

ADSL2010: HAPPINESS

Tutor: Gennaro Postiglione

Title of the workshop

Rooms for Damned: The Consolation of Interiors

A summary of about 120 words

“Humans go to varying extents in search of happiness. Some are too busy with daily survival issues to think about the concept of happiness. Others may spend most of their time mulling over what makes them and other people happy. For some, it is the pursuit of fame, fortune or both that keeps them alive. For others, it is contentment with a simple lifestyle that grounds them in reality. Among each tendency, there are satisfied and disgruntled souls.

Traditionally, consolation consists of advice to eliminate one of two things: desire and pain.

The type of consolation I aspire to develop is one based on personal ethics. It requires one to be accountable for one’s desires and pain, destiny and tribulations.

In short, the consolation I seek facilitates not a regression to infantile bliss but a mediated form of happiness that recognises a necessary coexistence with unhappiness.” [Michael Lee Hong Hwee, *The Consolation of Museology*, 2008: <http://studiobibliotheque.blogspot.com>].

CV

Gennaro Postiglione is Associate Professor in Interior Architecture at The Politecnico di Milano (teaching activity: www.lablog.org.uk). Personal researches are focused mainly on domestic interiors, questioning relations among culture of dwelling, domestic architecture and modernity. He is also interested in museography and in preserving and diffusing collective memory and cultural identity, connecting the museographic issues with the domestic ambit. From 2004, within the area of teaching and research “acting upon the existent”, is promoter of PUBLIC ARCHITECTURE @ POLIMI, a research & operative group that puts the resources of Architecture in the service of the Public Interest. Identifying and proposing solutions for practical problems of human interaction with built environment, but also acting (through “Active-actions”) as a catalyst for public discourse through the design of public spaces and services for a better dwelling.

Latest closed Research: “The Atlantic Wall Linear Museum” (www.atlanticwall.polimi.it), 2005-06, on the valorisation of the Atlantic coast German bunkers both as Modern Architectural Heritage and European collective memory.

Latest publications: *Places & Themes of Interiors*, gen. eds. with L. Basso Peressut, I. Forino, Milano 2008; *100 Houses for 100 Architects*, Kolon, 2008 (new edition); *Sverre Fehn works*, with C. Norberg-Schulz, Milano 2007 (new edition).