

# ANTIPODIUM

**STUDIO 1**  
**21.07. – 01.08.2008**

**Azra Akšamija**

Azra Akšamija is an Austrian artist and architect based in Cambridge, USA. Since fall 2004 she has been affiliated with Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Architecture (History Theory and Criticism Section / Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture). Her work has been widely published and internationally exhibited. She is currently researching her dissertation on contemporary mosque architecture in post-socialist Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[www.mit.edu/~azra](http://www.mit.edu/~azra)

## **PROGRAM**

Our Others

A Workshop Examining the Spatial Construction of Cultural Identity and Social Difference

This workshop will explore spaces of 'otherness' in the cities and rural areas of Vorarlberg. The notion of 'otherness' in this context is deployed in relation to cultural identity and social difference. Our research will focus on the spaces of Vorarlberg's inhabitants living outside of or parallel to the main stream society, such as immigrants and foreigners. This thematic focus, however, can be broadened to encompass further kinds of strangers and the estranged, such as. the old, the ill, the poor, criminals, etc. Taking into account the increasing xenophobic and islamophobic mood in Austria and in Europe, the aim of this workshop is to identify, study, and visualize the spatial production and mediation of 'otherness.' To that end, the workshop participants will investigate how cultural identity and social differences are spatially reflected and created. Mapping and visualizing the existing others' spaces in Vorarlberg may help to better understand the processes of socio-spatial inclusions and exclusions, and how architecture and urban design may be deployed for mediation of social or cultural conflicts.

## **METHODS**

The workshop participants will develop tools to research and render visible our others' spaces by means of diagrams, texts, maps, videos, photographs, performances, sculptures, or other self-chosen media. The workshop will involve individual and collaborative work, visits to selected sites, meetings with and critical input by local artists, architects, social workers, and activists, evenings with selected films and invited musicians. The theoretical framework for discussions and conceptualizations of research projects will be given in form of reading material on political and architectural theory, identity politics, Orientalism, Globalization, as well as lectures on artistic and architectural projects related to these themes. Readings may include selected excerpts from writings by Arjun Appadurai, Walter Benjamin, Clifford Geertz, Michel Foucault, Stuart Hall, Eric Hobsbawm, Julia Kristeva, Henri Lefebvre, Chantal Mouffe, Salman Rushdie, Edward Saïd, and others. There will be a mid-term review with visiting critics and a final presentation.

## **PREPARATION**

The participants are asked to read the short essay by Michel Foucault on heterotopic spaces entitled 'Of Other Spaces' (1967), which will be discussed on the first day of the workshop. The essay is available online in English and German and can be downloaded at the following websites:

<http://foucault.info/documents/heteroTopia/foucault.heteroTopia.en.html>

[http://www.uni-weimar.de/gestaltung/cms/struktur/uploads/media/Foucault\\_AndereRaeume\\_02.pdf](http://www.uni-weimar.de/gestaltung/cms/struktur/uploads/media/Foucault_AndereRaeume_02.pdf)

# ANTIPODIUM

**STUDIO 2**  
**28.07. – 08.08.2008**

**Peter Holzwarth**  
**Wolfgang Meisinger**  
**Ruby Sircar**

Peter Holzwarth studied sociology, media pedagogy, psychology and empirical cultural science at Tübingen University, Germany and teaches since 2005 at Pädagogische Hochschule Ludwigsburg. Since 2006 he teaches at the Department for Media Education at Zurich University for Pedagogy. From 2001 to 2004 he was involved in the EU research project „CHICAM - Children In Communication About Migration“.

Wolfgang Meisinger studied journalism and communication sciences and was scientific staff member at the Institute of Contemporary Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He is currently working as a curator and museum planner in various cultural institutions.

[www.gegensprechanlage.at](http://www.gegensprechanlage.at)

Ruby Sircar took her PhD from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, was Research Fellow at the Jan van Eyck Academy Maastricht and is currently teaching at the University of Technology Graz, Austria - Institute of Contemporary Art.

[www.izk.tugraz.at](http://www.izk.tugraz.at)

Together they work in Europe and elsewhere as cultural scientists, artists, exhibition and radio curators.

ANTIPODIUM Summer School Festival  
Palais Thurn & Taxis Bregenz  
[www.antipodium.at](http://www.antipodium.at)

## PROGRAM

Liferecord - Housereport

This workshop explores the relation between private/domestic and representative/public. Our socio-spatial research will centre around the following questions: How do people in Vorarlberg incorporate in their private life (spaces) stimuli from public every day spaces? How does proto-Vorarlberg wooden-shedded glass case architecture influence garden-gnomey-social-housing? Or are the model-railway-geranium-window-boxes anyway part of bourgeois high and turbo architecture? How do media, state, municipality and community form the life of the individual? How does collective self-perception shape not only the individual but also the notion of a sheltering “home”? When does “home-land” turn “home”? How are actual life grounds and spaces manifested? And: what about those spaces which are neither consciously designed nor polished-up? Are the in-between spaces able to unsettle handed-down architecture? *“The ANTI LOCALE is utopia’s backside, the third dimension. Manifesting itself in rather provisory defined places – all over the city.”* (Annette Wehrmann)  
We would like to explore these three localities: the elite representative space, the instantaneous space of change – the seemingly non existent in-between – and the concrete and private locale.

## METHODS

We will work in small groups, using microphones and cameras to trace, explore and document various spaces in Vorarlberg. The studio will begin with an input session by Hamburg based artist Annette Wehrmann. We will start by working with media information material on social space and architecture, as well as discussing methods of audio-visual documentation. During the first week we will interview people from varying social and cultural habitats, work on visual documentation techniques and the representation of our accumulated media material within a spatial setting. The second week will be dedicated to resume the results of the first week and create an installation in the Palais’ exhibition space. The installation will be distilled from our research – audio play elements, post-cards, video scraps, booklets, maps and other transcribed material. The audio play - which will be developed out of our collected samples - will build the installation’s centre. The samples are filtered out of classical interviews, readings, everyday noise and scenes. As every installatory element can be reproduced (booklets, maps, audio play, videos etc.) the whole can be seen as/transformed into a mobile exhibition take-away kit for every participant.

## PREPARATION

In preparation to ACT 01 each participant will receive a reader (consisting out of text, image, sound and video material), thus being able to conduct pre-research, follow-up ideas and material and deepen an individual access/view. The studio’s first day will start with a warm-up discussion on the material brought in by us and the participants. The continuously growing collection of text, video and sound samples will build the collective starting point of and accompany the studio week.

# ANTIPODIUM

**STUDIO 3**  
**04.08. – 15.08.2008**

## **PROGRAM**

Ordinary Gestures of Resistance or The Space Invaders

### **toxic dreams**

In 1997 toxic dreams was founded in Vienna by the Israeli director Yosi Wanunu and the producer Kornelia Kilga. Since then and within over twenty productions the label has established its own aesthetic niche in the city. The fusion of old and new styles, of high and low technologies, the applied knowledge of art history and theatre and the equality of the elements used (body, music, media, objects, space are all given equal status) distinguish the groups' work. toxic dreams consists of a permanent working ensemble regularly inviting artists from all fields of art to collaborate.

[www.toxicdreams.at](http://www.toxicdreams.at)

Think of us as jet set international artists with little regard to locality. We have one suitcase with one solution kit, one size fits all. The space we encounter is always a blank space; weather, materials, local traditions or landscapes are of secondary importance. We occupy a place, any place, with the same sets of rules. The spaces we create are magazines friendly; they are there to be exhibited, to show off, to represent the international style of our virtual global village.

Can one ignore the local circumstances? Can one dream a place within one's body without taking into account the real one? Can one create the ultimate sound track, the one that can be played in any space in the world? Can one write a text that can be spoken anywhere and everywhere? Can one draw a plan that fits any site? How does one behave in this kind of space? What tasks one perform? What one sees, hears, eats, dresses or reads? What constitutes a global living?

Building the one solution kit is the center of our workshop; the set of articles, tools, or equipment used for this particular purpose are varied - from your own body/voice to sound devices, from photo collages to video clips, from drawings to 3D simulation, from factual text to fiction, from lecture techniques to performance models, from documentary style movies to on site intervention, from old media to new ones.

Building the kit is a collective effort as much as an individual one, that is why we ask participants from different disciplines (Architecture, performance, visual and video/media arts) to join forces together in creating the one size fits all kit; after all the kit is a set of parts ready to be put together, a sort of a manual for modern living.

## **METHODS**

In developing an idea the work process may move between different methods, elements and way of working.

A changing kaleidoscope of fragments in which parts are added, moved, removed, and the whole is continually transformed. The structuring task is one of recognizing an emergent form rather than imposing one.

The material will seem, as it were, to form itself, from arriving via a process of evolution rather than from any preconceived shape. This requires a continual interplay between making and watching.

We deal with:

Groupings of elements - positions/ orientations.

Directions of movement.

Relationships in space of different kinds of ingredients - people, objects, light, sound...

Balance the material:  
More of X? Less of Y?

What is dominant, what subsidiary?  
Can a detail become a main element?

Adjust relative density between parts:  
Too much/too little happening?  
How much space/silence/stillness does each part need around it?

Adjust the scale - of gestures, spaces, objects...  
How large must one thing be relative to others in order to "read"?

Adjust viewing positions - close up/ distant, from above/behind?

Find the best duration of the whole and the parts relative to each other:  
How much time does an action need in order to become visible?

What parts or aspects of the work should be set/open?

Find a context:  
Where, how and by whom the material is to be seen.

**STUDIO 3**  
**04.08. – 15.08.2008**

**toxic dreams**

Location - a tent, a bar, a house,  
an opera?

Could the location or type of  
audience/public affect the form and  
content of the work?

Possible relationships to the public  
and circumstances of viewing - sit  
and watch, visit, pass by, join in,  
see later as photo or video?

Explore possibilities of: fragmenta-  
tion, repetition, reversal, inversi-  
on, change of pace.

**PREPARATION**

A. Movement

Let the quality of movement be  
influenced by the qualities of a place  
remembered or imagined.

a hillside  
an endless plane  
a pier  
a tabletop  
the bottom of a well  
a glacier  
a phone box

B. Assemble a kit

Enter a place full of objects/materi-  
als available for use  
attic... seashore...  
derelict building.

Spend time there... silently...  
without searching...  
without an idea...

Let objects draw attention to  
themselves.

Select one thing.  
Add another that feels compatible.

Continue until you have enough.

Repeat the experience in  
a different room.  
In front of people.

# ANTIPODIUM

**STUDIO 4**  
**11.08. – 22.08.2008**

**STALKER**  
**Lorenzo Romito**  
**Giulia Fiocca**

Stalker is a collective subject that engages research and actions within the landscape with particular attention to the areas around the city's margins and forgotten urban space, and abandoned areas or regions under transformation. These investigations are conducted across several levels, around notions of practicality, representations and interventions on these spaces that are referred to here as „Actual Territories.“ Stalker is together custodian, guide and artist for these „Actual Territories.“ In the multiple roles we are disposed to confront at once the apparently unsolvable contradictions of salvaging through abandonment, of representation through sensorial perception, of intervening within the unstable and mutable conditions of these areas.

[www.stalkerlab.it](http://www.stalkerlab.it)

## **PROGRAM**

The watercourseway

Floating along and across borders and rivers. The Beyond-city, a possible social and environmental network along and across the Rhein Valley.

*“I'd like to show how the principle of Tao conciliates sociality with individuality, order with spontaneity, unity with diversity.” (Alan Watts “Tao, the watercourse way” NY, 1975)*

What could three houses have in common to become a little village?

What could three villages have in common to become a little town?

What could three little towns have in common to become an urban dimension?

What could three countries with no boundaries anymore have in common to become a transnational region?

The Rhein basin in Vorarlberg is a unitary ecological system, today dividing three national areas. The workshop will investigate to which extend the river basin could become the connecting infrastructure of the emerging transnational regional area. Along the rivers and across the borders we will explore the relationships between natural and social flows.

The goal will be exploring possible links and exchanges that could take place in the between void spaces of the valley. Understanding the potential of those spaces as the hubs of an emerging beyond city dimension.

## **METHODS**

The Stalker approach will be walking across and along physical - both natural and artificial - social and cultural boundaries, attempting to produce courseways in between the little towns, by catalyzing processes and relationships.

## **PREPARATION**

The first week will mainly focus on generating material as much as cooking, sleeping, seeing and perceiving along the way. Take along your good shoes, swimming dress and raincoats. Bring your notebook, photo camera, video camera, ...

A reader will be provided to participants including Alan Watts “Tao, the watercourse way” NY, 1975 and Carl Fingerhuth “Learning from China” Basel, 2004.

# ANTIPODIUM

**STUDIO 5**  
**18.08. – 29.08.2008**

## An Architektur

The magazine An Architektur was founded in early 2002 out of the city-political architecture collective „freies fach / free subject“. Published biannually, the issues are based mainly on individual research, maps and interviews expanded by textual features and increasingly collaborating with external universities or research projects. Additionally and parallel to the magazine publishing, specific topics are analysed and discussed at exhibitions, conferences and events, e.g. the Camp for Oppositional Architecture, which was initiated by An Architektur.

[www.anarchitektur.com](http://www.anarchitektur.com)

[www.oppositionalarchitecture.com](http://www.oppositionalarchitecture.com)

## PROGRAM

Space - Power - Property  
Divided Inheritance in Vorarlberg

*Space is architecture, cityspace, built environment. It is Euclidean geometric, has three dimensions and acquires a fourth through time, and many more in its character as social space. Space is always many spaces, which arise and condition each other in parallel and simultaneously. These are marked by the relations between subjects and objects, between people and the built environment. Space is political through and through, a construct being produced and used continuously, pervaded by various demands, and enabling these to attain to a form and an image. Space is social space, at once product and container of all its experiences and practices. It structures everyday life and social relationships, and yet produces experiences of dissent and exclusion. Space is the setting, the stakes and the product of struggles and negotiations.*

In this workshop, these complex dimensions of space and their interrelationships and effects on the practice of life will be investigated and made visible with reference to the form of land inheritance practiced in Vorarlberg. By tradition, and still today, the ownership of land in Vorarlberg is divided up among the property owner's heirs, resulting in a fine-grain structure of parcelled farm lots, fruit gardens and lots for building. Thus, right in the already compressed spaces of the Rhine valley, land parcels are becoming smaller and smaller - most now have only room enough for single houses - increasingly restricting the planning of community facilities, public spaces or parks.

This workshop will study the relationships between a particular practice of structuring space and the ideas of society that go with it. This will lead us to ask questions about economic conditions and property relations, about the relation between private and public space and the surrounding cultural landscape, but also about what it means for the concrete practice of life and for future planning, or about possibilities for alternative planning and where these might lie. Working from an analysis of the existing situation, we will attempt to make visible the structuring forces and develop possible scenarios for the future.

## METHODS

In the first days, using interviewing, mapping and comparative analysis, we will gather facts and information about how the divided land inheritance works and what effects it has. Possible themes would be the research and representation of property relations and land prices, investigation of rent and ownership structures, who lives where why and what are the appropriate building forms, as well as questions of communal forms of living in relation to the spatial-social structures that exist and evolve through this form of land partitioning.

These individual aspects will be analysed and set in relation to each

other, as well as questioned on the basis of their inherent logic and consequences. The different research directions will be pursued in small groups, though at the end of the workshop a common final work shall be presented. The outcome need not necessarily be complete, but the pieces that have been worked on should be as precise as possible.

In working with these themes, questions of the presentation and representation of the research results will be of central importance; the relationship between object, means and aim will be discussed as much as the contents to be communicated.

**STUDIO 5**  
**18.08. – 29.08.2008**

**An Architektur**

An Architektur has often approached similar thematic questions using cartography, which beyond the representation of geographic space also makes possible the depiction of social spaces and political conditions. In the choice of methods and modes of presentation, however, no limitations are set, and we are open to other ways of working, as long as they can contribute to producing a common end result.

Basic data, maps and introductory texts will be supplied.

**PREPARATION**

Based on the maps and texts provided, participants should write a short statement of motivation, and formulate initial ideas for a research topic and possible working methods.

The workshop will be conducted by Oliver Clemens, Sabine Horlitz and Anita Kaspar.