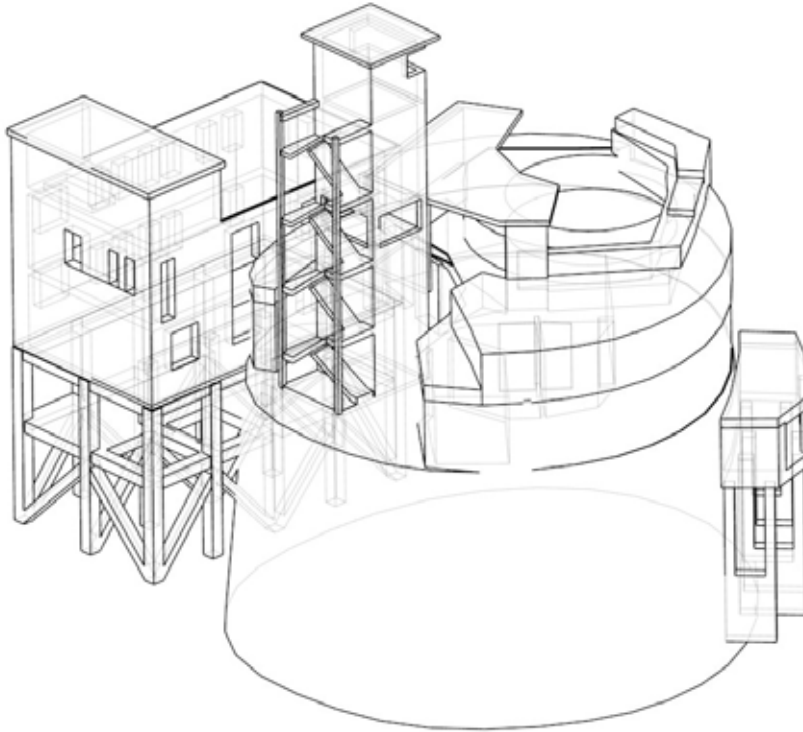


Building Arcadia

a 21st century exploration and reappraisal of buildings for defense

by Corinna Dean



The project Building Arcadia is a 21st century exploration and reappraisal of buildings for defense. Using building types from the existing ARCA archive the film generates the forms of cold war and military structures, using generative architectural drawing.

The structures analysed and re imagine, were built to counteract catastrophe, both defense and environmental; they were intended to protect the coast and with this came the considerations of building in flood areas, tidal areas, and extreme weather conditions.

Stepping outside the current fascination with 'ruin lust', ARCA looks at how these structures are documented and their building elements categorised, the site conditions rationalised and explores the tectonics of generic defense structures through this form of computational drawing.

Building Arcadia, references the Becher's archive of the industrial era, where the artists would arrange their photographs in grids or sequence them in monographs, a standardised presentation that facilitates a comparative analysis of form. Influenced by the objectivity of photographic practices between the two World Wars and embraced by practitioners of Minimalist and Conceptual art in the 1960s and 1970s. ARCA draws into focus the functional sites that are situated in rural environments, the functional rational of which was driven by research, evolution, adaptation and innovation.

About ARCA

ARCA explores interpretations of the British landscape that focus on often marginal and overlooked places. The on-line archive creates a multi-layered reading of places and an appreciation of the bleak, the failed and the uncomfortable. The archive surveys, collates and celebrates Britain's strange and often overlooked architectural spaces.

ARCA launched the publication *Slacklands* in May 2014, which provides a guide to 31 sites across the UK, with an informative text and photographs that capture each sites lack of traditional appeal as well as their striking aesthetic.

www.arca-projects.com

Film: 8 minutes

ARCA concept and photographs Corinna Dean
Animation & drawings by Maciek Sobieraj