



WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER, 2019
17H30-20H00

HISTORIC VIEWS ON THE MINES

An end of year cocktail event on the verandah of Bedford Farm (Herbert Baker, 1902) followed by a lecture: "Concerning coal: Architecture and Energy Production in the Victorian Age" by Dr Alex Bremner, University of Edinburgh and Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellow.

Photo by Zama Mdoda

The St. Andrew's Heritage Foundation, the University of the Witwatersrand School of Architecture and Planning, Gauteng Institute for Architecture and the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation invite you to share a historic view on mining. Framed by the verandah of Herbert Baker's country house designed for George Farrar, the East Rand mining magnate, visiting scholar Alex Bremner will reflect on architecture and coal over the last 200 years.

As the climate crisis the world faces becomes more urgent, we must not only seek ways of producing architecture that is environmentally responsive, but also ways of talking about architecture's history that does the same. Understanding architecture from a radical material perspective has the potential to foreground the entrenched relationship between architecture and energy consumption in the history of architecture. How might we understand buildings through time not as objects fashioned solely by individual genius, patronage, stylistic movements and/or theoretical considerations, but as products that also result from the powerful nexus between assemblage and energy?

In the lecture Alex Bremner will demonstrate how this can be achieved by sketching out a number of historical scenarios relating to architectural production in Victorian Britain (c.1830-1900). His aim will be to trace regimes of energy consumption and their attendant networks of procurement and production, suggesting the centrality of such an approach to a full appreciation of building as a material process, and, by extension, its significance to the history of architecture.

Alex Bremner holds a PhD at the University of Cambridge (Gates Scholar 2001-04) and specialises in the history and theory of Victorian architecture. His monograph *Imperial Gothic: Religious Architecture and High Anglican Culture in the British Empire c.1840-70* (Yale University Press) received multiple awards including the Historians of British Art Book Prize (2015). He is a recipient of both the Hawksmoor Medal (Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain) and the Founders' Award (Society of Architectural Historians, USA) for outstanding scholarship in the field of architectural history. Alex works as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. He is in South Africa as a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellow.

4 DECEMBER, 2019 17H30-20H00
ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
ST ANDREW'S AVENUE,
SENDERWOOD, BEDFORDVIEW, 2145

Registration Closes: 3rd December 2019
Cost: R100 donation to the St Andrew's
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