THE PROPAGANDA MACHINE

Daniel Kidd, Erin Holcombe, Jared Proctor, Chris Ryan (Libby Haslam)
College of Architecture and Planning

Representation:

1) A presentation to the mind in the form of an idea or image
2) A creation that is a visual or tangible rendering of someone or some thing.

Deception:

1) A misleading falsehood, the act of deceiving. 2) an act of illusion.

Even though you can read these words, they are not real words. They are only representations of words. What is being represented are the essential elements that your brain is able to reconstruct. Your mind is deceiving you.

We as people try to portray an image of ourselves that represents our values, beliefs, and personalities. We suppress urges, emotions, and random inappropriate thoughts in the name of being polite or civil. While our representation of ourselves is not entirely false, it invariably contains some level of deception. It is an idea of us, but not our true selves.

Photographs on close inspection are only dots on a page. Perspectives are interpreted by the viewer as depth on a flat surface. Architecture can also deceive us by concealing its structure or materials. We use veneers to "represent" materials that are interpreted by users to be the true material. The word façade literally means "a showy representation intended to conceal something unpleasant." The connection of façade to face allures to an aspect of the human condition, in representation of ourselves, our surroundings, and our ideas, that is inclined towards deception at various levels.

This machine is deceptive on multiple dimensions. From ambiguous connections, false moving parts, and hidden words in the seemingly floating glass. The mirrors seem weightless as they dazzle the observer with a sophisticated play of light and shadow. The viewer can interactively manipulate the relationships by sliding and rotating its pieces, yet they will be continually confused by the relationships of both the light and dark in the reflections, and the mechanisms that allow them to move.