



Oblique Experiments

Claude Parent's Architectural Installations (1969–1975)

Igor Siddiqui

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- A new access point to the work of Claude Parent, one of the most remarkable—and in retrospect influential—experimental architects practicing in the second half of the 20th century
- A new perspective on the role of experimentation in architecture, bridging the typically siloed milieus of formal exploration and social participation
- An expanded exploration of obliqueness as a theoretical framework useful to contemporary practitioners across a range of disciplines, beyond Parent's preoccupation with life on tilted floors
- **Oblique Experiments** examines the value and appeal of experimental architecture through the influential work of the French architect Claude Parent from the 1970s

With the radical proposition of life on inclined planes—a theory known as the oblique function—the French architect Claude Parent sought to free architecture of orthogonal form, renew its social relevance, and inspire people's interest in the built environment. **Oblique Experiments: Claude Parent's Architectural Installations (1969–1975)** explores the significance of a series of temporary interventions that he designed in an attempt to convert his theory into practice. Referred to as practicable, these installations incorporated oblique geometries, involved interdisciplinary collaboration, and made themselves at home in existing buildings, often inside of French cultural centers known as maisons de la culture. Using rarely published archival materials as well as new drawings produced by the book's author, **Oblique Experiments** brings overdue attention to this series of architectural experiments with enduring intellectual and creative appeal. Moreover, the book prompts the reader to imagine the radical potential of obliqueness in a range of contemporary practices—beyond the literal prospect of life on sloped floors. As such, **Oblique Experiments** builds upon Parent's work in order to imagine new forms of experimentation in architecture, design, and art.

Igor Siddiqui is an architect and Associate Professor at The University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture where he has served on the faculty since 2009. His research, practice, and teaching explore the relationship between design experimentation and public engagement. Siddiqui is the editor of the journal *Interiors: Design/Architecture/Culture*.

