

JWTC Announcement: Volume Seven Of The Johannesburg Salon Goes Live!



We are pleased to announce the publication of the next volume of the *Johannesburg Salon*. Volume 7 centres on a collection of essays convened for *Achille Mbembe's African Future Cities Seminar*, held at Harvard University in Autumn of

last year. Edited by Stephanie Bosch Santana, the pieces explore the continent's diverse urbanisms with an eye towards future trajectories of inventiveness, fortification, resilience and segregation.

In our Editorial section, artist Raimi Gbadamosi remembers the late Stuart Hall, Ashleigh Harris discusses style in recent diasporic African fiction, Helena Chavez Mac Gregor explores emergent political formations in Mexico and elsewhere, Lewis Gordon ruminates on the philosophical blues, Jonathan Klaaren reflects on the limits of the South African legal system and Ellison Tjirera makes a case for Windhoek's city-ness. Catherine Portevin interviews Achille Mbembe (in French) about how his book *Critique de la Raison Negre* draws on the theories of Frantz Fanon and others to enter into dialogue with Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. The AFC symposium is complemented by Bregtje van der Haak's exclusive interview with Rem Koolhaas, in which the architect meditates upon the meanings and possibilities of his Lagos Project, now fifteen years old.

Juan Orrantia's Dialogues. A southern conversation, which makes up the ZONE 3, incorporates the following two conversations and accompanying images:

A conversation between Lola Mac Dougall and photographer Gauri Gill about developing her practice beyond a Euro-centric paradigm, about privacy and the multiple readings of her work, particularly the Birth Series (2005), reproduced herewith.

A dialogue between critic/curator Renuka Sawhney and artist Naeem Mohaiemen who have been speaking to each other for some time now about the

role of memory as part of a critical approach and form of work(ing) with(in) contested political spaces is unpacked through its manifestation in various locations.

A project of the *Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism* (JWTC), *The Salon* is an intellectual, political and cultural digital magazine. It is open to scholars, writers, artists, designers, architects, activists and public intellectuals who want to shape conversation from the global South while testing their works and ideas against unanticipated modes of everyday life in an uncertain world.

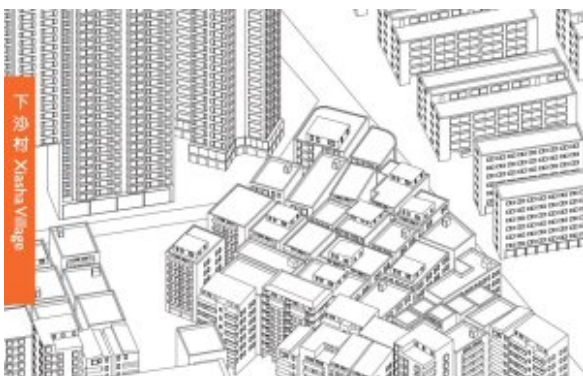
The Salon blurs the lines that separate print from digital media. It combines maximum elegance and minimum ornamentation, transparency, minimalist aesthetics and ease of use.

Its platform has been designed by The Library, with funding from The Prince Claus Fund and support from the Faculty of the Humanities at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa).

The Salon's editors are Megan Jones and Achille Mbembe.

Volume 7 and previous: http://jwtc.org.za/volume_7.htm

Adam Nowek - Celebrating South China's Urban Villages



Axonometric view of building typologies in Xiasha Village (Image: Villages in the City, edited by Stefan Al)

theprotocity.com. September 2014. Urban informality is hardly a new reality for the world's cities. The term itself has a young theoretical life, being championed by urbanist Ananya Roy as a lens with which to think about how cities are planned and made without the need to approach an urban planning department. Informal settlements exist in a huge variety of forms, from the gradual occupation of the Torre David skyscraper in Caracas to the built-overnight towers of outer Istanbul, and offer ad hoc solutions for housing, retail, and community space alongside questionable building quality.

The Chinese manifestation of urban informality is the urban village. As Stefan Al, architect and Associate Professor of Urban Design at the University of Pennsylvania, sees it, China's urban villages bear few, if any, similarities to the favelas of Brazil. "They're actually fully intertwined, although they look like the polar opposite," notes Al. "From an economic perspective, the urban villages and the city are completely related. The only reason urban villages exist is the inability of the Chinese government to provide adequate housing for millions of people."

Read more: <http://theprotocity.com/celebrating-south-chinas-urban-villages/>

Sanjeev Sanyal - Why India Needs To Slum It Out

Al Jazeera ~ Tondo: The Story Of Manila's Largest Slum

Historian Carlos Celdran explains how the slums of Tondo came into existence as the rebel district of Manila.

David Weiss - From Slums To Significance: The Communities Shaping Our Urban Future



Photo: A meeting of Global Communities staff and community members of Ravine Pintade to plan the reconstruction of the neighborhood.

urb.im.September 2014. The two megatrends of demographic growth and urbanization are rapidly transforming human settlement from rural to predominantly urban environments. This is particularly true in Asia and Africa, where the UN forecasts that the urban population will grow from 2.3 billion people in 2011 to 4.5 billion in 2050. Many large cities in these regions are struggling with how to provide services, housing and jobs for large numbers of rural migrants. These migrants are often highly vulnerable: although they have

moved to the city in search of jobs and access to services, the informal neighborhoods that receive them lack infrastructure and are often removed from main centers of economic activity. A lack of economic opportunities and poor living conditions set the stage for marginalization, instability and violence.

At the same time, this raw influx of human capital, ideas and energy are at the core of providing sustainable answers to the challenges that cities face. Too often slum dwellers have been considered a problem. I believe they are the solution.

Read more: <http://urb.im/blog/urbimedge>

James Hamblin - Living Simply In A Dumpster



atlantic.com

theatlantic.com. September 2014. Tucked behind the women's residence halls in a back corner of Huston-Tillotson University's campus in Austin, Texas, sits a green dumpster. Were it not for the sliding pitched roof and weather station perched on top, a reasonable person might dismiss the box as "just another dumpster"—providing this person did not encounter the dean of the University College Jeff Wilson living inside.

Professor Wilson went to the dumpster not just because he wished to live deliberately, and not just to teach his students about the environmental impacts of day-to-day life, and not just to gradually transform the dumpster into “the most thoughtfully-designed, tiniest home ever constructed.” Wilson’s reasons are a tapestry of these things.

Until this summer, the green dumpster was even less descript than it is now. There was no sliding roof; Wilson kept the rain out with a tarp. He slept on cardboard mats on the floor. It was essentially, as he called it, “dumpster camping.” The goal was to establish a baseline experience of the dumpster without any accoutrements, before adding them incrementally.

Read

more:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/09/the-simple-life-in-a-dumpster/379947/>