



Charles Rennie and Margaret Mackintosh, Wohnhaus Eines Kunst Freundes, 1901.

# The Agents of Design/ Design As Agency

Symposium 2018

Organized by Dr. John Potvin and Dr. Marie-Ève Marchand

All sessions will be held at Concordia University,  
EV Building, room 1.605 (entrance level)  
1515 Sainte-Catherine Street West



With the generous support of:

Department of Art History  
Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture  
Department of Design and Computation Arts  
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THE  
LILIANE  
AND  
DAVID M.  
STEWART  
PROGRAM  
FOR  
MODERN  
DESIGN





Cité de l'architecture et patrimoine museum in Paris: 1925, Quand l'Art Déco Séduit le Monde. 2014.

Design, as both idea and 'thing', informs people's perception and experience of the world, thus asserting its own agency as a social, cultural, political and/or economic force to be reckoned with. Political as much as intellectual in its ambitions, social as much as cultural in its approach, this symposium gathers together speakers who consider and even contest the ways people, places and things perform as agents of design as much as how the agency of design enables systems, networks and webs of values and meanings. At the centre of this international symposium is an investigation of how design serves is an agent of action; that is, how a person(s), institution(s) or object(s) exert power. As a result, we ask, what is the effect of design on society? In this framework, we also see the importance of how and when design and agency come together to give rise to new practices, objects and even identities. This, we would argue, is the other side of the same coin. Agency is understood as multidimensional, multidirectional and polyvalent. Equally integral to this relationship, however, is free will or interventionism, among others. Agency also covers, as the term suggests, institutions that act as representatives on behalf of citizens or consumers. Together we will examine expressions and experiences of design as much as different flows of power, cultures, purposes and ambitions that agents enable and enact through the use, reuse, misuse or abuse of design.

## Day 1 : March 09 2018

### The Agents of Design / Design as Agency Symposium Schedule

09h15 Accueil des participants/Opening Invitation

09h30 Introduction/Opening remarks

Session Chair: Ms **Paula Alasziewicz** (Concordia University)

10h00 Designs on Modernity: Gertha Felsövaryi's Vienna Apartment and Situated Agency  
Dr **Sabine Wieber** (University of Glasgow)

10h30 Gifted Design: Imperial Benevolence in the Needlework of Mary Seton Watts  
Dr **Elaine Cheasley-Paterson** (Concordia University)

11h00 Desperately Seeking Sunlight: Le Corbusier's Casa Curutchet and The Man Next Door  
Dr **Mark Taylor** (University of Newcastle)

11h30 Risk-taking of Geodesic Proportions: An intense pas de deux between Jeffery Lindsay  
and Buckminster Fuller  
Dr **Cammie McAtee** (Independent Curator and Scholar, Montreal)

12h00 Discussion

12h45 Déjeuner/Lunch

Session Chair: Mr **Nikola Stepić** (Concordia University)

14h10 Women as Agents of Change in the Design of the Workplace  
Dr **Lynn Chalmers** (University of Manitoba)

14h40 Agency, Art, and Architecture; or, How to Picture Medical Heroes  
Dr **Annamarie Adams** (McGill University)

15h10 'Material for the Nation': Factory Gardens and the Geography of Childhood (1897-1910)  
Ms **Sara Nicole England** (Concordia University)

15h40 Coffee Break/Pause

16h00 Designing Leaders  
Dr **Mary Anne Beecher** (Ohio State University)

16h30 Design and AIDS: The Case of DIFFA  
Dr **John Potvin** (Concordia University)

17h00 Discussion

## Day 2 : March 10 2018

Session Chair: Ms **Kelly Grant** (Concordia University)

10h00 Design Anthropology: Agencies, Inclusions and Exigencies  
Dr **Alison Clarke** (University of Applied Arts, Vienna)

10h30 Multum in parvo: Scale and agency in the Thorne Miniature Rooms  
Dr **Erin J. Campbell** (University of Victoria)

11h00 Period Décor and the Negotiation of Social Relationships in the Home  
Dr **Marie-Ève Marchand** (Concordia University)

11h30 Stand-in or Act-out: Period Rooms as Places of Agency  
Dr **Änne Söll** (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

12h00 Discussion

12h45 Déjeuner/Lunch

Session Chair: Dr **Maya Oppenheimer** (Concordia University)

14h10 Agent Bruce Mau and the Audacity of Design  
Dr **Rachel Gotlieb** (Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning)

14h40 Where Theory and Practice Meet... or not  
Dr **Jessica Hemmings** (University of Gothenburg)

15h10 Circumventing Opposites: Beyond a Human-Centric Vision for Design  
Dr **pk langshaw** (Concordia University)

15h40 Discussion

16h10 Coffee Break/Pause

16h30 Curatorial Roundtable Discussion  
Moderator: Dr **Marie-Ève Marchand**; Participants: Drs **pk langshaw**; **Jessica Hemmings**; **Rachel Gotlieb**; **David Hanks** and **John Potvin**.