Research Statement

Research background

The exhibition challenges the disciplinary status of the line by presenting a range of speculative design methods that use colour as an alternative representational medium for architecture. The accompanying maps and diagrams demonstrate how colour reveals nascent ephemeral, atmospheric qualities and guides spatial, material, and tectonic decisions. The range of this work is demonstrated through projects operating across a range of scales, from the architectural interior to the urban.

Research contribution

Architecture has struggled to use colour beyond a surface treatment. The ability to use colour as a truly generative medium is a consequence of digital imaging technologies. Unlike other digital design techniques, which reinforce the line's disciplinary status, the work presented exploits the capacity of the digital interface to quantify all types of things. With this project, the digital interface makes colour generative by using the ability of the digital interface to convert space and form into data that accords with the RGB colour model. The capacity to quantify the qualitative recognises how the RGB model can faithfully index architectural and urban form.

Using a series of analytical and generative colour-based techniques, the speculative projects presented illustrate how this research samples and processes visual data. The work will appeal to a broad audience by drawing upon data from several well-known urban and architectural sites. The exhibition presents a series of artefacts comprising numerous high-resolution, colour-rich images produced on high-quality printing stock. Drawings and text supplement these vivid and highly detailed images to describe the processes and help the audience access what the images show.

Research significance

The RIBA Practice Space offers the exhibitors an opportunity to publicly showcase the outcomes of more than a decade of design-based research for the first time. This work, which has been undertaken in the true spirit of interdisciplinarity, brings together modes of thinking from a range of design practices to present new approaches to architectural drawing.