

For Immediate Release

Treatise: Why Write Alone?

January 23, 2015–March 28, 2015

Chicago, January 14, 2015—The Graham Foundation is pleased to present *Treatise: Why Write Alone?*—an exhibition and publication project that brings together fourteen young design offices to consider the architectural treatise as a site for theoretical inquiry, experimentation, and debate. Organized by Chicago and Los Angeles-based designer Jimenez Lai, founder of Bureau Spectacular, the project grows out of a recent Graham Foundation grant to Lai, whose interest in discursive practices and non-conformist approaches to architecture led him to ask his peers working in the realm of conceptual architecture: Why write? And, why write alone? In response to these questions, *Treatise* presents an exhibition of works by this core group of designers as well as an individual treatise from each office. Together, the exhibition and publications provide a platform for the participants to articulate and exchange their theoretical angles and ideas and reflect on their positions in relation to the contemporary conditions of architecture.

Rather than a compilation or ongoing series, this set of single-authored treatises takes cues from the publication series *Pamphlet Architecture* as it originated in the 1970s under the direction of Steven Holl and William Stout. Initially small in scale and low in cost, this pivotal project had a significant impact on the discipline, offering a generation of young architects the freedom and autonomy to issue their own statements and challenge the prevailing discourse. However, in contrast to *Pamphlet Architecture*, which unfolded over many years, this project will publish all fourteen treatises at once in order to investigate the collective and individual stakes that emerge from assembling this temporary alliance.

Opening January 23, 2015, the *Treatise* exhibition presents new and recent works, ranging from drawings and models to multi-media installations, by fourteen architectural and design offices from across the U.S. and Europe. Participants include: *Bittertang* (New York); *Bureau Spectacular* (Chicago); *CAMES/gibson* (Chicago); *Design With Company* (Chicago); *Fake Industries Architectural Agonism* (New York); *First Office* (Los Angeles); *is-office* (Chicago); *Andrew Kovacs* (Los Angeles); *Alex Maymind* (Los Angeles); *Norman Kelley* (Chicago and New York); *Point Supreme* (Athens, Greece); *SOFTlab* (New York); *SPEEDISM* (Brussels, Belgium); and *Young & Ayata* (New York).

The participants harness diverse, and often unexpected, intellectual and creative strategies, materials, and forms to envision and communicate their ideas. For example, the Belgium artist and designer *Pieterjan Ginckels* (*SPEEDISM*) appropriates the language of digital modeling to orchestrate movement through a sparse landscape of architectural extras that is projected to room-size proportions. Similarly interested

in the fantastic and the quotidian, Chicago-based *Design With Company* presents work from their latest Graham-funded project, which re-imagines Midwestern building types to establish a contemporary theory of architectural character. Meanwhile, Los Angeles-based designer *Andrew Kovacs's* installation draws from his archive of architectural "b-sides," composed of overlooked and discarded images and artifacts, to propose a new organizational logic that re-imagines the ways in which we inhabit space. All together, *Treatise* presents over 200 works by fourteen design offices that address a range of concerns within the discipline, including architecture's representational limits and possibilities.

PUBLICATION

The *Treatise* series will be published in March 2015 and will be accompanied by a launch event on March 18 at the Graham Foundation. Both the complete set and individual volumes (116-pages each; \$20) will be available for purchase online and in the Graham Foundation bookshop. For more information or to pre-order copies, please contact Mia Khimm at mkhimm@grahamfoundation.org.

- 1 Bittertang, *Babies and Baloney*
- 2 Bureau Spectacular, *The Politics of Flatness*
- 3 CAMES/gibson, *A Performed Memoir*
- 4 Design With Company, *Mis-guided Tactics for Propriety Calibration*
- 5 Fake Industries Architectural Agonism, *Architectural Replicas, Four Hypotheses on the Use of Agonistic Copies in the Architectural Field*
- 6 Andrew Atwood and Anna Neimark, First Office, *Nine Essays*
- 7 Pieterjan Ginckels, *Speedism: The Dead Angle of Architecture*
- 8 is-office, *No Project*
- 9 Andrew Kovacs, *Architectural Affinities*
- 10 Alex Maymind, *Revisiting Revisiting*
- 11 Norman Kelley, *Eyecon*
- 12 Point Supreme, *Athens Projects*
- 13 SOFTlab, *Identity Crisis*
- 14 Michael Young, *The Estranged Object*

The Graham Foundation is grateful to Pentagram, New York and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning for their generous support of this project and to the American Academy in Rome; TeamTank, Brussels; the University at Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning; the University of California, Los Angeles Architecture & Urban Design; the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning; and Volume Gallery, Chicago for their support of the works in the exhibition.

The Graham Foundation's grants and public programs are funded by an endowment established through a bequest by Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect who was a protégé of Daniel Burnham.

RELATED EVENTS

Fri, January 23, 6–8PM, Opening Reception

6PM Comments by Jimenez Lai, Grant Gibson, Design With Company, is-office, Andrew Kovacs, Alex Maymind, SPEEDISM, and Norman Kelley

Wed, January 28, 6PM, Talk

Pieterjan Ginckels (SPEEDISM)

Wed, March 18, 6PM, Book Launch

Treatise

Additional events will be announced throughout the run of the show. For more information about upcoming events, visit: www.grahamfoundation.org/public_events

PARTICIPANT BIOS

Bittertang is a New York City-based design firm founded by Michael Loverich and Antonio Torres. Bittertang has built three inflatable pavilions, a pregnant sugar-oozing piñata, a plush toy collection, a sagging birdcage, and edible environments. They have won numerous awards, including the 2010 Architectural League Prize and the 2014 AIA New Practices New York award. *Michael Loverich* received his MArch from the University of California, Los Angeles. He lives in Manhattan and currently teaches at the University of Pennsylvania. *Antonio Torres* graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with an MArch before moving to New York to work for Neil Denari. He lives in Guadalajara and Manhattan and teaches in Mexico at ITESO and CCAU.

Jimenez Lai is the founder and leader of the design firm *Bureau Spectacular*. He holds an MArch from the University of Toronto. In the past several years, Lai has built numerous installations and has exhibited his work and published widely. Lai's first manifesto, entitled *Citizens of No Place*, was published by Princeton Architectural Press in 2012 with a grant from the Graham Foundation. Lai is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Architectural League Prize for Young Architects (2012) and the inaugural Millennium BCP Lisbon Triennale Début Award (2013), among others. In 2014, he was the curator and designer of the Taiwan Pavilion at the 14th Venice Architectural Biennale. Lai currently teaches in the Department of Architecture and Urban Design at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Grant Gibson is a Chicago-based educator, registered architect, and founding principal of *CAMES/gibson, Inc.*—an architecture and design practice committed to creating environments and objects that are cross-pollinated with common social, political, economic interests and individual experiences and desires. Gibson received his MArch from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and holds degrees from Purdue University in Architectural Engineering and Construction Engineering Technology. He is currently clinical assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Design With Company (Dw/Co) is the Chicago-based architectural collaborative of Stewart Hicks and Allison Newmeyer. Dw/Co seeks to transform the world through textual and visual narratives, speculative urban scenarios, installations, and small-scale interactive constructions. *Stewart Hicks* received his MArch from Princeton University and is currently assistant professor of architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a fellow of the MacDowell Artist Colony and a recipient of *Architectural Record's* Design Vanguard Award and the Young Architect's Forum Prize. *Alison Newmeyer* is visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and also teaches at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and the Illinois Institute of Technology. She is a fellow of the MacDowell Artist Colony and is the recipient of architectural awards from the Van Alen Institute and *Architizer*.

Founded by *Cristina Goberna* and *Urtzi Grau*, *Fake Industries Architectural Agonism (FKAA)* is an entity of variable boundaries and questionable taste that provides architectural tools to mediate between citizens and institutions, the public sphere, and disciplinary knowledge. Recent projects include a new National Velodrome for the City of Medellin, Colombia, the Superphosphates! master plan for the mining village of Aldea Moret, Spain, and the OE House in Barcelona. In 2014, FKAA won the AIA New York New Practices prize, and was shortlisted for the MoMA PS1 Young Architects Program, the Art-Basel-Miami Design pavilion, and most recently, the Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition.

First Office is a Los Angeles-based architecture and design collaborative founded by Andrew Atwood & Anna Neimark. Built projects include a collaboration on the Pinterest Office Headquarters in San Francisco, a Dome stage in Afghanistan, a temporary Screening Room at the MAK Center for Art in Architecture in Los Angeles, and a rehabilitation of a Shotgun House in Lexington, Kentucky. Their work has been exhibited in the U.S. and abroad, including the Beijing Biennale, the Pacific Design Center, WUHO Gallery, and the SCI-Arc Gallery in Los Angeles, among others. *Andrew Atwood* graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and is currently assistant professor of architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. *Anna Neimark* received a BA in architecture from Princeton University and an MArch from Harvard's Graduate School of Design. She is currently a full-time faculty member at the Southern California Institute of Architecture.

Pieterjan Ginckels is a Belgian artist and architect whose work concerns itself with the acceleration of modern life, which he explores through exhibitions and experiences that interweave spatial, artistic, and design practice, and everything in between. He studied architecture at KU Leuven, WENK Sint-Lucas Brussels, and Universität Stuttgart, and currently teaches at KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture, Brussels. In 2008, Ginckels co-founded with German artist and architect Julian Friedauer, *SPEEDISM*, which proposes anti-methods for an increasingly theme-based, spectacular, and accelerated society.

is-office is a Chicago-based design firm specializing in objects, interiors, and buildings. Founded by Kyle Reynolds and Jeff Mikolajewski, the firm leverages the unique agency of physical form to engage issues of culture, urbanism, lifestyle, and iconography indigenous to the modern metropolis. *Kyle Reynolds* is an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning. He received an MArch from Princeton University and a BS in architecture with a certificate of urban planning from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. His work and writing have been published in *On Farming: Bracket 1*, *The SANAA Studios 2006–2008*, and *Pidgin Magazine*, among others. *Jeff Mikolajewski* is a Project Designer at Johnston Marklee in Los Angeles. Previously he has lived in Shanghai, Milan, Copenhagen, and Chicago while working for such firms as Bjarke Ingels Group, Andrew Zago Architect, UrbanLab, and Gensler. He received an MArch from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a BS in architecture from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Andrew Kovacs is a Los Angeles-based designer. He has exhibited at the Storefront for Art and Architecture, the Architecture and Design Museum, Los Angeles, and the Jai & Jai Gallery, Los Angeles. His work on architecture and urbanism has been published in *Pidgin*, *Project*, *Clog*, *Domus*, and *Fulcrum*, among others. Kovacs studied architecture at Syracuse University (BArch), The Architecture Association in London, and Princeton University (MArch). He is currently a visiting assistant professor in architecture & urban design at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Alex Maymind is a Los Angeles-based designer and teacher. He holds an MArch from Yale University where he was awarded the Taylor History & Theory Memorial Prize, and graduated cum laude in architecture from The Ohio State University's Knowlton School of Architecture. He was the 2012–13 Walter B. Sanders Fellow at the University of Michigan where his research resulted in the exhibition *100 Drawings*. His writing, ranging from a genealogy of the free section to an exploration of globalization's clichés, have appeared in a number of journals including *Log*, *Pidgin*, *Thresholds*, *OFFRAMP*, and *Clog*. He is currently pursuing a PhD in history and theory of architecture at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Norman Kelley is the architecture and design collaborative of Carrie Norman and Thomas Kelley based in New York and Chicago. The firm's work has been published and exhibited widely, most recently in *Log 31: New Ancients* and the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale. They are the recipients of the 2014 Architecture League of NY Young Architect's Prize, and their design work is currently represented by Volume Gallery in Chicago. *Thomas Kelley* received an MArch from Princeton University and a BArch from the University of Virginia. He is the recipient of the Peter Reyner Banham Fellowship from SUNY Buffalo and the Rome Prize in Architecture from the American Academy in Rome. Kelley is currently a clinical assistant professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago. *Carrie Norman* received an MArch from Princeton University and a BArch from the University of Virginia. Norman is a licensed architect and a member of the Architecture League of NY Young Architects & Designers Committee. She is currently a Senior Design Associate with SHoP Architects in New York.

Athens-based *Point Supreme* was founded by *Konstantinos Pantazis* and *Marianna Rentzou* in 2008 after they studied and worked in London, Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Brussels, and Tokyo. At the heart of their practice are research and self-initiated proposals for the improvement of Athens. A selection of *Athens Projects* was exhibited in the Greek Pavilion of the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2012. The office has won numerous awards including first prize in EUROPAN 10 for a social housing and master plan in Trondheim; a 2012 competition for the Athens waterfront; and the 2014 Urban Shade competition in Tel Aviv. They are currently nominated for the 2014 Iakov Chernikhov International Prize for Young Architects.

SOFTlab is a design studio based in New York City that operates at the intersection of architecture, art, video, and interactive media design. In 2012 SOFTlab was awarded the Architectural League Prize for Young Architects & Designers, and previously in 2010 the studio was selected for the New Practices New York award by the AIA New York Chapter. *Michael Szivos* created SOFTlab shortly after earning his graduate degree in architecture from Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Szivos teaches at Yale University and is an assistant professor in the School of Architecture at the Pratt Institute.

Founded in 2008, *Young & Ayata* is a New York-based architectural design studio founded by Michael Young and Kutan Ayata. Young & Ayata view the tensions, overlaps, and frictions created through multiple mediations as the conditions for an aesthetic of estranged realism in architecture. *Michael Young* earned an MArch II from Princeton University and a BArch from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is a registered architect in the State of New York, and is an assistant professor at The Cooper Union and visiting lecturer at Princeton University. *Kutan Ayata* received a BFA in architecture from Massachusetts College of Art in Boston and an MArch from Princeton University. He is a registered architect in the Chamber of Architects in Turkey, and is currently a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and adjunct assistant professor at Pratt Institute GAUD.

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations, and produces programming designed to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

THE MADLENER HOUSE

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a turn-of-the-century Prairie-style mansion, designed by Richard E. Schmidt and Hugh M. Gardner (1901–02) and renovated by prominent modern architect Daniel Brenner. The 9,000 square-foot historic home now houses galleries, a bookstore, an outdoor collection of architectural fragments, an extensive non-lending library of grantee publications, and a ballroom where the foundation hosts a robust schedule of public programs.

BOOKSHOP

The Graham Foundation's bookshop, designed by Ania Jaworska, offers a selection of new, historically significant, and hard-to-find publications on architecture, art, and design, many of which have been supported by grants from the Graham Foundation.

GALLERY HOURS AND VISITOR INFORMATION

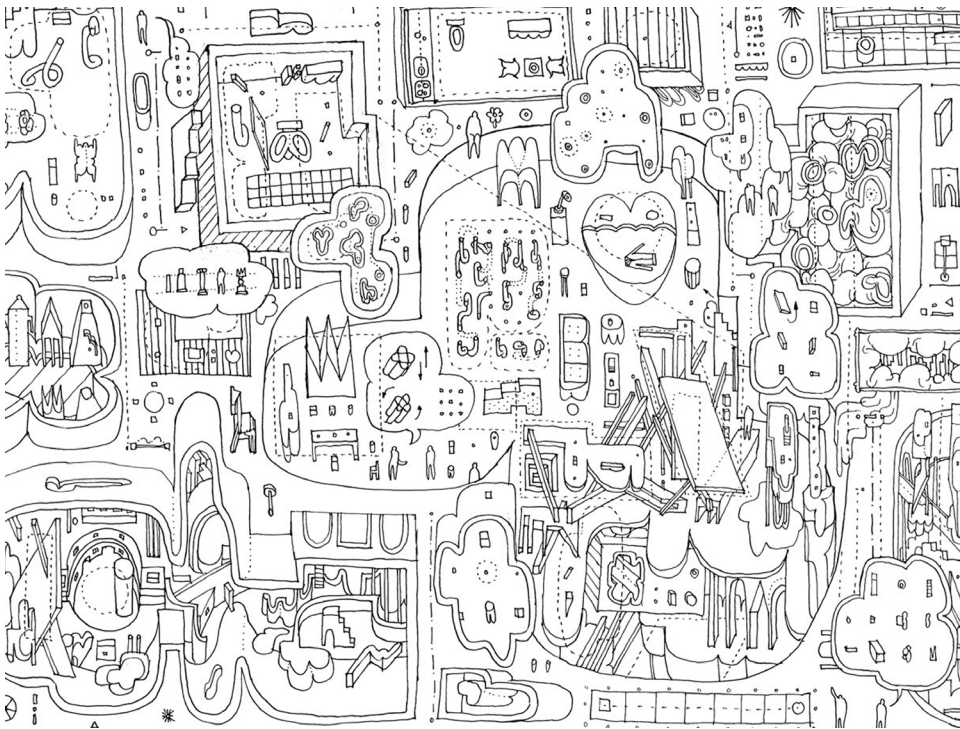
Admission to the galleries and bookshop are free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 11AM–6PM. Group tours are available by request.

ACCESSIBILITY

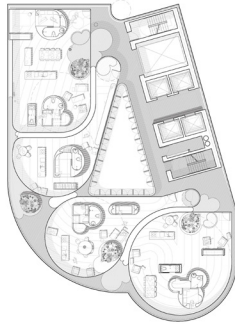
The second floor galleries and third floor ballroom where events are held are only accessible by stairs. The first floor galleries and bookshop are accessible via outdoor lift. Please call ahead to make arrangements.

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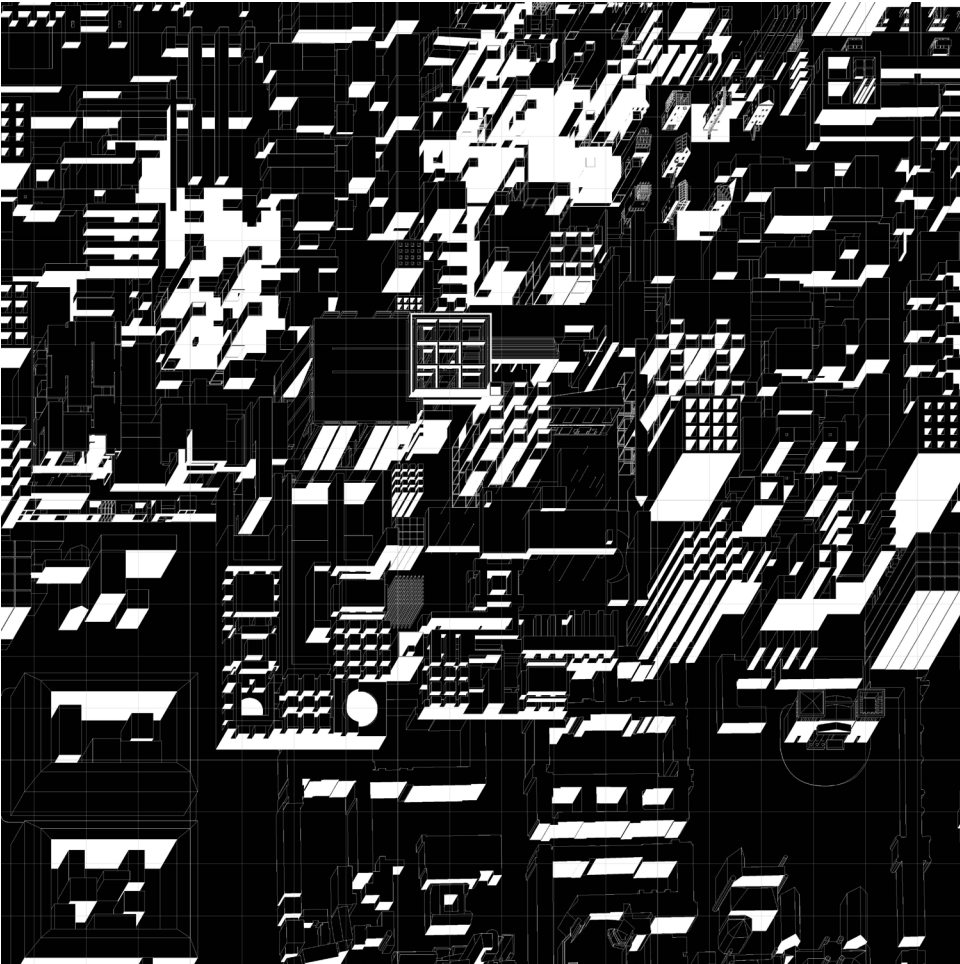
Media Contact: Mia Khimm, mkhimm@grahamfoundation.org, 312-787-4071
High-resolution digital images are available on the press section of our website; email Mia Khimm at mkhimm@grahamfoundation.org for the press login or additional information. Press tours welcome by appointment.



Images (top) Point Supreme (Konstantinos Pantazis & Marianna Rentzou), *Kotzia Square*, 2013. Courtesy of the artists.
 (Bottom) Bureau Spectacular (Jimenez Lai), *Inside/Outside/Between/Beyond*, 2014. Courtesy of the artist.



Images (top left) CAMES/gibson, Inc. (Grant Gibson), *Plan A*, 2013–14. Courtesy of the artist. (Top right) Norman Kelley (Thomas Kelley & Carrie Norman), *Comb-Back Writing-Arm Chair, Front*, 2014. Courtesy of Volume Gallery, Chicago. (Bottom) Andrew Kovacs, *Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition submission model*, 2014. Courtesy of the artists.



Image, Alex Maymind, *100 Drawings*, 2013. Courtesy of the artist.