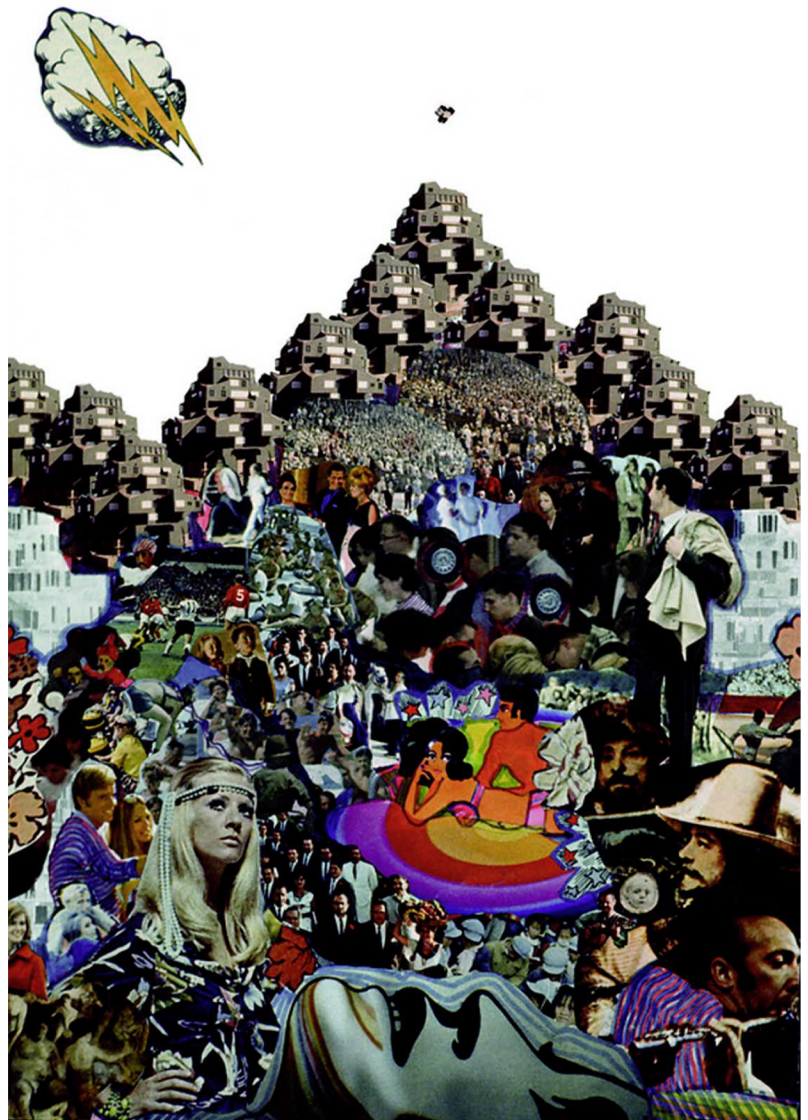


# ANNE KOCKELKORN LECTURE

ARCHITECTURE LECTURE SERIES  
2018, UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

**HOUSING UTOPIAS UNDER DICTATORSHIP**  
INVESTIGATING THE URBAN MICRO-CENTRALITIES OF TALLER  
DE ARQUITECTURA IN FRANCO'S SPAIN



Caption of the Illustration:  
Collage for the "City in Space", circa 1968  
© Taller de Arquitectura

**MONDAY 19 MARCH, 2018**  
**19.00 - 21.00**

LEDRAS 68, 1010, NICOSIA  
GROUND FLOOR EXHIBITION AREA  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE



# LECTURE

ARCHITECTURE LECTURE SERIES  
2018, UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

## HOUSING UTOPIAS UNDER DICTATORSHIP INVESTIGATING THE URBAN MICRO-CENTRALITIES OF TALLER DE ARQUITECTURA IN FRANCO'S SPAIN

*Ricardo Bofill and his office Taller de Arquitectura are widely known for their neoclassicist housing schemes in the Parisian New Towns built during the 1980s. Less well known are the multifunctional housing monuments for the peripheries of Madrid, Barcelona and Paris which the office members developed from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s. The transdisciplinary team of the Taller conceived of these urban micro-centralities as semi-autonomous urban enclaves, which were to induce pleasure and desire among inhabitants and visitors alike. To achieve this, Bofill and his office members – which included sociologists, writers and poets – adopted a multi-faceted transdisciplinary design approach. Their cinematographic working method combined geometric 3D-cluster strategies with scenographic sequencing, environmental psychology and the behavioural sciences, in particular the writings of the psychiatrist R.D Laing and the neuroscientist Henri Laborit.*

*If the methodology and political scope the office and their works bears resemblance to other avant-garde strategies of the post-war boom years – Archigram, Superstudio, Moshe Safdie and others – it remains unique and exceptional when seen in the context of Franco's dictatorship. Unlike Northern European countries, Spain didn't adopt national welfare state policies or the political goal of the redistribution of wealth in the post-war boom years: the two main urbanization processes in Spain were the slum settlements in the urban peripheries of Madrid or Barcelona and the tourist development along the coasts. The first resulted from Spain's interior migration, the second from the national effort to create foreign exchange. In that situation, the design strategies of Taller de Arquitectura aimed to realize what the French Philosopher Henri Lefebvre coined in Right to the City in 1968 – that is, expanding the right to housing with a right to enjoyment, right to the access of social and cultural infrastructures as well as the right to political self-determination and representation. The second relevant aspect of the design strategies of Taller de Arquitectura is their transposition of the modernist quest for the fulfilment of basic human needs towards the mediation of transgressive experiences. Their explorations of the uncanny led to a genuine governmental strategy for architecture claiming to take effect both on the subject's mental disposition as well as the power structure of urban territories.*

## ANNE KOCKELKORN



Anne Kockelkorn is an architectural historian and urban researcher, focusing on the territorial politics of architecture. She studied architecture at the Ecole d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville and the Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weißensee, worked as a free-lance architecture critic since 2006 and was an editor of the Journal *Candide* – Journal for Architectural Knowledge from 2012 to 2015. Since 2009 she has worked as a researcher at the chairs for architectural history and theory at the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich, where she is also a member of the collaborative international research project "Urbanization in a Comparative Perspective" at the chair of urban sociology. Her PHD *The Social Condenser II* was nominated for the dissertation award of ETH Zurich and it investigates the representation and production of large-scale housing in France before and after the neoliberal reforms of 1977, taking the work of the Catalan office Taller de Arquitectura as its case study. Her latest publication, *Housing after the Neoliberal Turn: A Sample Atlas*, was co-edited with Reinhold Martin (Berlin: Spector Books, 2015) and published in the context of the exhibition *Wohnungsfrage* at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) in Berlin.

