



THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME

*London-Rome: Work in Process*

**Witherford Watson Mann “ London Edges”**

**16<sup>th</sup> November – 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009**  
**Opening: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

H 18.00 Lecture by Stephen Witherford and William Mann  
Introduced by Pippo Ciorra  
H 19.30 Opening of exhibition

**British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61**

Press release

**Witherford Watson Mann** is the last of the UK practices to exhibit in the series ***London-Rome: Work in Process***, following the lectures and shows of AOC and Carmody Groarke. With these three exhibitions, we have sought to emphasise the very diverse methods and approaches these practices take in producing their work, reflective of the new dynamic scene in British contemporary architecture.

**Stephen Witherford, Christopher Watson** and **William Mann** set up their practice in 2001, but the architect's collaboration had started informally a few years previously following long walks and the study of both the history and everyday life in the outskirts of London. Intrinsic to the practice is an interest in the relationship between city and landscape and the inter-dependence of public buildings, collective space and daily activity combined with a commitment to explore how architecture can support social engagement. All three architects teach and write extensively.

“We never lose sight of the fact that, for our clients and for society as a whole, architecture is a means, not an end....At a wider social level, we look at how the character and spatial structure of places “suggests behaviour”, drawing on direct observation and concrete experience to make places that support communication and sociability.”

**London Edges**

**The exhibition** will concentrate on the practice's investigation of the marginal, contested, edges of London's dividing lines: between global capital and migrant labour at the edge of the city, between regional infrastructure, local leisure and wild landscape around the River Lea. The practice's response at both urban and architectural scales to these highly particular conditions, will be seen in their design of the **Bankside Urban Forest**, the **Whitechapel Art Gallery** extension and redevelopment (completed) and housing and landscape projects in the **Lea Valley**. Other projects exhibited include the **Ailsa Street** development project and the **Amnesty International Headquarters** (completed). Through representations of these projects and their situations, the practice aims to reveal an unfamiliar topography of London, and to reflect on the resilience of the public realm in the fractured economic and built landscape of our metropolis. The visitor will be encouraged to walk through sections of London, guided by a mixture of maps, models, characteristic preparatory drawings and photographs. **Witherford Watson Mann** exhibited in the **British Pavillion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2008**.

This event at the British School at Rome, curated by **Marina Engel** is part of the programme

**“London-Rome: Work in Process”** curated by **Marina Engel** and **Gabriele Mastrigli**, and organised in collaboration with the **Architecture Foundation** in London, the **Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali** and **Fondazione MAXXI** in Rome, **INARCH**. With the support of the **John S. Cohen Foundation**, the **Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust** and the **British Council**.

**Wetherford Watson Mann “London Edges”**

British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November**

**h 18.00** Lecture introduced by Pippo Ciorra

**h 19.30** Opening

Duration: 16<sup>th</sup> November – 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009

Opening times: from Tuesday to Saturday from 17.00 to 19.30

Info: T +39 06 3264939

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**Partners:**

**Architecture Foundation, London**

**Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali and Fondazione MAXXI in Rome**

**INARCH**

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