

Your response, or your question ...

Uncommon Building: A Collective Assemblage of a Speculative Archive The Artists House

In the City of Birmingham, UK, in 2017, an organization called Eastside Projects commenced preparatory work on a structure intended to provide prototype spaces for artists to live and work in. Uncommon Building sets out to imagine that structure in the form of a future memory. Guided by a series of questions designed to invite creative conjecture as to its origins, life, shape, and fate, we are collectively assembling a speculative archive of this particular uncommon building, the Artists House, from the perspective of a future time and future place. The initial specifications suggested that the structure was to be 'light', 'medium-term', 'bespoke', and 'nomadic'.

Throughout the exhibition we are inviting visitors, artists and ESP members to respond to a question, or questions, from the list overleaf. Your response can be as provisional as you wish and will become part of a larger archive of the Artists House. Please hand it to a member of staff or email it to Eastside Projects at info@eastsideproject.org

Given the parameters of our present knowledge, we recognise that responses will themselves take the form of artificial artefacts, speculative fictions that will be rough, experimental, half formed, underdone, unfinished, underperformed, more associative than concrete. You are also welcome to propose a question or questions of your own.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
FRIDAY 9 JUNE, 2-5PM

A workshop in the guise of a consultation session, with specially invited contributors from a range of backgrounds, interests, and disciplines, will take place, in public, within the gallery space of Eastside Projects on Friday 9 June, 2-5pm. Facilitated by Honor Gavin and Adam Kaasa, the discussion will be observable by gallery visitors. The frictions, commonalities and conflicts of interest of the resulting responses will serve – it is hoped – as a productive means towards compiling guidelines for the building as it currently exists, i.e. still to be realized, still to be built.

Uncommon building is organized by Honor Gavin and Adam Kaasa working together through Theatrum Mundi. Theatrum Mundi is a network of people from the performing and visual arts, the built environment disciplines, from across the academy and community and social collectives. Based in London, it activates projects, meetings, and research in cities around the world.

Theatrum Mundi asks questions about urban culture. Who makes it? Where does it take place? What are the politics of production and display? What are the connections between performance, design and politics, and how can those connections help us understand cities?

The aim of Theatrum Mundi, across its diverse activities, is to afford vulnerable provocation between people involved in confronting these and other questions about the condition, inequalities, and politics of urban culture today.

Eastside
Projects
makes
an
public

How did the building move?

What technologies made the building possible?

How many rooms were in the building? Any? Many?

In what ways was the building sustainable? In what ways was it unsustainable?

Why was it called what it was called?

Who called the building home?

Was the building well known?

Where did the building end?

Was the building homely?

What secrets did it keep?

Where did inhabitants eat?
Where did they sleep? Where did they think?

What work was made there?

What lay beneath it?
What hovered above?

How long did inhabitants live there for? How old were they when they arrived?

What colour was the building at 5pm on a June afternoon?

How much did it cost (to build, to live there)?

Was it hot inside? Or cold? Or both?

How light was the building by comparison?

Why is the building still of interest now?