

Pavilion of Switzerland at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition –
la Biennale di Venezia

Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price

A stroll through a fun palace

Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist

In collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron, Atelier Bow-Wow, Lorenza Baroncelli, Stefano Boeri, Eleanor Bron, Liam Gillick, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Dan Graham, Dorothea von Hantelmann, Samantha Hardingham, Koo Jeong-a, Philippe Parreno, Asad Raza, Tino Sehgal, Mirko Zardini, and others

Opening: Friday 6 June 2014, 5.30 pm

Exhibition: 7 June to 23 November 2014

***Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace* is a multi-faceted project by Hans Ulrich Obrist to be presented by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia at the Swiss Pavilion in the Giardini from 7 June to 23 November 2014.**

In a digital time of unlimited access to information, where everyone can be an architect, a curator, an intellectual thinker, Hans Ulrich Obrist's *Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace* revisits the recent past of architecture through retrospectives of Lucius Burckhardt (1925–2003) and Cedric Price (1934–2003), reflecting on its future in the 21st century.

'We often invent the future with elements from the past. Lucius Burckhardt (1925–2003) and Cedric Price (1934–2003) were two great visionaries whose work resonates and inspires new generations in the 21st century. At the core of both their work is a practice of drawing. At the centre of the project will be the archives of drawings of Cedric and Lucius, of which different aspects will be revealed throughout the Biennale. 'A stroll through a fun palace' in collaboration with architects and artists will present a laboratory where the ideas of Cedric and Lucius can be toolboxes to invent the future.'
(Hans Ulrich Obrist, February 2014)

Both Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price are regarded as among the most visionary thinkers of the 20th century, redefining architecture as revolving around people, space and performance.

Lucius Burckhardt was a Swiss political economist, sociologist, art historian and planning theorist, known as founding father of 'strollology' – his science of the walk. He pioneered an interdisciplinary analysis of man-made environments, discussing both the visible and

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invisible aspects of our cities, landscapes, political processes and social relations, as well as the long-term effects of design and planning decisions.

Cedric Price was guided by a fundamental belief that architecture must 'enable people to think the unthinkable'. His project *Fun Palace* (1960-61), conceived as a 'laboratory of fun' and 'university of the streets', though never realised, established him as one of the UK's most innovative and thought-provoking architects.

Both Burckhardt and Price critiqued the traditional tertiary education system and were interested in rethinking the basic concept of a university. Following their revolutionary teaching methods, Obrist's *Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace* radically re-approaches the idea of the national pavilion, reconceiving it as a site for cross-disciplinary, interactive, international engagement. Acknowledging that it is not possible to present the complex practices of Burckhardt and Price through a static display of drawings, *Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace* aims for visitors to encounter the architects' archives performatively. The display on Lucius Burckhardt is co-curated by architects Herzog & de Meuron, in collaboration with the Lucius & Annemarie Burckhardt Foundation and Martin Schmitz Verlag, whilst the temporary archive of Cedric Price is co-curated by Mirko Zardini, director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA). To present the temporary archives, Herzog & de Meuron have devised a site-specific system located in the graphic room of the Swiss Pavilion, aiming to create a new system of knowledge and ideas. Visible through the glass walls but not accessible to the public, it is to be conceived as an object on display.

'As former students of Lucius Burckhardt, we were very happy to accept Hans Ulrich Obrist's invitation to contribute to this small Biennale project – the longer we worked on it and thought about it, the less "physical" the exhibition concept became, so that, in the end, only Lucius's and Cedric's mental universe were floating in space.'
(Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron, February 2014)

The idea of an architecture that could take account of time was of central importance to both Price and Burckhardt's practices, and the exhibition will reflect this aspect of their work. The space will be programmed according to a time-based dramaturgy, creating a changing mise-en-scène and an exhibition in constant motion. As the invention of new institutional forms was essential to Price and Burckhardt, the exhibition will also theoretically reflect on this endeavor. The opening days will feature a series of discussions on architecture, landscape design and modes of display. Several times a day Dorothea von Hantelmann will present vignettes on the past, present and future function of art institutions. The exhibition will also include contributions by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Philippe Parreno, Asad Raza and Tino Sehgal, whilst other contemporary artists and architects, such as Dan Graham, Liam Gillick and Koo Jeong-a, will present their homages to Burckhardt and Price.

Following Burckhardt's and Price's critique of the traditional university system, *Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace* will function as an architectural school under the leadership of Italian architect Stefano Boeri with Lorenza Baroncelli and

Pierpaolo Tamburelli. It will welcome and connect students in a worldwide network of thinkers, schools and researchers, enabling them to reflect on how the contemporary landscape is changing. This network will produce a digital daily and a weekly print magazine titled *The Tomorrow*.

Atelier Bow-Wow will turn the courtyard of the Swiss Pavilion into a contemporary learning space inspired by the flexibility and innovation of Price's airy structures, in which mobile furniture units will enable students and visitors to turn the space into an auditorium, library or studio as directed by their needs. Students are encouraged to consider the future of architecture through an engagement with Burckhardt's and Price's works and to question the current infrastructures for the production of knowledge within architectural institutions.

Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace is anticipated by the exhibition *Lucius Burckhardt Exhibition and educational program for the Swiss Pavilion at the Architecture Biennale 2014* and a series of seminars on Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price, which will take place from 13 March to 11 April 2014 at the Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta) at the ETH Zurich. These will be presented by gta Exhibitions in collaboration with Herzog & de Meuron, the Lucius & Annemarie Burckhardt Foundation, the Canadian Centre for Architecture and Samantha Hardingham.

Lucius Burckhardt and Cedric Price – A stroll through a fun palace will be accompanied by a publication by NORM designers, Zurich.

'Salon Suisse': a platform for lively international exchange

This year's talks and events programme 'Salon Suisse', entitled *The next 100 years – Scenarios for an Alpine City State*, taking place at the Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi for the third time, will be curated by Zurich-based architects and urbanists Hiromi Hosoya and Markus Schaefer. The 'Salon Suisse', organized by the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, is an Official Collateral Event of the biennale. All events are free and open to everyone. Partner of 'Salon Suisse' is Laufen Bathrooms AG.

For further information please visit: www.biennials.ch.

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Notes to editors

Hans Ulrich Obrist

Hans Ulrich Obrist (b. 1968, Zurich, Switzerland) is co-director of the Serpentine Galleries, London. Prior to this, he was the Curator of the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville, Paris. Since his first show 'World Soup' (The Kitchen Show) in 1991 he has curated more than 250 exhibitions.

Obrist's recent publications include *A Brief History of Curating*, *Project Japan: Metabolism Talks with Rem Koolhaas*, *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Curating But Were Afraid to Ask*, *Do It: The Compendium*, *Think Like Clouds*, *Ai Weiwei Speaks*, *Sharp Tongues - Loose Lips - Open Eyes - Ears to the Ground*, along with new volumes of his *Conversation Series*.

Lucius Burckhardt

Lucius Burckhardt (1925–2003) was a Swiss political economist, sociologist, art historian and planning theorist and is well known as founding father of 'strollology' – his science of the walk. He was a pioneer of an interdisciplinary analysis of man-made environments and discussed both the visible and invisible aspects of our cities, landscapes, political processes and social relations, as well as the long-term effects of design and planning decisions. He established the importance of sociology in architecture education and in 1969, in the aftermath of student revolts, he conceded to student demands by establishing at the ETH Zurich a professional 'sofa' in contrast to the professional chair. This was the beginning of his project 'Lehrkanapé' a form of teaching focusing on issues of contemporary complexity that were representative of real professional difficulties and on solutions that ideally manifested an interdisciplinary approach. His experiment addressed the role of architecture in society and led to radical demands for more democratic, participatory structures in academic institutions.

Cedric Price

Price (1934–2003) was an English architect. His lateral approach to architecture and to time-based urban interventions has ensured that his work has an enduring influence on contemporary architects and artists, from Bernard Tschumi and Rem Koolhaas, to Rachel Whiteread. His projects were governed by the belief that architecture must 'enable people to think the unthinkable'. His project 'Fun Palace' (1960–61), although unrealised, established him as one of the UK's most innovative and thought-provoking architects. A collaboration with theatre director Joan Littlewood, the idea was to build a 'laboratory of fun', with facilities for dancing, music, drama and fireworks. Central to Price's practice was the belief that through an appropriate use of new technology the public could have unprecedented control over their environment. Price critiqued the traditional university system and was interested in radically rethinking the basic concept of a university. In 1964, he presented his 'Potteries Thinkbelt' project for the former mining and manufacturing area of Staffordshire, England. He proposed a mobile learning resource for 20,000 students utilising the railway infrastructure of a declining industrial zone. It offered a solution to the need for educational facilities in addition to providing a catalyst for economic and social growth for the area. Price wrote prolifically for architecture magazines throughout his career and was renowned

for his uniquely entertaining and thought-provoking talks in architecture schools around the world. The Cedric Price Archive is held at the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), Montreal since 1995.

The Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia

Mandated by the Swiss Confederation, the Swiss Arts Council promotes artistic creation in Switzerland, contributes to cultural exchange at home, promotes the dissemination of Swiss culture abroad and fosters cultural outreach. Pro Helvetia is responsible for the Swiss contributions to the biennials of Venice and Cairo. Switzerland has been present at the International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia since 1991 and since 1920 at the Venice Art Biennale.

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With the collaboration of the Lucius & Annemarie Burckhardt Foundation and the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA)