

# Call for Papers

*Mobile Anxieties* - 3rd Annual Graduate Student Symposium in Architecture,  
Art History & Allied Fields

Yale School of Architecture, New Haven, Connecticut

April 11 - 12, 2008

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Architecture has had a long and frustrated romance with mobility. Notions of movement are frequently at odds with architecture's perpetual longing for foundations, permanence, and fixity; however, architecture has often embraced mobility as a reflection of the anxieties that mark wars, natural disasters, socio-cultural changes, technological leaps, and economic variations. Consider, for example, how mass migrations during the Industrial Revolution upset city plans, significantly changing the way people and goods flow through urban space, or the way new national identities and the International style were forged in the wake of World War I. Think of the relationship between Archigram's Instant Cities and the turbulence of the 1960's; and the ways Hurricane Katrina heightened fears about climate change and disaster response, while elevating architectural issues of prefabrication, temporary housing, and urban rebuilding.

The Mobile Anxieties symposium will take a critical look at the idea that mobility—both literal and metaphoric—subverts the authority of boundaries, allowing for spatiotemporal shifts, which render foundations contingent and identities mutable. What are the precedents for mobility in architecture, and how are they related to a sense of general unease in architecture and beyond? How do cultural, technological, economic, and socio-political mechanisms stimulate or limit designs for mobility, while exacerbating or mitigating their attendant anxieties? Finally, we hope the symposium will open questions about the dynamics between the internal, disciplinary angst of mobile architecture and external fears.

As architects and theorists struggle to engage the increasing mobility of capital, labor, information, and culture—and as anxieties of every type seem to be on the rise—a critical examination of architecture’s mobile anxieties is timely and will contribute significantly to contemporary debates.

The symposium is organized by the senior students in the Master of Environmental Design (M.E.D.) program—Elizabeth Bishop, Alan G. Brake, Kathleen John-Alder, and Zachary White—and will consist of papers presented by advanced graduate students in architecture and allied fields, with responses by Yale faculty. The keynote address will be the annual Roth-Symonds lecture, which invites scholars from the social sciences to speak about the built environment. The lecture, *Mobility, Security and Creativity: The Politics and Economics of Global Creative Cities*, will be delivered by Adrian Favell, Associate Professor of Sociology at UCLA.

Interested students should send a *curriculum vitae* and a 300-word abstract for a 20-minute presentation to Zachary White <zachary.white@yale.edu> by 5.00 EST on **Monday, January 21st, 2008**. Selected participants will be notified on or before Friday, January 25th, 2008, and their final paper drafts will be due Monday, March 24th, 2008. If you have any questions or concerns about the symposium or the call for papers, please contact Zachary White at the e-mail address above.