



AIRPORT

URBAN
ECOLOGIES
IN THE
AERIAL
AGE

LANDSCAPE

CONFERENCE
14 NOV 2013
15 NOV 2013
EXHIBITION
30 OCT 2013
19 DEC 2013

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Free and open to the public

Airport Landscape claims the airport as a site of and for landscape. Airports have never been more central to the life of cities, yet they remain peripheral in design discourse. In spite of this, landscape architects have recently reasserted their historic claims on the airfield as a site of design through a range of practices. *Airport Landscape* presents these practices through projects for the ecological enhancement of operating airfields and the conversion of abandoned airfields. The exhibition features work by leading landscape architects and designers including **Agence Ter**, **GROSS.MAX.**, **Hargreaves Associates**, **James Corner Field Operations**, **Lateral Office**, **LCLA**, **Mosbach Paysagistes**, **Office of Landscape Morphology**, **OpSys**, **Stoss Landscape Urbanism**, **Topotek 1**, **West 8**, and **Workshop: Ken Smith Landscape Architect**. The conference convenes a discussion of the airport as landscape with sessions on airport cultures, infrastructures, and ecologies. The conference features keynote lectures by **Peter Galison**, **Adriaan Geuze**, **Christophe Giro**, and **David Pascoe**, as well as project presentations by **Henri Bava**, **Philippe Coignet**, **Eelco Hooftman**, **Mary Margaret Jones**, and **Ken Smith**.



14 NOV 2013 → 18-30

Introductions
Mohsen Mostafavi and **Charles Waldheim**
Evening Keynotes
Peter Galison, Harvard University
"Airport Landscape"
Christophe Giro, ETH Zürich
"Wild Planes and Airfields: An Allegory of 21st - Century Landscape"

15 NOV 2013 → 09-00

Introductions
Charles Waldheim and **Sonja Dümpelmann**
Keynote
Adriaan Geuze, West 8
"Counteracting Stress Scape"
Project Presentation
Mary Margaret Jones, Hargreaves Associates
"Two Decades of Airport Transformations"

10-15 CULTURES →

moderated by **Edward Eigen**, Harvard GSD
Nathalie Roseau, University Paris East, École des Ponts ParisTech
"The Airport as Urban Artifact: The Ecology of the Frontier"
Dominick Pisano, National Air and Space Museum
"The Lehigh Airports Competition of 1930: What the Judges Missed"
Anke Ortlepp, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
"Symbols of a New Age?: American Airports and the Limits of Mobility"
Peter Adey, Royal Holloway, University of London
"Terminal Termination"
Project Presentation
Ken Smith, Workshop: Ken Smith Landscape Architect
"Structure and Scale in the Reuse of Airport Space: Orange County Great Park Case Study"

12-15

lunch

13-00

Keynote
David Pascoe, Utrecht University
"Accidental Landscapes: The Situations of an Airport"
Project Presentation
Philippe Coignet, Office of Landscape Morphology
"Hellenikon Metropolitan Park"

14-00

14-00 INFRASTRUCTURES →
moderated by **Diane Davis**, Harvard GSD
Antoine Picon, Harvard GSD
"Airport Infrastructure: From Flows to Events"
Richard de Neufville, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
"The Future of Airport Passenger Buildings: Towards Flexible Facilities and Landscapes"
Markus Hesse, University of Luxembourg
"The Mental Infrastructures of Airport-Urban Development"
Christopher Hight, Rice University
"Zone d'attente: The Airport's Biopolitical Infrastructures"
Project Presentation
Henri Bava, Agence Ter
"Re-Negotiating Airport Territories"

16-00

16-00 ECOLOGIES →
moderated by **Pierre Bélanger**, Harvard GSD
Susanne Bauer, Goethe University Frankfurt/ **Nils Güttler**, University of Erfurt/ **Martina Schlünder**, University of Toronto
"Interstitial Landscapes: Regimes of Control and the Production of Hybrid Ecologies at Frankfurt Airport"
Steven Barrett, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
"Air Quality: From Airports to the Global Atmosphere"
Suleiman Osman, George Washington University
"The Anti-Airport Landscape: Local Protest Against Airports in the 1960s and 1970s"
Nina-Marie Lister, Ryerson University
"Airfield Ecologies: New Hybrid Landscapes from Management to Conversion"
Project Presentation
Eelco Hooftman, GROSS.MAX.
"Tempelhofer Freiheit: A Prairie for the Contemporary Urban Cowboy"

17-45

Round Table
moderated by **Elizabeth Meyer**, University of Virginia
Anita Berrizbeitia, Harvard GSD
Felipe Correa, Harvard GSD
Christophe Giro, ETH Zürich
Eelco Hooftman, GROSS.MAX.
Mary Margaret Jones, Hargreaves Associates
Chris Reed, Harvard GSD
CONCLUSIONS
Sonja Dümpelmann

18-30

GSD ALUMNI AND CONFERENCE RECEPTION



Although airports have come to occupy pivotal positions in the economy, ecology, and geography of the cities they serve, the design disciplines have not given them much attention. Until recently, architects and urbanists have rarely examined the environmental effects and ecological implications of airport operations, yet the impacts of aviation continue to expand as commercial air travel increases globally. In recent years, the economic centrality, environmental consequences, and cultural relevance of airports have provided landscape architecture with new opportunities. On the one hand, the deregulation of the airline industry and widened access to commercial aviation have led to an increasing number of air passengers and the expansion and construction of airports in environmentally sensitive peripheral urban areas. On the other hand, many former commercial airports near city centers and military air bases have been decommissioned, often providing cities and designers with unforeseen challenges and opportunities.

While the modern airport can be read as an engineering project or architectural object, its manifold social, cultural, and environmental implications raise significant questions for the design disciplines. Over the past decade, multiple discourses have emerged. Some planners and designers consider the airport itself as a form of urbanism, to be developed as a city in its own right. Others have proposed reading the airport as an ecological or environmental field to be managed. Airport afterlives have taken a variety of forms, including public urban parks, residential neighborhoods, nature reserves, and solar parks. The horizontality and openness of former airport sites provide designers with many opportunities. Yet their remediation and renovation also demand massive investments of time, energy, and resources, as these sites have been relentlessly engineered to remove biological function.

Presenting contemporary practices, recent projects, and new scholarly research on airport design, planning, development, and decommissioning, conference speakers will address the variable landscape of airports and their afterlives from multiple perspectives. Landscape architects will showcase airport conversions, presenting the models, challenges, and measures of their practices, addressing the challenges encountered and strategies employed. Scholars from the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, literature, anthropology, ecology, geography, engineering, urban planning, and cultural, environmental, architectural, and aviation history and the history of science will shed light on airport cultures, infrastructures, and ecologies.

CULTURES →

Airports are both subject and object of culture, offering sites of and for cultural reproduction. This panel presents diverse readings of the airport as a cultural landscape through literature, architecture, photography, and film. It describes a new type of landscape that first emerged with the early airports in the 1920s, developed further with the construction of the first jetports in the 1950s and 1960s, and has often been described as a form of urbanism. The panel examines the airport through the lenses of geography and cultural and urban history, reading it both as a landscape that sorts, segregates, and excludes, and as an urban landscape that seeks to connect.

INFRASTRUCTURES →

This panel addresses the airport as a site of urban infrastructure imbricated in aviation systems and transportation networks at the planetary scale. The panel deals with the multiscale dimensions of the airport as a form of landscape infrastructure, from the scale of the individual airport site to the planetary airport system. This airport infrastructure is both a result of and a prerequisite for the contemporary global economy, and it enables the flows of goods and people that have led to the concept of the global city. Speakers in this panel critically examine the evolution of airport systems and the role that airport infrastructures play in the economy and ecology of their landscapes.

ECOLOGIES →

Operating and abandoned airports comprise complex urban ecologies. Landscape architects and planners have engaged in the design of airports, mitigating and remediating the adverse environmental impacts of aviation. Airport planning, design, and development have led to the creation of new landscapes, event programs, and synthetic ecologies. This panel explores the planning, design, development, and reuse of airport sites by focusing on the relationship between the human and the nonhuman as well as on the flows of people, wildlife, machines, energy, water, and waste.

PHOTOS: Yann Arthus-Bertrand/Altitude, *Tarmac 002 - Aéroport de Paris-Roissy Charles de Gaulle*, 2007 (above). An Te Liu, *EROS*, 2013 (below).

