

MANIFESTO

POETIC

by
Raha Badieitabar

Cooper Union is a Model of Education

Cooper Union has been a place that provides students with the finest professional education available within an intellectual environment that fosters and expands their creative capacities and sensibilities and establishes the foundation for a creative professional life. The school is committed to the belief that one of society's prime responsibilities is toward learning and education in the deepest sense as Jhon Hejduk's vision grounded in the exercise of individual creativity within a willing community is a profoundly social act and how the capacity of personal imagination constructs shared spaces. Fundamental to the vision of the school is the maintenance of an atmosphere in which freedom of thought and exploration can flourish, where students can explore and utilize their strengths and individual talents, interests, and modes of working to their highest potential.

David Gersten, an American artist, architect, writer, and educator based in New York City, is a Distinguished Professor and Director of Interdisciplinary Learning at The Cooper Union, where he has taught since 1991 and has served as an Associate Dean under Dean John Hejduk. He dedicated his life to expanding the experiences understood as education through creating new structures and space for creative exchange through disciplines.

He believed that Our spaces of education ultimately can afford us the possibility of inhabiting our questions and creating architectonics of curiosity. He thought that the spatial situation has the ability to transform our curiosity and the question we ask. Architecture studios are examples of where many questions are made. This opens the possibility of education as a communicative exchange between individuals, their social environment, and the spaces they inhabit.

A **manifesto** is a short, punchy declaration of desires and demands, provocations and protests: a call to action and/or a call to pause, think and act differently.
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Cooper Union is developing a unique pedagogy for the education of an architect. All is due to its aim and history. Therefore the following is needed in the education of the architect. **First**, Architecture needs discourse and theory, and architects make arguments. **Second** Architecture is an intellectual and cultural practice that stands in direct relation to life and living. **Third**, Architecture needs discourse and theory, and architects make arguments. Fourth, Architecture does not necessarily need to be built. **Fifth**, Architecture is about ideas represented through mediums such as drawings. **Sixth**, Architecture is not a service Profession, there are differences between Architecture and a building which lie in having a strong idea grounded in three principles of experimentation, speculation, and criticality of thought. **Seventh**, Architecture is not a populist discourse It is architecture and

there is commercial corporative architecture. **Eighth**, Architecture needs knowledge, technical and conceptual. **Ninth**, Throughout history, architecture has undergone various changes in its nature. **Tenth**, Architecture was considered a craft until the 15 century. **Eleventh**, Alberti changed it to discipline in renaissances. In the late 19 century, it was taught at universities as a discipline a form of knowledge. **Twelfth**, Architecture is not supposed to be realistic on the contrary it is supposed to offer possible futures and show that the world could be other than what is Architecture is about speculating about the future of the building cities and the ways we might inhabit them. **Thirteenth**, there are differences between master masons and architects architecture is by its very nature experimental and adventurous. **Fourteen**, Architecture is a spatial complex that intervenes in forms of living by redefining itself and reassembling its components.

A **maelström** is a powerful whirlpool – a dangerous swirling of the sea that sucks everything down into its watery spiral. In this seminar, the maelstrom is a model for architectural theory, imagination and agency – an integrative and creative force – a risky and revelatory mode of panoramic vision.