

# FILM+ARCHITECTURE



image credit:  
Lilian Chee, 03-FLATS (2014)

## LILIAN CHEE: REIMAGINING DOMESTICITY

In this talk, I revisit the architectural observational film **03-FLATS** (NUS and 13 Little Pictures, 2014) which documents the ‘afterlife’ of domestic space in its post-design phase, following closely the contours of domestic architecture as it is reshaped and altered by occupancy. Co-conceptualized with Singapore filmmaker Lei Yuan Bin, the film is an archival document and an essay about domestic architecture focusing on the spatial aspects of domesticity, interiority, and nuances of home played out through the interior and exterior spaces of Singapore’s ubiquitous public housing project in which approximately 82% of the nation’s population currently reside. Propelled by the urgency to represent and reimagine this kind of space — at once banal and repetitive but also diverse, unpredictable, intimate and complex — within the disciplinary limits of architectural discourse and representation which tend towards the extraordinary, the vast and the generic, I will discuss the intellectual role of **03-FLATS** in the architectural reimagination of this domestic site. Entering the homes of three single women, I show how the film communicates the complexity of domestic space as a productive site of identity and class formation, and how gender issues which have been eclipsed by the national import of a housing scheme with unprecedented success, begin to resurface. Through a contrapuntal relationship between architectural and filmic visions, I explore the various perceptual and theoretical perspectives opening up to the architectural researcher-filmmaker who moves between two sides of the camera.

Lilian Chee is Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore. Her recent work includes **Asian Cinema and the Use of Space: Interdisciplinary Perspectives** (Routledge, 2015), **Conserving Domesticity** (ORO, 2012), and architectural film **03-FLATS** (NUS and 13 Little Pictures, 2014). Her writings have appeared in **Gender Place Culture**, **The Journal of Tropical Geography**, **The Journal of Architecture** and **Haeceity Papers**. She is on the editorial boards of **The Journal of Architecture** and **Singapore Architect**. She is writing a book on gender, feminist methodologies and architectural discourse in the Singapore context.

In celebration of the PhD Research Conference 2015, we welcome students and staff to a special film event and conversation at the Bartlett.

This is an open, informal event initiated by a group of PhD Students at the Bartlett, who are using film in their architectural enquiry. The aim of the day is to open up a dialogue between students and practitioners in using film in their architectural research.

## SCHEDULE

- 1200 - 1330 **Preview screening of 03-FLATS by Lilian Chee**  
(NUS and 13 Little Pictures, 2014)  
We encourage all to have seen the film before the seminar begins at 2pm.
- 1400 - 1445 **Lilian Chee: Reimagining Domesticity**
- 1445 - 1515 **Comments from PhD Respondents and discussion**
- 1515 - 1530 **Tea break**
- 1530 - 1730 **PhD presentations and critique**  
Anna Ulrikke Andersen, Bihter Almaç, Sander Holsgens,  
Irene Kelly, Phuong-Tram Nguyen  
Several PhD students will present their own recent and ongoing film projects for open discussion and feedback.
- 1730 - 1800 **Summary discussion**
- 1800 **Wine**



# UCL

**25 FEBRUARY 2015**  
ROOM 212A, 132 HAMPSTEAD ROAD  
THE BARTLETT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE