

shed pavilion

_iterative aims to engage the public through dynamic installations that challenge perceptions of our built environment. On the site of Historic Fort York during Nuit Blanche, we assembled a pavilion made of store-bought utility sheds. A pavilion traditionally serves as an independent structure removed from a larger context with the intended use of leisure and function. Shed provided a space of pleasure and relaxation inside the barrack structures of the Fort, to alter perceptions of a historic and important space of Toronto heritage.

There were two installations. The first is comprised of two utility sheds stacked together with the interior space linked through passages. The exterior composition startles at first glance as one witnesses an 'upside-down' structure. Upon further inspection, the pavilion functions as normal. The interior spaces were finished with insulating foam, to speak to the built environment and how we make 'personal' space. The second installation is an array of miniature sheds at ¼ scale. The grid-arrangement draws parallels to patterns of suburban development and draws comparisons with the rows of bare bunk beds surrounding.

Throughout the twelve hours of Nuit Blanche, Shed served as an object of art, and within the Historic Fort, remained open for the public to explore.

inspiration and influences

In *How Buildings Learn* by Stewart Brand, the author states that, "a building is always tearing itself apart." This is due to the differing rates of change for all the components of a building. Brand identifies six components to a building; they are site, structure, skin, services, space plan and stuff. 'Site' is the most secure element and 'stuff' is the least. Stuff or interior furnishings change annually as people desire new objects.

Artist Gordon Matta-Clarke, trained as an architect, created a series of building interventions throughout the seventies. In what he deemed "Anarchitecture", Matta-Clarke would physically transform existing buildings as to alter the perception of the structure in its environment. The artist's work often involved physically cutting buildings vertically in half with chainsaws and various tools, as well as knocking holes through walls connecting one room to another. The end results were stunning transformations of derelict buildings into intriguing works of art.

historic fort york

First constructed in 1793 under the direction of Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe, Fort York marks the birthplace of urban Toronto. At that time the fort would have been positioned right on the shoreline and offered a harbour defence against potential invasions from the United States – a major concern in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Simcoe's worst fears did come to pass during the War of 1812, though not until 1813 when the Americans landed to the west of the Fort and crept eastward while fighting a diverse contingent of British, Canadian, and Native soldiers. Greatly outnumbered, the Fort York soldiers retreated and the Americans consequently sacked the (then) Town of York for 6 days. Revenge, however, was sweet when in 1814 British soldiers traveled to Washington and burnt down the White House and U.S Capitol building – a fact still not forgotten in American history books (even if they forget who actually won the war in the end!)

Nestled between rail lines to its north and an elevated expressway to its south and separated from the shoreline it once occupied by over 500 metres of lake-fill, Fort York has miraculously survived intact for over 200 years. After opening as a museum in 1934, the fort was very nearly demolished to make way for the Gardiner Expressway in 1959. Thankfully that plan was rejected and today the fort survives in its original location. In addition to being a National Historic Site and home to Canada's largest collection of original War of 1812 buildings, Fort York has become a community hub for the surrounding neighbourhood, featuring festivals, family programming, and special events. As part of the commemoration of the War of 1812 Bicentennial, a major effort is underway to rehabilitate the entire 43-acre site. This includes landscaping over 8-acres of additional lands within the Garrison Common and constructing a new 2,044 s.m. Visitor Centre, designed by Patkau Architects/Kearns Mancini Architects and scheduled to open in 2013, to mark a new entrance to the site and to assist in properly orienting visitors.

about the _iterative collective

_iterative is a young collective comprised of Andrew Chau and Jennifer Thorogood. Both Chau and Thorogood received their degrees in Architecture (M.Arch.) in 2009 from McGill University in Montreal. In tandem with employment in the architectural field, Chau and Thorogood participate in many competitions, exhibitions and events. Most notably their work has been featured in the Calgary's Arcity Festival, Toronto's Come up to my Room Event, and The Anti-Design Festival in London, UK.