

## **IT SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN (1)**

It should be forbidden to deny that much contemporary architecture today seems hopelessly defined by, trapped within, un-altering codes.

It should be forbidden to think a political enquiry into architecture, education and society could take place so easily.

It should be forbidden to express interest in limited architectural intrigue as tongues remain tied to those who speak English better than others.

It should be forbidden not to be able to slip out of the world sideways when it works just as well in an opera auditorium.

It should be forbidden for life to remain slow yet wide enough for others to shuffle past, without disturbing those already on the floor.

It should be forbidden to wait until experts will be brought on in wheelchairs, whilst the real ones are outside on skateboards or free running.

It should be forbidden to listen to Verdi as though from the other end of a football stadium or Gate D32 at Amsterdam Airport.

It should be forbidden to batter one's acoustics courtesy of Sony and blame the performance on the thinness of architecture or opera.

It should be forbidden to ignore that predictability has a serious side when the applause fragments Verdi's Nabucco chorus.

It should be forbidden to fail to learn from football stadiums and request Da Capo after the Hebrew Slaves Chorus.

It should be forbidden to applaud weakly the familiarity of architecture or the duration of its performance as eternal promise.

It should be forbidden not to realise the danger signals when there is less architecture than applause.

It should be forbidden to ignore the sad hysteria about serious money for it made architecture suit the pony tail as well as Nike, Adidas or Reebok.

It should be forbidden not to wager with your best friend whether hair grows faster during unemployment?

It should be forbidden to resist the decision to go more or less nowhere, see more or less no one, and forget more or less everything you have learnt.

It should be forbidden, in the excitement of much of the chaos and architectural unrest around today, to have never felt better.

It should be forbidden to bring life to a standstill and rejoice in this motion when architecture is as fluid as a water melon thrown out onto the street in Bangalore.

It should be forbidden not to be present when the melon is thrashed by the wheels of huge bejewelled Indian trucks.

It should be forbidden to turn the corner of the millennium without the astrologist warning of the hijack of architecture's womb.

It should be forbidden to discover once more that self-esteem and obedience are at the root of much hidden dissatisfaction.

It should be forbidden not to remain demoralized in the nostalgia around and want architecture to be redeemed by the more competent versions of the past.

It should be forbidden not to feel irresponsible in this critical fatigue if you cannot find a way of opening or transcending it.

It should be forbidden to lose sight of the critical programme as much as architecture threatens to lose sight of its own flight.

It should be forbidden to abdicate responsibility and participation within the catastrophes known as meaning and non-meaning.

It should be forbidden to attend world seminars, conferences on education and other endless forums and not suggest at least once non-meaning rules!

It should be forbidden not to realise our understanding of the abandonment of something past must be achieved in more radical ways than we imagine.

It should be forbidden to delay abandoning architecture as we know it.

It should be forbidden to hold to that false belief that there is only language to give up in these disciplines.

It should be forbidden to ignore Edmund Leach in this century because he advised us not to ignore Claude Levi Strauss in the last.

In my view, Edmund Leach says, the final end product is in large measure fallacious but even the study of fallacies can prove rewarding.

It should be forbidden to hold architecture back to stereotypes made from our ability to yawn and procrastinate at different rates in different societies.

It should be forbidden to try and stabilise the different states of anxiety and lightness towards knowledge in order to stabilise architecture.

It should be forbidden to lift ourselves into other cultures, through other means, and produce versions of ourselves as art or as parodies.

It should be forbidden to halt the flow of joke knowledge which passes from the First World into a fragile earnestness in the Second World.

It should be forbidden not to recognise what the Third World does best, rebound on us by pirate satellite and electronic surfing.

It should be forbidden to remain bewildered as all original ideas return through the largest network in the world, the Fourth World, the Electronic Yawn.

It should be forbidden to ignore how architecture sets and then serves its own agenda.

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It should be forbidden to take over the world of theatrical images as architecture instantly messages the electronic theatre of world images.

It should be forbidden to ignore transgression as a welcome anarchy to the slow, parochial pace of the city.

## **IT SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN (2)**

**It should be forbidden to withstand the options for tolerance in countries collectively staggering out of a bureaucratic mayhem and a political legacy.**

**It should be forbidden to interpret this as beginning to look as if we are soon to need a postmodern reader to read the Post-Modern Reader.**

**It should be forbidden to make too much of shifting signs when the catastrophe of semiosis is not the full sensational act of interpretation, but the democracy of interpretation.**

**It should be forbidden to reject the obvious when over-reading has become a disease.**

**It should be forbidden to think Europe is the plethora of beer terraces or transgressing the red light.**

**It should be forbidden to attribute the swerve and dodging in architecture, art and epistemology to anything other than creative loneliness.**

**It should be forbidden to anticipate a feel-good culture that exaggerates in a way that would even embarrass Roland Barthes.**

**It should be forbidden to reconstruct the limitations of much contemporary architecture and let insight in through the service entrance!**

**It should be forbidden to remain passive when the world self-monitors and re-traces the errors of its past.**

It should be forbidden to hold onto work that brilliantly allows a transformation only in the present to serve the past.

It should be forbidden to remain blind to the fact that your work might be such that any society does well to resist.

It should be forbidden to think you could possibly be more or less novel, more or less ingenious, without realizing you are secondary.

It should be forbidden to remain undefeated before you even begin because you betray an unusual accuracy of feeling.

It should be forbidden to ignore that architecture resembles an aphorism we all interpret but cannot understand.

It should be forbidden to dwell in an aphorism that tells us we are all surrounded by emptiness.

It should be forbidden to be satisfied with an emptiness that fills us with signs of signs of signs.

It should be forbidden to ignore the stupidity of George Bataille, for the greatest intellect is basically the most easily duped.

It should be forbidden to think that one apprehends the truth when one is only evading, vainly, the obvious stupidity of 'everyone'

It should be forbidden to think it was once possible to identify those more duped upon than duping.

It should be forbidden to be fond of extracts that cannot tell the Architectural Hoodwinkers apart from the Hoodwinked.

It should be forbidden to think that the permanence of architectural hallucinations does not exist.

It should be forbidden to attempt to prevent movements in architecture losing their critical function.

It should be forbidden to make more of melancholic appropriations than their irony suggests.

It should be forbidden to take from the dazzling figures of philosophy, cheap rhetorical retail architecture.

It should be forbidden to think that the referential alibi has been smashed once and for all, (even though it feels like it)

It should be forbidden to be fragmented and then believe this is the only route into the electronic memory.

It should be forbidden to be seduced by a hyper-dense rhetoric that merely conforms to the hyper-density we see all around us.

It should be forbidden to think that beyond this point in architecture lies neither judgment nor aesthetic pleasure.

It should be forbidden to avoid one tormenting thought a day, especially that of the epidemic of consensus.

It should be forbidden to live things in reverse, whatever the sociologist's theory says.

It should be forbidden to think that we took all architecture at face value because our existence is now auctioned off.

It should be forbidden to censor talk of an unconditional event without meaning and consequence

It should be forbidden to draw architecture from the dizzying that can never come to rest.

It should be forbidden to traffic in Heidegger for at least a decade (without a licence!)

It should be forbidden to invent more concepts like 'conceptualism' that unite all bandits of tropes and topologies.



### **IT SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN (3)**

**It should be forbidden to use previous buildings as 'parti' for the next without at least taking your misfortune seriously.**

**It should be forbidden to take possession of space and claim of this man's existence once more.**

**It should be forbidden to make from an architecture of presence such that is never there.**

**It should be forbidden to attempt an essential deflection without realising the ditch one has just walked into.**

**It should be forbidden to appeal to the real in architecture if the authority cannot be justified beyond its own tautological emptiness.**

**It should be forbidden to hear silence and see architecture pull us into the space beyond, as if exuding imperious high realism.**

**It should be forbidden to attempt a high realism in architecture caught in its own endgame of significance, materiality and emotion.**

**It should be forbidden to stage world exhibitions when the doors are not opened to the essential agony of refugees.**

**It should be forbidden to attempt the essential agony in architecture education without realising the permanence of hallucination and the death one has just walked into.**

**It should be forbidden to accuse other crusades of a Bible when another crusade is necessary to remove the validity of that Bible.**

**It should be forbidden to think that symbolic nourishment has done enough to keep architecture in prime time.**

**It should be forbidden to come upon insights from others and pronounce inter-changeability for architecture and theory.**

**It should be forbidden to make light the concept of nature once more as an interactive subject for architecture's failure.**

**It should be forbidden to use phrases like the severity of surface unless you realise you have discovered what you set out to find.**

**It should be forbidden to imagine that if everything has the right sense of proportion, you still cannot back up the hearse and smell the flowers.**

**It should be forbidden to feel comfortable about those big things nicely lacking in architecture without realising the immense pain in the casual.**

**It should be forbidden to live out your own disguised life in a study designed for an architecture that you will never live in.**

It should be forbidden to extrude a presence that will not stand, an icon that deflates.

It should be forbidden to prevent a genuine architecture in generations become engineering over again.

It should be forbidden to speak without compromising your own function, without the tongue staying well back in the throat.

It should be forbidden to think this one more effect of that media soaked age, no longer a brutal resistance to all meaning.

It should be forbidden to hide the fact that Modernism never did what it really needed to do so well.

It should be forbidden to write through a book again and not disagree with a lot of what you had said previously.

It should be forbidden to sit in the lobby of The Hotel Architecture witnessing gossip of allowable insight and do nothing about it.

It should be forbidden to feel comfortable in the linen-covered wingchairs in the Digital Lounge of the Hotel Architecture inventing anti-aphorisms for the Post-Millennium committee.

It should be forbidden to find yourself between Stockholm, Helsinki, Venice, Tokyo, India, Pakistan, Texas and North Wales, without realising – just once - these are wounded centres of a peripheral world.

It should be forbidden to attend a symposium in Buenos Aires or Houston without realising that architecture is not a new language, not a new space but a new field for questions.

**Roger Connah Houston 2008/2021**