

Master Class on Architecture and Utopia, offered by Dr Nathaniel Coleman, Wednesday 19 October 2011, one day prior to the start of the 36th Annual Meeting of THE SOCIETY FOR UTOPIAN STUDIES

Interested postgrads and younger scholars, including PhD candidates, are invited to submit expressions of interest in participating in a Master Class on Utopia and Architecture offered by Nathaniel Coleman in conjunction with the publication of his new Ralahine edition: *Imagining and Making the World: Reconsidering Architecture and Utopia*, Volume 8 of the Ralahine Center for Utopian Studies book Series. The Class will be held on Wednesday 19 October 2011, one day prior to the official start of the



upcoming 36th Annual Meeting of The Society for Utopian Studies, in State College, Pennsylvania. The Class will be two hours in duration, follow a seminar format, and participation is limited to the first 15 people signing up for it. There will also be time after the Class for informal and one-to-one conversations. Although there are no prerequisites for joining the Class, candidates are asked to include in their statements of expression of interest in participating an explication of how the proposed Master Class fits into their current research projects. A current CV is also requested. This is not so much for selection purposes but rather is intended as a means for pre-focusing the Class around the specific interests of participants. The Class will consider the historicity of the ongoing problematic of architecture and Utopia, with the aim of opening up new areas of inquiry into the topic. During the Class we will possible research models for achieving this by raising questions and opening up debates around the topic. More specifically, participants in the Class will be asked to focus on the introduction to *Imagining and Making the World: Reconsidering Architecture and Utopia*, and on the *Dialogue*. In addition, participants are invited to respond to one of the other essays in the collection. In order to facilitate the Class, participants

would be expected to buy the book, in advance of the conference, at the conference discount of 30% off the cover price.

Book synopsis: Although the association between architecture and utopia (the relationship between imagining a new world and exploring how its new conditions can best be organized) might appear obvious from within the domain of utopian studies, architects have long attempted to dissociate themselves from Utopia. Concentrating on the difficulties writers from both perspectives have with the topic, this collection interrogates the meta-theoretical problematic for ongoing intellectual work on architecture and Utopia. The essays explore divergent manifestations of the play of Utopia on architectural imagination, situated within specific historical moments, from the early Renaissance to the present day. Enriching this discussion is the disciplinary and generational diversity of the authors represented, ranging from emerging to established voices. The volume closes with an exchange between Nathaniel Coleman, Ruth Levitas, and Lyman Tower Sargent, reflecting on the contributions the essays make to situating architecture and Utopia historically and theoretically within Utopian studies, and to articulating Utopia as a method for inventing and producing better places. Intriguing to architects, planners, urban designers, and others who study and make the built environment, this collection will also be of interest to Utopian studies scholars, students, and general readers with a concern for the interrelationships between the built environment and social dreaming.

Book contents: Nathaniel Coleman: Introduction: Architecture and Utopia – Jonathan Powers: Building Utopia: The Status of the Ideal in Filarete's *Trattato* – Greg Kerr: Gautier, Boileau, and Chenavard: Utopian Architectures of the Temple in Mid-Nineteenth-Century France – Valérie Narayana: *Du Génie en Utopie*: The Figure of the Engineer in Balzacian and Zollian Utopias – Ufuk Ersoy: To See Daydreams: The Glass Utopia of Paul Scheerbart and Bruno Taut – Malcolm Miles: An Orderly Life: Ildefons Cerdà and the Northern Extension of Barcelona – Ellen Sullivan: Drawing Blood: Patrick Geddes's Sectional Thinking – Nathaniel Coleman: Utopia on Trial? – David H. Haney: Spaces of Resistance and Compromise: The Concrete Utopia Realized – Diane Davis and Tali Hatuka: Transcending the Utopian-Pragmatic Divide in Conflict Cities: Applying Vision and Imagination to Jerusalem's Future – Phillip E. Wegner: "The Mysterious Qualities of This Alleged Void": Transvaluation and Utopian Urbanism in Rem Koolhaas's *S,M,L,XL* – Nathaniel Coleman, Ruth Levitas, and Lyman Tower Sargent: Dialogue

About the editor: Nathaniel Coleman is Senior Lecturer in Architecture at Newcastle University, UK, and the author of *Utopias and Architecture* (2005). He has also contributed chapters to *Constructing Place* and *The Hand and the Soul*, and has published articles on Utopia and architecture, the history and theory of architecture, and pedagogy in journals such as *Architectural Research Quarterly*, *Interfaces: Image, Texte, Language, Morus: Utopia E Rinascimento*, *Cloud-Cuckoo-Land: International Journal of Architectural Theory*, and *The International Journal of Art and Design Education*.