Uncertain Futures

Two Years of Student Research at the MIT Department of Architecture
What are its implications for your work?

In general, because of the aforementioned lag between design museums and design practices, we have the luxury of distance to figure out what this all means. However, design museums do need to think quickly about how to contextualize the past two decades of architectural production and, perhaps more importantly, about how to collect and archive the artifacts of the digital age.

Matthias Kohler
Architect, Gramazi and Kohler.
Spring 2009 MIT Lecture Series Speaker.

How do you locate the concept of future in your work?

We focus on the material conditions of architecture, and the way in which these can be informed by digital processes. In our research, we push these boundaries, but believe that digital possibilities need to be anchored in material conditions.

What recent transformation in the world (or in your field of expertise) will significantly affect the role of the architect, or the profession of architecture in the future?

For our work, digitalization and the ever more increasing of availability of processing and manufacturing techniques remain the most important transformations that continue to present architects with great opportunities and challenges to employ the complexities of design, construction, economics, and sustainability productively.

What are its implications for your work?

We strive to be designers of integrated design processes. The sound comprehension of the development of underlying digital systems, construction techniques, and resulting aesthetics is essential for their respective further development, but also for a critical, proactive position regarding the role of the architect.

Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani
Professor, ETH Zurich, Architect.
MIT Spring 2009 MIT Lecture Series Speaker.

How do you locate the concept of future in your work?

My work is only about future: I try to accommodate the (material and immaterial) needs of the people using my buildings for the days to come.

Evidently, this is a bet, and the chances of getting wrong are substantial. I try to minimize them by looking at the past. It is the most remarkable repository of futures that we possess.