

# UNSPOKEN BORDERS 2009

# THE ECOLOGIES OF INEQUALITY

## *and the Future of Design in Race + Space + Politics*

Where: University of Pennsylvania

When: Friday, April 03, 2009 - Saturday, April 04, 2009

**\*\*\*ONLINE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW\*\*\***

"Design has prevailed as one of the world's most powerful forces. It perches us at the beginning of an unprecedented period of human possibility, where all economies and ecologies hold the capacity to merge as global, relational and interconnected. In order to fruitfully grasp these emerging forces, there lives an urgent need to articulate precisely, absolutely, entirely what we're doing to ourselves and our planet."  
-Bruce Mau, Massive Change

This year's theme "The Ecology of Inequality" is an examination of the systems, infrastructure and design processes that create or perpetuate the socio-economic and environmental stratification of our society. Recent national events—economic and environmental crises, the pending election etc. have forced the design professions to examine the first principle of ecology "that each living organism has an ongoing and continual relationship with every other element that makes up its environment." An ecosystem can be defined as "any situation where there is interaction between organisms and their environment." Bruce Mau's work belongs to a growing body of voices that calls for a thorough assessment of how our existing systems lead to disenfranchised communities, a growing schism between the affluent and poor, and damaged ecosystems.

How have our social structures shaped the built environment? What is the relationship between urbanism and suburbanism? How does the ever-growing water crisis relate to race and culture? How does design relate to exploding health crises, on a global scale?

Conference sessions will include a diverse pool of invited panelists, as well as intriguing submissions from our Call for Papers. Presentations will evaluate the social conditions, historical precedents and design decisions that have led to today's conditions. The conference will also discuss contemporary approaches that are confronting the current power structure, or ones that are seeking to establish new, justice-oriented design strategies that replace the ecology of inequality with ecologies of equity.

Organized by  
PennDesign Black Student Alliance  
UB09 Student Conference Committee

WEB: <http://www.design.upenn.edu/unspokenborders09>

EMAIL: [pdunspokenborders09@gmail.com](mailto:pdunspokenborders09@gmail.com)

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD

5:30- 7:00 PM Registration

6:30- 8:30 PM talk20 Kick-Off

8:30- 10:00 PM Networking Reception

### SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH

8:00- 9:00 AM Registration + Breakfast

9:00- 10:10 AM Plenary Session + Case Study Presentation I:  
Urban + Suburban Development: Historical + Existing Conditions

10:25- 12:05 PM Plenary Session + Case Study Presentation II:  
Urban + Suburban Development: The New City

12:20- 2:00 PM **Keynote Luncheon:**  
**Keynote Address by Teddy Cruz**

2:15- 3:55 PM Plenary Session + Case Study Presentation III:  
Planning for the Seventh Generation

4:00- 5:00 PM Closing Reception



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