



arc en rêve centre d'architecture bordeaux

inservitude

Building a culture based on the arts of the inhabitable involves caring about the way we invent our daily lives and celebrating a kind of ordinary creativity that is always spatialised and gives rise to new spaces within our own spaces. Whereas dictatorship begins by closing places off and restricting movement, freedom begins with an act of metaphysical irreverence. We must go beyond: beyond the physical, beyond seeing places as something untouchable; we must make ourselves into pathways and roads, wandering and learning to reject the habitats we are accustomed to. Looking elsewhere in order to enrich our outlook is the great philosophical lesson arc en rêve strives to teach us.

Guillaume le Blanc

Has the desire for freedom become an unsubstantial daydream, a luxury reserved for the rich? What seemed unimaginable – its planned disappearance – is actually taking place. [...] **Submitting to spaces carries with it a risk of servitude.** When we stay “inside” too much, when the “inside” prevents access to the “outside”, our freedom of movement is compromised: we can no longer move towards other places, which become forbidden places. That is when our freedom disappears. Freedom of movement entails an ability to go elsewhere: it is an opportunity to stop staying put. What would humanity be without movement? [...]

What is here relates to what is elsewhere, because what is elsewhere augments what is here. [...]

Freedom of movement, the first and most fundamental freedom, involves an art of habitation that supports that freedom by fostering movement between spaces. Can architecture unlock these doors despite being a practice that necessarily encloses and territorialises, delimits and circumscribes, and makes “inside” spaces appear within the limitless expanse of “outside” space?

If architecture is a discipline of space, can it also be undisciplined?

The bold aim of this exhibition is to support the idea that architecture only takes a disciplined approach in order to be undisciplined, and that it only constrains in order to make us free. But the boundary between servitude and inservitude is very narrow: “in servitude” or outside servitude: that is the question. The “in” part of the neologism “inservitude” is deliberately ambivalent: it means “in servitude”, but it also means “escaping from servitude”. The works on display do not establish a single programme of emancipation; they put us in the middle of urban environments, suggesting ways of moving around them and ways of living as free men and women.

Guillaume le Blanc philosopher
From the text *Inservitude* written for arc en rêve.

*Can architecture, a discipline defined by constraint, constantly reinvent itself via undisciplined creative utopias, architects, and modes of use? Between the political advent of the Enlightenment and that of 20th century totalitarianism, where do we stand in the art of “voluntary inservitude” and “reflexive indocility”¹? The philosopher Guillaume le Blanc invites us to address these questions, and the exhibition **inservitude** explores the question of freedom as an essential raw material for architecture that offers potential alternatives.*

inservitude brings together a selection of international projects in which thinking and architecture express an alternative vision of the world, treading unexplored paths that lead to places where the unexpected, freedom and beauty converge. These ways of doing and saying things are the result of the work of architects, planners, landscape designers, geographers and philosophers who tell a story about the world, here and now. This exhibition expresses the point of view of arc en rêve regarding architecture and its ethics, always connected to the social, economic, ecological and political transformations of a particular area at a given time.

The exhibition features drawings, sketches, collages, videos and models making up a corpus of works that overlap and resonate with each other: a selection of over 40 projects that have found their place in the history of arc en rêve, resisting ideas of certainty, totality, homogeneity and embodying a spirit of openness. They invite us to reflect upon what brings together imagination, life, and culture.

Francine Fort, director of arc en rêve

inservitude

curators
arc en rêve centre d'architecture
Francine Fort, director
Michel Jacques, architect, artistic director
with
Wenwen Cai, architect, project manager
Eric Dordan, architect, project manager
assisted by
Cyrille Brisou, designer
Emmanuelle Maura, graphic designer



19 06 → 03 11 2019

aquitanis • Texaa • unikalo et station ausone
support the initiatives of arc en rêve centre d'architecture



Since 1981 arc en rêve centre d'architecture has elaborated a cultural awareness-building strategy focusing on contemporary architecture and extending into city planning, landscape design, aimed at broadening perceptions of a changing world. Its internationally recognised programme features exhibitions, lectures, public discussions, publications, workshops for children, seminars for adults, visits to buildings, city tours, and planning experiments.

arc en rêve centre d'architecture bordeaux
arcenreve.eu Entrepôt, 7 rue Ferrère F-33000 Bordeaux
info@arcenreve.com T +33 5 56 52 78 36 F +33 5 56 48 45 20



1. Reflexive indocility used by Foucault to define his criticism.

40 projects forming part of the history of arc en rêve, resisting ideas of certainty, totality, homogeneity and embodying a spirit of openness. They demonstrate the conceptual orientations of arc en rêve on architecture and its ethics, as evidenced in its actions and the positions it upholds.

