

Risk and Reflexivity: Architecture and the industries of risk-distribution

*Liam Ross and Adam Sharr*

What are the risks associated with the industries of architecture and building construction? Where, and from which disciplinary perspectives, do they surface? What are our technologies of risk-mitigation and re-distribution? What are the 'residual risks', recalcitrant and resistant risks that remain, in spite of our best efforts? And what are the reflexive effects, the 'moral hazards' associated with our technologies of risk-management? This workshop invites a number of spokespeople representing different perspective from within the building process – politicians and commissioners, architects and regulators, engineers, historians and insurers – to debate the state of the art, the side effects, and the architecture, of the industry of risk-distribution.

Contributors include Councilor Daniel Moylan, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, chair the Mayors Design Advisory Board, and honorary member of the RIBA in recognition of his role in the Exhibition Road project; Paul Stollard, architect of the Scottish Building Standards Agency, and former HSE director for Scotland; Luke Bisby, Arups Professor of Fire and Structures at the University of Edinburgh, director of the BRE Centre for Fire Safety Engineering, and member of the University's 'Integrating Technical and Sociological Expertise in Fire Safety Engineering' group; and Jonathan Massey, director of architecture at the California College of the Arts, member of the Aggregate group of architectural historians, and author of numerous publications on the relation between design practices and financial instruments. The workshop is structured through a series of presentations, a chaired panel debate, and open discussion.

Biographies:

Liam Ross is an architect, lecturer, and a doctoral candidate in architecture research by design at the Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. His principal teaching and research interests concern the relation between architectural design practices and their governmental frameworks, results of which have been published by journals including *arg*, *Candide* and *Volume*, and exhibited at the Venice Biennale.

Adam Sharr is Professor of Architecture at Newcastle University, Principal of Adam Sharr Architects, Editor-in-Chief of Cambridge University Press' international architecture journal *arq: Architectural Research Quarterly*; Series Editor of *Thinkers for Architects*, published by Routledge; and leader of the school's 'Design Office' design research consultancy. His books include *Heidegger's Hut*, *Heidegger for Architects*, *Reading Architecture and Culture*, and *Demolishing Whitehall: Leslie Martin, Harold Wilson and the Architecture of White Heat*.