

JAKE  
ARNFIELD<sup>(UVW-SAW)</sup>

# Dismantling the Architectural Office

in conversation with

Lukas Fink (arge.co),

Milena

Buchwalder (arge.co),

and Non-Swiss  
Architects



Placard by Workers: Inquiry Architecture

Architecture, as practised under neoliberalism, is an instrument of erasure and exploitation. Its function is to inflate the financial value of land to extract profit in service of a powerful minority. The architectural office is itself one frontier of exploitation. Architectural workers are subjected to endless overtime, paid asymmetrically based on so-called “countries of origin,” and hierarchically classified and subordinated to the director. The impact of architecture imposed in the city, and its ready exploitation of its own workforce is not a coincidence but intimately connected to a wider structure of domination. Capitalism deliberately drums up hostility between its subjects to maintain its power. Trade union organising means forging connections across and between individual experiences. And so, to challenge its hegemony, UVW-SAW presents its strategy for how architectural workers can transform architectural work: ally and coordinate against its acting leaders, and dismantle it together.