

An event organised by MARC  
(Manchester Architecture Research Centre)

# The Concierge is the Architect:

Servicing buildings,  
practicing maintenance and  
the un/making of highrise  
living in Red Road, Glasgow

# Ignaz Strebel

Urban Geographer, post-doctoral Research Associate, Institute of  
Geography + Department of Architecture, University of Edinburgh

## Future Events:

June 7  
Victor Buchli (University College London)

October 5 **MARC Launch**  
Bruno Latour (Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris)

Ignaz Strebel's work combines video technology and ethnography to study how human beings perform – navigate, order, repair, maintain and sometimes demolish – the urban worlds they inhabit. He is currently involved in an AHRC funded research project investigating the residential highrise as a global form. [www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/istrebel/home.html](http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/homes/istrebel/home.html)

The talk focuses on materials from an ethnographic study on the work of concierges in the Red Road highrise estate in Glasgow. The work of service professionals is not simply a 'social' practice, but servicing and maintenance are "means by which the constant decay of the world is held off" (Graham and Thrift). I will empirically demonstrate how highrise architecture is made and unmade in and through concierges' work practices.

4pm, Thursday, May 10th 2007  
Room G7

Humanities Bridgeford St. Building

Campus map available at [www.manchester.ac.uk/map](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/map)



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