

Modernity and the Production of Architecture

Nathaniel Coleman

The focus of this paper is Sigfried Giedion's confrontation with the industrial, technical and socio-economic contexts in which building is constituted as central to his efforts to make sense of Modernity and its effects on architecture. In consideration of time constraints, the aim of this paper will be limited to a consideration of how this year's AHRA conference theme – Industries of Architecture – was taken up by Giedion, against a backdrop of key architectural theorists spanning between the 19th and 21st centuries. Although Giedion shares an implicit or more explicit critique of capitalism with theorists including John Ruskin, Kenneth Frampton's, Joseph Rykwert, Manfredo Tafuri, and Alberto Pérez-Goméz, it is industry – the organization of work and professional practices – in relation to the production or making of architecture in a specific context and under particular socioeconomic conditions that was ultimately his primary concern. Indeed, the character of production, its context and the forces that shape it in relation to architectural results is the focus of this paper.

Biography:

Dr Nathaniel Coleman (nathaniel.coleman@ncl.ac.uk) is Reader in History & Theory of Architecture at Newcastle University. Author of *Utopias and Architecture*, editor of *Imagining and Making the World: Reconsidering Architecture and Utopia*, and Editor of a special issue of *Utopian Studies* on Architecture and Utopia, his *Lefebvre for Architects* will be published in 2015. Nathaniel was recently awarded a Leverhulme Trust grant to fund the Imaginaries of the Future: Historicising the Present International Network.