Scapegoat meets Jesse Boon, three and a half years old, outside of OMA’s new addition to the Cornell University Architecture School in Ithaca, New York.

Scapegoat Says, Jesse, tell me what you think about this building Jesse Boon. Those things are really interesting. They are balls. We can sit on them, but I don’t know if we can climb way up there. SSSS on that concrete hill? Let’s try. JY But it really is steep. You have to try it. SSSS Okay, let’s try. JY Know that it’s slippery. That sure is slippery. Let’s try it. JY Yeah, don’t step on the E or the man. That’s what it says. SSSS You’re stepping on it! [Crossing bridge into cavernous dome presentation space] JY It’s good that I have a cape that I can think this place is for flying? Where would you fly? JY I could fly I’d fly up there [pointing to ceiling] but I can’t fall down cause I am a good flyer—whishhh…Uh oh, I stepped on more letters! SSSS Oh you really like these letters so much. [Lying on floor] Let’s look through this window [into main lecture hall]. What do people do here? JY Draw. SSSS What makes you think that? JY Cause those pictures are there on the curtains. There are so many pictures. That man’s going to go down the stairs. We need to follow him cause he’s a super-villain and it’s a job for me. Nothing can stop Radioactive Man. [Walking down stairs] SSSS Not even this big staircase? JY Not this. It’s really big but nothing can stop me. I can go all the way down. Uh oh, more letters. Watch. I jump over the letters. Yeah! Do it again! [Climbing on concrete bench under the concrete dome with exposed fluorescent tube lights] THIS is my slide spot. Come on, step on it and it’s gonna slide you. Whoa! SSSS That’s so cool! Jesse. Uh oh. That’s not a good design. You just pulled the fluorescent tube out. That was a surprise. JY I’m a good puller. SSSS Wonder if they meant for that to happen? JY How long can it turn on again? [Fixing the light] SSSS You did it! JY I didn’t do it, you did it! There, it’s back. I’m gonna pull on a small light, is that okay? SSSS don’t think we should pull them anymore. JY well, I will pull. SSSS Don’t pull it! We don’t want to break it. I know it’s very tempting.

Kids on Buildings: Echos, Mirrors, and Ghosts A Conversation with Jesse Boon

Lying down in corner where dome hits floor JY This is where I sleep. It’s time for us to sleep cause it’s morning. I sleep in the morning. I’m sleeping here. SSSS This is a good sleeping space. Look at this place here. Wait till you see this. [Looking up at glass reflecting] It’s a window for us. Oh look, I can see us! Sure is cool. SSSS It’s cool. JY Yes it is. It sure is cool. I hear—my—self! [Discovering that we are in crux of dome base and our voices echo; montone voice] SSSS I heard—my—sound—too. JY I heard—my—sound—right—now. SSSS Do you know what that’s called? An echo. JY—do—want—a—a—treat—right—now. SSSS Did you hear—my—sound? JY Sound. JY Echoes. There’s our reflections. [Looking up at wedge of glass above in corner] SSSS That’s our reflections. Can you hear—my—echo? JY Yeah, I can. How can you hear—me? SSSS Because I have—ears. JY How can you—listen—to me? SSSS With—my—ears. JY How can you—talk? SSSS With—my—mouth JY How can you—make—that—sound? SSSS It’s the building that makes the sound. JY That’s—my—echo. SSSS Oh that’s your reflection—it’s different. There are two things happening right now, echoes and reflections. JY Let’s look out of our window. You really got in there close to that window, Jesse. I see snow. You look out too. SSSS I see snow too. JY went to have— a—a—a—a—snack. SSSS Hey Jesse, let’s see this other part of the building, then we can have a snack. [Touching texture curtain with appointed aggregates] SSSS What do you think of this stuff? JY So rocky. SSSS Yeah it is so rocky. Are you laying down because of the rocks or the letters? JY The rocks. They make me feel tired. SSSS Oh, you just touch it and then you fall down. [Falling down to demonstrate effect of rock] JY Be quiet! SSSS Why? JY I’m sleeping. SSSS Something about the rocks and the letters together makes it extra sleepy. JY These rocks are real. SSSS Why did you say that? JY Because they’re hard. [Touching felt on wall next to textured concrete] SSSS What about this, is it real? JY Yes, that is real. SSSS What makes it real? JY The rocks make it real. JY No, the feeling makes the rock real. [Walking on aluminum grate ramp lit from below] SSSS What do you think of this ramp Jesse? Do you like this? JY Yeah. SSSS Why do you like it? JY Cause it is shiny. What can we do? SSSS I don’t know what we can do. Can we dance here? JY Well, a little. [Dancing and stomping on grating] JY Bang, got it! JY Okay! How about we do all the way down? JY Ready, set, go! [Running down] SSSS Let’s go this way. What’s this? Let’s figure it out. [Looking at backlit Xs and Ys at washroom entrance] JY More letters. SSSS What letters are they? JY, and YI? SSSS That’s right. JY Look it’s a fountain. I can’t drink here. [Struggling to push button and drink] SSSS I have the same problem with this fountain, Jesse. Is this where? JY It’s a bathroom. Commander Jesse. [Entering to let cubic] SSSS Is this your rocket? JY Rocket ship. It can blast off. SSSM And that’s the button. JY Come in the rocket and blast off. Blast off! [Closing door] Commander Jesse. [Entering to let cubic] JY We’re going up to Mars, SSSS How long is it going to take us? JY Six hours. SSSS I know another place in here that’s a lot like this one. JY How can we get in it? SSSS It’s down here. JY Let’s run. [Arriving at elevator and pushing call button] SSSS Here is our rocket! Blast off! The rocket ship is landing. SSSS What’s going to happen? JY It’s our rocket. Come on into our rocket. [Entering elevator] JY Which button are you going to press? JY This one. I pressed number 2. We are going up. [Arriving at second floor] JY It’s our stop, but I want to go back down. I don’t want to go out. SSSS There’s a curving mirrored storage cupboard JY Don’t fit in this rocket. JY You can. We’re blasting off. SSSS We can’t cause I’m too big. Do you want me to get out? JY Yeah get out. Get into your own rocket. Out of my rocket. [Exiting storage cupboard] JY Where are you? SSSS Out here. Are you having fun? JY I’m going to outer space. Are you having fun? SSSS Yeah, I’m having fun. Are you having fun? Maybe we could have a cookie or something. JY I’ll close my rocket then I’ll come to your rocket. [Stepping up] SSSS These are our space snacks. [Eating cookies] JY How was your day? We landed on Marszzz. I pressed Mars so we landed on Mars. SSSS Which planet are we going to now? Venus. Is it hot? SSSS I don’t think it’s hot. Which place here looks like Venus? JY IIIIIIzzzz…let’s go. Mission control. SSSS Yes mission control? JY You’re landing on Venus. [Walking to snuck place here]. JY Okay. [Exiting elevator] Is this another rocket of ours? SSSS Yes, this is our rocket stairs. JY Look at this. What’s this? I’ll show you…shhh, come on into our rocket. [Entering cushioned mesh curtains at window] SSSS Commander Jesse… JY Are you having fun? SSSS Yeah I’m having fun. Are you? JY Yes, I’m on my rocket. I’m going to that one. Are you having a good time? SSSS Yeah, I’m having a good time. How about you? JY Yeah. Come to my moon. Ride up my rocket. We already arrived at Venus. SSSS Think Venus looks likes these curtains here. JY Let’s go hide. Come on. You go beside me into this ghost factory. [Going in between window frame and white mesh curtain] SSSS I guess these curtains look like ghosts. JY I’m a ghost in my house. Nobody can see us. SSSS Cause we’re ghosts in our house. JY Ghosties are here. Nobody can find us. SSSS We’re in our ghostie house. JY It’s trap you. I’ll trap you. Ghosta ghost! Caught you! [Wrestling with imaginary ghosts] ×

Jesse Boon is a Toronto-based jack-of-all-trades, dabbling in music, letters, painting and dance. He is planning to attend kindergarten in September 2012.

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Realism

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