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Storefront for Art and Architecture

To Represent the United States in the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale

June 7 – November 23, 2014

OFFICEUS

STOREFRONT FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE, ALONG WITH ITS CO-ORGANIZER, PRAXIS Journal TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT THE ARCHITECTURE VENICE BIENNALE

Featuring the exhibition OfficeUS, a working architecture office exploring 1,000 projects from 100 years of American design exports


The curatorial trio re-imagines the U.S. Pavilion as an active, experimental architectural office that researches, studies, and remakes 1,000 projects designed by American architecture firms and exported abroad. U.S. representation at this global event ensures that the excellence, vitality, diversity, and innovation of architecture in the United States is effectively showcased abroad, and provides an opportunity to engage international audiences to increase understanding across cultures.

"Museums and history books present the last century of American architecture as one of singular buildings and singular figures," say curators Franch-Miljački-Schafer, "But there is a parallel history of U.S.-designed buildings sprinkled throughout the world that remains under-examined. These are the buildings we are interested in, together with the offices that produced them."

The installation contains two interrelated components: 1) The Repository: an exhibition archive of 1,000 projects of U.S. architecture from the last 100 years abroad and 2) The Office: a laboratory of diverse individuals with the mission to critically remake and reinterpret the material in the Repository. The temporary office is called OfficeUS. OfficeUS provides a space in which to examine the past and future ways in which every
architecture office, big and small, corporate and “avant-garde,” contributes globally to the field.


Participating architecture firms and additional information is forthcoming.

A press conference with the curators and the OfficeUS team will take place on September 27, 2013 at 7 p.m. at Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York. To reserve a seat or for inquiries, contact Kara L. Meyer at km@storefrontnews.org or 212.431.5795.

About the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs promotes international mutual understanding through a wide range of academic, cultural, professional, and sports exchange programs. International exchanges engage youth, students, educators, artists, athletes, and emerging leaders in many fields in the United States and in more than 160 countries. Alumni of State Department international exchanges comprise over one million people around the world, including more than 40 Nobel Laureates and more than 300 current or former heads of state and government. For more information, visit www.exchanges.state.gov.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs supports and manages official U.S. participation at the Venice Architecture Biennale. The selection of OfficeUS for the U.S. Pavilion in 2014 resulted from an open competition and the recommendations of the Federal Advisory Committee on International Exhibitions, convened by the National Endowment for the Arts.

About Storefront
Founded in 1982, Storefront for Art and Architecture is a nonprofit organization committed to the advancement of innovative positions in architecture, art and design. Its program of exhibitions, artists talks, film screenings, conferences and publications is intended to generate dialogue and collaboration across geographic, ideological and disciplinary boundaries. As a public forum for emerging voices, Storefront explores vital issues in art and architecture with the intent of increasing awareness of and interest in contemporary design.

About PRAXIS
Founded in 1999, PRAXIS: a journal of writing + building has established itself as a distinctive voice in international architectural culture. The journal focuses on the architecture of the Americas and is committed to increasing awareness of lesser known and emerging architectural practices by publishing them alongside more established ones. Its publications address contemporary design issues in both depth and breadth, and have engendered a forum for an architectural discourse uniquely rooted in practice.
About the curators:

**Eva Franch i Gilabert:** (Executive Director and Chief Curator of Storefront for Art and Architecture)

Franch is an architect, researcher, curator, teacher, and founder in 2003 of OOAA (office of architectural affairs). Prior to joining SFAA in 2010, Franch was an artist in residence at Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, and directed the Masters Thesis studio at Rice University while practicing and building in Catalonia. She studied at TU Delft and earned an M. Arch from ETSAB-UPC, and an M. Arch. II from Princeton University. She has lectured internationally on art, architecture and the importance of alternative practices in the construction and understanding of public life. At Storefront, her most recent projects include a new publication Series, exhibitions such as No Shame: Storefront for Sale or POP: Protocols, Obsessions, Positions, the launching of the Storefront International Series, commissioning major design projects such as the Speechbuster, and developing critical projects like the Competition of Competitions.

**Ana Miljački:** (Assistant Professor of Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Miljački is a critic, curator and historian of architecture. She holds a Ph.D. in history and theory of architecture from Harvard University, an M.Arch. from Rice University, and a B.A. from Bennington College. Her research interests include architecture of the Cold War era Eastern Europe, theories of postmodernism in late socialism and politics of contemporary architectural production. Her research and curatorial practice Project_, in partnership with Lee Moreau, was one of the recipients of The Architecture League of New York Young Architects award for 2008 and a winner of the Boston Design Biennial in 2013. Her most recent exhibition work includes *Fair Use: An architectural Timeline* with students at MIT and *Project_Rorschach* for the Boston Design Biennial 2013.

**Ashley Schafer (Editor, PRAXIS and Associate Professor of Architecture at The Ohio State University)**

A writer, designer, and registered architect, Schafer has lectured and published her design work and critical essays internationally. She is cofounder and coeditor of the journal, PRAXIS. Under her direction, the journal has received critical acclaim as well as numerous grants, awards and honors, including an ID design award. Schafer is an associate professor at the Ohio State University Knowlton School of Architecture, where she previously served as the Head of the Architecture Department. Prior to her appointment in Ohio, she was an associate professor at Harvard University Graduate School of Design and at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Schafer holds a BS Arch from the University of Virginia and her M.Arch from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

The official U.S. representation at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition has been organized by the Storefront for Art and Architecture and the PRAXIS Journal and is presented by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U. S. Department of State.