

CHERNOBYL REAC-
TOR TO BAIKONUR

COSMODROME

11-22 JULY 2011



AA CHERNOBYL REACTOR TO BAIKONUR COSMODROME VISITING SCHOOL

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Unknown Fields is a nomadic studio that will set off on an annual expedition to explore forgotten landscapes, alien terrains and obsolete ecologies. Each year we will navigate a different global cross section and map the complex and contradictory realities of the present as a site of extraordinary futures. You will be both visionaries and reporters as the sites we encounter will afford us a distanced viewpoint from which to survey the consequences of emerging environmental and technological scenarios. This year, on the 50th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first manned space flight, we will pack our Geiger counters and spacesuits as we chart a course from the atomic to the cosmic to investigate the unknown fields between the exclusion zone of the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor in the Ukraine and Gagarin's launchpad at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The studio will be launched with an international symposium at the AA in London which will define the agenda for the studio before flying to Kiev, Ukraine where our expedition begins. Our journey then takes us through the Chernobyl exclusion zone and the abandoned streets of Pripjat, the atomic city. Back at 'Guest House Chernobyl' we will begin our series of collaborator-led workshops speculating on the possibilities of the future. We will fly to Almaty in Kazakhstan to board the overnight train that will form our ad hoc nomadic studio. We will cross the ancient silk route before alighting on the shores of the cosmic ocean of Baikonur Cosmonaut city where we will visit the launchpads and spacecraft of the Cosmodrome, the hallowed grounds of 'platform 112', 'platform 250' and test case rocket 'Proton M'. After a final field workshop in Almaty we will fly back to London for a closing event to compile our observations. Joining us on our expedition will be collaborators from the worlds of technology, science and fiction including the Phillips Technologies Design Probes Research Lab and Archis/Volume magazine.

APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications is 20 May 2011. Places may be reserved before this date by submitting a completed application form together with an initial payment of £650. However, full payment must be made by 20 May in order for the student to be registered. Application forms and additional information are available online at: www.aaschool.ac.uk/unknownfieldsdivision and applications can be submitted to: visitingsschool@aaschool.ac.uk

All participants travelling from abroad are responsible for securing any visa required. After payment of fees, the AA can provide a letter confirming participation in the workshop.

ACCOMMODATION & COSTS

The AA Visiting School requires a total fee of £1,550, made up of a £600 tuition fee, a £50 AA Visiting Membership fee and a £900 fee which covers accommodation and round-trip flights from London, made payable to the AA School of Architecture. Participants need to bring their own laptops, camera equipment and working materials.

MORE INFORMATION

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In collaboration with *Volume* Magazine, Phillips Design Probes, The British Council and Storefront for Art and Architecture