

Nature and Legacy: Climate Change November 5

“Architecture after the Well-Tempered Environment”

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Abstract:

While both art and architecture are fundamental to the shaping of our surroundings and how we perceive and interact with those surroundings, their relationships with climate change may not be readily apparent. On the one hand, architecture has historically been deployed as a means to smooth and temper an otherwise variable and unpredictable set of climatic conditions. On the other hand, what could once have been considered localized interventions have, through a dramatic expansion in scale and scope, come to have a direct impact on not only the spaces that architecture circumscribes – the rooms and buildings we inhabit - but also on the broader environment in which these rooms and buildings are situated. This disparity in scale between the globalized effects of climate change and the localized built environments we interact with on a daily basis frequently allows for a false disconnection, where architecture is close and immediate, and issues of climate are “out there.” However, the role of architecture relative to changes in climate, both interior and exterior, is potentially as malleable as it is unavoidable. In this, both architecture and art share means - in performance and representation, for example - to both address issues of climate change directly and, perhaps as importantly, to offer a window onto environmental phenomena that are elusive, intangible, or otherwise not immediately apparent. If the quest of architecture is, as Louis Kahn once said, 'to make the immeasurable measurable,' perhaps architecture could also offer possibilities for making the invisible visible.

Bio:

Elijah Huye is an architect and director of the design firm Periphery. Exploring the interactions between landscape, regulatory systems, and architecture, his work includes award-winning competition entries for the *High Line* (New York, NY), the *Bourne Bridge/Park* (Bourne, MA), and the *Tangshan Earthquake Memorial* (Tangshan, China). His writings and design work have been featured in *Praxis*, *Thresholds*, *Perspecta*, *Architectural Record*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Dwell*, *Journal of Architectural Education*, and *Competitions*.

A graduate of the Yale School of Architecture, Elijah Huye received the *AIA Henry Adams Medal* and was editor of *Perspecta 35: Building Codes*. He is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley and Assistant Professor of Art at Wesleyan University. At Wesleyan, he leads the architecture studio track in the Department of Art & Art History and North Studio. Focused on developing and producing research and conceptually driven, sustainable projects with real-world clients, North Studio is both a locus for undergraduate design education within the context of Wesleyan University’s liberal arts curriculum and an office committed to seeing work built.