

BARTLETT DESIGNS

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The Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London is one of the world's leading institutions at which to study and teach architecture. Every year it attracts hundreds of students from around the world to come and participate in its highly experimental and rigorous range of architecture programmes. Its graduates have won an extraordinary range of prizes on the international stage, and are highly sought after by architectural practices globally.

Bartlett Designs: Speculating With Architecture is a collection of the very best student work from the last decade. Through a detailed presentation of over 100 student projects, each succinctly explained by the individual tutors concerned, the book shows how architectural designs and ideas can creatively address some of the world's most pressing urban and

social problems through buildings and other forms of architectural invention. The wide range of projects on show deal inventively with such important issues as cultural identity, housing, climate change, health and public space, as well as architectural concerns with the imagination of exciting forms and aesthetic languages.

Complementing the student projects is a series of short, provocative essays written by tutors at the school. Ranging from landscape to buildings, from urbanism to interaction, from making to advanced technology, these essays postulate a series of manifestoes and agendas which both create a conceptual framework around the incredible variety of student work on display, and suggest some of the most current and pertinent agendas for architecture today.

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SPECULATING WITH ARCHITECTURE

Elements, Kai Tak City

Jan Kattein
Diploma Architecture (2002)
Tutors: Elizabeth Daw and Jonathan Hill



Housing the former residents of the Walled City of Kowloon, the urban elements proposed by this project are sited within the disused Kai Tak Airport. These elements are designed and constructed as responses to the cultural and social history of the city's residents. Electricity for street lighting is generated by a series of wobbly bridges that link the former runway with the centre of Kowloon. The new city centre is marked by a wooden shrine, which travels up and down a 10-metre steel tower, powered by the wind caught in a bamboo and silk propeller. Its movement is extremely slow, allowing the growing city time to evolve and adapt.

Emperor's Castle, Tokyo

Thomas Hillier
Diploma Architecture (2008)
Tutors: Bernd Felsing and cj Lim

A woodblock landscape by Japanese *ukiyo-e* printmaker Ando Hiroshige, inspired Hillier to replace Hiroshige's characters in this project with architectonic metaphors set within Tokyo's Imperial Palace. The Princess, a flexible diaphanous membrane, frantically knits herself in the hope of reaching the grass perimeter of the Cowherd, only to be prevented by the Emperor, represented by a collection of breathing origami lungs. The Emperor's army, using a complex pulley system, demands that the knitting begins again and again and articulates the manipulations. Here, architecture employs narrative to examine current cultural and social issues in Japan: unconditional piety, a relentless work ethic and conservative attitudes of love.

