Jacob Mans

Presentation Title
Transformities: inquiries in open systems

Abstract
There’s an emerging discourse in architecture that challenges our assumptions about energy and the technologies we design to help shape our dissipation of it. The discourse names the behavior of architecture as an open-thermodynamic system; a system that relies on collections, transformations, and dissipations of massive flows of energy. Leveraging the complexity of these exchanges requires moving beyond routines of energy efficiency and optimization. Building Technologies extend far beyond mechanical properties, and material performance is much more complex than structural optimization. If we suspend our tendency to characterize construction systems as fully formed and deployable then we can see buildings as emerging formations; open systems whose boundaries lie somewhere between the extractive hinterland and the political systems that regulate material extraction; open systems whose boundaries are shaped by the limits of human strength, the intelligence of human tools, and/or the extents of physical infrastructure.

Bio
Jacob Mans is an architect living in Philadelphia. His work focuses on the influence of large-scaled environmental systems on small-scaled building performance. His current research explores the disconnect between ideas of conservation and efficiency and the resulting patterns of consumption that they shape. Jacob received his MArch from the University of Cincinnati in 2010. He has spent much of his time since in Philadelphia, where he worked at KieranTimberlake and taught at the University of Pennsylvania. He’s currently doing postgraduate research at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design and teaching at Northeastern University in Boston.