Anne Rademacher

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“Producing Green Expertise: Environmental Architects and the Urban Future in Mumbai.”

This talk moves between sites of pedagogy and arenas of professional practice to explore the tensions between ideologies of green urban design as they are forged and codified in training, and the active structural constraints that animate the everyday professional practice of architecture in Mumbai. Positioned at the intersection of built forms and the societies that inhabit them, those who practice green architecture work directly to integrate environmental sustainability into human social life. In so doing, they deploy the power of architectural knowledge and expertise toward the cause of urban survival. In this sense, as a lecturer declared on an environmental architecture field trip described in the talk, green architects may be regarded as “soldiers of sustainability;” they assume responsibility for the transformation of urban environments and urban societies.

Anne Rademacher (M.E.S., Ph.D., Yale University) is Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Anthropology at New York University. Her research explores the political and cultural dimensions of sustainability in cities. Through ethnographic analyses of urban environmental change, she studies how place-based affinities, contested histories, and ideologies of belonging develop in struggles over the form, content, and quality of urban environments. Rademacher’s focus is urban ecology – its scientific contours, its application across cultural and political contexts, and its interconnection with social change.

Location: Blake Hall, Room 131, Cook Campus

Date: Wednesday, March 9th, 2016

Time: 12:30 to 2:00 pm