



Private Choices Public Spaces

How can design enable dialogue in contested public spaces? This ArchiteXX-lead design action will address the public-private interface of the last remaining abortion clinic in Mississippi. Design is a powerful, effective and often under-utilized tool in addressing the complexities of contested spaces. A contested space in this project is an abortion clinic, specifically the last remaining clinic in Mississippi, where fierce protesting is a daily occurrence. ArchiteXX calls you to collaborate with us in a practice of active citizenship through design. We believe design must engage challenging social and political dimensions of the built environment, such as access to reproductive health care, in order to make improvements at all scales for all people. Knee jerk reactions to these issues are prevalent in mainstream media. We invite the public to think more broadly and deeply about the role design can play in dialogue with such complicated and multi-layered issues. ArchiteXX identified an opportunity to re-envision how to treat this public-private interface along the fence. The material objective of our design action is to construct an installation at the Jackson Women's Health Organization, JWHO, in Jackson, MS which will provide safe and respectful access to the clinic while retaining required emergency clearances from the clinic's front doors. The public-private threshold of an abortion clinic is a highly nuanced interface of strong personal sentiments. Our design action takes the discomfort head-on, illuminating the spatial implications of access to reproductive health care and the role design can play in expanding the conversation. Critical of the exploitative nature of conventional design competitions, the project is framed as an open-collaborative think-tank. ArchiteXX initiated this design action to put our values regarding the profession of architecture into practice. The design action promotes dialogue and collaboration rather than competition to execute its goal. Through this mode of activism we seek to transform the profession. It is an iterative and lived practice outside the norms of the conventional office. Private Choices, Public Spaces is our first attempt, and we invite you to work with us.

PRIVATE CHOICES PUBLIC SPACES

SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 2

ARNOLD AND SHEILA ARONSON GALLERIES
SHEILA C. JOHNSON DESIGN CENTER
PARSONS THE NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN
66 FIFTH AVENUE AT 13TH STREET, NEW YORK

LECTURE, PANEL DISCUSSION AND OPENING:
SEPTEMBER 24TH, 7PM

LORI BROWN:
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

ANDREW BECK:
AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
NEW YORK

MARK BECHTEL:
SCHOOL OF
CONSTRUCTED
ENVIRONMENTS,
PARSONS

ARCHITEXX MIXX:
SEPTEMBER 25, 7PM

BRIAN McGRATH:
SCHOOL OF
CONSTRUCTED
ENVIRONMENTS,
PARSONS

MIRIAM TICKTIN:
DEPARTMENT OF
ANTHROPOLOGY, NEW
SCHOOL FOR
RESEARCH

**MODERATED BY
KIMBERLY TATE:**
SCHOOL OF
CONSTRUCTED
ENVIRONMENTS,
PARSONS

DESIGN CHALETTE:
SEPTEMBER 27, 2-5 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION:
SEPTEMBER 26, 7PM

MAISIE CROW:
DIRECTOR, "THE LAST
CLINIC"

**SHANNON
BREWER-ANDERSON**
CLINIC DIRECTOR,
JACKSON WOMEN'S
HEALTH ORGANIZATION

AMANDA ALLEN:
CENTER FOR
REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS LEGISLATIVE
COUNSEL

ARCHITEXX
WE ASK HOW NOT Y

CURATORS:
LORI BROWN KIMBERLY TATE

EXHIBITION DESIGNERS:
ASHLEY SIMONE, MICHELE
GORMAN, IRINA SCHNEID,
LISA MAIONE

DIANE DERVIS:
CLINIC OWNER,
JACKSON WOMEN'S
HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**MODERATED BY
LORI BROWN:**
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE

SUPPORTED IN PART BY
ABORTION CONVERSATION PROJECT, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL
OF ARCHITECTURE, THOMAS GALLIONE, RYAN ASSOCIATES, AND
MEGAN OFFNER, NY HEARTWOODS

Private Choices Public Spaces exhibition + public programming

New York, New York

The Sheila C. Johnson Design Center Arnold and Sheila Aronson Galleries at Parson's The New School for Design, NY, NY September 18 – October 2, 2014
curated and organized by ArchiteXX, Lori A. Brown and Kimberely Tate
designed by Michelle Gorman, Ashley Simone, Irinia Schneid, and Lisa Maioine

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photography by Ashley Simone

