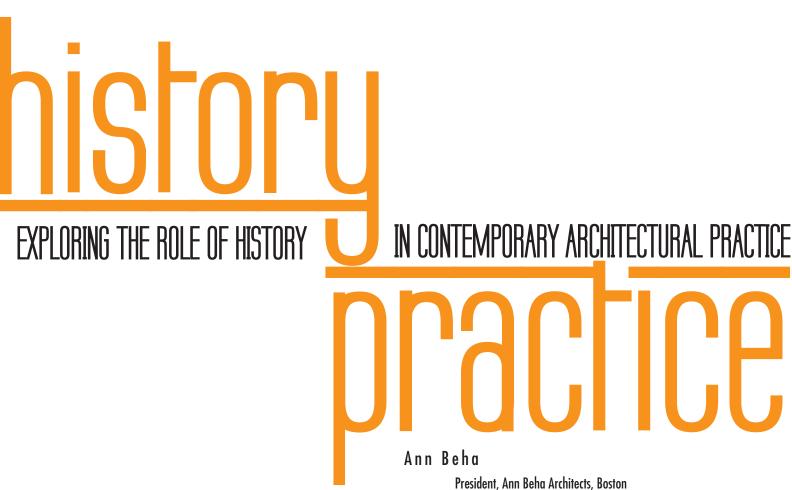
Architecture is witness to a myriad of uses of history. For contemporary designers, history can often either encumber or validate a project. Whether they accept it as a source for design or not, designers must contend with history, either 'contextually,' 'typologically' or by simply addressing patron demands and other influences originating outside of the profession. The result frequently alludes to a historical context, type or cultural tradition through notions of the 'local' or evokes a historical antecedent. Thus, history plays a role in contemporary design practice whether or not its significance, or even relevance, is appreciated.

It is not enough, however, to simply problematize these issues, but to explore them as potent tools that engage contemporary architectural practice. The relationship of the historian with regard to contemporary design has always been that of critic, and the relationship of practitioner to history has largely been tenuous and fraught with controversy.

The intent of this workshop is to bring together scholars and practitioners of architecture to discuss critical approaches to the role of history within contemporary practice. The situation, we suspect, demands a re-assessment of the theoretical relationship between architect and historian and we suggest that a renewed responsibility toward the discipline and society at large is needed. How can we conceptualize this critical practice?



Yung Ho Chang

Atelier FCJZ & Professor and Head of Department, Architectural Design, MIT

Aslihan Demirtas

Aslihan Demirtas Studio, New York City

Anna Heringer

Anna Heringer Architect, Salzburg, Austria

Mark Linder

Chair Graduate Programs, Associate Professor, Architecture, Syracuse University

Stephane Paumier

SPA Design, New Delhi, India

Nasser Rabbat

Aga Khan Professor of Architecture, MIT (Moderator)

Hashim Sarkis

Hashim Sarkis Architecture, Landscape & Urban Design & Aga Khan Professor of Urban Planning & Design, GSD, Harvard (Moderator)

Nancy Stieber

Associate Professor of Art, University of Massachusetts, Boston (Moderator)

Nader Tehrani

Principal, Office dA, Boston & Associate Professor, Architectural Design, MIT

Gwendolyn Wright

Professor of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University

Saturday, April 25th, 2009 10am - 5pm Massachusetts Institute of Technology The Bush Room 10-105 http://whereis.mit.edu/map-jpg

This event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at MIT.