Call for Submissions
Act: The RA Architecture Symposium in partnership with the London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture and Royal Academy of Arts welcome submissions for the fifth annual RA Architecture Symposium. The symposium aims to expand thinking about the culture of our built environment and has established itself as one of the key events in the London architectural calendar.

The symposium represents an opportunity for both emerging and established practitioners, academics and researchers to reflect on this year's festival theme of 'act' and to present and discuss their work with peers and a public audience.

This year's symposium will take place in person at the Royal Academy of Arts on June 7th 2-5pm.

About the theme
Inspired by the 2022 London Festival of Architecture, the RA Architecture Symposium will look broadly at the theme of 'act', and invites submissions from architects, researchers, artists and spatial practitioners on angles including activism, the agency of architects, collaboration, theatricality, and narrative in architecture.

Connecting also to the Royal Academy exhibition *John Hejduk: London Masque*, the symposium welcomes considerations of Hejduk's idea of 'Building Worlds', and the way that architecture can help us to imagine alternative realities as part of a wider cultural conversation.

For the first time, submissions can include either proposals for traditional spoken presentations, or alternative pieces including, but not limited to, performances, spoken word or poetry. With all pieces there will be a limit of 10 minutes.

The symposium will group submissions exploring complementary topics with time for discussion and exchange following the presentations.

Possible topics to explore:
- Agency and activism in the field of architecture
- Temporary projects and their ability to empower communities / How can temporary projects overcome their limitations and meaningfully contribute to the communities they serve?
- Acts of experimentation and prototyping through drawings and model-making
- The performative power of architecture and the role of the architect as actors, poets, artists, and story-tellers
- Facadism, honesty and transparency of buildings and the industry

How to submit

Please submit an abstract of up to 300 words plus a one-page CV, outlining any institutional affiliations, by midday on Monday 28th March 2022.

All submissions should be submitted via: https://form.typeform.com/to/UFQwYbLo
Please note:
- For PDF submissions, the uploaded file should contain a combined submission proposal & CV and be no more than 5MB or 4 A4 single-sided pages
- For alternative file type submissions, the uploaded file be no longer that 2 mins
- All files should be named: First Name Surname.filetype

Successful applicants will be notified by 11th April.

The successful applicants will be invited to present their work at the fifth RA Architecture symposium on June 7th 2022.

For symposium enquiries please contact: Ellie.davies@nla.london

London Festival of Architecture

The London Festival of Architecture celebrates London as the global hub for architecture. The festival returns to the capital from 1-30 June 2022 with a lively and diverse programme of public events across London exploring the theme of 'act'. The London Festival of Architecture began in 2004, and has since grown to become the world's largest annual architecture festival. The festival attracts a vast public audience – well over 800,000 people in 2019 – and a global media audience of millions. The vast majority of events are free, and are staged by a core festival programming team working alongside architecture and design practices and practitioners, leading cultural and academic institutions, artists and many others.

Background to the London Festival of Architecture Symposium at the Royal Academy

In 2018, London Festival of Architecture in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts, established the LFA Symposium as a focal event of the festival that offers a rich exploration of the annual theme. Bringing together prominent architects, academics and commentators, the inaugural symposium entitled '*Does Identity Matter?*' challenged how people connect and identify with their homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods, and the city as a whole. In 2019, the second symposium '*Thresholds or barriers? Perspectives on boundaries and architecture*' offered a rich exploration of the role and application of boundaries in architecture and placemaking. In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the symposium exploring '*Architecture and power: conversations around people and place*' was held for the first time online. In 2021, the symposium '*Architecture and Inequity: New Practices of Care*' returned online for a day of presentations, conversation, and keynote lectures that aimed to radically rethink the values that govern our cities.

Previous keynote speakers include Farshid Moussavi OBE RA (Director of Farshid Moussavi Architecture), Eyal Weizman (Director of Forensic Architecture and Professor of Spatial and Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths, University of London), Mary Duggan (Founding Director, Mary Duggan Architects), Adrian Lahoud (Dean of the School of Architecture at the Royal College of Art; curator of the first Sharjah Architecture Triennial), Tatiana Bilbao (Founder of Tatiana Bilbao Estudio) and Akil Scafe-Smith (Collective Co-Director of Resolve Collective).