

Royal
Academy
of Arts

ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME

September 2011 – January 2012





Curators' Comments

Memory and materiality are two themes that run through this season's events and exhibitions, operating as both independent and intersecting strands.

Visitors to the RA will be greeted by a 10m high scale model of the Tatlin Tower in the Annenberg Courtyard. An accompanying exhibition in the Architecture Space explains how this conceptual project of the Russian revolutionary avant-garde was turned into reality, giving material form to something that had largely existed as memory.

'Building the Revolution' in the Sackler Wing, explores this period in more depth. Central to the exhibition are Richard Pare's photographs of surviving buildings of the era which capture and revive the innovation and spirit of optimism, post-revolution.

New events in the RA Forum series 'Future Memory', initiated by Owen Hopkins, include discussions on 're-enactment' and the 'Future Memory Pavilion'; a structure co-commissioned with the British Council as part of a satellite project in Singapore which included an RA Forum in July on heritage, memory and development. During that discussion Eric Parry RA outlined how materials can have mnemonic effects, a thesis he expands on in his upcoming lecture. Equally fellow academician Chris Wilkinson and Seattle architect Tom Kundig in their own lectures, reveal the instrumental role materials play in shaping the form and experience of their architecture.

The relationship between memories and materials inform Jo Noero's cultural centre in a South African township, and are intrinsic to Russian Alexander Brodsky's creative output and critical position (installation seen left).

— *Kate Goodwin & Jeremy Melvin*

The Architecture Programme at the Royal Academy is made possible through the Drue Heinz Endowment for Architecture.

Supported by Argent Estates Limited and the Siezen Foundation

Programme devised by Kate Goodwin, Jeremy Melvin and Owen Hopkins
Brochure designed by Niten Patel

Front cover The Pierre, San Juan Islands, USA, 2010 by Olson Kundig Architects.
Photo: Benjamin Benschneider

Above Installation for *Alexander Brodsky: It still amazes me that I became an architect*, AZ W, Vienna, 2011. Photo: Yuri Palmin

RA FORUM

A drinks reception follows each event

We continue the series of events examining the uses and possibilities of memory in art, architecture and visual culture, and the role interventions in those fields play in forming memory in the future.

For recordings and videos of previous events in the series visit: www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture



Future Memory: Mythologies of Re-enactment Wednesday 5 October

The process of re-enactment – the act of restaging a performance or recreating an object – is central to how the past can be interpreted. Re-enactments transmit memory, yet also inevitably lead to its alteration with the creation and propagation of mythologies. This event examines the implications and possibilities of re-enactment on memory.

*Reynolds Room, Royal Academy; 6.30–8 pm
£12/£6 reductions**

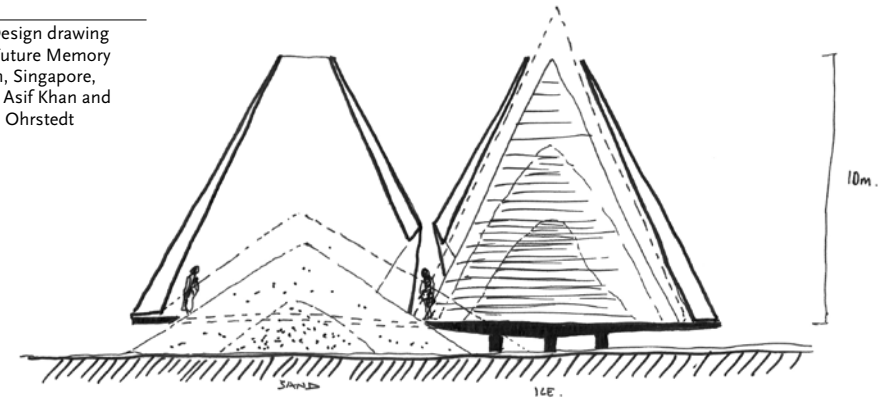
Radical Post-Modernism Today Monday 17 October

This event examines how post-modernism, digital theory and other contemporary phenomena have revived postmodernism's goals of taking architecture into the realms of taste, popular culture and meaning. Speakers include architects **Sean Griffiths**, **Edouard François**, **Alejandro Zaera-Polo** and critic **Charles Jencks**.

*Reynolds Room, Royal Academy
6.30–8 pm; £12/£6 reductions**

Coincides with the publication of *Radical Post-Modernism, Architectural Design (AD)* by John Wiley & Sons

Right Design drawing of the Future Memory Pavilion, Singapore, 2011 by Asif Khan and Pernilla Ohrstedt



Left House Josephine Baker, Paris (1927), Architect: Adolf Loos
A re-enactment by Ines Weizman and Andreas Thiele for Ordos 100, 2008

Above The Villa, Hoogvliet, Netherlands 2008 by FAT
Photo by Maarten Laupman

The Future Memory Pavilion Monday 21 November

Permanent and temporary architecture can act as a trigger for memory, opening up new interpretations of context, place and the past as well as pointing towards the future. In partnership with the British Council, the Royal Academy is co-commissioning UK designers, **Asif Khan** and **Pernilla Ohrstedt** to create a pavilion for Singapore's architecture festival this October. Made of ice and sand, the pavilion will provoke discussion and awareness of issues of land and climate which are intrinsically linked to Singapore's heritage. A panel of respondents critique and discuss the pavilion.

*Geological Society, Piccadilly; 6.30–8 pm
£12/£6 reductions**

LECTURES

A drinks reception follows each lecture



'Narrative wall' at the Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, 2010 by Wilkinson Eyre Architects. Photo: Edmund Sumner



Above Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford, 2010 by Wilkinson Eyre Architects. Photo: Edmund Sumner

Chris Wilkinson RA The Challenge of Materials

Wednesday 28 September

Chris Wilkinson RA states 'materials are the vocabulary for the language of architecture and too often they are taken for granted'. His lecture explores the influence that radical and technologically advanced materials have had on the development of his approach to architecture and the work of Wilkinson Eyre, illustrated by projects such as the Challenge of Materials Bridge at the Science Museum in London, the recent Department of Earth Sciences at Oxford University and the Gardens by the Bay conservatories in Singapore.

*Geological Society, Piccadilly
6.30–7.45 pm; £12/£6 reductions**

Tom Kundig: Landscape, Community and Craft

Thursday 13 October

Tom Kundig (of Seattle-based Olson Kundig Architects) redefines the practice of modern architecture. Drawing upon a deep devotion to craft, Kundig's designs unite nature with man-made materials, transforming steel and concrete into rich tactile experiences. In his lecture he illustrates how the role of place, materials and setting combine to create his bold but sensitive designs.

*Geological Society, Piccadilly
6.30–7.45 pm; £12/£6 reductions**

Below Rolling Huts Mazama, WA, USA 2007 by Olson Kundig Architects. Photo: Olson Kundig Architects



Jo Noero: Memory and Transformation

Wednesday 9 November

South African architect **Jo Noero** describes the genesis and development of the Red Location Cultural Precinct in South Africa, where architecture celebrates the culture of a shack settlement, formed around resistance to Apartheid. Memory – suppressed, recovered, manipulated and transformed – runs through the conception and experience of the precinct.

Geological Society, Piccadilly

6.30–7.45 pm; £12/£6 reductions*

Below Red Location Art gallery, east façade, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, 2011 by Noero Wolff Architects.
Photo: Rob Duker

An Evening of Conversation

with **Eric Parry RA**

Monday 14 November

Eric Parry RA shares his interest in materiality, time and context—both psychological and physical—in this discussion with **Dalibor Vesely**, which accompanies the launch of the second published volume of his practice's work.

Reynolds Room, Royal Academy

6.30–7.45 pm; £12/£6 reductions*

Right Sketch of the Dick Sheppard Chapel, St Martins in the Fields, London, 2011 by Eric Parry RA

Far Right The Holburne Museum, Bath, extension 2011 by Eric Parry Architects.
Photo: H  l  ne Binet



Red Location Art gallery,
west façade, Port Elizabeth,
South Africa, 2011 by Noero
Wolff Architects. Photo:
Rob Duker





Narkomfin Communal House: corner detail of residential block M.A. Ilyin, 1931. 116 x 80 mm Department of Photographs, Schusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow

Liubov Popova, Painterly Architectonics, 1918-19 Oil on canvas. 731 x 481 mm. State Museum of Contemporary Art - G. Costakis Collection, Thessaloniki, Greece

Narkomfin Communal House: exterior. Richard Pare, 1998. 75.7 x 50.3 cm. Richard Pare, courtesy Kicken Berlin © Richard Pare

Melnikov House: salon Richard Pare, 1998. 121.9 x 153.9 cm. Richard Pare, courtesy Kicken Berlin © Richard Pare

Liubov Popova Spatial Force Construction, 1920-21 Oil and marble dust on plywood. 1123 x 1125 mm. State Museum of Contemporary Art - G. Costakis Collection, Thessaloniki, Greece

BUILDING THE REVOLUTION

Soviet Art and Architecture 1915–1935

In the Sackler Wing of Galleries

29 October 2011 – 22 January 2012

From c.1922 to 1935, Russian architecture experienced a brief but intense period of avant-garde design and construction, fired by the radical new language of Constructivist art that began to emerge in Russia from c. 1915. The innovative style of these new buildings embodied the energy and optimism of the new Soviet Socialist state. This exhibition juxtaposes large-scale contemporary photographs by Richard Pare of the surviving buildings with vintage photographs and examples of drawings and paintings by Constructivist artists.

To book call 0844 209 0051
www.royalacademy.org.uk

A scaled reconstruction of Vladimir Tatlin's Monument to the Third International, (Tatlin's Tower) will be installed in the Royal Academy's Annenberg Courtyard from the 28 September.

Exhibition organised by the Royal Academy of Arts in collaboration with the SMCA-Costakis Collection, Thessaloniki, and with the participation of the Schusev State Museum of Architecture, Moscow

EVENTS

A drinks reception follows each evening lecture

Exhibition Tours

45-minute introductory tours
2.30 pm Tuesdays, 7 pm Fridays
(1 November–13 January)

Spotlight Talks

10-minute talks in either 'Building the Revolution' or 'Recreating Tatlin's Tower',
4 pm every Thursday (24 November – 26 January)

Kandinsky and 'The House of Utopia'

Friday 4 November
Margarita Tupitsyn considers the legacy of abstract painter Wassily Kandinsky as a theorist of architecture whose influence extended from Russian Constructivism to German Bauhaus.

Reynolds Room; 6.30 – 7.30 pm
£16/£7 reductions* (includes exhibition entry)
£12 (event only)

Revolution: Ideals and Realities in Soviet Art and Architecture 1915–1935

Monday 7 November

Free lunchtime lecture by **MaryAnne Stevens**, exhibition co-curator, Royal Academy of Arts.

Reynolds Room; 1–2 pm
Reservations recommended

Richard Pare in Conversation

Friday 11 November

Richard Pare, whose photographs are central to the exhibition 'Building the Revolution', discusses with The Times journalist **Michael Binyon** his 15-year campaign to capture Russia's extraordinary but much neglected Constructivist architecture, and the wider issues, experiences and stories that have emerged as a result.

Reynolds Room; 6.30 – 7.30 pm
£16/£7 reductions* (includes exhibition entry)
£12 (event only)

Alexander Brodsky

Tuesday 15 November

Alexander Brodsky's work transcends the boundaries between art and architecture, offering a perceptive critique and challenge to the architecture and urban development emerging in contemporary Russia.

*Geological Society, Piccadilly; 6.30–7.45 pm
£12/£6 reductions**

Jean-Louis Cohen

Friday 2 December

Architect and historian Jean-Louis Cohen, investigates post-revolutionary Russia and the context for the emergence of this radical new architecture in parallel to contemporary experiments in Europe.

*Geological Society, Piccadilly; 6.30–7.30 pm
£16/£7 reductions* (includes exhibition entry)
£12 (event only)*

Access Programme

Access events include an audio-description and handling event on Monday 24 October, 9–11 am; interactive talks from 6–7 pm with a lipspeaking talk on Friday 2 December and BSL on Friday 9 December, and a private view for wheelchairs also on 9 December, from 9–11 am.

Associated Event:

Building the Revolution: Destroying the Past

Thursday 10 November

Using archival photographs and witness reports, campaigner and writer **Clementine Cecil** looks at the historic buildings destroyed by war or bulldozer to make way for the Soviet avant-garde's 'architecture of the future'. The series will continue with two more lectures and a debate on the future of this fragile legacy.

*Pushkin House; 7.30–9 pm; for information visit
www.pushkinhouse.org.uk*

Rotunda, Nikolo-Lenivets, Russia,
2009 by Alexander Brodsky
Photo: Yuri Palmin



THE ARCHITECTURE SPACE

10 am – 6 pm daily (until 10 pm on Fridays)

Thom Mayne: Morphosis

Until 18 September

Recreating Tatlin's Tower

23 September 2011 –
29 January 2012

This exhibition explores the conception, vision and symbolism of Vladimir Tatlin's unrealised monument to the Third International and uncovers the intriguing process undertaken by Jeremy Dixon (of Dixon Jones Architects) to construct a scaled recreation derived from Tatlin's iconic drawing of the tower, in the Annenberg Courtyard at the Royal Academy.

Supported by

The Ove Arup Foundation

Tatlin's Tower Lecture

Friday 13 January 2012

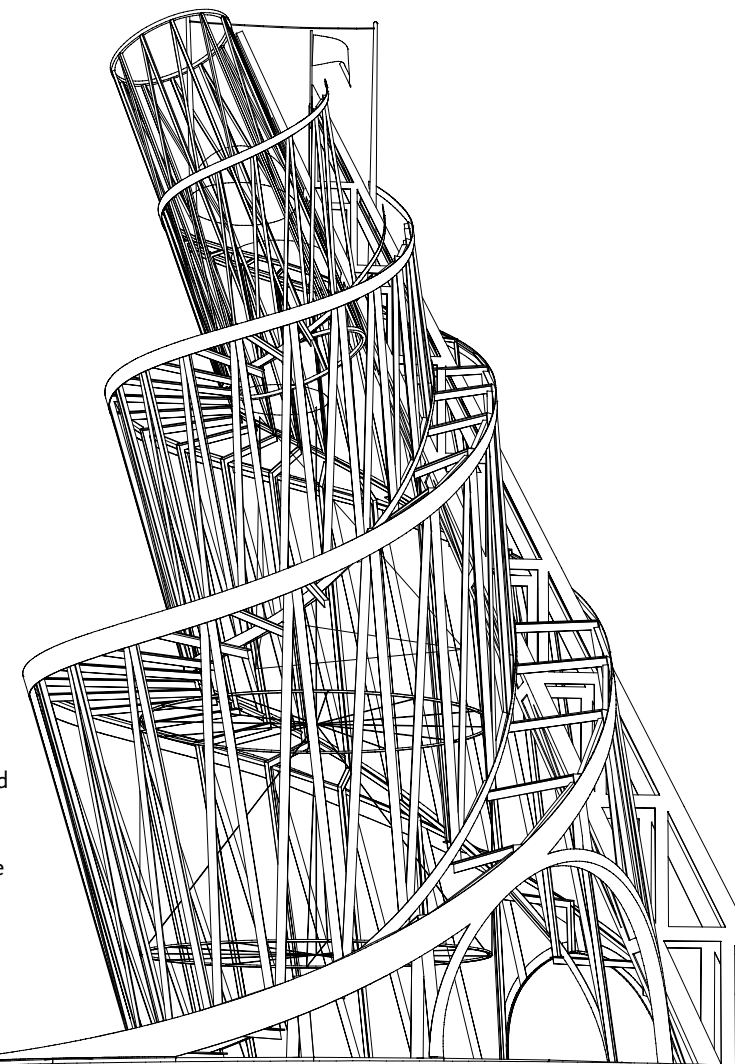
Art historian **John Milner** explores the vast, dynamic Tower envisaged by Tatlin and his team, its radical embrace of world revolution, and its impact on Soviet architecture of the 1920s.

Reynolds Room

6.30–7.30 pm

£16/£7 reductions
(includes exhibition entry)*

£12 (event only)



Below Computer
visualisation of the Tatlin
Tower by Dixon Jones
Architects

Reviews

The Future Memory theme is exported to Singapore, and Thom Mayne gave the 2011 Annual Architecture Lecture

RA Forum, Future Memory, Singapore 15 July 2011

Our Spring RA Forum theme of 'Future Memory' caught the eye of the British Council, and together we are now using the topic as the basis for developing a further programme of events and activities in Singapore. This included an RA Forum that we hosted there in July, during which we set out to explore how memory is used across art, architecture and city planning to understand the past and to shape the future, both in the context of Singapore and in more general ways.

Chaired by historian Iain Borden, who led one of our events in London, the forum involved Eric Parry RA speaking alongside three Singaporeans: renowned architect and planner Liu Thai Ker, artist Michael Lee and Seah Chee Huang, an architect and chair of Singapore's city-wide architecture festival, Archi-fest.

Different perceptions and concerns relating to heritage, the past and memory quickly emerged. London's urban fabric is steeped in history and there are a myriad of institutions and organisations like the RA, the British Museum or English Heritage that promote the links between history, culture and heritage. In contrast, Singapore's architecture is predominantly modern, mostly dating from after independence in 1965, and reflecting its status as the world's fourth largest financial centre and fifth busiest port.

Liu Thai Ker expressed anxiety

that few Singaporeans engage with their heritage – cultural or built. He felt that many memories became problematic as they were associated with a past of struggle and hardship. He contested that, in Asia, land is generally viewed in terms of "profit", rather than environment. Seah Chee Huang identified the recently closed Tanjong Pagar rail terminus which led to Johor Bahru in Malaysia, as an opportunity to encourage wider public engagement in Singapore's heritage: future development could acknowledge the meaning and memory of the site and the journeys which started or finished there.

Parry concentrated on how materials capture and evoke memories. He showed a photograph of the stone he had selected at the quarry, for the altar of the Dick Sheppard Chapel at St-Martin-in-the-Fields (named after a vicar who established a refuge for returning WWI soldiers), which will reveal a surface hidden for millions of years. The interplay between the simple form and natural stone, and between geological and human time, invites memories and open-ended interpretations. Personal and collective memories can be evoked by materials. Using ice and sand, Asif Khan and Pernilla Ohrstedt's design for the Future Memory Pavilion as part of Archi-fest in Singapore (a further element of the collaboration with the British Council) also promises to address similar ideas. — *KG*

Annual Architecture
Lecture 2011, Royal
Academy of Arts



Annual Architecture Lecture 2011 delivered by Thom Mayne on the 27 June

This year's Annual Architecture Lecture was delivered by Thom Mayne of LA-based practice Morphosis. Since its foundation in 1972, Morphosis has consistently pushed at the boundaries of architectural form while also putting social and ecological concerns at the forefront of their projects – an approach that was recognised with the awarding of the Pritzker Prize to Mayne in 2005.

Mayne divided his lecture into three parts, each starting with a description of his early work before leading on to a major current project. Discussing his Phare Tower project in the business district of La Défense currently on-site two miles west of Paris, Mayne emphasised the importance of connectivity to the local environment. The tower occupies an irregular site, sitting among buildings with little relation to each other, which, for Mayne, created a barren, undefined urban space. He explained how his design sought to reconnect this environment, establishing links and ties between buildings to define urban space. The amorphous tower itself, whose innovative skin changes in the light to become opaque or translucent, meets the ground in three places, akin to a tripod. On one side, two legs create a new urban gateway, framing views of the glass façade of an older adjacent building designed by Jean Prouvé. On the other side, a pavilion mediates between the tower and its surrounding context, with glazed escalators rising 35 metres from the

existing underground transport hub and leading upwards to a spacious, elevated public realm on the ninth floor.

Phare Tower's use of the wind for energy production, and its high-performance skin which minimises solar heat gain while maximising daylight, are typical features of Mayne's projects, which marry highly inventive form with cutting-edge environmental features. This is aptly illustrated in Morphosis' recent project, the Giant Interactive Group corporate headquarters in Shanghai. Mayne described how this project includes various types of office space, a library, auditorium, cafe, exhibition space and fitness suite, all incorporated into a dynamic, undulating architectural solution which merges building with natural and man-made landscape.

During Mayne's lecture we saw a glimpse of the creative process of an architectural visionary. In many ways his creative practice borders on the realms of art, and as he talked about his new series of three-dimensional paintings (one of which is on show at the Royal Academy until 18 September) the scalability of this process became truly apparent. Mayne ended the lecture stating that a 'project will end, if I can no longer find a unique or variant solution', and over the hour he spoke we were privileged to witness a mind constantly questioning the nature of architecture itself. — *OH*

In brief

Keep an eye out for a book set to be published in the late autumn on Royal Academician **Paul Koralek's** practice **Ahrends, Burton and Koralek** (now ABK Architects) as part of the 20th Century architects series by RIBA enterprises in association with English Heritage and the 20th Century Society.

Three architect Royal Academicians have been nominated for this year's **Stirling Prize**. **Michael Hopkins** has been nominated for his elegant Olympic Velodrome. Last year's winner, **Zaha Hadid** is nominated for the innovative Evelyn Grace Academy in Lambeth and another former winner **David Chipperfield** has been nominated for a German cultural project: the exquisite Museum Folkwang art gallery in Essen. The ceremony is to be

held at the Magna Science and Adventure Centre in Rotherham, winner of the prize in 2001, and designed by Chris Wilkinson RA's practice, Wilkinson Eyre.

A recently published book by the British Council entitled '**The Dandelion**,' written by **Kate Goodwin**, tells the story of the creation of **Thomas Heatherwick's** award winning UK pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. The highly-memorable pavilion was created from 60,000 transparent rods, each with a seed from the Millennium Seed Bank embedded in the end. Uncovering the roots of Heatherwick's initial idea, the book follows the project through development and experimentation to realisation.

A beautifully illustrated catalogue for **Building the Revolution** including an

Below UK Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 by Thomas Heatherwick
Photo: Charlie Xia



Right *Shabolovka Radio Tower*
Richard Pare, 1998
154.8 x 121.9 cm
Richard Pare, courtesy
Kicken Berlin © Richard Pare

essay by Jean-Louis Cohen and an interview with Richard Pare is available from the RA Shop or at www.royalacademy.org.uk/online-shop/

We offer architecture touch tours of Burlington House, subject to demand. Please contact the Access Officer on 020 7300 5732 or access@royalacademy.org.uk if you are interested or if you have any other **access** needs relating to events or exhibitions.

As a registered charity, we rely on support from the **Friends of the Royal Academy**. To find out about Friends Membership please call 020 7300 5664 visit the Friends Desk at the RA or go to www.royalacademy.org.uk/friends

Receive information and updates on RA architecture events, exhibitions and news with the **Architecture Programme e-newsletter**. To sign up, email architecture@royalacademy.org.uk



OpenHouse London

Burlington House, the home of the Royal Academy of Arts, will be open over the weekend of the 17 & 18 September, giving visitors a chance to explore the stunning architecture of the building. In particular, special access will be given to the John Madejski Fine Rooms and the RA Schools designed by Norman Shaw.

10 am–6 pm, with introductory talks at 1 pm, 2 pm, 3 pm & 4 pm both days. Special touch tour of the building on Saturday at 2.30 pm

AT A GLANCE

Date	Event	Price
Wed 28 Sep	Chris Wilkinson RA Evening Lecture	£12/£6*
Wed 5 Oct	Mythologies of Re-enactment RA Forum	£12/£6*
Thurs 13 Oct	Tom Kundig Evening Lecture	£12/£6*
Mon 17 Oct	Radical Post-Modernism Today RA Forum	£12/£6*
Fri 4 Nov	Margarita Tupitsyn Building the Revolution Evening Lecture	£16/£12/£7*
Mon 7 Nov	MaryAnne Stevens Building the Revolution Lunchtime Lecture	Free
Wed 9 Nov	Jo Noero Evening Lecture	£12/£6*
Fri 11 Nov	Richard Pare in Conversation Building the Revolution Evening Lecture	£16/£12/£7*
Mon 14 Nov	Eric Parry RA An Evening in Conversation	£12/£6*
Tues 15 Nov	Alexander Brodsky Building the Revolution Evening Lecture	£12/£6*
Mon 21 Nov	The Future Memory Pavilion RA Forum	£12/£6*
Fri 2 Dec	Jean-Louis Cohen Building the Revolution Evening Lecture	£16/£12/£7*
Fri 13 Jan	John Milner Building the Revolution Evening Lecture	£16/£12/£7*

TO BOOK

ROYALACADEMY.ORG.UK/ARCHITECTURE

T: 020 7300 5839

*Reductions: Students, jobseekers and people with disabilities (with recognised proof of status)

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