



Image by Søren Svendsen. Courtesy of KADK

/// THE CABINET OF [ATMOSPHERIC] CURIOSITIES.

A Journey in Search of the Origins and Logic of Atmospheric Practice

WORKS+WORDS 2019

2nd Biennale of Artistic Research in Architecture
The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Schools of Architecture,
Design and Conservation [KADK]

28.11.2019 - 19.01.2020

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Funding: University of Reading, £1320 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme

Photos: (unless otherwise stated) by Izabela Wiczorek

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The Cabinet of [Atmospheric] Curiosities lies somewhere between indexing and speculation, a dialectical device and a generative instrument. It is a work-in-progress that sets out a conceptual framework for a constantly-evolving and open-ended instrumental taxonomy of spatial atmospheres. It both looks into multiple ways in which atmospheres have been theorised and materialised and engages with the development of new tools, methods, and creative processes that define atmospheric production.

Drawing from the fascination with cabinets of curiosities—historically seen as a means of recording, classifying, and communicating knowledge through a collection of disparate artefacts—the display combines words, drawings, images and objects, illustrating the complexity and nuances of the notion of atmosphere. It is conceived as a place where canonical works of atmospheric *staging* and engineering—some neglected and forgotten, some never realised and those that have been lost—are re-visited, re-constructed or re-enacted. Similar to the cabinets of curiosities of earlier times, the display does not imply contemplative distance. A series of *optical instruments*, including lenses, glass cloches and reflective surfaces, transform *The Cabinet* into an immersive device, encouraging an inquisitive journey in search of the origins and logic of atmospheric practice.

By looking into the historiography of atmospheric design, *The Cabinet* reveals that although concerns for atmospheres have only recently crystallised into an influential transdisciplinary debate, the conceptual foundations and protocols for the production of atmospheres can be found beyond contemporary examples. Yet, the documentary nature of the project is subverted by a *creative inhabitation* of the studied works, which are approached as territories for experimentation and invention. In doing so, *The Cabinet* becomes a site where histories and fictional scenarios co-exist and overlap, establishing multidirectional dialogues and opening up a new context for an exploration of the imaginative potential of the notion of atmosphere.

The project also aims to challenge the boundaries between architectural design, history and theory, offering an opportunity for combining traditional modes of historical research with design-led-research, curatorial practice and artistic production.



> IMAGES:

The Cabinet of [Atmospheric] Curiosities. Display presented at the Works+Words Biennale of Artistic Research in Architecture, KADK Copenhagen, November 2019-January 2020. [Photos (unless otherwise stated) by Izabela Wiczorek]

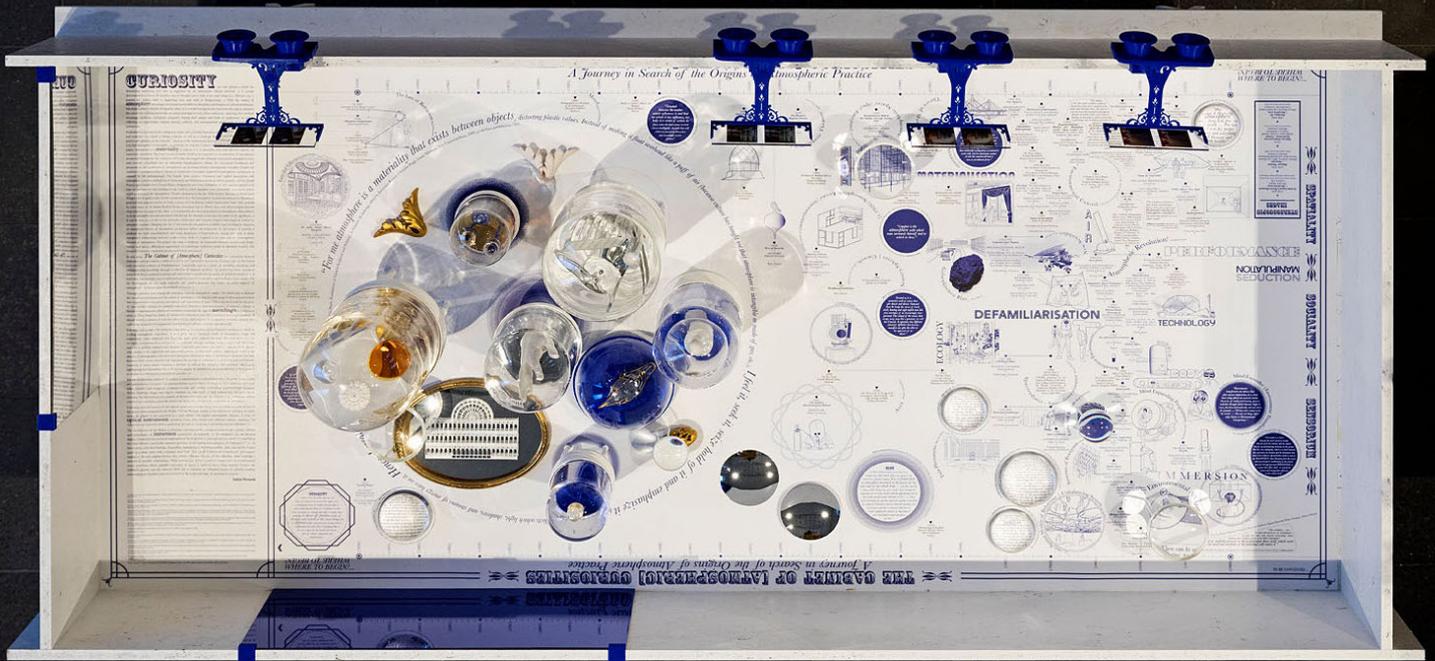


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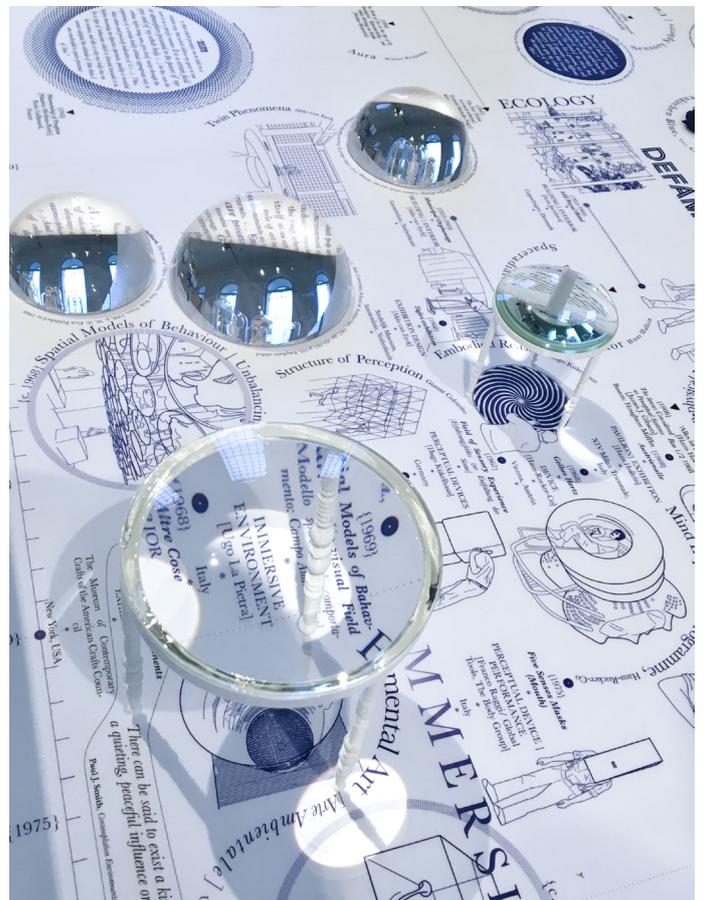
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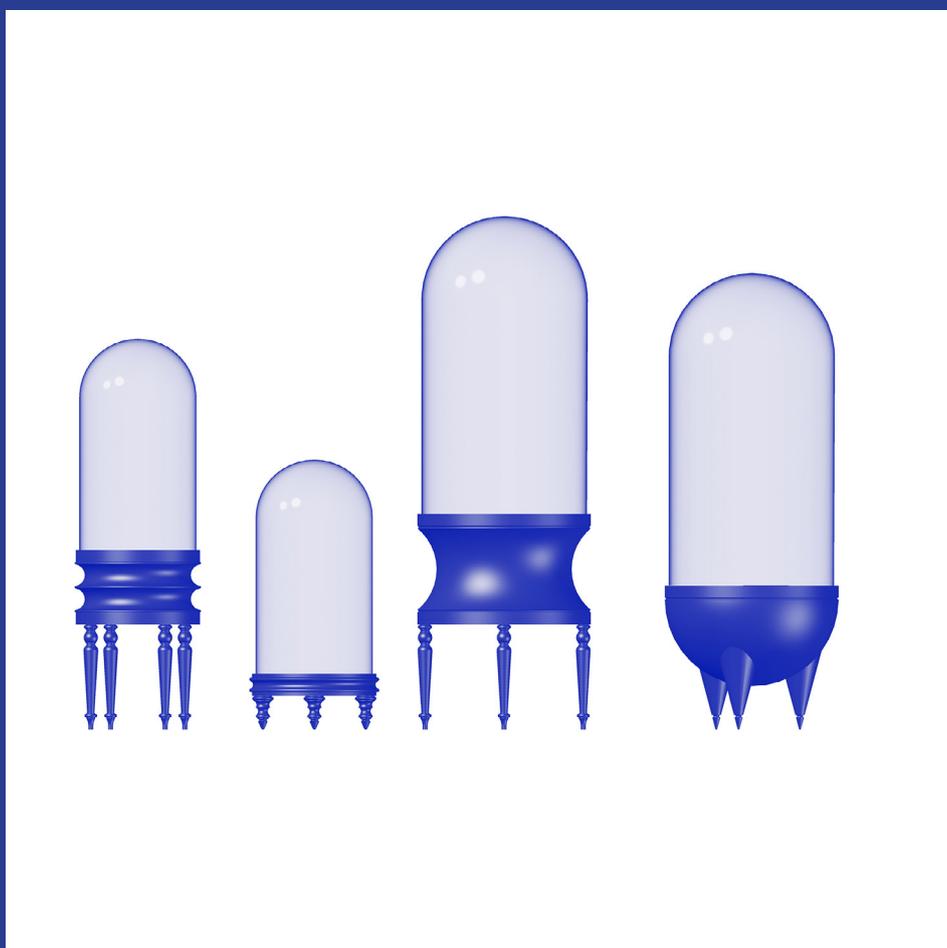
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