FRAGMENTS
Meeting Architecture III
A programme of lectures and exhibitions

Part IX

Jean-Louis Cohen
Memory Erased/Regained: Marseilles at War
introduced by Pippo Ciorra

This lecture is organised in collaboration with the American Academy in Rome

Tuesday 7 February 2017 18.00
The British School at Rome
via Gramsci 61, Roma

Meeting Architecture: FRAGMENTS continues with Jean-Louis Cohen’s lecture Memory Erased/Regained: Marseilles at War. The lecture concludes the series of events this autumn that focussed on themes relating to World War II and its aftermath.

The cold-blooded destruction of the centre of Marseilles by the Nazis in 1943 reflected the hatred of the right-wing ideologues in both France and Germany for a city stigmatised as a centre of racial infection for all of Europe, while intellectuals such as Siegfried Kracauer and Walter Benjamin celebrated its cosmopolitan character. The subsequent reconstruction of the city, which involved among others Fernand Pouillon and Le Corbusier, would become a vitrine for contrasting urban design strategies. In both episodes, memory
was mobilised in all its manifestations, from the collective one discussed by Maurice Halbwachs in those years to the most intimate one.

Published in 2011, Jean-Louis Cohen’s book *Architecture in Uniform* has recast the accepted vision according to which the Second World War was an empty period for architecture, highlighting all the domains in which it allowed for the victory of modernity. Cohen will lecture on his new research and concentrate on Marseilles both during the Vichy regime as well as its aftermath.

**BIOGRAPHY**


**MEETING ARCHITECTURE: FRAGMENTS**

*FRAGMENTS* considers how emotions are stirred, memories evoked and ideologies shaped by ruins, buildings and their contents. To this end the programme focuses on the concept of the fragment, defined as an urban ruin, which may be a house and its remaining contents or which may be personal relics, images, photographs, and other documents. When the meanings and memories we attach to our experiences are so closely tied to the material, how are individuals, ethnic groups, nations able to rebuild their
identities and histories in the face of destruction? In an age of increasing displacement, architects and visual artists are invited, along with historians and archaeologists to examine and to reassemble such fragments to offer a contribution to the reconstruction of personal or collective identities in zones of present or of past conflict. [Marina Engel]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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