

London-Rome: Work in Progress

MaO/emmeazero

Borderlines

26 June – 15 July 2008

Opening: Thursday 26 June 2008

6 pm Lecture introduced by Gabriele Mastrigli

British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61

7.30 pm Opening of the exhibition

Press Release

This summer the British School at Rome is starting a new cycle of exhibitions and lectures on the theme “**London-Rome: Work in Progress**”.

The objective for the next two years is to launch a discussion on the influences, experiences and expectations of the younger generation architects in the two capitals by pinpointing and comparing their working methods and approaches. The invitation has been extended to four Rome and four London architecture practices that represent different ways of dealing with architectural research and practice in the two cities.

MaO opens this new cycle on 26th June, followed by AOC, 6a architects, N! Studio, Andrea Stipa, Watson Witherford Mann, Carmody Groarke and laN+.

MaO/emmeazero was established as an architecture practice in Rome in 1996.

Over the years **MaO**'s field of action has extended to exhibition design, multimedia installations and websites, in the conviction that architecture is an intermediary branch of knowledge, literally a medium between different territorial disciplines and geographies. Hence the title of exhibition "**Borderlines**".

From the wall to the video interface, this practice develops a reflection on architecture as a system of spatial rules – a playground – capable of producing and modifying the relationships between spaces and inhabitants, public and private, inside and outside, artificial and natural, real and virtual.

The objective of **MaO**'s line of research and experimentation is to revive the user/inhabitant's power of moulding space, from the immaterial lightness of multimedia installations to the concrete mass of architecture. In addition, a further aim of this practice is to restore to the contemporary city that intense use, those multiple relationships and layers of identity, namely, that richness that is typical of the historic city.

The layout of the exhibition at the British School at Rome will take the form of a series of panels with interactive windows, which will be arranged on the sides of the room running lengthwise. The projects can be viewed either in chronological or "inside-outside" thematic order. The floor will become a big public, asphalt-coloured playground, where the links between the various projects will be marked by keywords and the visitor will be invited to leave his comment, his mark, as he would in a guest book.

Some of the projects presented include: **(Outside)**; *The Biblioteca della Scuola Media Statale "Lombardi"*, (presently under construction) in Bari, for the Bari Town Council, *Un giardino pubblico a Bari* for the Bari Town Council, 2006; *Almere Hout, a City that is a Wood*, master plan and settlement strategies for Almere Hout, for Almere Town Council, Holland, 2007. **(Inside)**; *Touch Screen*, interactive installation

for exhibitions in Florence, Palermo and Lausanne, 2002-05; “*Prospects*” *Contemporary Art from India*, design of the exhibition at the Auditorium della Musica, Rome, 2007; design of the *Vivalibri* bookstores, 2006-07.

The video *Architecture on a Thin Line*, produced by MaO, will be shown in the lecture room.

This event at the British School at Rome, is curated by **Marina Engel** and **Gabriele Mastrigli**, and organized in collaboration with the **Architecture Foundation**, London and the **PARC** (Direzione generale per la qualità e la tutela del paesaggio, l'architettura e l'arte contemporanee del Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali) Rome, with the support of the **John S. Cohen Foundation**, London and **Sp Systema**, Rome.

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7.30 pm

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Opening times: Monday to Friday, 5 pm – 7.30 pm

Info: Tel. 06.97604598

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Architecture Foundation, London

PARC (Direzione generale per la qualità e la tutela del paesaggio, l'architettura e l'arte contemporanee del Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali), **Rome**

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