University of Leicester provides perspectives on architectural history

New Lecture series to start from 26 October

The University of Leicester’s Department of History of Art and Film has organised a series of public lectures, to be given by scholars specialising in the field of architectural history.

All lectures, which are free and open to the public, start at 5.30pm and take place in Ken Edwards Lecture Theatre 2.

Lecturer in the Department of History of Art and Film, Simon Richards, commented:

“Unlike previous years, the speakers are not being held to a central theme, which allows us to present a wide range of topics and approaches ranging from the highly focussed, pragmatic and empirical through to the experimental and interdisciplinary.”

The first lecture will take place on **Tuesday, 26 October**, with Professor Jules Lubbock of the University of Essex delivering a lecture entitled ‘War and Peace in the Room of the Nine in Siena’.

Professor Lubbock will offer a new interpretation of the first painting of a complete working city, Ambrogio Lorenzetti’s 'Allegories of Good and Bad Government' in the city offices of Siena.

On **Tuesday, 2 November**, Professor Mark Crinson of the University of Manchester will deliver a lecture entitled ‘From Haifa to Stevenage, Sarawak to the East End: the British avant-garde, colonialism and the welfare state’.

Professor Crinson will look at the ways in which many of the architect-planners involved in so-called 'Welfare Modernism' in Britain learned their trade in the colonies.

On **Tuesday, 9 November**, Dr Simon Richards of the University of Leicester will deliver a lecture entitled ‘Half-Way Between the Electron and the Universe’: Doxiadis and the Delos Symposia’.

Dr Richards will look at debates about the 'global city' in the 1960s suggesting that they were more intelligent and attractive than the way these debates are handled by architects today.

On **Tuesday, 16 November**, Dr Elizabeth Darling of the Oxford Brookes University will deliver a lecture entitled ‘Wells Coates and the British Modern Movement’.

Dr Darling will provide a close case-study of one of the key figures within the British Modern Movement, Wells Coates, in order to complexify our understanding of a period so often associated with more famous names like Le Corbusier and Mies.
The final lecture will take place on **Tuesday, 23 November**, with Dr Joel Robinson of the Open University, who will deliver a lecture entitled ‘Outlawing Death in Arcadia’.

Dr Robinson will offer an exploratory discussion inspired by the 'Reversible Destiny' ideas of the architects Arakawa and Gins to reflect on the ways that architecture has been used to commemorate, offset the fear and perhaps even postpone death.

**Note to Newsdesk**

For more information, please contact Simon Richards, Department of History of Art and Film, at sr148@le.ac.uk