

Matteo Cainer Office Principal

Matteo Cainer is a practising architect, curator and educator. Based in London, he is Principal of Matteo Cainer Architecture, Founder of the Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture in Lyon, France and Director of Architecture Whispers.



After receiving his master's degree from the University of Architecture in Venice, Italy, he worked and collaborated with a number of celebrated international practices including Peter Eisenman in New York City, Coop Himmelb(l)au in Vienna, and Arata Isozaki Associati in Milan. It was in London that he created/directed the Design Research Studio at Fletcher Priest Architects, and in June 2010 opened his own office.

Curatorially in 2004 he was Assistant Director to Kurt W. Forster for the 9th International Architecture Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia-METAMORPH, and in 2006 was appointed curator of the London Architecture Biennale-CHANGE, with the exhibition: 'The World in One City - A Sketch for London'. In 2011 he moved to Paris where he conceived and directed 'Architecture Whispers' a series of intimate multidisciplinary and cross-cultural conversations between emerging and consolidated visionary international architects and their colleagues in other disciplines. In 2018 he moved back to London and in April of the same year he was nominated curator of the 7th Edition of the Dark Side Club, an evening forum for critical debate happening during the vernissage days of the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale.

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Matteo has always been active in academia: from visiting critic at the Bartlett School of Architecture, the AA and Westminster in London, to Cooper Union, Columbia, Pratt and Penn in the United States. In 2009 he started teaching at the École Spéciale d'Architecture in Paris as an Associate professor and in 2010 he conceived, and directed the Pavillon Spéciale, an annual architectural series that gave international young emerging and experimental architects the opportunity to build with students a temporary pavilion in the heart of Paris, France. In 2013 he co-founded and co-directed with Odile Decq the Confluence Institute for Innovation and Creative Strategies in Architecture in Lyon, France and was Chair and professor until July 2015. In 2020 he launched 'Alphabet for the Future' to unite the creative community to transform the pandemic into opportunity for change.

The work of Matteo Cainer and his practice has won various awards, been published in numerous books and international magazines, and has been exhibited in various international exhibitions.