



# POST DUCTILITY

## Metals in Architecture and Engineering

The Third Columbia Conference on Architecture, Engineering and Materials  
September 30—October 2, 2009

The Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation  
Columbia University in the City of New York

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glass concrete metal plastic

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Metals, as surface or structure—as the generators of space—play a role in nearly every strain of modernization in architecture. They define complete geographies of work, production and political life. Non-architectural metals delivered in automobiles, and hard goods in the United States and world-wide have all been sourced as the engines of the sprawling late twentieth century city in all of its forms. But in the received aspects of architectural history, metals, and in particular steel, remain less diluted; they are presented as intrinsic to the profession as material precedes concepts—they are carriers of architectural meaning.

Bringing together a wide range of leading architects, engineers, and scholars, the Columbia Conferences on Architecture, Engineering, and Materials are part of a multi-year project to explore the dramatically changing limits of known and new materials in an era of rapid urbanization and within unprecedented forms of technical measurement, coordination, and production that increasingly blur the boundaries of professions and of materials. Do contemporary means of structural and material analysis suggest a way of modeling material attributes such that analysis itself might produce a new material and new practices? Do new techniques create a virtual strain or quasi-alloy, leading to a new realm of coordinated material action and conceptual action?

This conference on metals is the third in a series of conferences on architecture, engineering and materials. The conference explores the boundaries between architecture, engineering and materials science by mobilizing symposia, studios, exhibitions, books and films in an intensely focused investigation. How is a new generation of professionals and manufactures fusing engineering and architectural practices into new platforms for decisive urban action?

**The expanding list of participating architects, engineers, historians, and theorists includes:**

Paola Antonelli, Phillip Anzalone, Michael Bell, David Benjamin, Roberto Bicchiarelli, Beatriz Colomina, John Fernandez, Kenneth Frampton, Laurie Hawkinson, Juan Herreros, Steven Holl, Keith Kaseman, Sanford Kwinter, Sylvia Lavin, Mark Malekshahi, Ronald Mayes, Rory McGowan, Detlef Mertins, Christian Meyer, Ana Miljacki, Toshiko Mori, Jorge Otero Pailos, Theo Prudon, Jesse Reiser, Leslie Robertson, Hilary Sample, Hans Schober, Matthias Schuler, Craig Schwitter, Felicity Scott, Werner Sobek, Galia Solomonoff, Man-Chung Tang, Heiko Trumpf, Nanako Umemoto, George Wheeler, Mark Wigley and Mabel Wilson

**Keynote lecture:**

José Rafael Moneo  
Architect, Madrid/Professor, Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design, Cambridge

Convened by [The Graduate School](#)

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