



Tchoban Foundation  
Museum für  
Architekturzeichnung

## Press release

Berlin, 04.10.2016

# Peter Cook. Retrospective

Tchoban Foundation. Museum for Architectural Drawing  
Christinenstraße 18a, 10119 Berlin

Exhibition opening: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 19:00  
Press conference: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 18:30

Duration: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016 – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Opening times: Mon – Fri 14:00–19:00, Sat – Sun 13:00 – 17:00  
Tickets: 5 EUR, Reductions: 3 EUR

The new temporary exhibition, *Peter Cook. Retrospective* is dedicated to the drawings of the famous British architect who is celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Back in 1982, the Aedes Architecture Forum, then located in the Savigny Platz arches, showed a fantastic exhibition of his work; now, almost 40 years on, Peter Cook returns to Berlin. *Peter Cook. Retrospective* enables a view into the artist's work from Archigram to CRAB, from 1968 to today, from *Plug-In City* to *Hidden City*.

Peter Cook is regarded as one of the leading instigators of Archigram. This group whose name originated from the architectural pamphlet, Archigram - a wordplay on architecture and telegram - was founded in the 1960s by young British architecture graduates who strove to break away from traditional architectural office routine and continue the discourse stimulated during their studies. The given notions of form and space were to be overridden and burst apart, driven by the curiosity to explore what a future world may look like and question whether architectural language is at all set by boundaries.

Archigram searched for new solutions and concept models, focussing on the development of society. Underwater cities, living cells, plug-ins and hybrid villas were created: the ideas and experiments from this period, particularly the central motif of metamorphosis, recur throughout Peter Cook's lifework.

In the series *Way Out West: Berlin* made in the 1980s, Peter Cook posed the question, "Why is the language of architecture so limited?". A cactus is set with three symbols of Western architecture: the grid, a skyscraper and a square, where the spread of vegetation, again the process of metamorphosis, transforms the skyscraper to the point that it is no longer recognisable.

Some of his drawings are based on actual projects, such the urban planning development for Frankfurt-Oberrad in 1986, *Real City: Frankfurt* (which remained unrealised); many are rather experiments and utopias, such as *Arcadia*, *Vegetated Lump* and *Hidden City*, where the architecture was inspired by the surrounding vegetation, its beginning and end blurred, merging organically into nature.

A catalogue accompanies the exhibition.

**This exhibition was made in cooperation with the Aedes Architecture Forum at Pfefferberg. Aedes will host a symposium in homage to Peter Cook on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016, to mark his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, celebrated with Wolf Prix, Zvi Hecker, Odile Decq and Thom Mayne. Further information on the symposium and registration and be found under: [www.ancb.de](http://www.ancb.de).**

Artist:

Peter Cook was born in Southend-on-Sea, Great Britain in 1936 and studied architecture at the renowned AA - Architectural Association in London. He became internationally known through the architectural pamphlet Archigram, published for the first time by the group carrying the same name in the 1960s. Since the 1980s, Cook has taught at famous universities worldwide, including MIT, UCLA, Harvard, the Bartlett School and other well known faculties. He was knighted for his service to architecture in 2007. Peter Cook lives and works in London.

Curators:

Dr. h. c. Kristin Feireiss, Founder of the Aedes Architecture Forum  
Nadejda Bartels, Director of the Museum for Architectural Drawing

## Contact

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## Images



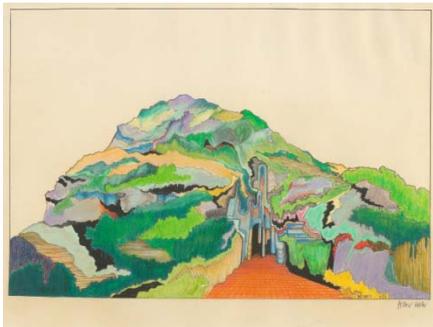
Vegetated Lump

1973/74

Coloured pencil on coloured paper, collage, on board

35,5 x 43,0 cm

© Peter Cook



Vegetated Lump

1972/73

Coloured pencil, watercolour, pastel on paper

45,0 x 46,7 cm

© Peter Cook



Vegetated Lump, interior

1972/73

Coloured pencil, watercolour, pastel on paper

45,0 x 46,7 cm

© Peter Cook



Hidden City

2013

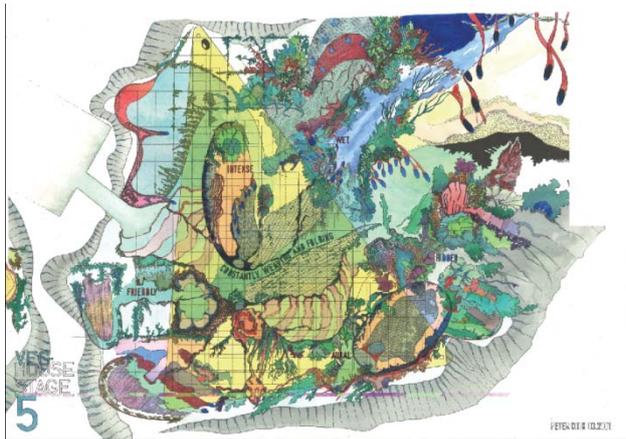
Mixed media

101,5 x 101,2 cm

© Peter Cook



West Out West: Berlin  
East elevation at Stage E  
1988  
Ink on tracing paper  
102 x 52 cm  
© Peter Cook



Veg House: Stage 5  
2001  
Print, watercolour  
50 x 70 cm  
© Peter Cook

