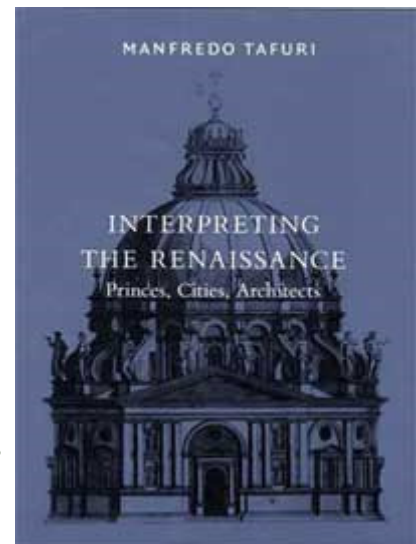




Greenwich Architecture Open Lecture Series 2006 / 07
Identities and Representations

- University of Greenwich School of Architecture & Construction
- Mansion Site, Avery Hill Campus
- Bexley Road, Eltham, London SE9 2PQ
- Norbert Singer Lecture Theatre (M055)
- Thursday 16 Nov 2006 17.30

Andrew Leach
Queensland University Brisbane
Between Research and Interpretation: Tafuri's Renaissance



What are the responsibilities of architectural historians to architectural culture? What defines the materials available to the historian? What is the status of historical knowledge in the present? What tools are at hand for the historian to conduct a historiographical practice? These questions delineate some of the fundamental precepts that lend the architectural historian a sense of disciplinarity and authority in architectural culture. They reach to the very 'reasons' for history. However, few individuals in recent decades have pressed these issues, or their bearing upon historical knowledge, as Italian thinker Manfredo Tafuri. The lecture will begin from a conceptual gulf that appears between the Italian and English titles of his final monograph - *Ricerca del rinascimento*, or *Interpreting the Renaissance* - in order to consider the implications of these questions in Tafuri's work. The lecture will move very quickly from Tafuri himself to a reflection upon the valency of his ideas and practice in the time since his death in 1994. What, the lecture will ask, does it mean to be an historian now? How far does Tafuri's interrogation of questions that we share in the abstract survive the differences in historical and contextual conditions that distinguish his world from ours?

Andrew Leach is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the ATCH Research Group of the University of Queensland. A graduate of Victoria University of Wellington and Ghent University, he has published widely on Manfredo Tafuri and on the architectural history of New Zealand. His publications include *Frederick H Newman: Lectures on Architecture* (A&S, 2003) and *Campus Confessions: Architecture and the Central Institute of Technology* (Balasoglou, 2004), essays in *Architectural Theory Review*, *Fabrications*, *Journal of Architecture*, *Journal of New Zealand Studies*, *Mosaic* and *Oase*. With Deidre Brown, he edits *Fabrications: Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand*, published by the University of Queensland Press.

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