

LANDSCAPE / ARCHITECTURE: TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

[Part of the "History of Organization" Series]

Fall 2009, Fridays 10:30am-12:18pm, 176 Knowlton Hall
ARCH 603: Seminar in Architectural History and Theory, 3 Credits
LARCH 760: Evaluation and Criticism in Landscape, 3 Credits

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3deluxe, Leonardo Glass Cube in Bad Driberg, Germany, 2007.

The history of architecture and landscape architecture has found itself sustained in a series of analogies (the list is extensive: between architecture and film, and music, and philosophy, etc.; between landscape and poetry, and literature, and painting, etc. The list goes on). In this era of increasing convergence in the realm of design, in both cross-disciplinary borrowings and the pursuit of common interest, the tacit agreements that underwrite such efforts are often premised on these mutual misunderstandings (mis-readings?) of terms held as self-evident. While such crossed signals have the benefit of facile agreements is it at the cost of specificity and actual meaning? In the current moment, the relationship between the particularities of landscape and those of building, in light of both environmental and institutional issues, are particularly germane. Whether addressing issues of sustainability, or how to envision a common curriculum at the Knowlton School, the question of what terms define these engagements is key. To explore this congruence and discontinuity, a definition of terms is in order, less with an interest in defining propriety, but rather in establishing provenance, and therein potential.

This seminar will study overlaps and divergences between how the respective disciplines of Architecture and Landscape Architecture position themselves relative to a set of key terms: History, Future, Image, Ground, Performance, Form, and Territory.