

SOPHIA GRAY

MINI CONFERENCE

Architecture + Urbanism

Presented by Urs Bette and Deen Sharp, in conversation with Jonathan Noble

Strategies of Misappropriation: The Secret Life of an Aircon Unit



Dr Urs Bette is an Associate Professor at Curtin University, Perth. Trained as an architect at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, he holds a PhD from RMIT University, Melbourne. His work bridges built architecture, speculative projects and scholarship to advance practice-led knowledge. He established the PhD by Design Research stream at the University of Adelaide and currently serves as Co-Director of Creative Practice Research in Curtin University's School of Design and the Built Environment.

Urs' design expertise has been recognised through exhibitions and publications including the Venice Architecture Biennale, Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin, FRAC Centre–Val de Loire in Orléans, ARCH+ and Wallpaper* magazine. At Curtin, he leads practice-based research partnerships and supervises higher degree research, focusing on design as a mode of inquiry and impact. His book, *Architecture in Dialogue with an Activated Ground: Unreasonable Creatures*, published by UCL Press in London, articulates the methods and core values of his practice.

Right to the City in an Urbanising World



Dr Deen Sharp, PhD, is a Visiting LSE Fellow in Geography and the Environment at the London School of Economics (LSE). He currently works as a consultant with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Water-responsive Urbanism in Africa. He was formerly a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2018-2019).

He has co-edited four books, most recently Reconstruction as Violence in Assad's Syria (AUC Press: 2025) and Learning Ecologies in Architecture (Architangle: 2025), as well as Beyond the Square: Urbanism and the Arab Uprisings (Urban Research: 2016) and Open Gaza: Architectures of Hope (AUC Press: 2021). He has published in top-ranking journals, including Geoforum, Progress in Human Geography and Urban Studies. Sharp is a corresponding editor for Urban Studies and is the editor of the only urban studies book series on the Arab world at the American University of Cairo Press. He is currently working on a special issue of Urban Studies on urban conflict and the urbanisation of conflict.

Thursday, 27 August 2026, 10:00 – 13:00

Multi-functional Hall, Department of Architecture, UFS, 26 Dekaan Street

0.6 (category 1) CPD points | 051 401 2332 | NienaberY@ufs.ac.za

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