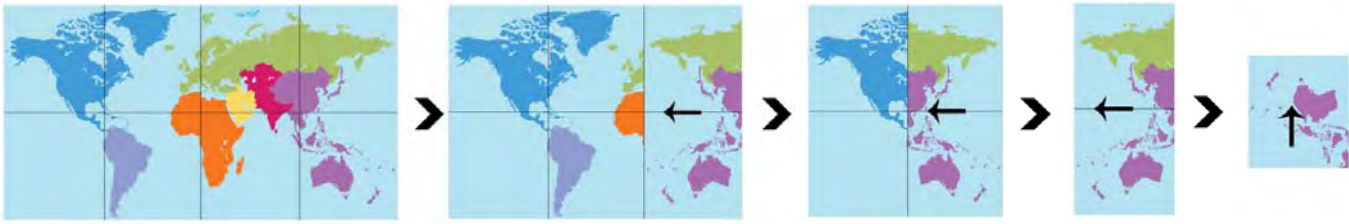
Analogical thinking is concrete and abstract; critical and creative. It is the close and distant relationship to both fact and fantasy. The architectural result of this process is inferred to be analogical form. Utilising architect Aldo Rossi's Analogical City as a foundation, this practice-based PhD titled The Architecture of Analogy investigates the relationship between "analogical thinking" and "analogical form"; extending the narrative of Rossi's concept.

The aim of this seminar is to consolidate the author's research to date. Firstly, a preliminary definition of "analogy" is offered. Secondly, the "analogical framework" is introduced, in which Rossi's Analogical City is conceptually situated; extrapolated from this are a series of themes, which then structure an analysis of the scope of "analogy". The translation of these themes to design operations is investigated through a portfolio of projects, one of which is the focus of this seminar; which concludes by inviting discussion on the next stage of this research.



## Hisham Moustafa

### The Origami World: Delivering quality places in the twenty first century



*Due to the introduction of technology and the different networks, the world has turned into an origami pattern with one part folding onto the next.*

Societies are in a midst of an information revolution, and only recently are the implications being understood. The past few decades have witnessed a dramatic transformation in the way people shop, bank, and go about our daily business. These changes have resulted in an unprecedented proliferation of records and data. Minor details that were once captured in dim memories or fading scraps of paper are now preserved forever in the digital minds of computers, in vast databases with fertile fields of personal data. Every day, streams of information flow into electric brains to be sifted, sorted, rearranged, and combined in hundreds of different ways. Digital technology enables the preservation of the minutia of society's everyday life; their comings and goings, their likes and dislikes, and who they are and what they own. It is ever more possible to create an electronic collage that covers much of a person's life. It is a life captured in records, a digital person composed in the collective computer networks of the world.

Therefore the introduction of technology has greatly altered the world, where everywhere is here. This means that the world has been folding on to itself bringing the vastest corners of the world to one point (where ever that point is). The question now is *how can these changes alter the built environment in the future? What are the branches that affect them? And what are the issues?* The research conducted attempts to clarify these issues and branches and deliver a number of visions of how places should look like in the twenty first century.



## Aidan Williams

### On Dwelling and Creative practice.

There is an uncomfortable dichotomy in the fact that in order to think about our place in the world we generally separate ourselves from it through intellectual thought. On one hand we live our experience and on the other we think about our experience as though we are a detached intellect, perceiving a world out-there. This subscription to the Cartesian split of the mind and the body gives us enormous difficulty when discussing architecture since it places less emphasis on the qualities of things than their quantitative aspects. "More is more". In recent times however, the rise of architectural phenomenology has developed a language concerned with the qualitative aspects of architecture - the tactility of Zumthor's Thermal Baths, Norberg-Schulz's "Genius loci", Pallasmaa's call for an architecture that engages the senses other than sight alone. Each of these approaches is a direct descendent of the philosophy of Martin Heidegger who advocated taking a view of the world from the position of already being-in-the-world, not being as a detached intellect.

A re-reading of Heidegger suggests an approach to architecture that differs slightly from that of the architects mentioned above. It is through the faculty of making that Heidegger states we form relationships to place, not through the place's inherent (designed) qualities imposed on us by architects and planners. Aidan Williams' research explores how this can occur, how this can be documented, and how this can be expressed and extrapolated through architectural design. His presentation will form part of a continuing critique of Heidegger's philosophy and architecture's ability to structure our relationship to being-in-the-world.



