

LENT  
2018

# CITY SEMINAR

## THINKING ABOUT THE PUBLIC REALM REVISITING THE 'HEART OF THE CITY'

This seminar will explore the ways that modern architects and urbanists conceptualised the public space of the city as they addressed the task of rebuilding European cities after WWII. At their third post-war meeting at Hoddesdon in 1951, the focus of CIAM's\* debate, dominated by the now ageing leaders of the Modern Movement, was less on the utilitarian tasks of providing for shelter and employment -important though they might be - and more on the need to rebuild 'the Heart of the City' as a vital step towards re-creating the institutions necessary for the revival of democratic society. However, in identifying the Heart of the City with well-defined public spaces like Frankfurt's Römer or London's Trafalgar Square they overlooked the everyday importance of the street as the public realm for so many neighbourhoods, particularly in working class areas. For a younger generation of architects, many well aware of the social anthropological/sociological work of Chombart de Lauwe in Paris or of Peter Wilmott and Michael Young in London, an understanding of the 'street' and its reconciliation of the public and the private realm were central to establishing a new urbanism.

\*CIAM, les Congrès Internationaux d'Architecture Moderne, was the body that from 1928-59 claimed to speak for Modern architecture and urbanism.



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*Nick Bullock arrived in Cambridge in 1960 to read Modern Languages but has been teaching architecture in Cambridge and at the Architectural Association since the early 1970s. His current research explores the way in which architecture and urbanism reflect the modernization of France in the 30 years after WWII.*



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**TUESDAY 6 FEBRUARY  
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**

**DEPT. OF ARCHITECTURE \ BOARDROOM**



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