

- [12598 | \(re\)connecting Architecture – Notes on Assemble Studio](#)
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The following paper is part of an on-going research project taking place at FAUP, under the supervision of Helder Casal Ribeiro. Its main focus is the work of the British architectural collective Assemble Studio, namely their approach to the construction of the public realm. By looking into their practice, we seek to comprehend the contemporary context it is submerged into and in which it operates. Using their method as a reference we hope to be able to advance a possible answer to the question "What is the Architecture of our days shaping up to be?"

Having as a backdrop the burst of the subprime bubble- and the economical/social crisis that soon followed-, an 18-strong interdisciplinary group of friends partnered up and took upon themselves the initiative of reimagining (and rebuilding) a space that often goes overlooked within the city.

"Assemble's working practice seeks to address the typical disconnection between the public and the process by which places are made" (Assemble Studio)

We intend to underline how, in their work, Architecture is no longer developed following a vertical hierarchical relationship, but rather a horizontal one, as an open invitation to anyone who wants to take part in the making of their own neighbourhood, regardless of their academic background. The city then becomes the product of an open-ended collective effort, subject to the never-ending possibilities of someone's imagination.

In a time where boundaries – between places, organizations, business models and, most of all, people - are being constantly blurred by the rapid pace at which technology is able to successfully overcome physical distances, there is a growing urge for contemporary architecture practices to open up its limits to a non-expert audience, beyond its self-referencing agenda. For too long have we, architects, relied on our unintelligible terms and incomprehensible rhetoric. The time has come for us to shift the way we think about our immediate built environments.