

# WISH21 - LONGYEARBYEN

## PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

organized by  
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A few hundred kilometers from the North Pole, the Svalbard archipelago is a land where the human footprint is limited to sporadic settlements, almost all concentrated along the coast of Isfjorden (the ice fjord). Today, no trace remains of the ice that gives the fjord its name. Longyearbyen, the capital of the islands, is in fact one of the cities in the world where the effects of climate change are most rapid.

WISH will study the relationship between new possible housing models and the effects of climate change by investigating, through the project, the difficult link between man and the environment.

The proposed series of lectures composes a variegated constellation of interventions from multiple disciplines, gathered in a polyhedric corpus, where the voices of the interlocutors, each in a personal way, will deepen a significant aspect of the design process and the indispensable relations it has with the natural, social and cultural context.

>1 MARCH 31

> 5:10PM to 6:00PM

### ENERGY AND "COLLECTIVE FORM" SASCHA ROESLER

From the early 1960s onwards, there was a significant theoretical discussion around "collective form" (Fumihiko Maki), which 10 years later would be reformulated as an explicit discourse on "energy and form" (Ralph Knowles). As I would like to show, arguments about the energetic potential of the urban climate were of decisive importance for this. Going beyond the scale of the individual building, new forms of architectural thinking were being put forward, which weighed natural forces and several buildings together for the reduction of energy consumption.

>2 APRIL 14

### LAND OF SUNSHINE ANDREA ROSCETTI

The race to exploit resources has brought us to the limits of the planet, in every sense. Today the principles of rationalization and optimization used in the past to achieve economic and development objectives are transformed and become the tool for managing the transition phase that allows us to minimize our impact on the planet. The project parameters change and adapt to new needs, the new climate, the residual resources.

>3 APRIL 28

### QUINTA DA MALAGUEIRA JOÃO GOMES DA SILVA

Siza's work at Malagueira invites a reading less as a fixed artefact and rather as one episode in the site's ongoing transformation. All the buildings are full of generous non-rhetorical lessons for architectural practice (Tony Fretton). The uniqueness of this project comes from the marriage of "formal principles and political intentions" in one project. "Conceived with exceptional momentum" (after the revolution of 1974 in Portugal), the memory of ancient Roman architecture and the spartan logic of Modernist housing had their first and sadly last felicitous meeting, (Pier Vittorio Aureli) such as in the raised aqueducts in which "infrastructure's matter-of-factness becomes the opportunity to create a form that is stubbornly monumental yet anonymous."

>4 MAY 12

### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AMONG THE GLACIERS OF SVALBARD ANGELO ODETTI

Dirigibile Italia is a CNR multidisciplinary research station located in the village of Ny-Ålesund (78° 55' N, 11° 56' E), a privileged research site for national and international research projects: a remote yet key place for understanding our planet.

In fact, the data obtained in the Arctic campaigns increasingly represent an indispensable tool for analysing and understanding global climatic dynamics: their acquisition is today an interesting field of investigation that sees the application of high-profile technological tools, ranging from remote sensing to precision robotics.

> 6:10PM to 7:00PM

### ROW-HOUSES IN LONGYEARBYEN OLAV KRISTOFFERSEN

Store Norske mining company wanted a design for a terrace of three houses that would accommodate coal mining company personnel with their families in the settlement of Longyearbyen. The project explores possibilities in new building techniques in the arctic environment and new housing typologies suited for further development and infills in the settlement.

### PANACEAS ROBERTO GUIDOTTI

The uniqueness of any project demands a specific and unrepeatable response. Mastering the design process is therefore more important than the possible solutions in itself. Finally, the cognitive process, which includes the possible variations given by the place and its morphological and climatic context, leads to unexpected and unpredictable solutions.

### ARTIC TOWN THE WORK OF RALPH ERSKINE ANDREA NARDI

"Both houses and cities must unfold themselves as flowers do in the summer sun, but also like flowers should turn away from shadows and cold northern winds, providing the warmth of the sun and wind protection to the terraces, gardens and streets. They should be totally different from those buildings with columns, cities with porticos and sunny streets from Arab villages and southern Europe, although very close considering their main goal: help people keeping their body temperature at comfortable 35°. We would not be interested in forms while studying these southern villages, but surely about their inventiveness and art by which the solved different problems, the beauty they achieved." (R. Erskine)

### COMMUNITY ON THE VERGE: ON THE HISTORY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT ON SVALBARD THOR BJØRN ARLOV

The High Arctic archipelago of Svalbard has seen four centuries of human activity but permanent year-round settlements are a quite recent phenomenon. In this lecture, I will first outline the cultural history of Svalbard and then focus on the development of the local community Longyearbyen, in particular its transformation from a coal-based company town to a diverse and modern economic hub.