

**Pidgin** Magazine Issue 19 Spring 2015 Princeton School of **Architecture** 

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#### LEEN KATRIB

Leen Katrib was raised in Sharjah, Dubai's less fortunate suburb, an upbringing that defined her interest in the architectural and social inequalities between the center and the periphery. She will be completing a video documentary of her research this summer.

#### FREDERICK KIESLER

Frederick J. Kiesler (1890-1965) was an Austrian architect, painter, sculptor, theorist, as well as exhibition, theater, and furniture designer, who immigrated to New York in 1926. His many conceptual projects include City in Space, The Vision Machine, The Art of this Century, The Endless House, and The Shrine of the Book. He is the author of Contemporary Art Applied to the Store and Its Display (New York: Brentano, 1930), Inside the Endless House (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1966), as well as several articles on his theory of Correalism.

#### ANDREW KOVACS

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#### ON THE ROAD

On the Road is Danielle Rago / Curator, Courtney Coffman / Editor, Jonathan Louie / Protagonist, and James Michael Tate / Instigator.

#### SPYROS PAPAPETROS

Spyros Papapetros is Associate Professor of History and Theory at the School of Architecture and acting Co-director of the Program in Media and Modernity at Princeton University. He is the author of On the Animation of the Inorganic: Art, Architecture, and the Extension of Life (University of Chicago Press, 2012) and the co-editor (with Julian Rose) of Retracing the Expanded Field: Encounters between Art and Architecture (MIT Press, 2014).

#### EEVA-LIISA PELKONEN

Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen is assistant professor and chair of the Master of Architectural Design Program at the School of Architecture at Yale University. She is the author of Achtung Architektur! Image and Phantasm in Contemporary Austrian Architecture and coeditor of Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future.

#### JON PIASECKI

Jon Piasecki is a landscape architect and stonemason. He won a Rome Prize in 2004 and an ASLA National honor award for his Stone River project in 2011. His firm Golden Bough Landscape Architecture is located in western Massachusetts. His work and writings have been widely published.

#### DARIA RICCHI

Daria Ricchi is a PhD student at Princeton University. She also studied Ayurveda and the Vedic sciences at Kripalu School of Ayurveda, Massachusetts.

#### BRENDAN SHEA

Brendan Shea is a reader of Pidgin, but otherwise "has nothing going on but the rent."

#### UNIVERSALASSEMBLYUNIT

UniversalAssemblyUnit are William Gowland, Samantha Lee, Oliviu Lugojan-Ghenciu and Zhan Wang. They are trained architects who have built their studio's practice around exploring digital narrative and animation.

#### LESLIE VAN DUZER

Leslie Van Duzer is the Director of the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia. Her interest in the art of deception stems from her research on Adolf Loos and Mies van der Rohe and her early years as a magician's assistant.

### <u>01</u> LETTER TO A MAGICIAN Leslie van Duzer

<u>08</u>
HIDDEN ARCHITECTURE:
SUPERSTUDIO'S MAGIC BOX
Sebastiano Fabbrini

24
SLEIGHT OF HAND:
ON THE DURATION OF THE SCAN
Brendan Shea

28
TEASING OUT THE MAGIC OF (GOTHIC)
ARCHITECTURE
Eeva-Liisa Pelkonen

40 MODERN MIRAGES AND MONSTERS, ARCHITECTURE IN JAPAN 1790/1892 Matthew Mullane

> <u>52</u> STREET LIGHT DISCO Office Feuerman

<u>56</u>
MAGIC ARCHITECTURE (EXCERPTS)
Frederick Kiesler
Preface by Spyros Papapetros

<u>82</u> FLOATING SHADOWS Nat Chard

# 96 OBJECTS WITH ARCHITECTURAL QUALITIES Andrew Kovacs

104
DATUM EXPLORER:
MULTI-PLATFORM REALITIES
UniversalAssemblyUnit

<u>112</u> ROCKS, WORDS, AND THE MAGICALLY REAL Adam Fure

> <u>121</u> TWO-FACE Laurel Broughton

131
BEHIND THE CURTAIN
Victor Enrich

<u>140</u> MAGIC IS IN THE SETUP Emily Abruzzo & Gerald Bodziak

> <u>150</u> ROACH SCAN Ben Denzer

<u>154</u> SITE SURVEYOR Jon Piasecki

<u>160</u> MAYASABHA Swarnabh Ghosh

### <u>166</u> VĀSTU: A RENAISSANCE IN SPACE. COMING WEST THROUGH THE EAST. Daria Ricchi

173
ALONG THE FRONTIER OF RESOLUTIONS
Erin & Ian Besler

182
FLUID PLEASURE
On the Road

192
MADE IN CHINA:
THE RISE OF THE MIMETIC SUBURB
Leen Katrib

205
MAGICAL DINING MODERN CUISINE
Jonathan Crisman

214
EVERYDAY MAGICAL URBANISM
Thomas Mical

226 DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED? David Eskenazi



## On the Road

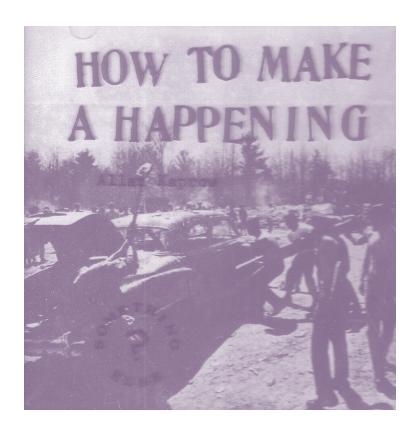
# FLUID PLEASURE

# **Project LA**

The desert is also seen as a place of secrets, where the customary restraints of law and habit are suspended...absolutely anything becomes thinkable and may consequently happen.

—Reyner Banham, Scenes in America Deserta<sup>1</sup>

t four o'clock on a balmy Saturday in February, David Free-land launched *Deep End* from the roof of The Amado. The giant foam-noodle beach ball had been resting atop the low-slung midcentury hotel, its over-scaled presence in Palm Springs reminiscent of Randy's Doughnuts and other variations on the roadside spectacles that proliferate across the Southern California landscape. Sun-soaked guests, gathered for *On the Road Project LA*'s fourth event in a yearlong series, cheered on as the ball dropped and splashed into the water. Dwarfing the



#### FIGURE 1

Allan Kaprow, *How to Make a Happening*, 1966 Limited Edition LP Record, Something Else Press, New York Laminated silk-screen cover by Alison Knowles

Cover photo from Allan Kaprow's happening *Household*, 1964 by Sol Goldberg Courtesy of Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth pool in the deep end, the wireframe toy compelled swimmers to play on, in, and around it as it softly spun next to the towering *Fluids Mashup*, a reinvention of Allan Kaprow's iconic *Fluids* happening of 1967. Earlier that day, poolside with morning mimosas, sunscreen- and insulated glove-clad *OtR* participants and Amado guests assembled an ephemeral moment—an ice tower. *Fluids Mashup* was a one-foot, six-inch square extrusion, soaring to ten feet six-inches high. The ritual of laying the ice bricks required surface scoring, and water was anointed as a surrogate for mortar. Placement of the melting monument next to the pool was performatively strategic, but it also put in tension seemingly oppositional notions of solid versus void and hard versus fluid. Softly melting in the desert sun, the tower stood its post; each drip designated the passing of time, forging a collective memory that would only fully realize itself in a fluid collapse.

After a day in the blistering sun, the stacked ice bricks crashed down into *Deep End*, all structural integrity having been compromised. This was the magic hour. The point at which two happenings collided.  $33^{1/3}$  author Kirk Walker Graves explains the concept of *the magic hour* and its transgressive ambiguity, capturing the palpable alchemy between *Fluids Mashup* and *Deep End*:

The magic hour is that bleeding gash in time just before sunset. Day cedes its domination to night as shadows lengthen past the point of maximal distortion, severing their ties with the realm of rational objects. A kind of opaque *fluid* washes over the edges of our awareness. Mystery rather than clarity become the governing principle. This is a place of hybrid convergence, a literal twilight zone, where the world's irrational forces are poised to overtake the natural order.<sup>2</sup>

The reinvention of the Kaprow installation kicked off this particular Saturday, but it also provided a platform for a weekend of happenings.

"By inventing a version of *Fluids*... [one] is not copying my concept but is participating in a practice of reinvention central to my work." Kaprow describes the adaptation of his conceptual project in productive rather than reproductive terms: "*Fluids* continues, and its reinventions further multiply its meanings. [Its history and artifacts are catalysts], an invitation to do something." With each ephemeral reinvention, a greater metaphysical depth to Kaprow's project is meant to be excavated, as if recitation grants higher knowledge and ultimate autonomy.

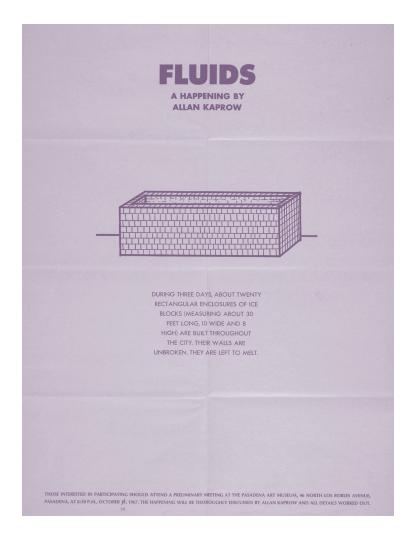
Held during Palm Springs's annual Modernism Week, the fourth installment of *On the Road Project LA* brought together thirty renegade *flâneurs*—a mix of architects, artists, journalists, friends, and lovers—for disciplinary conversations typically reserved for formal platforms. *OtR* focused on the pool and the desert as environments of pleasure and experimentation, as sites for happenings inspired by Allan Kaprow's *Fluids*, Ed Ruscha's *Nine Swimming Pools*, David Hockney's *Paper Pools* and Reyner Banham's *Scenes in America Deserta*. The result was an architectural *Spring Breakers*, where promiscuities between projects were encouraged, where ideas collided at *the magic hour*, and where both the thinkable and the unthinkable were bound to happen.

### **NOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Reyner Banham, "Oases and Resorts," *Scenes in America Deserta* (Layton: Peregrine Smith Books, 1982), 44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Kirk Walker Graves, "Devil in a New Dress," 33 1/3: My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy (New York: Bloomsbury), 2014, 89.

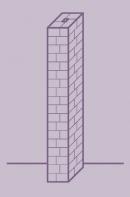
<sup>3 &</sup>quot;On Reinventions," Allan Kaprow, accessed March 14, 2015, http://allankaprow.com/about\_reinvetion.html.



#### FIGURE 2 Allan Kaprow, *Fluids* poster, 1967 Courtesy Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth

## **FLUIDS MASHUP**

A HAPPENING BY ON THE ROAD

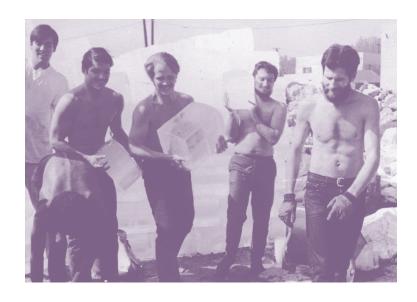


ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2014
ABOUT ONE HUNDRED
RECTANGULAR ICE BLOCKS
(MEASURING ABOUT 1 FOOT 6 LONG,
1 FOOT 6 WIDE, AND 10 FOOT 6 HIGH)
WILL BE CONSTRUCTED FROM 10-2PM
IT WILL BE LEFT TO MELT.

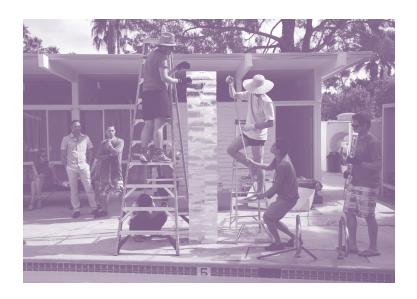
A REINVENTION OF ALLAN KAPROWS R.LIADS, 1967 THOSE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING SHOULD ARRIVE ATTHE AMADD, 1961 EAST AMADD ROAD, PALM SPRINGS, AT 19,00A.M., FEBRUARY 26, 701 THE HAPPENING WILL BETHOUROUGHLY DISCUSSED BY ON THE ROAD AND ALL DETAILS WORKED OUT. 22

FIGURE 3 On the Road, *Fluids Mashup* poster, 2014 Courtesy On the Road Project LA

PROJECT LA



# FIGURE 4 Allan Kaprow, Fluids, 1967 Ice structure being erected in the Los Angeles area by volunteers (Allan Kaprow, extreme right) Courtesy Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth, Photo: © Bruce Breland



#### FIGURE 5

On the Road, Fluids Mashup, 2014
Ice structure being erected at the Amado in Central Palm Springs by volunteers
(James Michael Tate, on ladder; Jonathan Louie, extreme right)
Courtesy Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth, Photo: © Jaime Kowal

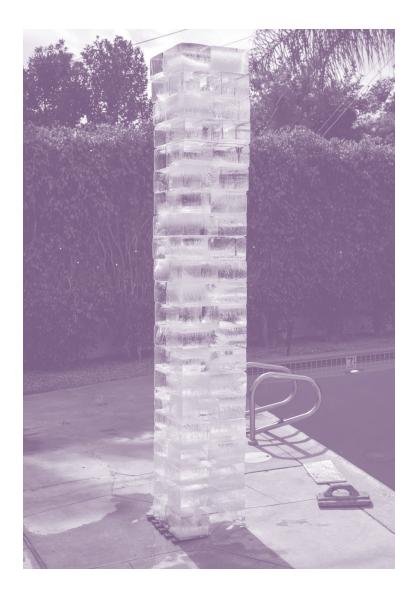


FIGURE 6
On the Road, Fluids Mashup, 2014
Courtesy Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth, Photo: © Jaime Kowal





#### FIGURE 7

On the Road reinvents Allan Kaprow's happening Fluids, 1967, as Fluids Mashup, 2014
Part of a weekend-long exhibition titled "Pleasure Pools" at the Amado
in Central Palm Springs from February 22-23, 2014
Deep End, 2014 designed by David Freeland, Terry Chatkupt, Mark Lyons,
and Peter Vikar being launched into swimming pool
Courtesy Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth, Photo: © Jaime Kowal

#### FIGURE 8

On the Road, *Fluids Mashup*, 2014 Courtesy Allan Kaprow Estate and Hauser & Wirth, Photo: © Jaime Kowal