MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

On the night of November 9th, 2016, the world shuddered and all became quiet as much of what we had taken for granted was suddenly suspended into jeopardy. Through a series of meetings discussing the potential direction for the student magazine in light of current events, we’ve arrived at this: a monthly publication of student work, which is not necessarily limited to just academic pursuits but begins to give a voice to the student body.

With the emergence of the new political climate and where it is more important than ever to speak and be heard, Informality is here as a monthly platform carrying out the voices of the student body - informed, empowered, and acting.

For the month of February, we reached out to Spitzer School of Architecture’s student body and asked for contributions in response to recent events - which we have themed “Anarchy.”

Thank you for picking up this month’s edition of Informality, and hopefully you and your work will join us for next month’s release, themed “Intersect.” For more information on how to submit work, both thematically related and not, please see the bottom of the opposite side of this publication.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Faherty
Samantha Ong

BY ZARA Z. TAMTON

WAKE UP

There is a dim light peeking out through the crack of a beaten down wooden door boarded up by scraps of warped ply covered by sprawling graffiti.

It’s blinding!

in the middle of the night calling you calling you
Wake up! Wake up!

Crawl out of bed drowsy rubbing your eyes wondering wondering where we are in this sea of darkness.

Surrounded out in the streets Shouting Shouting not alone.

Here we stand drawn to the light Charging Charging forward never back through the shadows searching for the source Rising Rising until we all feel what we cannot see but undoubtedly know is there calling calling
Wake up! Wake up.

BABBIE DUNNINGTON

on her experience at Trump’s inauguration in Washington DC.

The sun is rising
At the inauguration ceremony of Trump.
Police complimenting red hats, white faces
Then an island speaking out—indigenous, brown, black, rising in the sea of red, all under the authority of the ceremony.

security ensures that injustice remains safe
Our fruit is taken from us at the door lest we throw one against a tyrant.

A man with huge muscles confronts the women I’m with. People force us, looking up at him, to be the ones to back down. Surrendering to him. We must be nonviolent. Not him

Nonviolence is not peace. As I leave the check points, a man grabs me.
This is normal but normal is not safe.

A moving mass of black, like a school of fish swimming in the river of D.C. streets.
Acoustic oasis in a spiritual desert of complacency and fear.
I feel the safety of the black bloc’s world in which people are respected more than profit organized around slow hidden violence.

D.C. has made the mistake of filling street tree pits with stones the size of clenched fists.
They are all in black. Waterfalls of glass.

We will shatter a world that allows greed to steal health and happiness
We know history, we imagine the future. We are not afraid.

The limousines must burn.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BERNADETTE MCCANN, TAKEN IN BARCELONA (2016)
Anarchy

I don’t break the rules. If you ask me to record a lecture, I won’t do it without asking the professor first. I won’t come to class late. I will not submit a paper past the deadline. Even though everyone says (without knowing that it’s commonly attributed to Douglas MacArthur), rules are meant to be broken, I will show up to all the Sciame lectures on Thursday nights. Isn’t “broken” an amusing word to use when describing the disregard of rules? We break, violate, defy, and infringe the rules: only hostile terms. Most people forget the end of MacArthur’s quote: rules “are too often for the lazy to hide behind.” If we followed the “rules,” we would still be living in caves.

I am not an anarchist. But architecture - the convergence of design, engineering, and all other subjects – inherently craves to be defied. It is an idiosyncratic subject which honors and historicizes shifts in meaning. Think of the relationship between classicism and mannerism or the international style and post-modernism. Studio is about breaking the rules, the mold, the expected, to produce creative and original ideas. To create new meaning – unless I’d like to be a glorified CAD monkey – I’m going to have to explore beyond the boundaries of what the rules dictate. I’m going to have to become an anarchist.

Maybe by experimenting with the act of anarchy, in an organized fashion – even on the smallest of scales – I will be able to channel the same rebellion that Michelangelo or Robert Venturi radiated. Naturally, I was going to submit this article on time, but I’m going to submit it late, as my little form of rebellion. (Post-note: Awkward. The deadline to submit this article was postponed, so that didn’t work out….)

Wait. If anarchy is necessary to create meaningful architecture, then isn’t breaking the rules just following them? In that case - phew! - I don’t need to practice anarchy to be an architect.

Anarchitecture
BY BENJAMIN AKHAVAN

The inter-studio Speed-Critique is modeled off of a practiced used in the Columbia GSAPP program between M.Arch I and Advanced Architectural Design (AAD) students. Each week, a different pairing of two different studios is made, and a faculty member is present to moderate.

Each student from the two studios is asked to bring in-progress drawings (sketches, diagrams, red-lined drawings, developing presentations) and to present it to other students from the alternate studio. This allows each student 2.5 minutes to explain the research and design they are developing to several others who are not focused on the same thing. After 2.5 minutes, the roles switch. The process repeats every 5 minutes.

A special thank you to our March contributors, in no particular order:
Babtiez Dunnington
Julia Lu
Benjamin Akhavan
Zara Z Tantum
Anonymou S Heymanns
Eleni Christoforides
ASAP
Anonymous M. Arch II student(s)

To submit for next month’s edition, email us with your work at: informalitymagazine@gmail.com
The final day for April’s edition is March 26th.

Thank you for reading.

A PROPOSAL
SPEED-CRITS

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