THERAPEUTIC LANDSCAPES

an interdisciplinary symposium exploring their

GENESIS, FATE, FUTURE

This symposium examines the historical and present-day conviction that certain kinds of designed environments are good for us. Prior to 1900, when the germ theory of disease gained greater acceptance, the notion that miasma or "bad air" caused a wide array of illnesses was widespread. Coupled with reformist ideals and a belief that key social problems were also, in some sense, contagious, this body of medico-scientific thought exerted broad influence on the design of institutions such as asylums, hospitals, cemeteries, parks, and penitentiaries. Historians have sometimes used the term "therapeutic landscape" to highlight the formal and ideological links among such sites. Our one-day, interdisciplinary symposium asks: Did "therapeutic" principles cohere? Did they amount to a sensibility more than a perscription? How did competing forms of knowledge in the increasingly professionalized realms of medicine, landscape, and architecture interact after 1900? How might they inform contemporary design practices and / or the reuse of older sites? Please join us as we look for answers.

KEYNOTE | April 9th | 6PM

Dell Upton
UCLA, Department of Art History

SYMPOSIUM | April 10th | 9AM-5PM

Session 1: Atmospherics
Session 2: Control
Session 3: Cities as Therapeutic Landscapes

Lower Gallery, Meyerson Hall
University of Pennsylvania
210 S. 34th Street, Philadelphia

PennDesign

Sponsored by: Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, Department of Landscape Architecture, Department of History and Sociology of Science, and the School of Nursing

More info: http://www.design.upenn.edu/historic-preservation/events/symposium-therapeutic-landscapes