

Enjoy Your System! An 'Order Is' to Junkspace Critique Parallax

Robert Svetz

After roughly a century of building code development in the United States, the lack of some theoretical discourse on the interrelationships between the rules of code fundamentals and the desires of significant architectural form is uncanny, perhaps even Oedipal. Rather than pondering *the discipline's* "expanding periphery and migrating center," an insight on *the academy's* "unknown knowns" of occupancy codes, egress rules, ventilation laws and the like is more urgently in order, and, thanks to elemental reflections in Venice, entirely timely. Taking up Slavoj Žižek's *Living in the End Times* suggestion to refocus our "utopian dreaming" onto the utilitarian and the pochéd, we'll look "awry" at code regulated systems, pivoting between the symptomatic repressions of Kahn's served/servant Order and the contingent opportunism and ironies of Koolhaas's more (*pace* Žižek) "sinthomatic" tropes - in search of an architectural enjoyment that more purely formal, agency, or sustainably driven design calls threaten to foreclose.

Biography:

Rob Svetz is Assistant Professor at Syracuse, teaching design, envelope performance and environmental systems. His research triangulates US works by Kahn and Koolhaas with codes and Žižekian critique. He recently developed www.theiciclesproject.com, a novel public outreach website. Svetz has worked in NYC, taught previously at NJIT, and studied at Yale.