Degree Project /
Senior Project /

and

Graduate Thesis

Woodbury **School of Architecture**

2016

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**Degree Project, Senior Project
and Graduate Thesis**

Woodbury School of Architecture

San Diego
California

Marc J Neveu
Architecture Chair

What's your Project?

project, v.

To plan, contrive, scheme, devise or design;
To put forth, set forth, exhibit;
To predict or demonstrate;
To present to oneself in thought; to conceive, imagine;
To throw or cast (a substance) in, into, on, or upon something;
To throw or cast away; to reject;
To represent the earth, sky, etc. on a plane surface by means of a geometrical or other projection;
To draw straight lines or rays from a fixed point through every point of a given figure;
To cause an image or representation of an object to form on a surface as a result of action elsewhere;
To convey to others, esp. by one's manner and actions a particular personality, character, or image.

project, n.

A plan, draft, scheme, or table of something;
A tabulated statement;
A design or pattern according to which something is made;
A mental conception, idea, or notion; speculation;
A planned or proposed undertaking; a scheme, a proposal; a purpose, an objective;
A piece of research work undertaken by a student or group of students; A collaborative enterprise that is carefully planned to achieve a particular aim;
A block of apartments built and administered by the government for low-income tenants;
A projectile, a missile.

Berenika Boberska and Scrap Marshall,
Instructors

Students

Francisco Caceres

Ricardo Diaz

Breeanna Garcia

Jesslin Gonzalez

Dieu Hoang

Eric Martinez

Vishnuvardhan Reddy Medapati

Armando Medel

Fernando Niebla

David Phung

Matthew Roman

Griselda Rosales

Jorge Ruiz

Karla Solis

Dominic Tenette

Strange Proximities:
Los Angeles and its Hinterlands

The studio explored the spatial opportunities of the sometimes awkward yet fecund proximities of intense urbanity and the hinterlands – taking as the testing ground the city of Los Angeles intertwined with its peri-urban backstages.

The Unfamiliar and the Hyper Local

Every city has its Constructive Myth – something which explains how it has come to be in both its physical and its perceived form. We can understand it as a formative essence of a city, an archetype which defines its character and production of space. For Los Angeles, the most constructive myth is one of the Endless City, the City of Sprawl, of Manifest Destiny culminating in the American Dream with its bucolic (private) paradise.

But perhaps these myths about a thin, young urbanity seemingly obsessed with surface and fabricated realities have run their course. Los Angeles is becoming older and more intense – and indeed more dense. New conditions of unusual proximities can be found between the rapidly maturing urbane elements of the city and that of the hinterlands: the back-stages, the rural countryside and wilderness beyond. Juxtapositions of agriculture and public space, of dense walled enclaves and wastelands and slag heaps, of civic space and almond groves – all begin an unfamiliar dialogue. The odd pairings of nature and opulent artifice, technology and folklore, the productive and the Romantic, the lone pioneer and old world delights - begin a blossoming of new architectures, scenarios and surprisingly pragmatic solutions…

The Decentralized Library: An Idea Generator

**Francisco
Nicholas Caceres**

In J.G. Ballard's novel Concrete Island, the protagonist Robert Maitland becomes trapped on an island between highways following a car crash. Unable to leave he finally embraces his newfound condition and embraces the potential of the highway.

In Los Angeles, an archipelago of concrete islands, intertwined between the freeways flyovers, has become a site of social, community and knowledge exchange, finally embracing and potential of the heavy concrete highway above.

At the Santa Monica Viaduct this networked social generator forms a new decentralized Library for L.A. Harvesting power and electricity from the very surface of the road, a series of architectural utilities, urban furniture and evocative spaces form this new library and social resource for Angelinos. Here, the vernacular of the highway reconnects the city through the power of shared knowledge; a Decentralized Library specific to L.A.
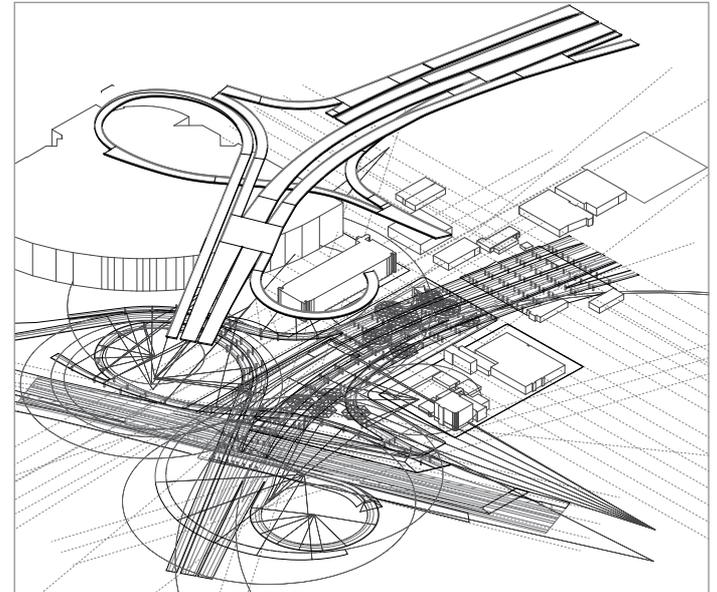
Mind the Luxury Gap :
Luddington Street Chateau, Sun Valley, California

In a mansion-bling culture focused towards obvious signs of opulence where high prices reassure consumers of high worth, materials and spaces that normally slip unnoticed through the gap are explored and presented in new ways to provide moments of magnificence for those low on buying power.

And so 'The Chateau' emerges in the forgotten space left between two concrete factories in the landscape of Sun Valley; here is a lavish palace of respite for the workers, where awkward smells and graceless bi-products are reimagined in sequential sensory chambers to form a veritable embarrassment of riches.

Ricardo Diaz
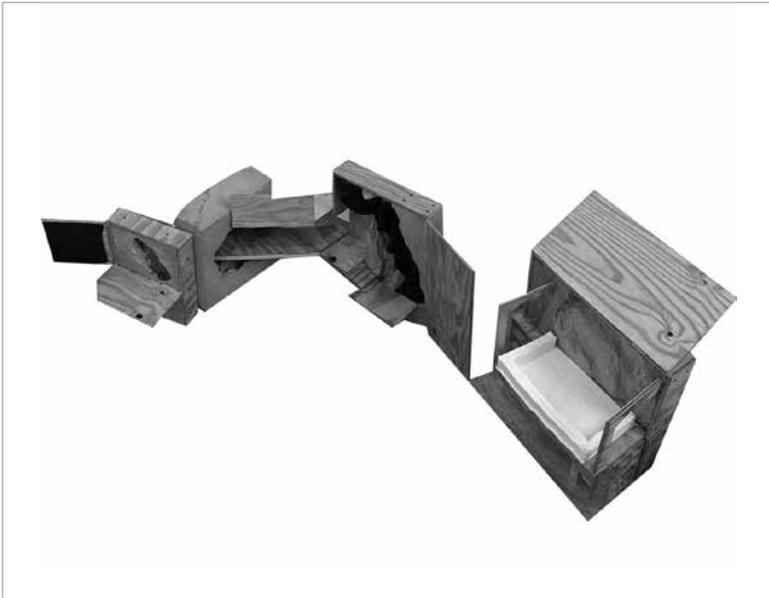
The Farm Pier – Alchemy of Landscapes
and the Architecture of "The Inbetween"

The in-between is that of the intermediate and undetermined, somewhere on the edge of two extremes. In Southern California, mountainous terrain, parched deserts, and thirsty fields touch the sprawl of industrialization and suburban-ization. Where these natural and manufactured fabrics meet, opportunities arise for architectural intervention and cultural exchange.

Oxnard is a farm town that has been breached by suburbia. The meeting of these two diverse typologies can create a third, a hybrid, one that can transfigure and exploit the in-between. Here a "pier" bridges these two landscapes; an archi-tecture that allows one to venture out into the un-known agricultural fabric of the everyday. The Pier brings the culture of the suburbs into the bucolic and vernacular landscape of the farm, alchemizing the edges of these landscapes to create a series of new public spaces.

Breeanna Garcia
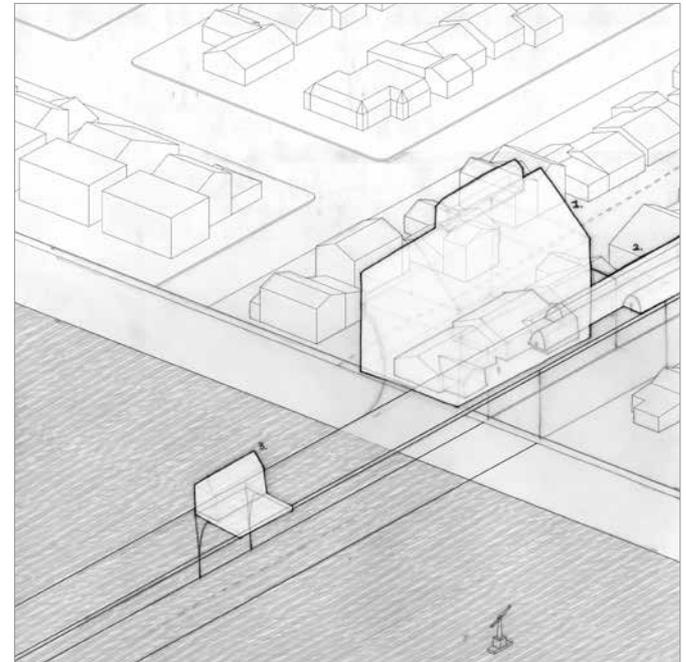
Seismic Provocations

Jesslin Gonzales

The peremptory emphasis on resistance and sta-
bility to the natural movements of the earth have
long dominated design and our way of life. Set
in the San Andreas Fault, Seismic Provocations-
explores and tests the architectural boundaries
imposed by this moving landscape.

As a Seismic Research Facility, comprising
Laboratories, Scientists Residences and Seismic
Gardens, these structures not only serve as ki-
netic instruments that measure the earth's inner
dynamics but as amplifiers that spatialize the
seismic energies, geomechanical forces and other
ungovernable effects of the shifting fault. As the
scientist in residence studies in the laboratories,
the result of the earth's changes are clearly seen
in their living quarters as these forces begin to
rearrange and adjust spatial conditions. Mean-
while, the seismic gardens frame and translate
the geological energies into visual indicators for
the visiting public.
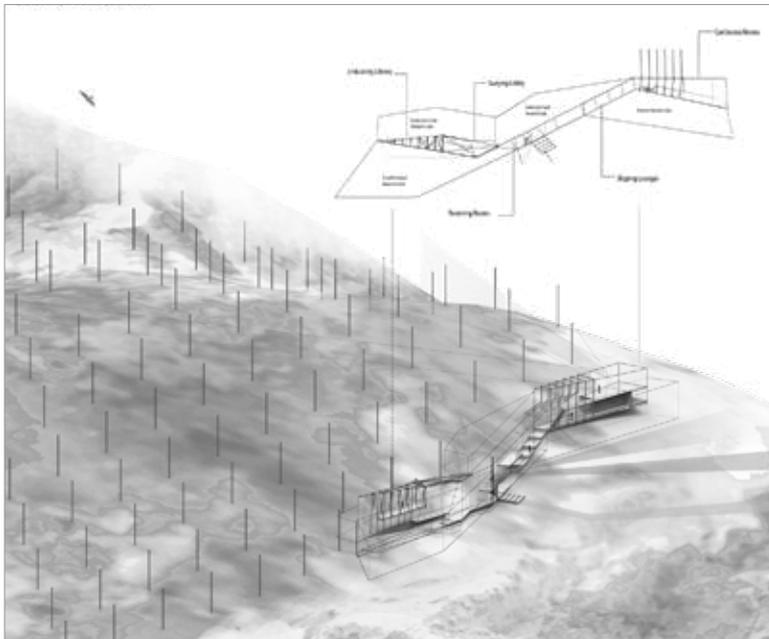
**The Sun Valley Storybook Library : A Strategy for the Radical
Preservation for the Future Archaeology of the Valley Floor**

Dieu Hoang

In a young city like Los Angeles, is it possible to
create a future archaeology, in which the atmo-
sphere and character of the city's ordinary struc-
tures are captured? This is becoming crucial due
to the fact that the majority of the city's fabric,
which consists of domestic structures, is made
of non-permanent materials which adapt to the
rapid change in styles of Californian homes. The
term "archaeology" is defined through a set of
techniques of reconfiguring materials and creative
processes of misinterpretation, in order to discover
the potential of the vernacular domestic structures
in Los Angeles.

Several fragile moments of L.A.'s Storybook house
typology are captured through the act of pickling,
sealing and inverting - and brought together to
create a new space with a new function: The Sun
Valley Storybook library. This addition to the ex-
isting public library is a playful Community House
that captures the stories of L.A. life.
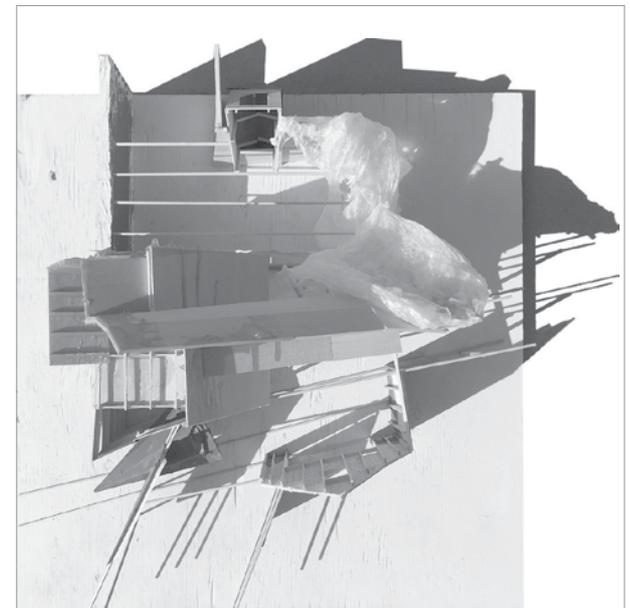
Buoyant Wilmington - Productive Village

The rise of sea levels and water scarcity in the future has led major coastal cities to find new solutions to combat climate change. In the greater Los Angeles area, large-scale desalination plants are now a common site along the coast line. Here, coastal communities have reconfigured their infrastructure and way of life, to take advantage of their proximity to these new desalination plants. In adjoining neighborhoods, inhabitants are finding creative uses for the briny byproduct of this saturated landscape.

Eric Martinez

In communities such as Wilmington, residents – no longer economically sustained by the now submerged port – are utilizing harvesting techniques for the extraction of salt as a new source of income. Salt has now become a useful and valuable commodity as Wilmington villagers thrive through new commercial opportunities. Wilmington pickles, Wilmington Country Ham, and even therapeutic salts baths in the salt incrusted remains of fossilized foundations offer Wilmington a bright and optimistic future.
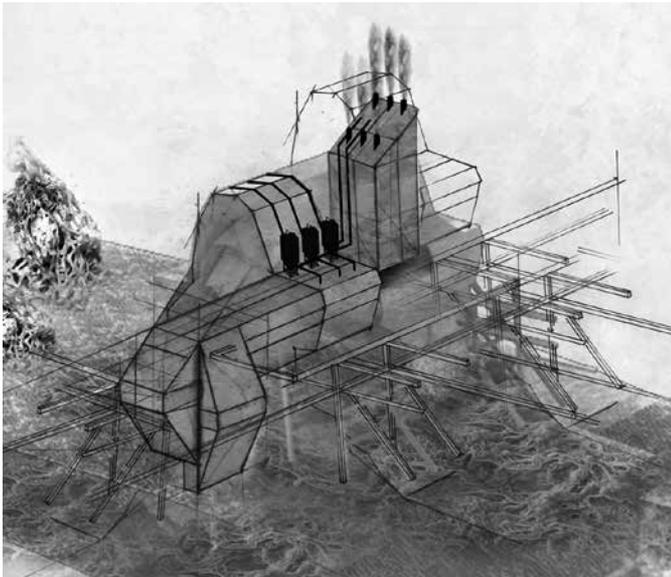
The Institute of Radical River Preservation
A controlled carving of the Los Angeles River

Rad.i.cal: relating to or affecting the fundamental
                    nature of something

Pres.er.vation :   The action of preserving something

The Los Angeles River of today was created in order to negotiate a conflict between the natural and the man made forces. In its very intricate and delicate history the river transformed from a mesmerizing object of beauty, to an unpredictable and predatory beast to be and imprisoned, and finally to an iconic space of the city.

**Vishnuvardhan
Reddy Medapati**

The concrete channel lays underexplored and recently under threat from various manifestations of the LA River Revitalization Master Plan.

The Institute of Radical River Preservation strives to explore the beauty and character of this man-made channeled river, preserving the splendors of its engineered concrete surfaces and unraveling new possibilities. The proposed spaces orchestrate a controlled manipulation of the channel itself, carving through its existing infrastructure. The hermetically sealed nature of the channel is challenged and altered to facilitate the sprouting of new eco systems and engaging the public with the river. The Institute infects, augments, supplements and enhances the concrete landscape of the LA River.

The Future Ruins of L.A.

We are accustomed to the importance of heroic ruins carefully excavated and displayed in ancient cities like Rome and Athens. We universally accept that they are important reminders of conflicts, redundant economic systems and changes in social priority, and so critical to understanding and guiding contemporary society.

Los Angeles is often seen as a city with a thin history, however it is also being currently described as entering its third significant iteration in just 100 years. Imagining a future condition when the left overs of a first booming industrial city are mostly sacred relics in the dust — the 1920s Sears Distribution Center is reimagined for this purpose — this project explores an architecture that grapples between the hungry appetites of corporate developers seeking fast profits and space-planning efficiencies in the sprawling but ever-densifying city — and its awkward constellations of treasures.

Armando Medel
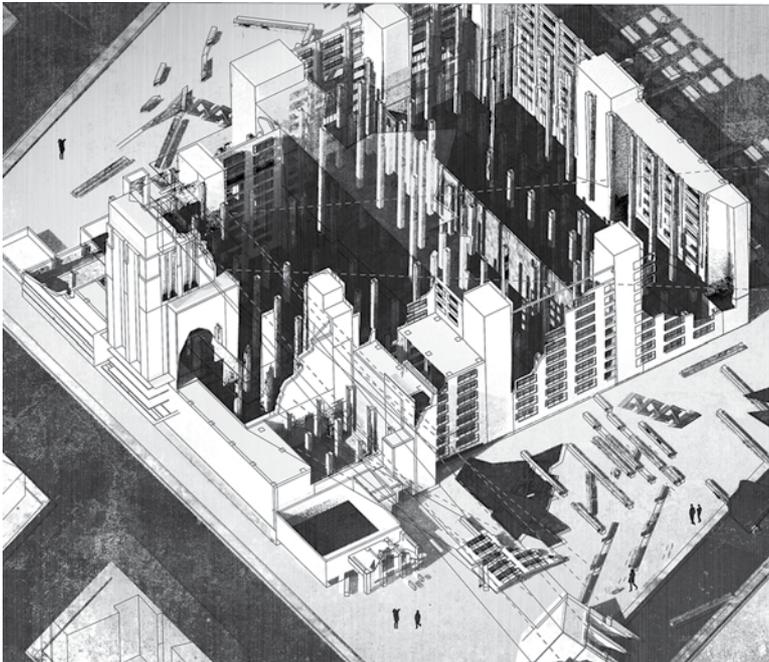
**Pioneer Buildings and Toxic Landscapes –
The Transmutation of Damaged Territories**

Much of how we perceive our constructed and manmade landscapes is by surface only. We see only a manipulation of surface, an etching if you will. Yet the cutting and carving of earth to extract materials and resources, while at the same time filling voids in the form of corrosive foundations turns the ground into a toxic site. Chemicals leach and scar, etching hard lines — the limits of suburban sprawl — where human habitation is no longer viable, where rich natural resources are exhausted and the very ground beneath our feet, lost and contaminated.

This proposal claims these toxic grounds and creates a number of pioneer buildings that react with the environment and neutralize the toxicity below the surface. These buildings — like all pioneer buildings — are cyclical and sacrificial in nature, reacting with the soil to reveal the potential to sustain and harbor life, inhabitation and a renewal of our landscapes and natural resources.

**Fernando
Niebla**
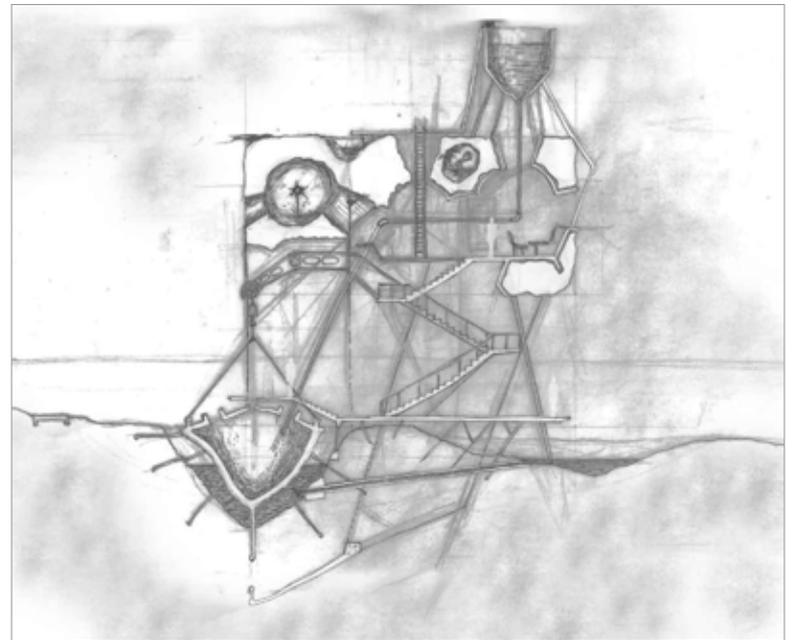
The Walled City of Alhambra

David
Tuan Phung

Our society has an obsession with development and growth which has manifested itself in the endless urban sprawl of Los Angeles. In reaction to this, the project takes inspiration fro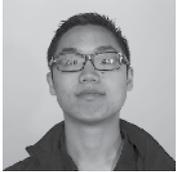m urban fabrics that function as spatial resistors to sprawl — urban islands — from Kowloon City, with its archetypal walled-city character, to the extremes of the Nail house, resisting the flows of rapid development around it, but also taking economic advantage of its position. Chinatown in Los Angeles is a spatial island, a Walled City, a stranded moment of intensity caught between bounding edges. Now as Chinatown's community moves to the San Gabriel Valley of Alhambra, a non-descript suburban sprawl, the project proposes the Wall as an urban devise, an instigator of intensity, a spatial provocateur. An economic free zone is created within the Wall's inhabitable spaces and day to day operations, free from surrounding jurisdictions, blossom into an intensity reminiscent of the archetypal darkness of Walled Cities.
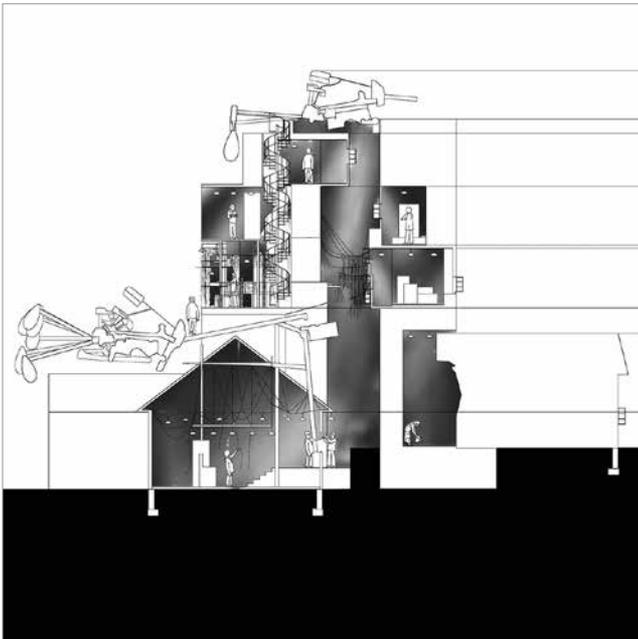
**The Civic Institution of the Hinterlands –
A Revitalization of a Lost Identity**

Matthew Roman

In the hinterlands of Los Angeles, a complete reinvention of the archetypical City Hall and re-articulation of public space, forms an alternative Civic Institution for the people of Littlerock, CA. Here, the historic ideals and the heroic forms of civic centers of global cities are discarded and rather, the multiple pasts, lost traditions and hidden civic pride of the people of the city of Littlerock, CA re-emerge. Once known as the "fruit basket" of the Antelope Valley, drought and economic forces have masked the qualities, characteristics and traditions of valley life.

This new civic space is intertwined with the existing landscape where the many groves of almond trees weave around these new civic structures. Archetypical and vernacular forms are hybridized and transformed, and existing materials exploited, as new civic programs and spaces emerge. Here, the community of Littlerock allows the pride and character of the city to remerge, where Folkloric festivals — old and new — provide opportunities for civic gathering and celebration.
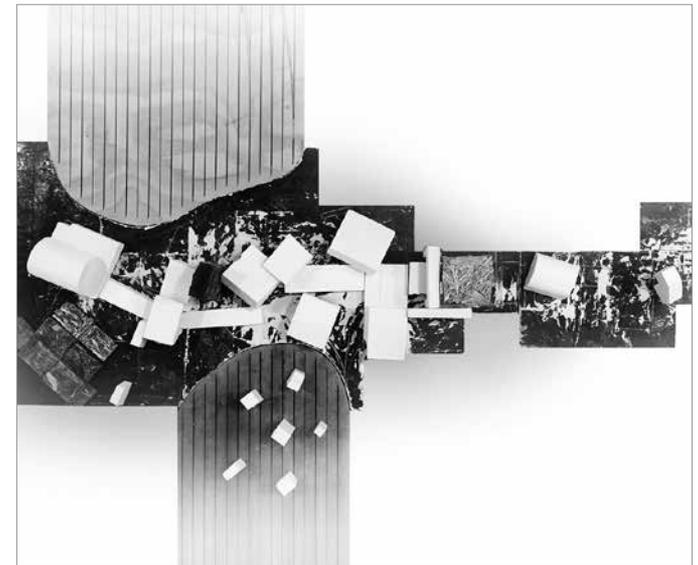
**Landfill Alchemy: Mining in the City of Los Angeles –
Alchemic Community of Scholl Canyon (ACSC)**

Landfills are being filled up at a rapid pace due to the disposal of trash by over 750,000 households per week in the City of Los Angeles. The City of Los Angeles has permanently shut down four landfills out of the existing six that had been established since the 1940s.

This project takes place in the not so distant future where old landfills will begin to be mined for the resources they contain. The waste materials accumulated over the years in the Scholl Canyon Landfill of LA are harvested in order to create an alchemical transformation of the minerals, making them desirable and valuable again for the purposes of craft and architecture. The mining community grows along the rim of the old landfill and includes living and working quarters, educational and recreational facilities. Spaces unearthed in the mining operations become occupiable and part of the everyday life. The Alchemic Community of Scholl Canyon will form a precedent for the transformation of both old and future landfills.

Griselda Rosales
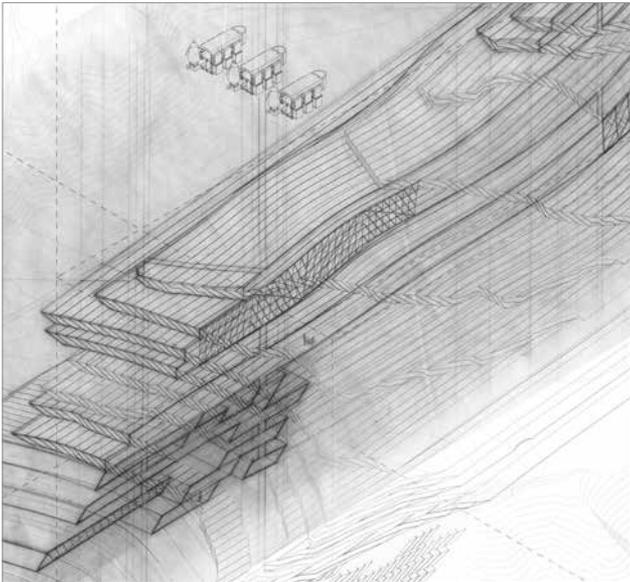
**Agrarian Urbanites –
San Fernando Valley's De-Constructive Reset**

The horizontal sprawl of Los Angeles has run its course and the city will soon find itself growing vertically. As the population of large cities grows from 50% of the world's population today to 66% by the year 2050, the landscapes — former suburbs — will be left empty and fallow. Yet, in this vacuum, an opportunity is presented where a new form of integrated agriculture and alternative agrarian communities can be realized. In new circular 'fields' of ¼ mile radius, redundant houses will be carefully dismantled as agrarian urbanites acquire building materials, to re-use, manipulate and transform it to new forms of inhabitation. The historic and underutilized city infrastructure is used and abused — hybridized — to fulfill the needs of these new agricultural communities. Technology and ingenuity, craft and tradition will allow these Agrarian Urbanites to re-define what a farmeris and in-turn, the spaces and places where this new type of life plays out.

Jorge Ruiz

Symbiotic Infestation Habitat

Karla Solis

This project proposes a case study home, which begins the test trials for new methods of construction — inviting rather than excluding infestations and nature. In Calabasas, L.A., CA, best known for opulent lifestyles, termites and fungi are invited to cohabit and collaborate in the precisely orchestrated devouring of the elements of the case study home. Termites are guided along treated and untreated framing elements to slowly consume and lavishly ornament the house. Walls of layered wood composites (with varying termite resistance and densities) provide rich feeding and carving grounds. Fungus will be given an ideal environment to grow in moisture richcavity walls. Mycelium and sprouted mushrooms will provide insulation and compliment the environmental systems of both termites and humans. The outcome is to demonstrate a new holistic relationship between nature and building technology. This relationship will be documented in a new set of construction standards.
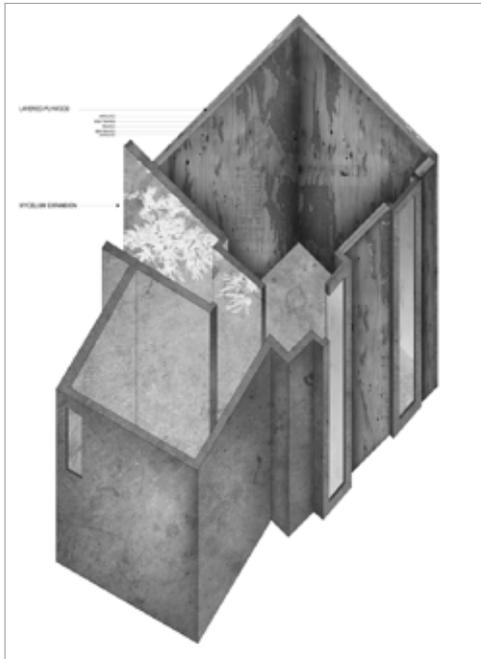
Boyle Heights Academy of Choreography and Composition : An Interruption in a Rejected Landscape
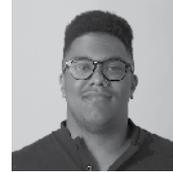
Dominic Tenette

As Los Angeles nears the end of its outward urban sprawl, its inhabitants now see the opportunities of the Cities unsavory lots. In lists of for-sale lots, overlaid maps, zone plans, and historical organizations, these irregular, uninhabited and unsavory lots emerge as sites of collective and community programming.

In the arts starved area of Boyle Heights, an Academy of Choreography and Composition is established through a network of underutilized leftovers from the cities development. Here a series of nodes and armatures act as seeds where programs, spaces and utilities are begged, borrowed and stolen from the surrounding area — in order to accommodate in these fragments the oversize program of usually monumental academy building. In Boyle Heights The Opera and The Ballet morph and transform the crevices of the established city into badly needed creative and artistic spaces, creating an educational neighborhood that becomes a model for the rest of Los Angeles.
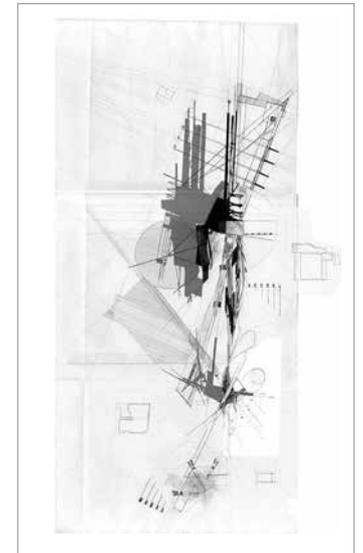
Marc J Neveu, Chair
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Students

Lamya Al Jowie

Sevana Alexander

Sevan Barseghian

Vana Boghozian

Edwin Castro

Nika Farahani

Eric Giragosian

Milina Nuermaimaiti

Roberto Oceguera

Giancarlo Pisano

Nicholas Rados

Atina Yeghyaian

Practical Matters

Socrates' elenctic search for quiddity — the thing-ness of things — was essentially focused on self-under-standing. I will propose that self-knowledge is under-stood in the way one inquires. Schmid has explained, "The Socratic dialect challenges (the interlocutor) not only to acquire the correct moral opinions but to question himself and think for himself and develop his own moral rationality." In this way, Socratic dialogue was not simply for instruction or content, but to instill a way of investigation. It is this type of knowledge that I would call "practical." It is a knowledge that cannot be passed on like facts and figures, similar to water in a vessel. It is practical in that it can be shown or performed but not expressed as a result separate from the student. It is exhibited in practice. Not unlike learning to swim, learning to architecture cannot be communicated verbally, only. It is knowledge, similar to Socrates' dialogues, that is found in action; knowl-edge gained by making, and to put the discussion back into the studio, it is a knowledge demonstrated through architecture-ing.

In the following pages, you will find demonstrations of such thinking, both practical, and, that matter.

ARC – Alzheimer's Research Center

Post-Nuclear Housing

Alzheimer's disease is wide spread. According to data available from the Alzheimer's foundation, every 67 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's disease. Currently, it is estimated that the disease affects at least 5.3 million Americans. The death of brain cells becomes inevitable as the cortex shrinks becoming incapable of developing thoughts and memory. The Alzheimer's patient personality begins to alter between family members as they become strangers. The real and abstract aspects of architecture can be exploited to create facilities for senior citizens and Alzheimer's patients utilizing designs that stimulate behavioral adjustments associated with cognitive stamina. The goal of this design is to train the memory throughout specific senses, the project also has a research center to explore alternatives to therapy and treatment in real-time. There is a strong connection between memory and architecture; the design of Alzheimer's patient facilities will be at the forefront of understanding this potential connection.

Lamya Al Jowie

The discrimination and definition of spaces based on gender not only occurs in obvious ways such as gendered public restrooms, but also in the home where the kitchen is "hers" and the garage is "his." Such characterizations have been developed in response to a (now obsolete) nuclear family. Given this phenomenon of gendered spaces, this thesis proposal sets out to discuss the relationship of gendered spaces and familial organization. This thesis argues that existing housing is no longer capable of properly accommodating today's family types as it is based upon outmoded ideas of family and gender. In order to accommodate a diverse and rapidly changing household, housing must be of a responsive nature and capable of adapting to the different needs of its occupants. The project investigates the possibilities of reinventing the residential and living environment by designing an adaptable modular system to be applicable to many different family types.

Sevana Alexander
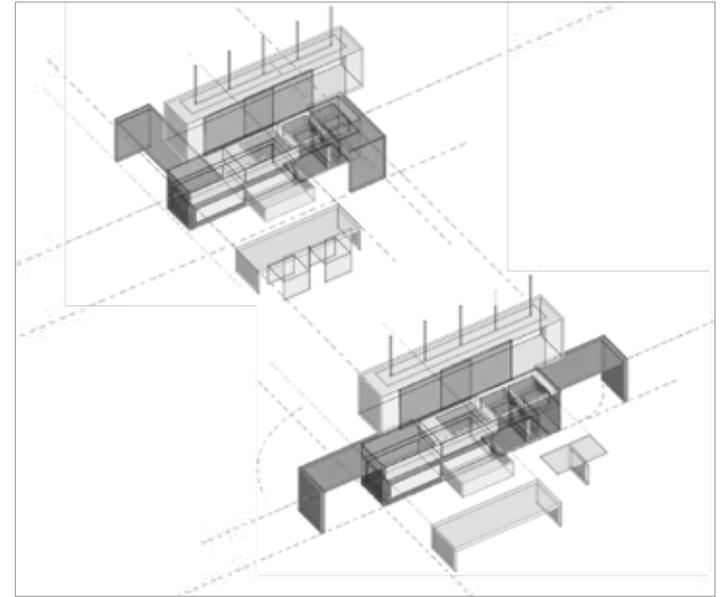
Metamorphosing Olympic Village And Legacy Housing

Sevan Barseghian

The repercussions of zoning plans from the1960s and 1970s have caused a housing crisis inLos Angeles with high rents, low vacancies, and a increased demand for urban housing. Hosting the Summer Olympics in 2024 will allow Los Angeles an opportunity to invest large amounts of money and resources to address the problem with the development strategy of the Olympic Village. With Los Angeles currently laying out the groundwork to transition from a car dependent city into a multi-level transit city with new light rail and bus lines, it will give way for new nodes of activity throughout the city and cut costs for residents. It also allows the Villages to be developed along these nodes. The design of Villages have interchangeable modular units that will be able to house the athletes during the Olympics and to adapt to market situations and demographic shifts in its legacy phase.

Luminous

Vana Boghozian

It is essential to consider the role of natural light when designing. The lack of sunlight, prevalent in Nordic countries is one cause of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). People with SAD suffer from an excess sleep, daytime fatigue and weight gain. The typical treatment for SAD is medication, psychotherapy, exercise and light boxes. Based on research, these methods are neither productive nor holistic. My objective is to create a "Spa for Sun" in Tromsø, Norway which utilizes sunlight as therapy. The light therapy area includes both natural and artificial light from the top and brightens the entire core. While visitors explore the core (starting from pool therapy towards the exercise area, healing garden, and individual rooms) they experience the transformation from bright areas to controlled light to dark areas. The benefit is that all activities occur around the core of the building allowing for sun bathing. This building is sensitive to each season, adjusting sunlight levels during seasons.
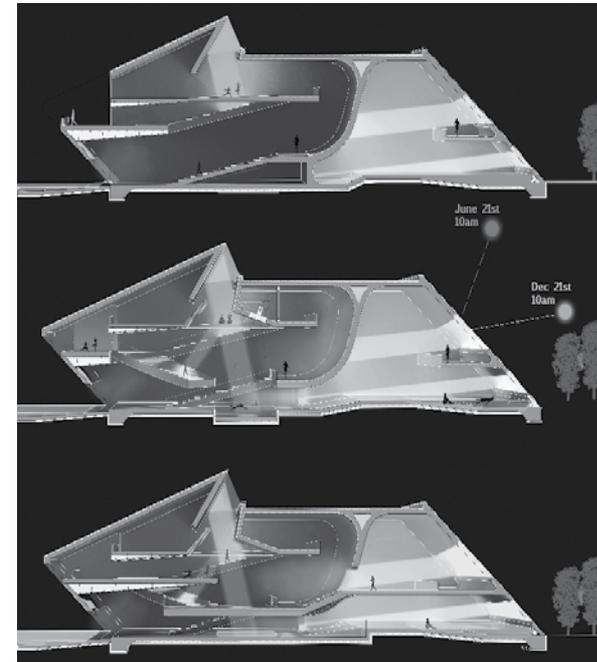
Anti Object in the City of Objects

The Anti Object is an architectural project that uses form and material to reveal qualities of its environment. The idea of Anti Object is to reconnect the subject with the environment through self-reflection by means of reference to space and time. The project, located on Angels Knoll Park, is a collection of multiple spaces that frame the various daily events of downtown Los Angeles that have always been there but that are rarely noticed. The way in which the Anti Object achieves this through contrived serendipitous experience integrated into the design of form and use of materials. This extensive overlap of procession elements allows for serendipitous to happen, by separating these elements the subject can then realize a single moment in time that is continues within the city that they would never have stumbled upon during their normal day life in downtown Los Angeles.

Edwin Castro

Center for Autistic Children

This project is a proposal to provide a safe and caring place for autistic children. The intention is to create an ordered and welcoming environment where children can get their education as well as treatment and equine therapy. Children with autism often have difficulty processing what would be considered normal to others. In response to this, the design of the center reduces sensory overload. Noise, light, texture and color are critical in the sensory environment and can be stimulation if not used properly. Access to natural light is provided in the design through skylights and windows. Play fields and active spaces are proposed to keep the children active, which will ultimately improve their conditions. The physical environment has an impact on children's development. An autism-friendly design can provide the opportunity for the child to cope with his/her built environment without being overwhelmed or overstimulated.

Nika Farahani

Bits & Pieces

Eric Giragosian
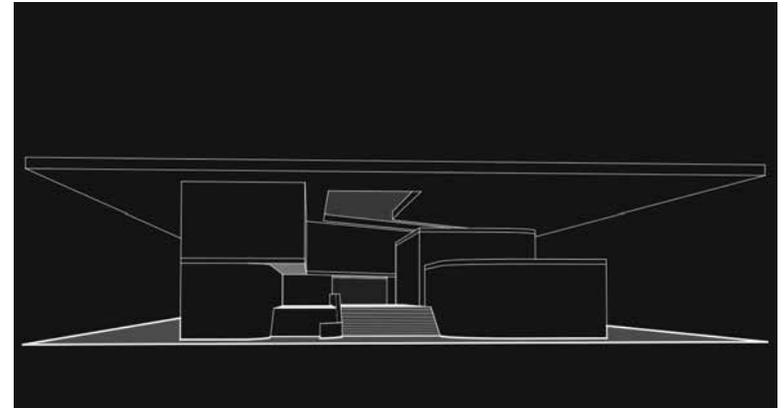
When a cup of coffee is bought from Starbucks, an experience is embedded in that coffee. This is the operative idea behind the "experience economy," as described by Pine and Gilmore. Architecture is implicit within the experience. This thesis critiques this notion of experience by investigating architecture, architecturally. Building upon Rossi's critique of a naïve functionalism, this thesis proposes to develop three typologies: the tower, the slab, and the court-yard. Rejecting ideas of site, program, and user the project looks at the purely architectural questions and problems associated with each type. How does a tower withstand lateral loads? How does a slab span long distances without columns? Inherent in each are autonomous architectural questions that are always asked, but not discussed. How does a building meet the ground? Turn a corner? Meet the sky? Meet the ground? The result of these questions coalesce as a series of details that are read as both pieces of each type as well as their initial whole.

Katch Me If U Kan

Milina Nuermaimaiti

Munira Nurmamat
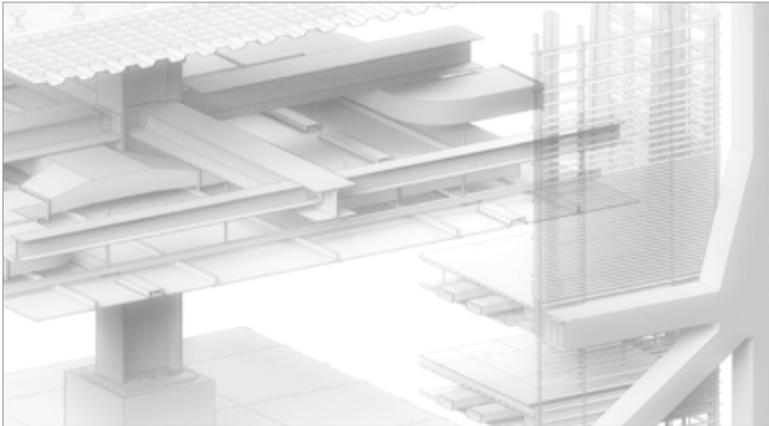
Five individuals wake up one morning, getting ready to work as usual, everything seemed tobenormal until each of them received a phone call that flipped their day upside down. This is a graphic novel criticizing the justice of the application of surveillance in the age of intelligent technology.

Behind Bars

**Roberto
Oceguera**
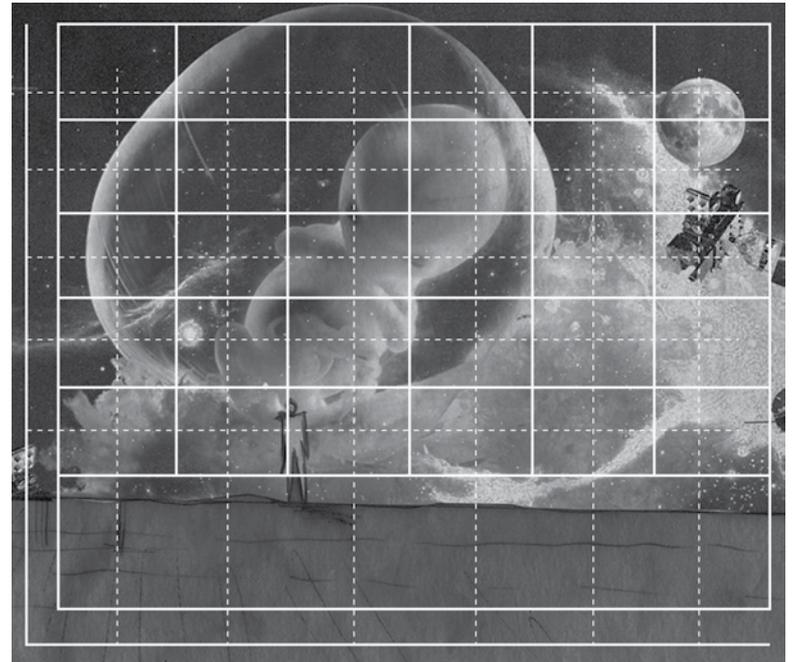
Historically, prison design has evolved to become the punishment rather than the place where you wait for punishment. Punishment or rehabilitation is a controversial topic that has a tremendous impact in prison design. Some view prison as the place of punishment and isolation, while others argue that prison is a place for rehabilitation. Unlike incarceration in the 18th century to the late 19th century, contemporary prison design has now evolved andintroduced goals that focus on views of the nature of inmates and detention. Due to current legislation, however, overpopulation in prisons has led to massive growth in number of prisons being built. Given the apparent lack of success in the current prison system to address these issues, this thesis proposes an alternative way of thinking. This project rethinks prison design and creates a facility that would follow a rehabilitation system rather than a system of punishment.

DisMaland: A Revolution of Perception

**Giancarlo
Pisano**

Our natural world faces higher danger than our monetary system, for we do not have any control of the creation of it. It has been exploited, polluted and taken advantage of purely for monetary power. Forests are at threat of extinction, countries destroyed over oil wars, and oceans drained of their fish. We are all at fault. Every one of us has consciously or unconsciously given up our power as individuals and as a collective species. Politicians, advertising and our own brainwashed desire to belong and fit in with others, has allowed this group of world leader's greed to destroy our planet. The greatest trick behind advanced capitalism has been the idea that we don't have enough. They have convinced us over the course of centuries, that whatever we come with to this earth, is not enough, and therefore we need to seek for something more. The purpose for this Thesis and it's ideal goal, is to raise awareness in the individual of his natural talents and power, through a community-based lifestyle where the tools of the elite are excluded and the focus of the training is based on natural and organic development.
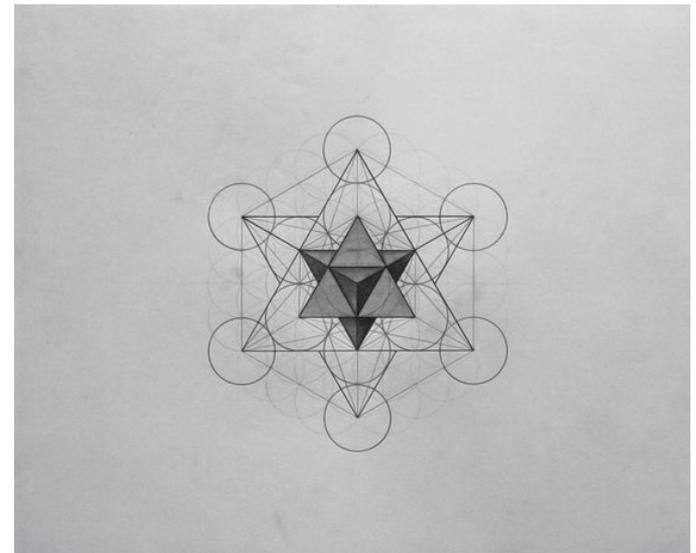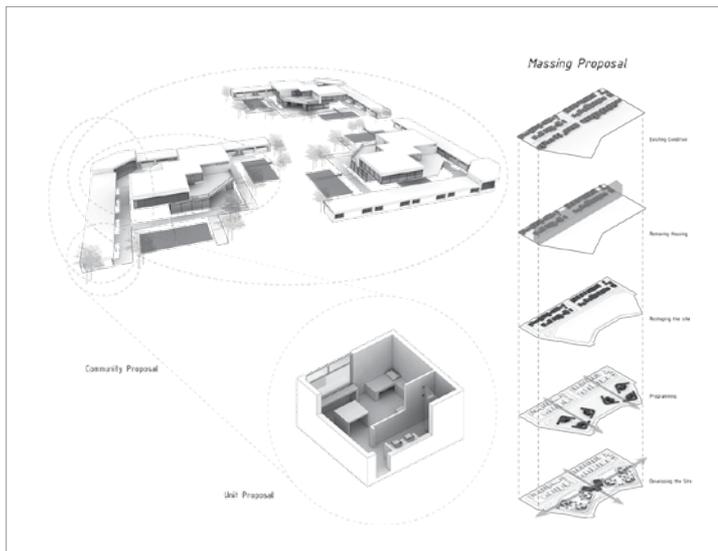
Settlements of Self Inquiry:
Retreat into Nature's Rhythms

The purpose of this project was to orient one toward nature's rhythms. Five sites along a hiking trail in the Angeles National Forest were selected so as to highlight several of their pre-existing temporalities. Daily events like the sun and moon rise and seasonal processes like the presence of water in winter became primary as each architectural element would seek to enhance the perception of, frame, and orient one toward these rhythmic processes in nature.

Nicholas Rados

Inquiry developed into a study of Advaita Vedanta and Gestalt Theory. Japanese concepts like yugen, ma, mushin, and wabi along with their English correlates being transience, emptiness, shadow, and silence would help in the development of the composition of each element of orientation. Ultimately the project seeks to point toward the presence and beauty of these moments of subtle profundity. By offering a positioning toward nature, one's perception as separate from it may subside as a settling into becomes the remembering of what we are, as awareness.
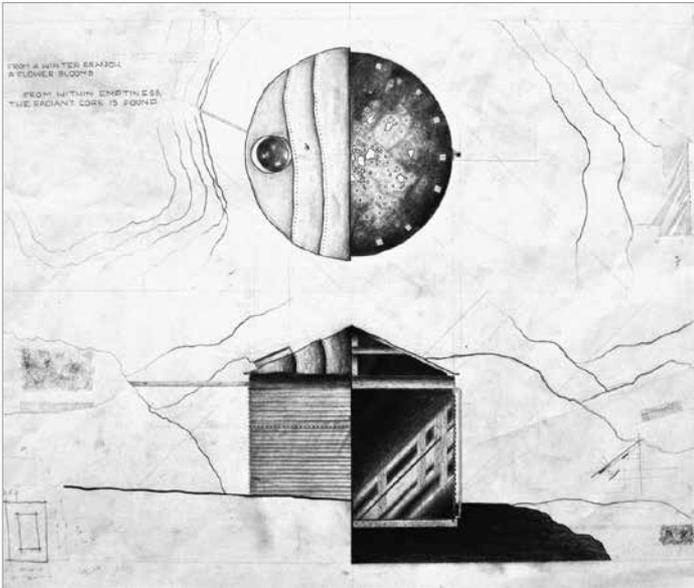
one plus one plus one equals one

The project proposal is made in response to the current Syrian refugee crisis. One of the deeply rooted and core issues that has been at hand is the great divide between religious and national identity. As it stands, Germany has agreed to welcome the largest number of refugees into the country. Set in the Kulturforum in Berlin, Germany, the proposal is a multi-religious space involving the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. The proposal critiques the current ideological divide and creates an opportunity for cultural and religious exchange with an attempt to demonstrate the similarities at the core of the religions. As for the design aspect of the project, the core principle that has driven the design structure is based on the geometry and ideology of sacred geometry. The term sacred geometry is considered to be a common element of the human condition.

Atina Yeghyaian
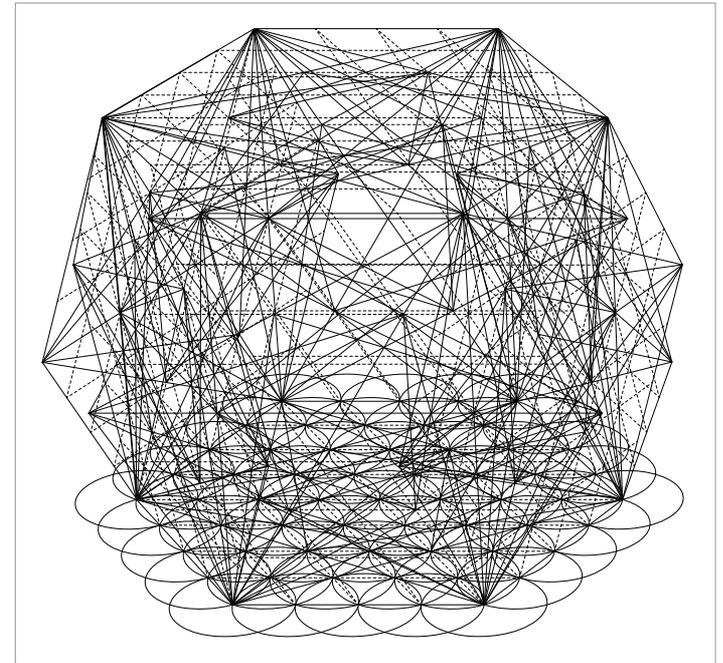
Mark Stankard and **Jeannine Shinoda,**
Instructors

Students

Babak Abbasian Ardestani

Mohammed Al Juraiban

Erick Arizmendi

Cristian Camacho

Janet Del Valle

Sahar Garmroudi

Nareg Ghazarian

Christian Gomez

Genesis Hernandez

Orbel Mangasar

Karla Navarro

Juan Carlos Rodriguez

Jora Rostami

Aygun Sanchez

Joseph Marc Tamayo

Jaime Zavala

Situating Wilshire

Architecture and the city always exist in a relationship — harmonious, dysfunctional, on-line, on again-off again, open, arranged, casual, exclusive, co-dependent, etc. Each cannot exist fully without the other. We have examined the various possible relationships between urban space and surface and architectural space and surface: public–private, exterior-interior, communal-individual, strident-passive, etc., within the fragmented linear forum of Wilshire Boulevard.

Within and around the ever-changing drama of Wilshire, students have individually situated positions on architecture's relationship with Wilshire's urbanity. These projects examine civic publicness and extremely privately programmed spaces and events. They revive critically contextual urbanism and engage it with autobiographical agenda.

The urban setting is the 17 mile spine Reyner Banham has deemed "the first linear downtown."We have looked synchronically at the current events and spaces that make up Wilshire while diachronically examining the past pueblo, ranchos, grids,buildings, markers, etc. while taking into consideration the continuous influx of cultural forces, contingent exceptions, failures, resistances, misreadings, diversions, displacements, transformations, etc.

The occupied façade acts as an urban mask between public & private spaces. As civic frontage, it separates/mediates/confronts the city itself to identify or conceal the private space behind or within it. The typically occupied section also becomes the architectural/urban mediator where all inter-relationships are revealed in some way. We have focused on thickly occupied wall sections/facades as mediators between the civic and the personal.

Urban Transformative Solitude
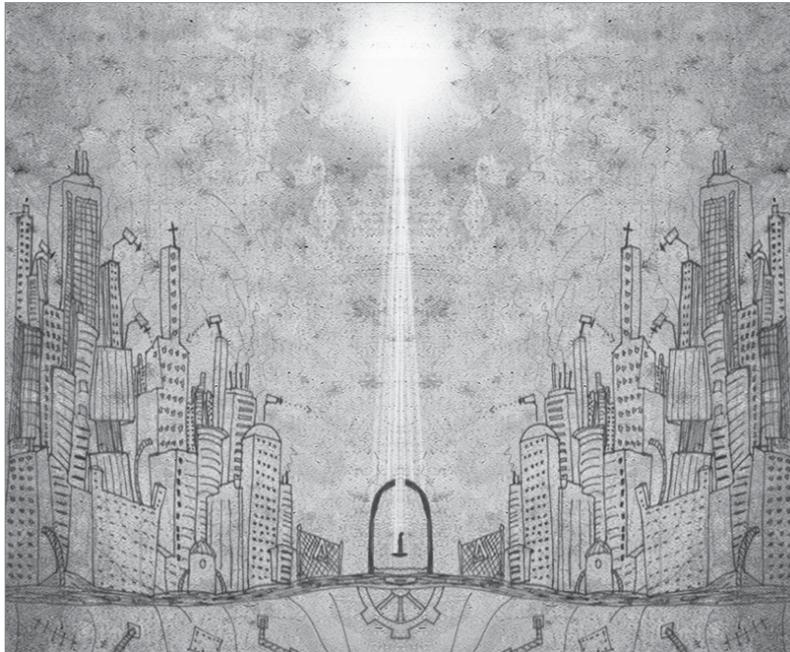
IN THE LOOP Grand ePrix du Wilshire

**Babak Abbasian
Ardestani**

In our new era of technology we are getting lost among the machines we have built for our lives. In fact, our urban environment sometimes is overwhelming. Consequently, many people are looking for a place to go to and think clearly about what they are doing in their lives, a place to inspire their imagination, a place to transform themselves, a place for solitude.

My agenda is to provide a methodology for transformation by using minimalism through architecture to bring people to the essence of their life.

The eastern end of the LACMA campus, on Wilshire Blvd., has been chosen for this project. Wilshire Blvd. is one of the most significant and busiest streets in Los Angeles. On the other hand, minimalist architecture is related to the art found within LACMA.

Programs for this project are administration, reception, security area and space for solitude.

**Mohammed
Al Juraiban**

I am proposing an urban racetrack on Wilshire Blvd. to acknowledge the massive car culture in L.A. and reduce illegal street racing. Providing West L.A. with a central racetrack will satisfy the needs of local motorsports fans who would normally travel long distances to racetracks in the desert. A typical racetrack a great deal of noise and pollution. This racetrack is sustainable by only allowing electric cars, and electric motorcycles. The track, strategically replacing a nine-hole golf course at the L.A. Country Club, will also be used to showcase, release and test drive innovative advanced new cars. Moreover, the project is used as a public park when the racetrack is not operating. Innovative design, solar energy and green spaces are used to achieve environmental balance. This project demonstrates that motorsports and its fans would rather not harm the environment but make it better.
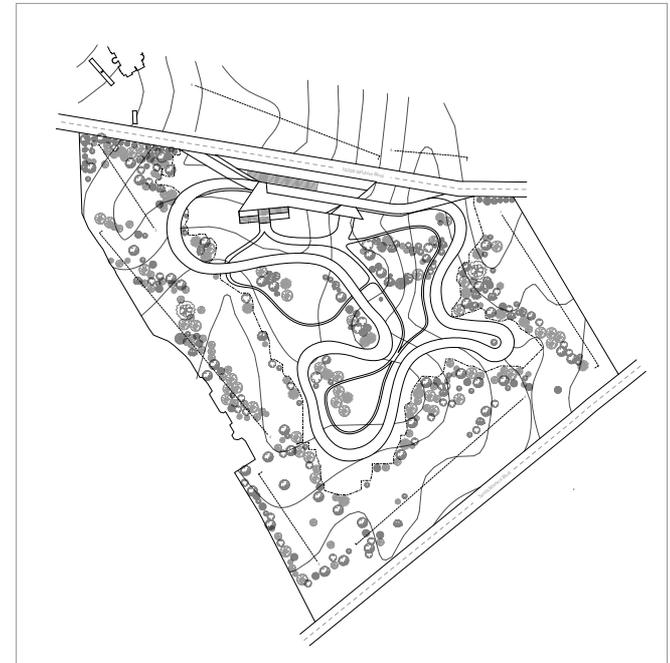
Resizing L.A.

Modern technology has revolutionized the methods of how people gather, display and pass on information to each other. With the help of the internet, information now can be transmitted without a filter, and received by anyoneworldwide. My design intent is to create a central data hub for L.A., located on Wilshire Blvd. directly across from LACMA where large amounts of information will be transmitted for all Angelinos and tourists to experience. The data collected will be categorized into topics that make Los Angeles a tourist attraction and a controversial place to live in. The amount of data being transmitted is meant to cause a visual sensory overload, making it impossible for people and tourists to ignore. People will be able to experience Los Angeles from one location while simultaneously creating a city profile for all the people and events that take place in Los Angeles at any given time.

Erick Arizmendi

The Fragmented Barricade:
A Veteran Rehabilitation Complex

Twenty-two veterans die every day from suicide and/or drug overdose attributed from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The Veteran Affairs is currently turning to Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PET) to alleviate PTSD. During PET treatment, veterans can re-experience traumatic events either by speaking about them or through a virtual reality experience. I propose a transitional veteran rehabilitation complex dedicated to amplifying PET inside the West Los Angeles Veterans Affair property, along Wilshire Blvd. From the public viewpoint, the complex would resemble a private neo-brutalist structure with the same facade elements used in military vehicles. Inside, the multi-layered jagged building reveals glass walls with views of mock battlefields, villages and tents. The various environments (rooms and sets) would guide the veteran into a tangible place where they can explore their issues further. With guidance, the veteran can then release and hopefully transition out of the barricade into society.

Cristian
Camacho
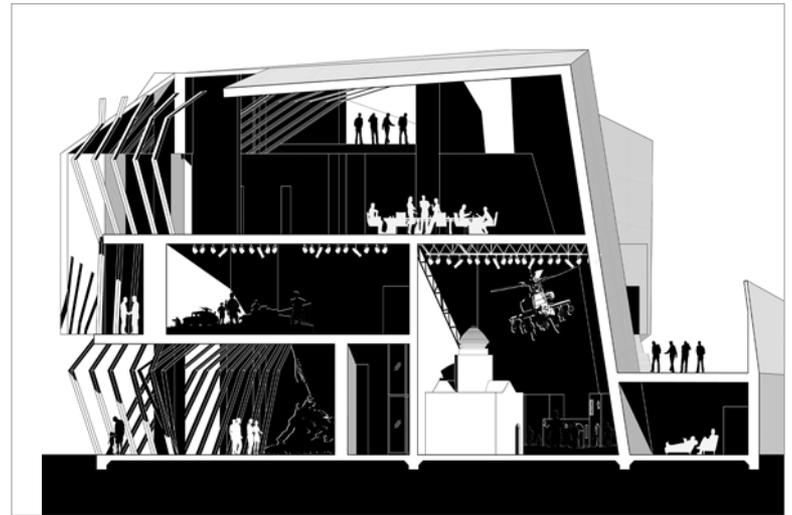
Claiming the Carlyle:
Restructuring Affordable Housing

Economic isolation is rapidly growing across the country. The feeling of being trapped without decent housing, schools or jobs is a direct consequence of local housing policies that encourage racial and economic segregation. Housing for low income citizens is being built only in low-income areas, escalating tensions and social problems.

This project, a prototype intended for several sites along Wilshire Blvd., will transform existing luxury condos into mixed-income housing. Creating affordable units and interactive environments for all tenants in these luxury condos will create housing for low-income citizens in the wealthier areas of Wilshire Blvd.. More people will have the opportunity for better housing, schools and jobs. As an example, this proposal focuses on the Carlyle, a building located in Westwood. New housing units are cut into existing large condominiums, appended to the building structure and merged into the existing un-affordable environment.

Janet Del Valle

Alternate Crossing

The intersection of Wilshire Blvd. and the 405 freeway is chosen for this project due to its high density. The current programs surrounding this area create traffic within the intersection. This project proposes connections extending across Wilshire Blvd. and the 405 freeway through urbanized public links shaped by dynamic architectural language geared towards the movement of circulation.

This project explores the behaviors of the octopus and its extending movement as an element of architectural form. The octopus creates movements through a delicate interplay of repetition and variation.

Four proposed programs are located at four areas around in the intersection: one for children, one for young adults, one for the middle-aged and one for the elderly. Each program serves the age group occupying that structure. Each of the four programs and the various means of circulation over the intersection cross paths at the central crossing space.

Sahar Garmroudi
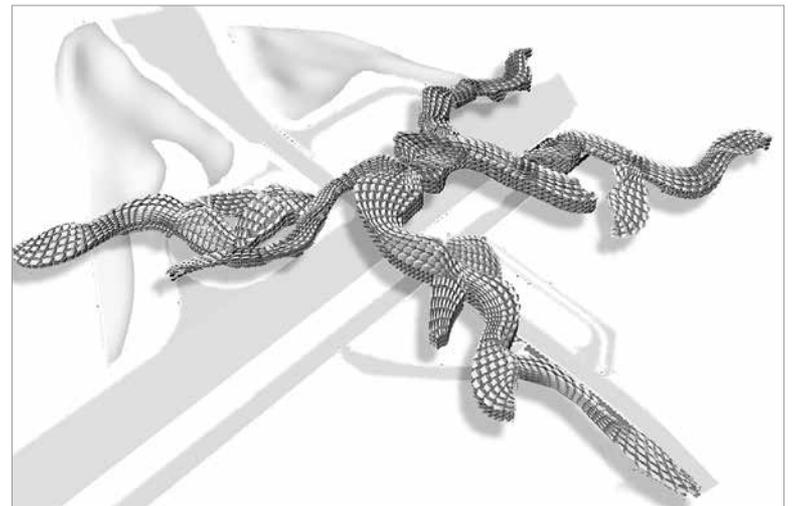
Curing Waters: A Desalination Destination

Nareg Ghazarian

California has always consumed more water than it receives from natural sources, and in order to fight current as well as future droughts, a more sustainable solution must be established. My thesis project is a desalination plant that extends the existing initiative to construct 15 desalination plants in Southern California. This project focuses on sectionally conjoining an industrial facility with a popular urban and tourist destination. I am proposing a desalination plant integrated with the seaside landscape by being submerged into the ocean and integrating it with the public spaces above. The desalination plant is strategically paired with a public drought and climate educational center in hopes of provoking the deepest impression on the visitors and contributing to an optimistic conclusion regarding the climate issues California is facing. The sea creature-influenced structure responds to the tides, orients to the form of the nearby Santa Monica pier and provides visual connections between the submerged and emerged programs.

CULTIVO (Food for the City)

Christian Gomez

In response to the strain and inefficiency that has been put on the global food system due to the continuous increase in population and relocation to urban areas such as Los Angeles, CULTIVO offers a new landscape to provide truly local and organic food to the community. This new infrastructure inhabits the air space in the city attaching itself to existing high-rise buildings to challenge our views of the farm and garden. Not only does CULTIVO optimize the air space in the city, it reduces its environmental footprint by enhancing energy management and improving the experience of the building occupants in the existing highrise building. CULTIVO will accommodate a new self-sustaining farm, a farmers market, and housing for live-in farmers atop three neighboring buildings along Wilshire Blvd. CULTIVO's goal is to act as model/prototype for other existing highrise buildings within the city, as well as to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Sacred Harbor: Wilshire Retreat Center

Genesis Hernandez

In the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California sit 26 oil and gas drilling platforms. Varying in size, depth and mobility, they will be decommissioned within the next century. The current method for rig removal is explosion, which costs millions of dollars and destroys massive amounts of aquatic life. These steel platforms extend from their foundations on the ocean floor, where they are firmly affixed through massive infrastructure. The Santa Barbara Oil Rig, Harvest, will be transformed into an aesthetically pure retreat center.

In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God. The Wilshire Retreat Center refreshes and revitalizes, giving opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation, and rekindling and deepening one's relationship with God, just one mile down Wilshire Boulevard. This place will be part church, part community center and part school of theology, that will participate in the family of temples and cathedrals from across the Los Angeles region.
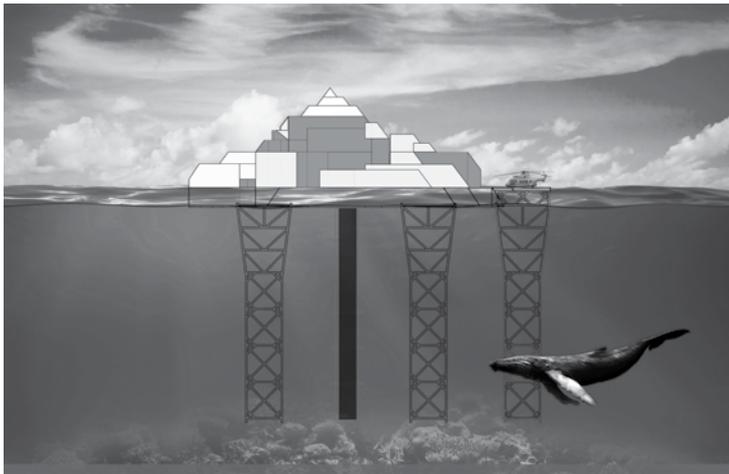
Reflected City

Orbel Mangasar

The Los Angeles National Cemetery is a burial ground for war veterans and a sacred place which reached capacity in 1978. The city of Los Angeles is growing horizontally and a transition from horizontal to vertical growth is beginning to occur. My thesis focuses on the relationship between horizontality and verticality. It is an urban response to this problem.

My solution will honor veterans and allow them to be buried in this land. My proposal rethinks this cemetery's density and changes the direction of expansion and growth into verticality. The Wilshire Blvd towers serve as vertical inspiration, and are inverted on my site to create places for burial, interment, cremation and grieving. It reflects the Los Angeles transition from horizontal to vertical growth.

Atmosphere, light and silence become the key elements for this underground cemetery. Death, a transition from light to dark to light again, is revealed in the major elements: towers, chapels, columbaria, mausoleums and galleries.

My agenda is to create vertical urban cemeteries which rethinks burial in Los Angeles as a necropolis.
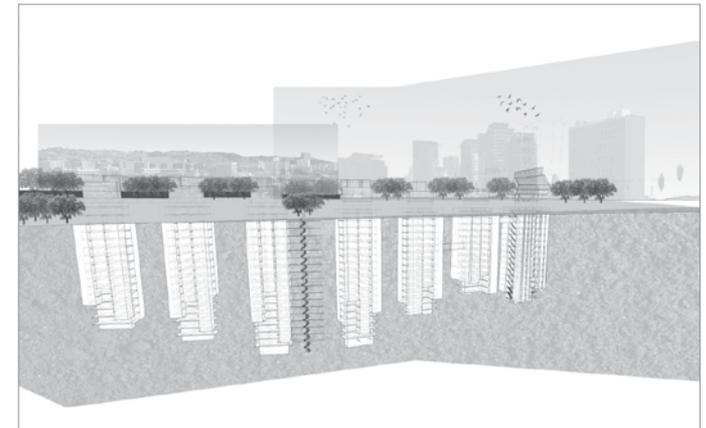
The Diverted Fault Line

With increased environmental concerns, it is of crucial importance to magnify public awareness about natural disasters such as earthquakes. This project addresses this concern with a building that lies on a seismic fault line in Santa Monica. The diverted fault line on the site divides the program of the building into three main areas: prevention-education, training and response-rescue. The organization of the areas is based on the image of a building that has suffered the effect of an earthquake breaking it open. The fracture re-connects spaces to convey new ways of understanding the importance of being prepared. The design will be an example of a structure that is able to withstand upsetting forces with effective structural stability and provide post-disaster aid. The architecture provides services to the public while visually broadcasting the threat and consequences of a seismic event.

Karla Navarro
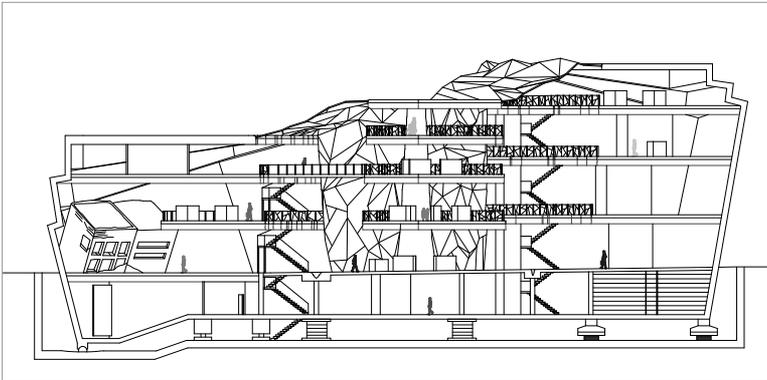
Nurturing Architecture: Rethinking Subacute* Care

Current subacute facilities rarely serve the specific customized care that patients require. I propose to innovatively provide medical/habitable spaces that address subacute patients' physical and mental states. Sited along the V.A. Hospital park on Wilshire Blvd., existing trees and new water features within and around the building mediate both visual and audio surrounding elements. By providing a diverse collection of subacute units, patients' medical conditions can be affected by their architectural environments. The building utilizes varying levels of transparency and privacy using materially identifiable patient rooms oriented to gardens, the existing hospital, Wilshire Blvd. and the surrounding park.

*Subacute care serves patients who do not require acute care, but still need intensive skilled nursing care and nurturing from loved ones. Subacute patients have little bodily control and require special services like inhalation therapy, tracheotomy care, intravenous feeding and complex wound management.

Juan Carlos Rodriguez
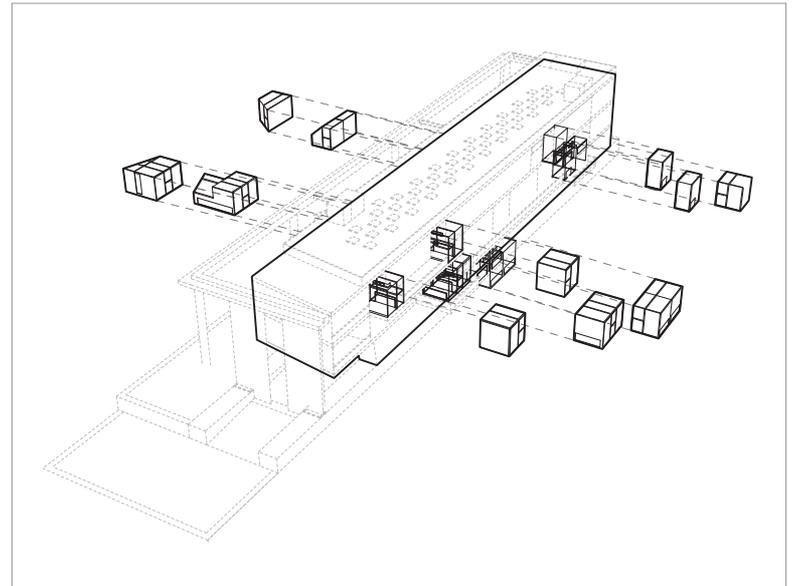
Transgressive Layering (Fourth Wilshire)

Crystal Gateway

Jora Rostami

"Fourth Wilshire" brings a new lifestyle and suspended experiences to Los Angeles. It breaks the conventions of office tower spaces, providing a disturbed energy by carving space, punching walls, melting floors, tunneling, bridging and connecting various floors of downtown L.A. towers with fabricated pathways, corridors and slides. There are no limitations in these areas; these spaces give freedom to the workers to do anything they want or feel. When people walk through the towers, they will notice unusual and unique spaces, which distract from the formal atmosphere and engage the human body to experience varied spaces above the street. Once they enter these spaces, they will feel that they are in a different world, suspended between office tower spaces. They will do their regular daily errands and activities but in a different atmosphere with new experiences. The transgressive layering process can occur in several different tower locations along Wilshire Blvd.

Aygun Sanchez

Santa Monica is rich in history and has various points of interest that attract both local citizens and tourists everyday. The city is best known for its breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, the upbeat shopping district at Third Street Promenade and its restaurants and bars along the Pacific Coast Highway. The proposed structure, consisting of tower, tunnel and bridge, will condense the different activities Santa Monica is best known for. It will be a gateway to Wilshire Blvd. and Santa Monica Beach, while responding to the existing high-rise across the street. This building will be a mixed-use space that houses a hotel, restaurant, shopping and entertainment activities such as a bar and small theater, while creating an underground channel that will provide direct access to the beach. In order to promote the underground connection, the space is reprogrammed into a vertical form. Crystal Gateway will be an iconic amusement building that compliments Paradise Pier.
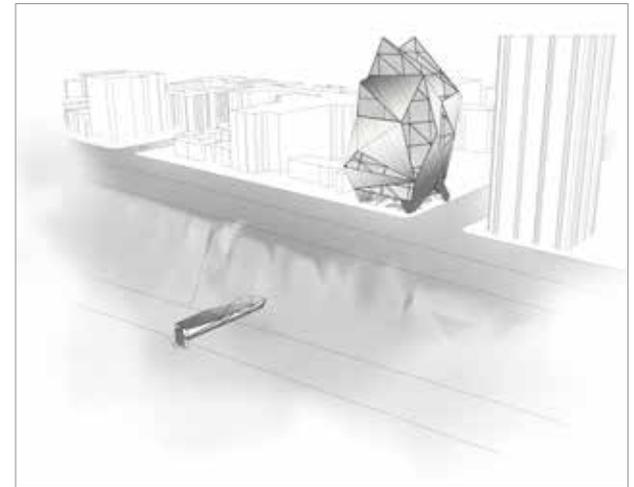
**Transforming the Block:
an Inter-Generational Reconfiguration**

This project transforms an underutilized city block with vacant commercial units, underused parking lots and uninviting edge conditions into a cohesive urban community. It alleviates the social isolation of seniors and promotes cross-generational relationships to benefit the entire community.

This design removes walls that divide parcels, moves parking underground to open up outdoor spaces and expands pedestrian circulation to connect buildings. This reclaimed space consists of a mix of public and private uses and strategic adjacencies that promote interaction: vegetable gardens becomes staggered platforms for children, a stage sits next to cafe tables and a grassy square becomes a giant chessboard.

The heart of the project is an integrated retirement home and pre-school. It includes a communal dining hall, grand stairs/ramps, live/work housing, a café and a park. It is an urban design prototype for many Los Angeles city blocks. The design goes vertical and underground, making spaces for discovery and surprise.

**Joseph Marc
Tamayo**
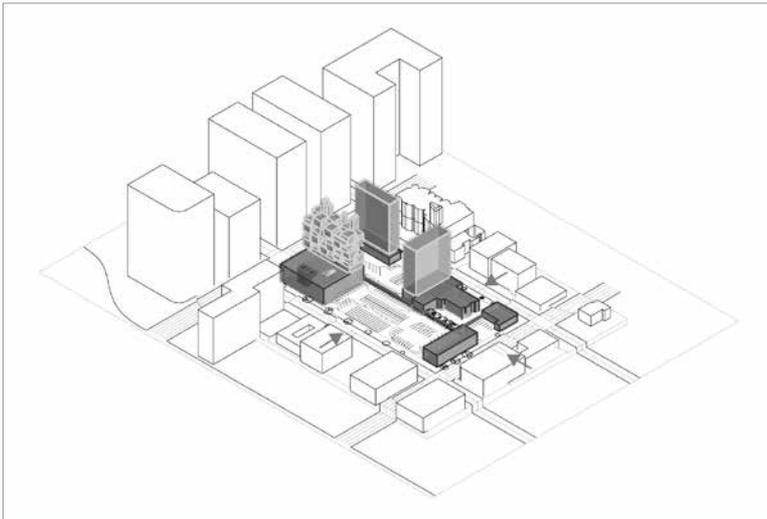
External Link: Revealing Urban Data

One Wilshire, the 1966 downtown Los Angeles tower that terminates the east end of Wilshire Boulevard, houses more than 20 stories of servers and fiber optic cable that connects the western United States to Asian Pacific markets. This project transforms the existing building façade to a habitable liminal zone between a series of public and private spaces. This excavated and extended space provides locations to attain data and to conjoin the virtual and the physical through shared exercise areas. The occupied façade will continuously be in construction and renovation. The data center rooms will reward individuals with extra gigabytes of data usage and information when they use the building's fitness centers and contribute art and construction skills to the building's gallery spaces. The gallery spaces will display the physical and informational growth of Los Angeles through time, as well as the development of Wilshire Boulevard.

Jaime Zavala
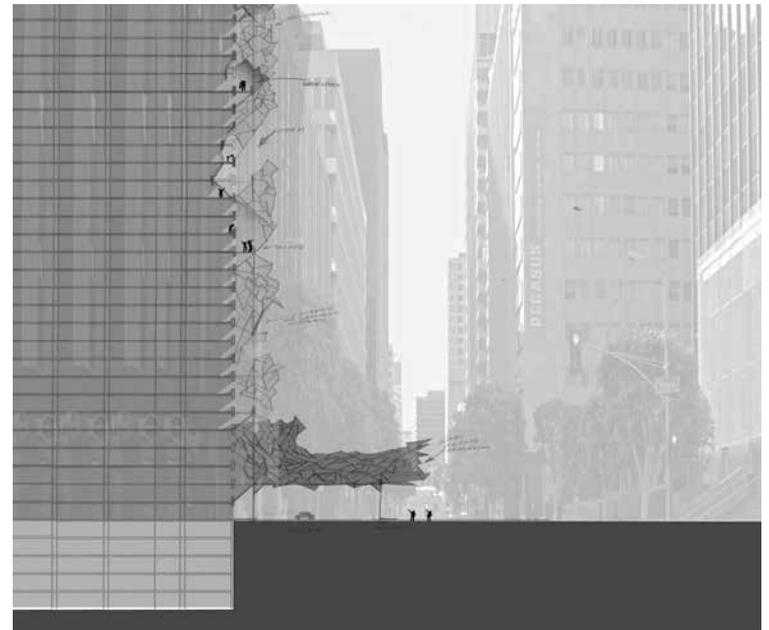
Joshua Stein and **Paulette Singley,**
Instructors

The Saturated Archive

Archives may include encyclopedic collections that attempt to gather together all knowledge, but more often, they tend to be specialized, even idiosyncratic repositories that focus on a very narrow subject matter. They usually reveal more information about the tendencies of the collecting individual than about any particular subject matter and may therefore be understood to be saturated by the predilections of their initiators and keepers. However, these archives serve a purpose as a semi-organized counterpoint to the accepted versions of history. While archives may be less accessible than larger collecting institutions, they fill in the gaps which are often overlooked by a Noah's Ark selection strategy.

But we might also understand the saturated archive in an archaeological framework where the earth is often the connective medium between desired artifacts from various moments in the past. In this case, the soil in an archaeological dig plays the role of impediment and matrix – that which slows a discovery of the past, yet that which holds it together.

Within the model of the "saturated archive" we should find the freedom to explore any interest or desire while provoking and curating a discussion on a myopically precise contemporary condition through one clear architectural proposal.

Students

Gaurav Ambekar

Nancy Arevalo

Ivan Avila Gomez

Nathan Fisher

Hugo Garcia

Samfe Gaye

Nicholas Giglia

Nubar Gyunashyan

Avetis Hagopian

John Hu

Lauren Kelsey

Linda Muradyan

Anomeh Naylous

Antonio Piralyan

Anette Zakarian

**Guarav
Ambekar**

This project seeks to identify an architectural response to rising sea levels in the San Francisco area that will be caused by climate change and threaten to cover a substantial amount of the urban fabric in the Sunset district. It also suggests modifying existing zoning codes to accommodate change in existing housing densities to increase the amount of available affordable housing. Liquid design processes — a series of plaster drip maps and fluid exercises — produced a generative form developed in response to the ways in which architecture may positively respond to, rather than resist, the forces of ocean water. Understanding fluid dynamics and the movement of water upon variable different surfaces informs strategies for a terraformed landscape.
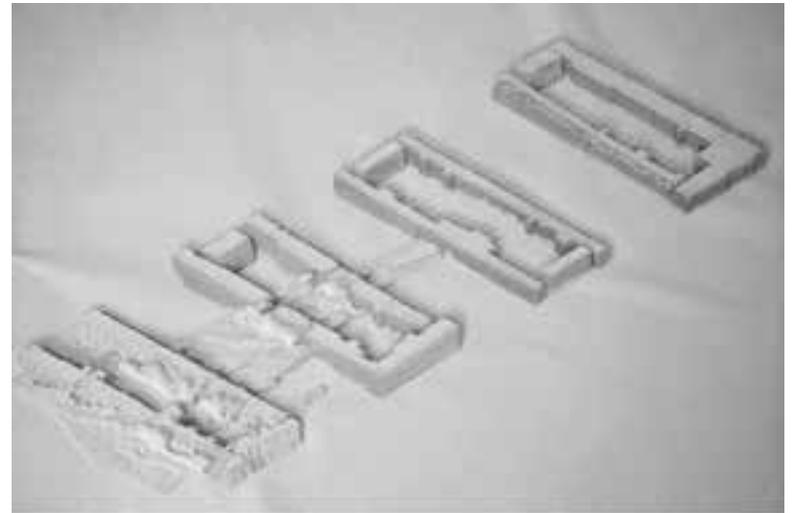
Refugio Para Mujeres :
Translating Bahareque Vernacular into an Architecture
for Everyday Life

This project for the design of a hybrid women's
shelter/halfway house, located in the city of Santa
Tecla, El Salvador, translates the traditional Cen-
tral American building technique of bahareque—a
wood, bamboo and mud house—into a tectonic
model for articulating women's domestic spatial
practices from this part of the world. Bahareque
has been used in El Salvador since before the
arrival of the Spaniards, however nowadays it's
seen as construction technique in rural areas. Not
only will this project transition the vernacular of
the bahareque into an architecture that serves
the everyday purposes of a woman's life, but also
integrate it back into the urban environment.
Although this shelter/halfway house is at an insti-
tutional size, the intent is for it to not feel like an
institution but a place where women can tempo-
rarily call home, learn to be independant and be
reintegrated into society.

Nancy Arevalo
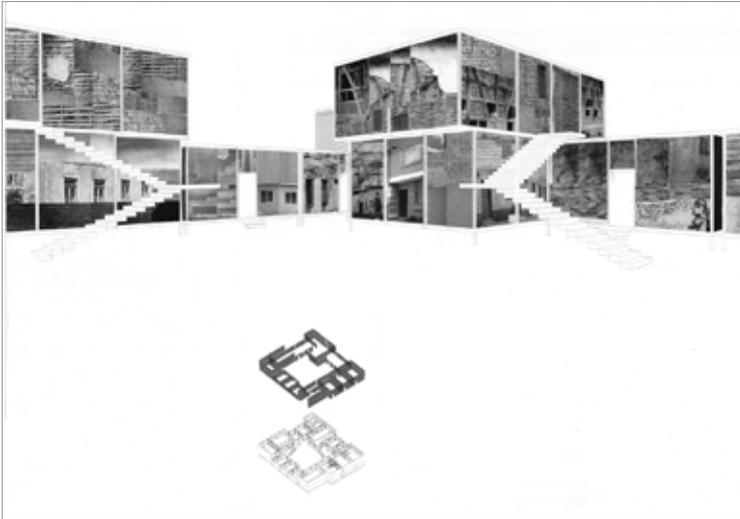
Centro de Archivo de Acervo Mexicano (CAAM)

The superimposition of sectional fragments form
an Aztec temple and a Christian Cathedral, fused
into a mat building hovering over the archeo-
logical site of el Templo Mayor in Mexico City,
produces a spatial labyrinth composed of physical
and visual connection, detours and dead ends.
The program is an archiving facility, for the preser-
vation and exhibition of Mexican cultural artifacts
the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE) and
the Precuraduría General de la República (PGR)
recovered from the black market. The discordance
and cohabitation of these artifacts produces a
new space for collection of memory. While CAAM
primarily operates as a research facility, it shelters
the archeological site of el Templo Mayor as a
floating plinth and establishes a clear relationship
between artifacts and their original environment.

Ivan Avila Gomez
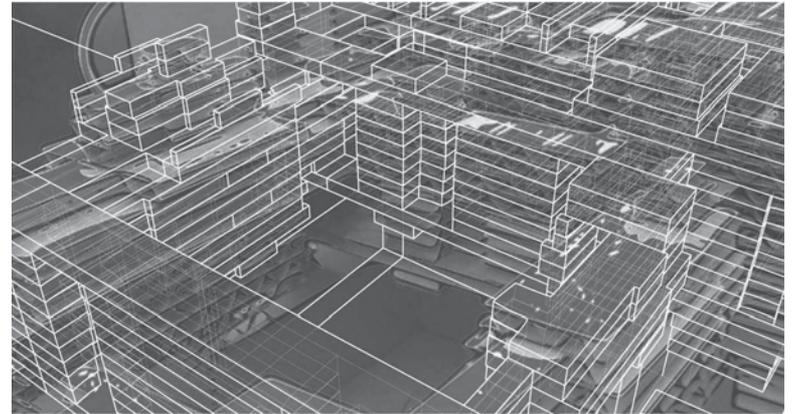
Moments of Excellence :
Typological Place-Making in Los Angeles

Nathan Fisher

Architecture in Los Angeles thrives on constant reset. The city's perpetual movement to reinvent itself has resulted in the lack of a definitive architectural style, as the production of formal objects situated in an informal manner, often ignoring existing urban patterns.

This project researches regional architectural typologies unique to L.A. and develops new, formal relationships from a heightened proximity between existing local precedents. The typologies of a mini-mall, retaining wall, pedestrian stair, apartment, and single-family house describe a generic vernacular, the formal logics of which suggest a set of rules and design methodologies to transform the Silversun Plaza, a typical strip-mall located on Sunset Boulevard, into a project that emerges from the neighborhood fabric of Silver Lake.

This proposal for a new plaza — replete with retail, housing, and public space — offers a model for a rethought urban form in Los Angeles that is composed of the very conditions that already exist. The intention is to create a series of redefined spatial moments derived from the spaces in between, a compositional study of these typologies arranged as an intersecting aggregate located at the intersection of a hillside site and a major thoroughfare.


Incongruous Folds

Hugo Garcia

Situated at the DzMix Masterdz intersection of Telegraph Road and Atlantic Boulevard, this project translates the shadow economies of quotidian businesses throughout Los Angeles into a folded landscape that extracts an architectural response to site from a neglected context. The operation of folding derives from the site's overlooked, idiosyncratic, and incongruous features of railroad tracks, freeway overpasses, and sectional striation. The site features are folded into retaining walls, walking paths, and barriers. The process of revealing the programmatic shadows of an underground economy offers a model for identifying design opportunities from within an improvisational urban fabric. The operation of folding these various economies into each other redistributes otherwise buried functions such as public transportation, financial services, agricultural growth, or support systems on a continuous, onto an imbricate, surface. As an operative strategy, folding allows the topography to be augmented into site conditions necessary to accommodate these otherwise submerged programs.
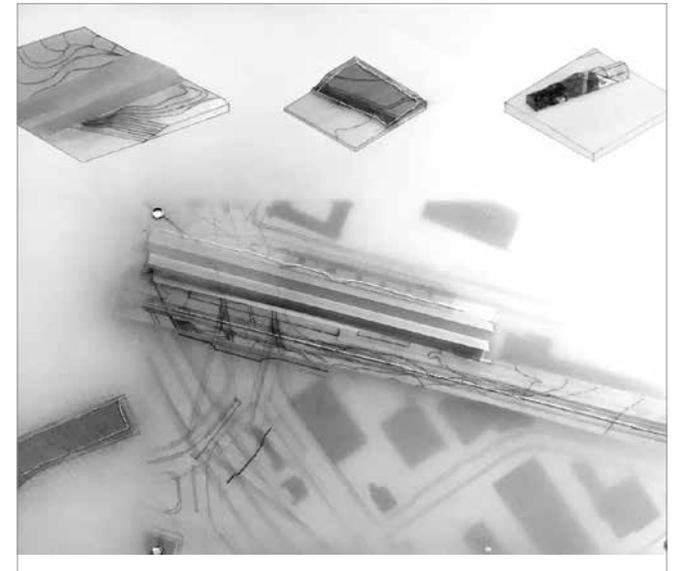
**Envision Textiles, NOT Surfaces:
Stitched Architecture**

Gottfried Semper's understanding that the tec-
tonics of strings anticipates architectural form
influences the focus of this project to define
space through processes of stitching rather than
applied surfaces. Textiles derived from the local
cultural traditions of Liberia inform areas of
occupancy through patterns of density, opacity,
and color, transforming the conventional way we
see a wall in space from planar to woven fields.
Prefabricated structural frames inserted into
the existing concrete of the Ministry of Defense
Building, inform the weave of the textiles and
unify inhabitable space. The textile itself oper-
ates as a fabric screen draping over these pre-
fabricated frames to stitch / knit together the
missing dimension of enclosure needed to give
life to this abandoned building.

Samfe Gaye
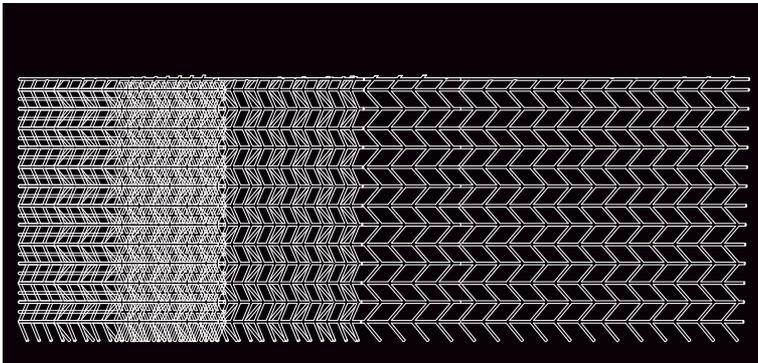
Stacked Suburbia

The process of stacking a variety of domestic
typologies offers a strategy for the design of a me-
dium-density suburban community located at the
site of the Chatsworth Reservoir. This neighbor-
hood is designed to accommodate families from
different socio-economic levels by mixing multiple
types of housing on individual lots. As an experi-
mental response to existing building codes, which
subdivide lots horizontally, the project explores
the potential of subdividing lots vertically to
produce residences with a range of combinatory
living experiences. Topographic manipulation of
the landscape creates buildable lots with embed-
ded utilities that facilitate the construction of the
stacked residences, suggesting a general form that
remains open to unique architectural expression
on each individual lot.

Nicholas Giglia
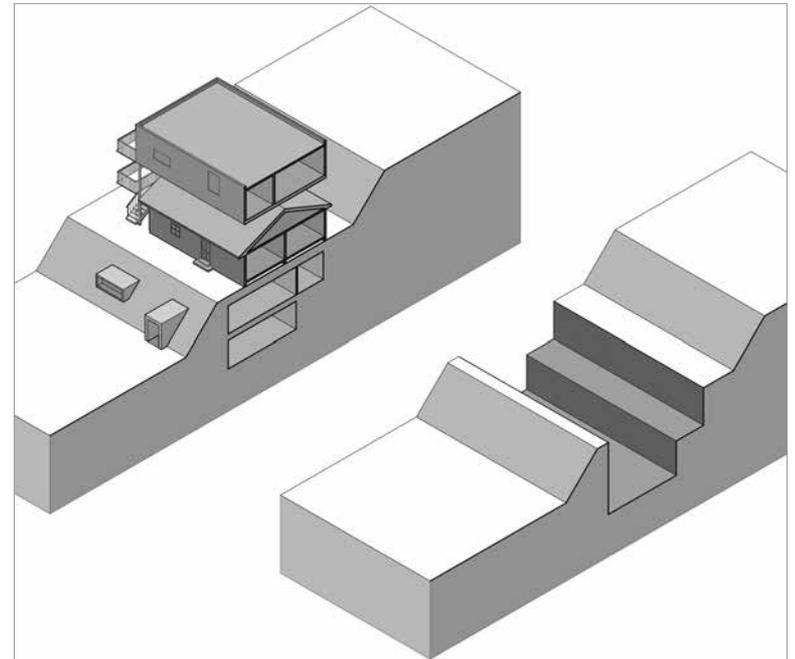
Entropic M³

**Nubar
Gyunashyan**

Massive, Monolithic, and Monumental architecture implies significance through stillness, and yet, the processes of entropy and gravity persistently and imperceptibly erode M3's resistance to change. Given that infinitely decaying monolithic infrastructures assert themselves as "places with timeless presence (RobertSmithson)," their latent instability gives way to an architecture of subtle movement. This project gives architectural presence to the imperceptible movement of a significant M3 building located at the Los Angeles harbor in SanPedro. Rather than demolish what isalready in decay, Entropic M3 questions the status quo by continuously ingesting itself into a new architecture which mirrors its economic and cultural attributes. Entropic M3 is a new kind of functional monolith which represents past and present conventional systems of commerce and infrastructure in order to clear a path for new fundamental mechanisms to evolve and to evoke new ways of thinking about what it means to trade on a global scale.

The Sustaining City

**Avetis
Hagopian**

"Each situation requires a new architecture." – Jean Nouvel

The Sustaining City is an urban space unique to the climate and the culture of Rio de Janeiro that involves splitting the existing Maracana Stadium into 4 zones, combining housing, farming, recreation and factory into one area, synergizing live, work and play into a resilient architecture. The goal is to preserve the stadium's iconic exterior while entirely transforming its interior into a utopic, self-sustaining community that may serve the needs of Rio's impoverished citizens; those who were forcefully evicted from the formal city due to gentrification. The Sustaining City will harvest rainwater, solar energy, and agriculture to provide a self-sustaining economy for thousands of residents. This project explores episodic narratives, derived from a survival scenario as a methodology for transforming Maracana Stadium in its afterlife.
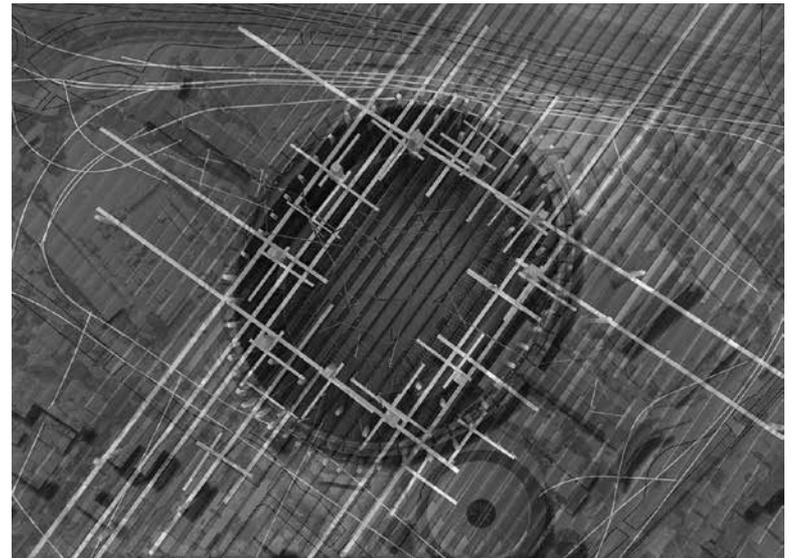
**Leaving Las Vegas:
Death, Rebirth, and Planned Obsolescence
in the Desert**

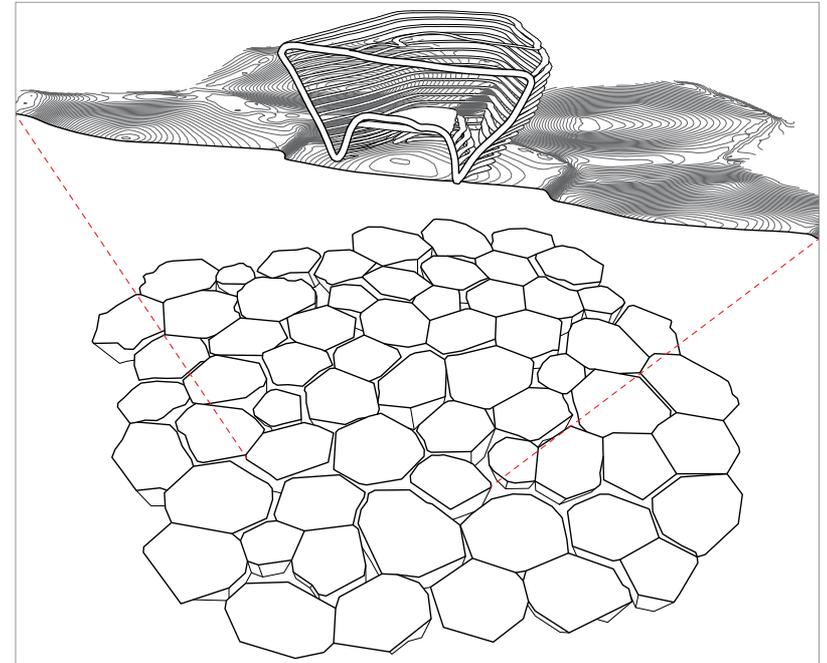**Geometry Extraction**

John Hu

Since the beginning of the 1990's Las Vegas's famous Strip has contended with the forced destruction of its historic and aging casino establishments. Over the past 70 years, most of the notable and iconic casinoshave met their death through implosion — in orderto make way for ever bigger, grander, and more fashionably designed complexes. While the demolition process necessarily results in substantial waste and pollution, it also ignores a building's historic and architectural essence. This thesis investigatesand exploits planned obsolescence as a viable design strategy for the rapid destruction of buildings in Las Vegas by harnessing an interchangeable façade/structure system that can update and down-cycle itself over time.

Lauren Kelsey

This project explores the natural geometries of the bubbling of tar during the seepage process present at the La Brea Tar Pit. Utilizing tar as a model making material imperfect versions of these molecular geometries can be rendered. Shifting from micro to macro scaling, an accumulation of imperfect geometries, then, informs the architectural strategy for modifying this site. A building structure that replicates these incongruent and irregular patterns serves as a canopy connecting a series of pavilions whose shapes and performative value address specific site conditions and activities referencing this unique site. This strategy of geometric extraction posits the integration between existing site conditions, site design, and architecture.

To Be Imploded Next

Imploded and Replaced   Imploded and Replaced

Imploded and Replaced   Imploded and Replaced

MIMBY (More In My Back Yard)

Linda Muradyan

Although the anatomy of postwar residential architecture in Los Angeles often privileges the living requirements of nuclear families, the modes of inhabitation of more diverse family structures merits a new model. Likewise, the single-family residence and its required setbacks have produced residual and underused spaces. A residential suburb in Sun Valley, California serves as a typical site to explore the potential for alternative, high intensity uses in these spaces and to make room for alternative modes of inhabitation that respond to increasingly diverse family structures. This project extends cellular spaces across an entire neighborhood block to create flexible thresholds and deploys domestic wallpaper patterns as clues for designingprogrammed surfaces. The intention is to blur the distinction between public and private thresholds into transitional spaces that take advantage of the opportunity to propose new economies and shared community activities such as rentable housing, storage exchange, workspaces, green rooms, and more.
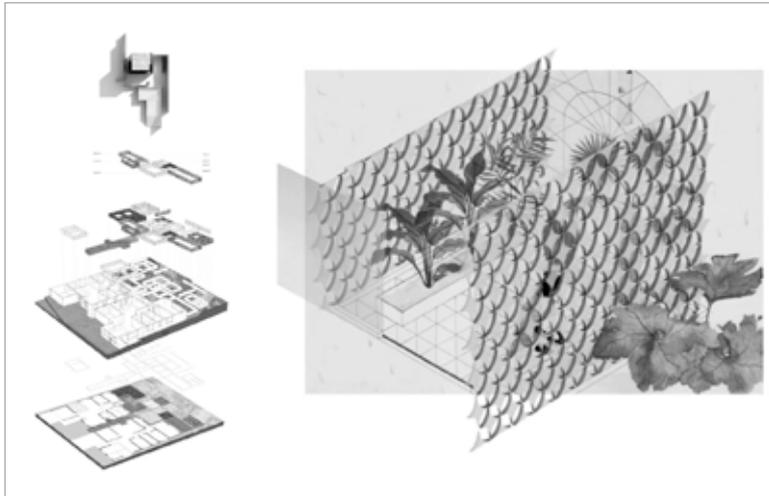
A Thin Place

Anomeh Naylous

The abandoned site between Hans Scharoun's Berlin Philharmonic hall (1963) and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's New National Gallery (1968) at the Kulturforum offers a specific historical context for extracting thin places from the intersecting formal logics of these two iconic buildings. Process-es of programmatic reorganization and shifting formal hierarchies develop tight adjacencies that produce thin places the implication of which suggest alternative spatial practices. The "thin place" that forms this project's research focus consists of both permanent and temporal design strate-gies. A permanent structure whose tectonic expression appears to hover above the ground plane draws its three-dimensional configuration from the projected geometries of the two bounding buildings. Temporal events, in turn, perform on a series of kinetic surfaces that create opportuni-ties for fluctuating activities. Walls become floors, interiors become exteriors, private spaces become public, and so on, operating in an dynamic apparatus that reconfigures this part of the city with new purpose. Methods of projection restructure Scharoun and Mies's formal language across the site through a process of extreme densification that produces thin spaces inspired by the dimension of the now missing Berlin Wall.

Park Kong

Antonio Piralyan

This project questions the typology of the sky-scraper in Central Hong Kong, in order to erode its envelop and replace enclosed floors with open high-density public space. According to Hong Kong's Urban Design Guidelines, there should be .5 m2 of public open space for each person living in the Business District. As an extreme response, this project provides the missing open space in Central Hong Kong into a single archi-tecture. Public space is a dynamic social arena, generally accessible to all people from all walks of life. With Hong Kong's government interested in gentrifying the city through a tourist econo-my, private developers have been sanctioned to transform existing public space into Mega-Malls. Exploiting the potential for private-public part-nerships, this project provides an alternative model to the public park by providing the added value of a dynamic social arena that circumvents the process of private developers consuming any space available.
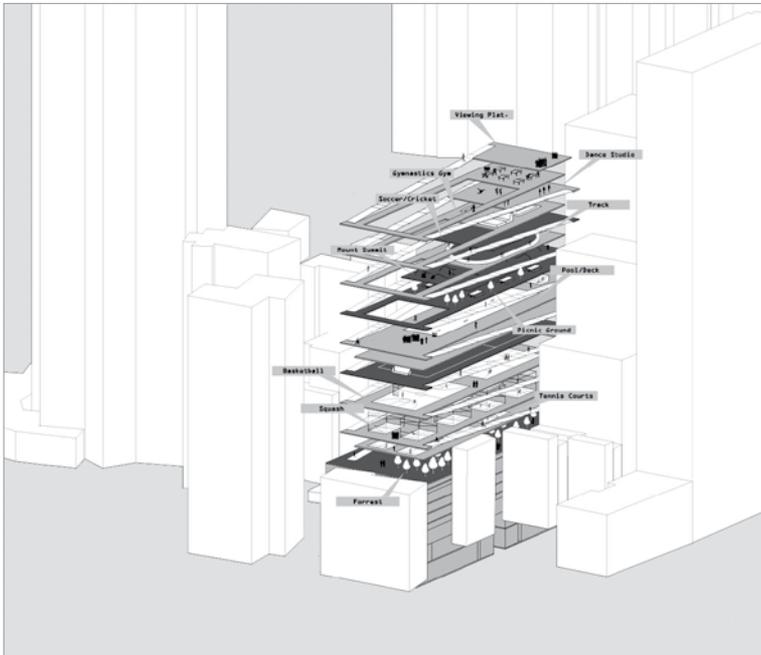

Co_mputational De_signing City

Anette Zakarian

This project proposes to introduce an experimental field of complex zoning codes created with the help of today's computational technologies. These rule sets will redistribute public and private spaces to profoundly shape and integrate this neighborhood's built environment in the city of Glendale. The codes will develop urban design methodologies that desegregate both formal typologies and land use patterns into heterogeneous and expansive fields. Decisions made across the site will critique, com-pare, and contrast the relationships between differ-ent program types, land uses, and typologies. These codes are written with the belief that social con-nection is important to a neighborhood, especially one with current juxtaposing zoning conditions.The contamination of different programs among exist-ing spaces as well as the influence of parametric urbanism across the site will illustrate opportunities of how these methods can be implemented in a contemporary type of zoning code that will critique traditional planning techniques.
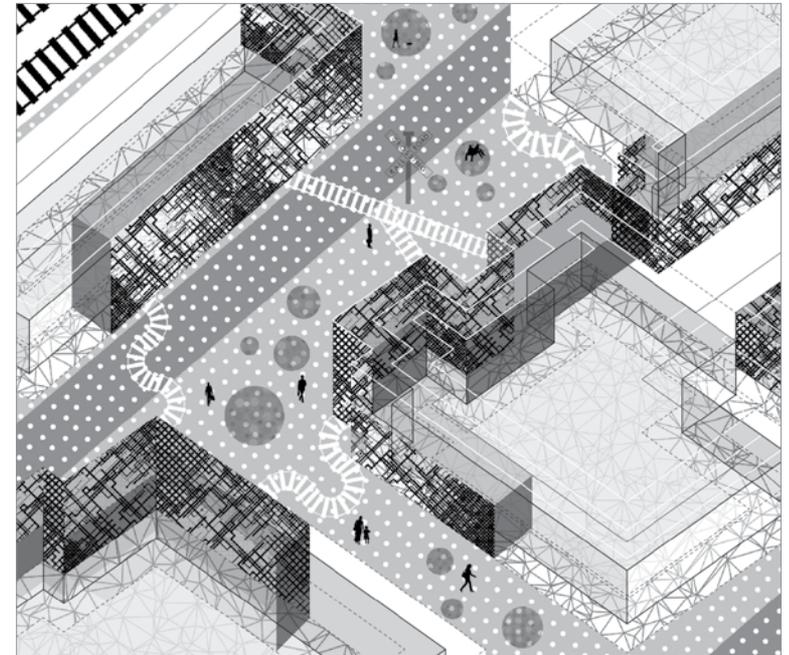
Alastair Stokes and **Rachel Allen,**
Instructors

Students

Eric Apodaca

Sana Arshad

Michelle Ascencio

Grigor Avetisyan

Maya El Helou

Francisco Espinoza

Gevik Ghazarian

Sean Joyner

Akop Karagyulyan

Joshua Marroquin

Kira Matila

Alan Mera

Ashil Pansuria

Maria Petrova

Lilian Shai

Make Believe

The critic and theorist Viktor Shklovsky, in his 1925 essay 'Art as Technique', posited that the connection between image and meaning is merely ephemeral. He claimed that to see a subject through a picture does not communicate knowledge of the "mutable complexities of life" — that is to say, 'meaning' — which might be contained in such a subject, but rather a relationship is developed between the viewer and the subject, a relationship based on a specific vision rendered by the picture.

Architects must be masters of both the subject and the picture, describing designs through representation and presentation. Extrapolating from Shklovsky's assertion, we situate the Architect and her tools in the expanded gap between, on the one hand, relationship and knowledge, and on the other, the design for a building and its audience.

During the course of the thesis semester the students have been encouraged to explore this gap, using tools of representation and presentation to defamiliarize their projects, to explain them in strange ways, and to simulate different audiences; all the while using the feedback to tune their verbal descriptions, edittheir stories, and reorient their drawings. We have taken the duration of viewing and extended it across the entire semester, encouraging students to construct their own realities in which to test their theses and to use the feedback provided in strengthening their project.

The goal is to develop thesis projects that act as reflections of the complexity of practice, whilst producing graduates who are able to use their situation as an Architect to the benefit of their design and its desired audience.

SKTN-Gateway

Los Angeles' commute is the worst in the nation, and the consequences of this fact are far-reaching. The objective of this project is to design and implement a dense and comprehensive program that provides insights into the various influences of Transit-Oriented Developments (TOD) on the city, in conjunction with the pre-existing Los Angeles 2026 masterplan for transportation.

Eric Apodaca
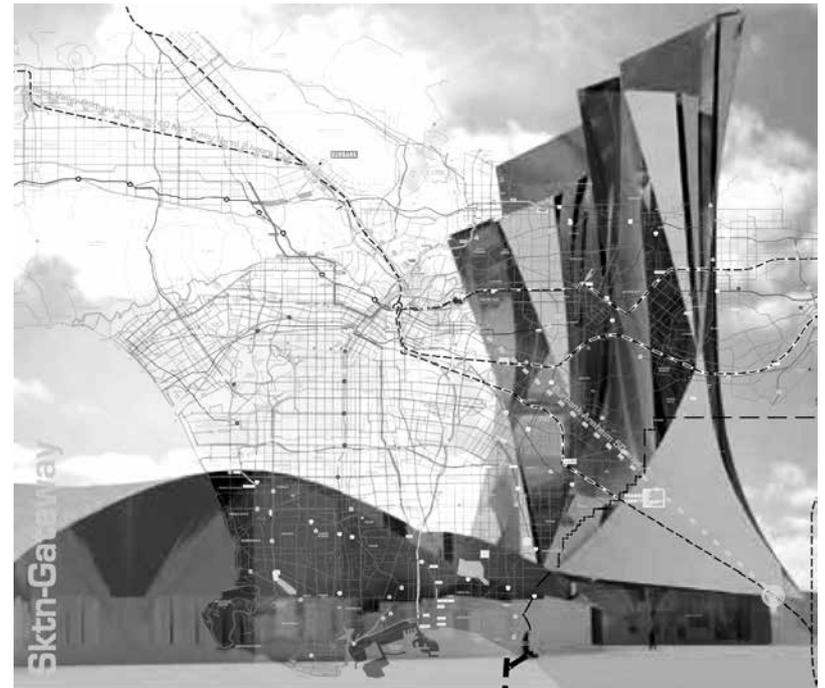
Immobile Mobility

Most people take mobility for granted – those who are fortunate not to be burdened by the results of tragic accident or biological disorder. The inability to be fully mobile and being isolated in a hospital room often leads to depression and loss of faith in recovery. By building on the idea of prosthetic architecture, a notion that describes the integration of a foreign characteristic into an existing condition, I believe it is possible to soften the patient's psychological borders through an opportunity to navigate the facility even while paralyzed. The project consists of a rehabilitation center, integrated into an existing, bombed hospital in Aleppo, Syria. The rehabilitation center focuses on both adults and children suffering from severe neurological and orthopedic disorders. The design strategies incorporate the science of human movement to become a therapeutic tool, actively assisting in the recovery process of patients.

Sana Arshad
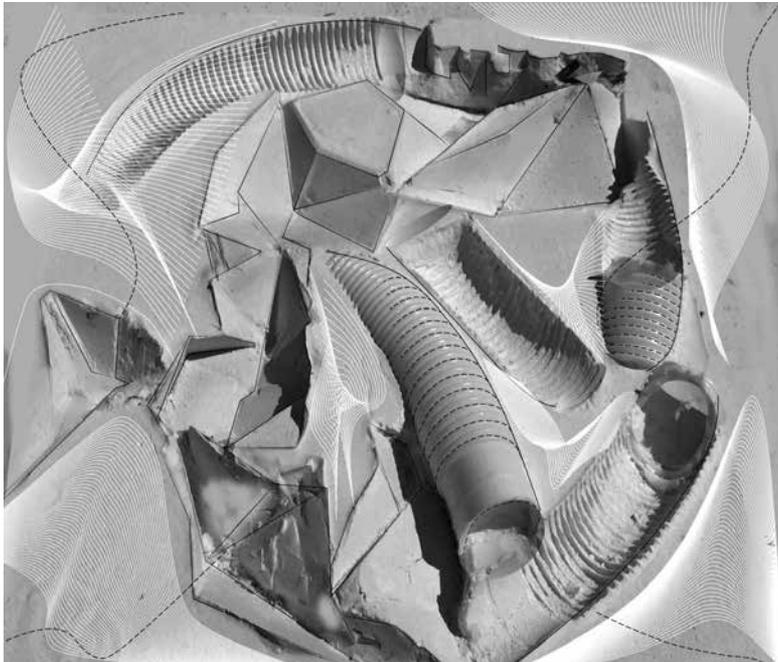
Didactic Opportunity Center

I am creating a learning experience through didactic architecture for homeless youth and adults. Broadening the way we look at sustainability, from a singular issue more into the sense of community, creating the potential for this community to recreate itself.

The architecture will focus on didactic opportunities to support student engagement in a laboratory classroom for learning (in, around, and on top of the facility), embracing a curriculum through conversation and exploration of sustainable practices, supporting the school's culture of conservation. The students will have the opportunity to study within a unique hybrid of living, teaching and practice, helping the students transition into working members of society. The didactic opportunities will facilitate conversation, study, research, learning, and a sense of community.

Michelle Ascencio
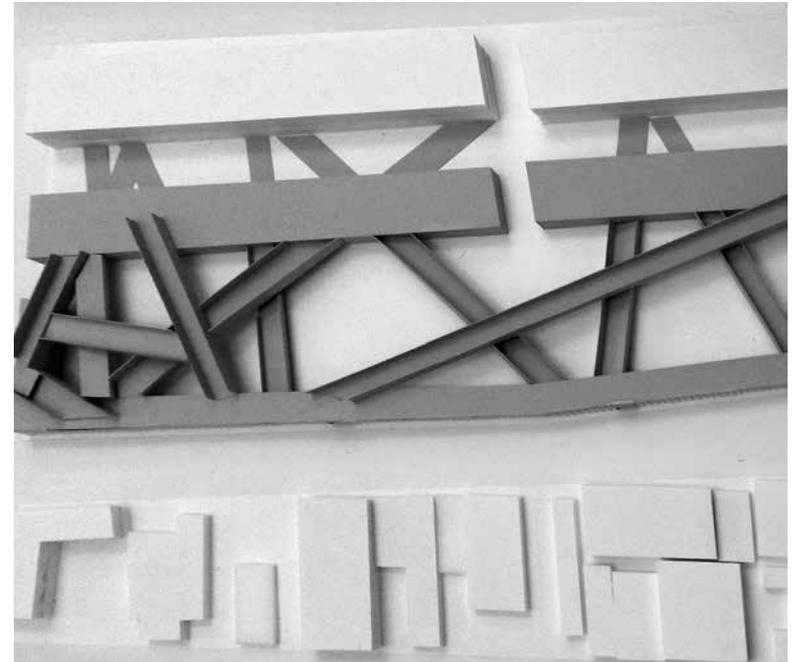
ReEducation

Imagine a world where schools are run like federal penitentiaries, gated holding areas separating students from danger with constant security surveillance. That is the standard most school districts have diminished to. Our education system is predicated on the idea of academic ability. There were no public systems of education before the 19th century, they all came to being to meet the needs of industrialism. In the world of industrialism, factory products like students make perfect factory products like employees. I believe in a system of education that is amplified through its architecture by redefining the hierarchy of curriculum and abandoning the fear of a connection to the outside world. The only way we can allow for growth for the future of our youth's education is by releasing them from the confinement of a classroom.

Grigor Avetisyan

Old Meets New

"A country without a past has the emptiness of a barren continent; and a city without old buildings is like a man without a memory," states British architect Graeme Shankland.

Old buildings are part of the fabric of the city and they are irreplaceable. By preserving them, some of the natural history of the place is preserved. The historic and social value of preserving old buildings makes a significant contribution to the beauty of the streets and cities. The proposal aims to learn from history, further developing construction and assembly by necessity. It is a reflection of the critical principles of modern architecture married to the historic style of the existing building, with domestic spaces relating to the preserved facades in uncanny and novel ways.

Maya El Helou

CDS Mission: Vertical Colony [001] Tyche

The colonial deliverance shuttle mission will establish a colony on Mars to resume humankind's story, reignite the excitement of discovery and exploration, and uncover the past of the red planet. The Martian colony will provide several functions: a research facility, dwelling for those who work and study on the colony, and a contingency plan in the wake of total environmental cataclysm. An ecological collapse on Earth won't be the final chapter for humankind for it will live on through our colonial efforts.

**Francisco
Espinoza**
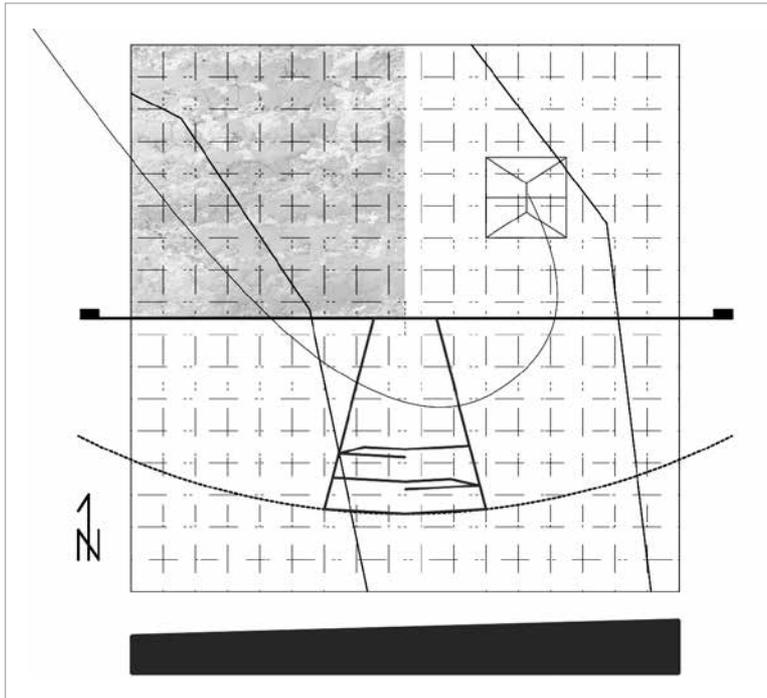
Glitch

With the turn of century we have become more and more dependent on technology and our devices. Virtual communication has become an important part of our daily lives. In the name of security, governments spend billions of dollars on lobbying and have gained the right to access and record our daily communication. As a result of this, new types of criminals have appeared with the collective name of 'Hackers'. Hackers are treated as a threat to national security because of their ability to extract and access classified information from different government agencies and multinational corporations. They permeate our virtual environments, but the physical space of the hacker is largely unknown. The project explores this problem using a case study in the striated domains of virtual network, government building, hacker, and architect.
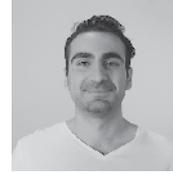
Gevik Ghazarian

The Phenomenon of Transition

We spend more than 80 percent of our life in the built environment. As a designer I ask myself, at what point during that time spent are we most aware of our surroundings? When is our most sensational moment of experience. I believe it is at our initial entry into a space. It is in our transitions through space that we are completely conscious of what is around us. This provides a unique point of opportunity for the architect. An opportunity that I believe has not been capitalized on yet. My thesis explores the possibilities of such an opportunity. And I lead that exploration with this question: How can an intermediary space exhibit the tension between expediency (passing through) and stoppage (lingering,contemplation, interruption,etc.)? My project wrestles with the architectural manifestations to such a question.

Sean Joyner
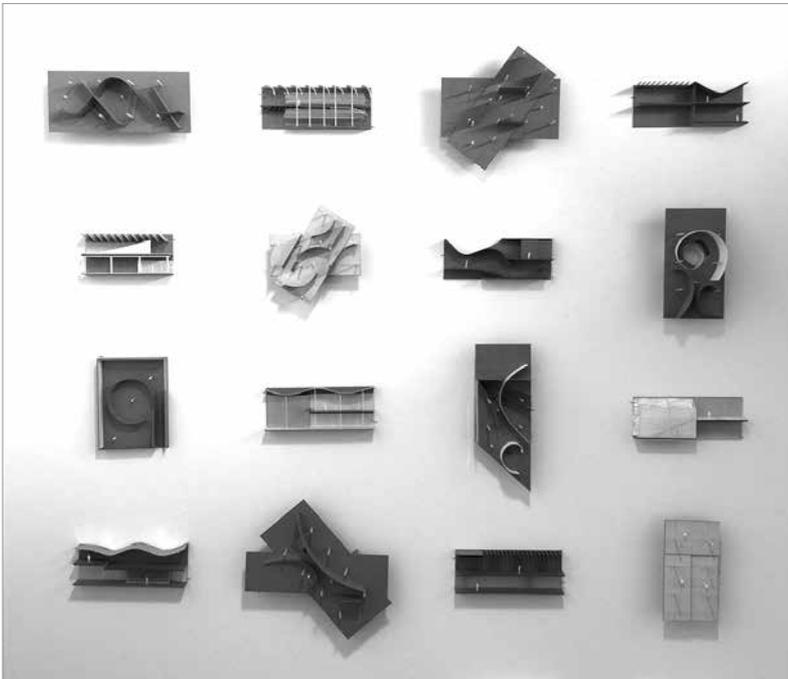
Rigged Archipelago

When we think of the near future, advanced technologies such as flying cars, robots, and 'Hyperloops' often come to mind. Alongside those advancements, we also envision the problem of density, scarcity of food and drinkable water due to exhausted natural resources, and abandoned infrastructure left behind from the past. As a solution, imagine a network of self-sustaining, floating megastructures offshore; which will not only create energy, food, and water for their own inhabitants, but will also give back and help to sustain the environmentally wounded cities of the past. To exercise and promote adaptive reuse, the decommissioned rig, Platform A, off the shore of Santa Barbara, will serve as a structural framework for a purposed megastructure. Along with necessary architectural components essential to sustain a multi-program megastructure, water desalination plants and hydroponic farms will be integral parts of the overall infrastructure as a means of creating food and water for all. Due to corporate greed, oil rigs have been exploiting our natural resources for too long. It's time to redesign them for the benefit of the public.

**Akop
Karagyulyan**

Fairfax Brigade

Artificial Ground

Skateboarding in the United States has grown to become the eighth most popular sport in the country. In 2016, skating has evolved to a point where it needs its own skateboarding district. This proposed district would sit between the streets of Fairfax, Beverly, La Brea, and Melrose. The new region aims to raise awareness of the positive effects of skateboarding on the youth; by creating different hubs that mixes the program of skateboarding and the traditional classroom. The hubs will be situated within different leased buildings along the district. Architecturally the project learns from the representational opportunities of spaces experienced via skateboard. Plans, sections, and isometric drawings are drawn in relation to how the skateboard(er) interprets the space. Now the skater becomes the architect, exposing the positive effects on the youth.

Joshua Marroquin
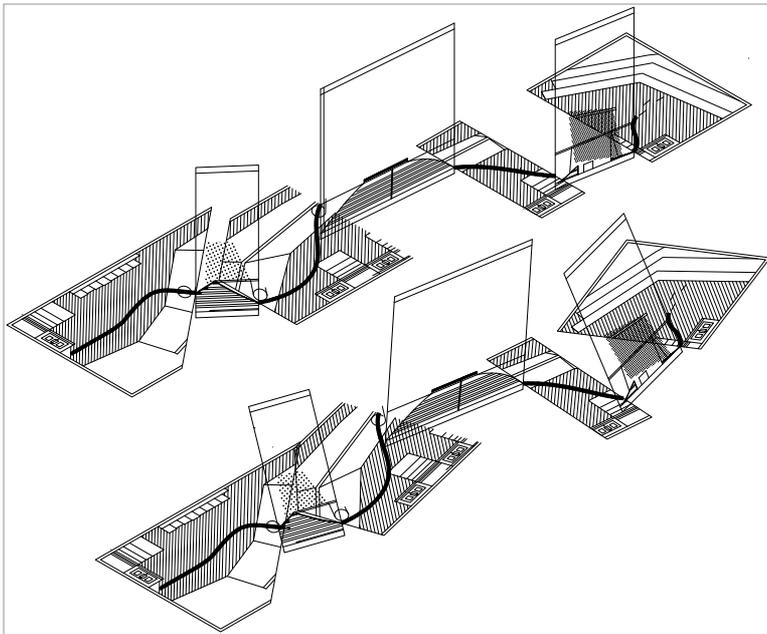
As earthquakes continue to be an issue in California, so will the structural stability of our architecture and the safety of our families. The 1994 Northridge Earthquake is one of many that has left cities destroyed and residents without homes. In response, this proposal seeks to create an earthquake research and educational facility. The architecture contains a series of shake tables that will have the ability to focus on current structural issues specific to California, such as the ordinance for the retrofitting for dingbats. The tables will be orchestrated within the architecture giving visitors the opportunity to move through the site in a manner akin to an open site museum — the circulation runs between, above, and beneath the shake tables and exhibits for educational purposes. This artificial ground sits in the middle of a San Fernando Valley neighborhood along the Los Angeles river, allowing residents to be integrated with the potential reality of the destruction earthquakes make possible.

Kira Matila
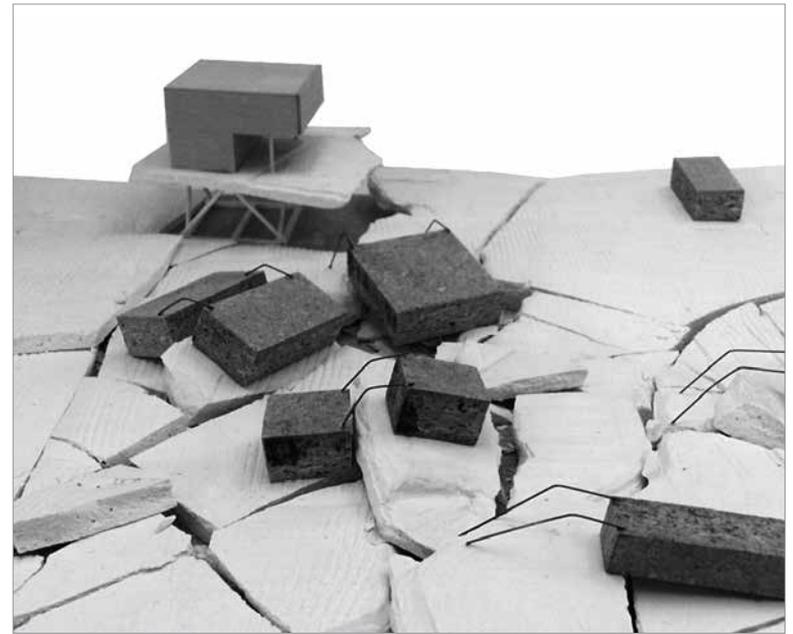
Flood Habitat

The current map of Manhattan will require an update in less than 100 years from now as the changing sea levels threaten the city's border. Sea level rises, as a consequence of climate change, directly affect the population of Manhattan. By the year 2100, the threat of an estimated six feet increase to the water levels will inundate 21% of the city. The proposal for Flood Habitat is a resilient superstructure for the New York Downtown Alliance, embodying the organization's core philosophy in its dedication to promoting business development and improvement to quality of life for its inhabitants. Flood Habitat will bridge the gap between water and land, bringing space that will engage, educate, and protect the people. Encompassing areas of work, living and play to the core of the project.


Alan Mera

Occupied Gaps

Historically, the courtyards within the buildings of Berlin were only accessible to their inhabitants. Post Second World War, the courtyard spaces have transitioned into varying annexes that shift between public and private territories. The intent of the proposal accepts the spaces as public rights of way suggesting interventions occupying the courtyards to address the change in Berlin's urban environment, advocating the need for spaces to be inhabited at various levels within the courtyard spaces. The interventions consist of shell-like-membranes that shift geometrically according to the site conditions by form-found shape. An alternative approach is taken by designing for refugees to occupy spaces that are developed off of the shell-like-geometry. It is an unusual juxtaposition of reality and idealism, the result of which is a provocation to cities trying to accommodate refugee populations in an urban environment resistant to sociological change.


Ashil Pansuria
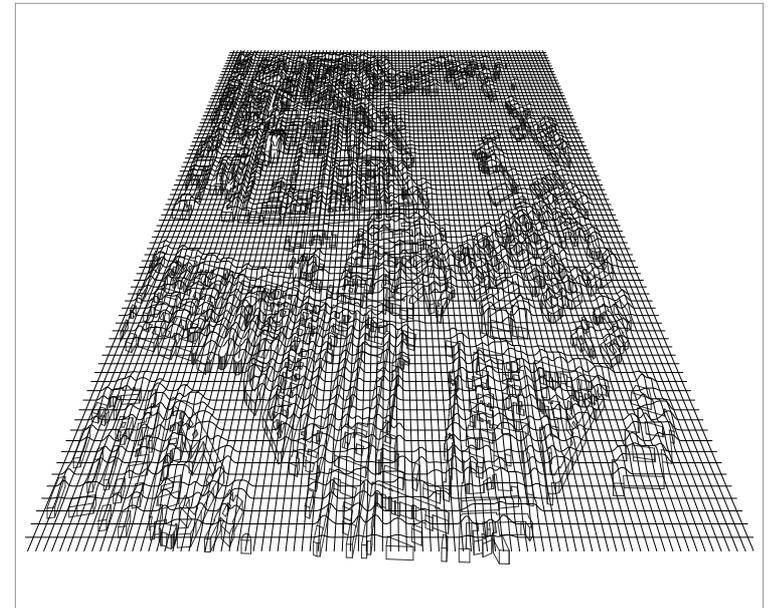
Detroit Public

In the age when population is rapidly shifting into dense urban environments there is a curious phenomenon — while some cities are getting overcrowded, others are decaying and becoming abandoned. Detroit Public suggests that such a difference can be attributed to a lack of public spaces and social activities available in the area. The project encompasses an invasion of public spaces into the bland suburban fabric of Detroit. Seven such invasions are proposed on sites of current public libraries throughout the city. The seven public spaces are to become attractor points to generate seven new independent but interconnected urban cores. The architecture of such interventions and the resulting dense urban environment is to be generated from the most familiar Detroit typology—the domestic abode. Through simple transformation of its architectural elements, an icon of "the private" is to become an element of the community and therefore, "the public."

Maria Petrova
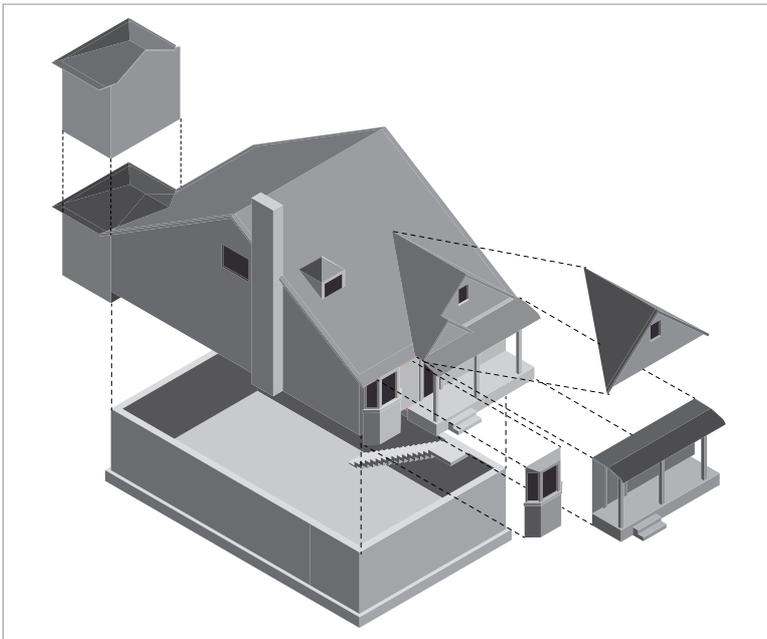
Entertainment Box

We are living in a place where there is more space devoted to parking than actual roads themselves. There are at least three parking spaces for every car in Los Angeles. Nowadays there are lots of abandoned car parks all around the Los Angeles due to people using other types of transportation. There are lots of people who bike or use Uber to get to their desired destinations rather than using their personal vehicle.

By having a better public transportation system in the near future there will be lots of unoccupied or half-occupied car parks. What is going to happen to these structures? How can we transform them and use them for other programs. My proposal is to transform the parking structure into a place for community where people can interact together and use the car park for something more than a destination for their cars but also for themselves.

Lilian Shai

Yi-Hsiu Yeh and **Catherine Garrison,**
Instructors

(de)Laminating Space

Students

Crytal Chan

Peter Flores

Juan Hernandez

Vardan Kasemyan

Celine Khashadoori

Jung Mi Kim

Ho Yin Lai

Samuel Lewis

Saten Mkrtchian

Avedis Nalbandian

Thien Nguyen

Tigran Parsamyan

Mauricio Pensamiento

Ariel Souza

Ling Tseng

A Laminated Condition is a set of overlaid relationships where all forces and interests are collapsed, flattened and coalesced into a whole or contained within a space.

We began by looking at the architectural constraints, site context, modes of inhabitation and the interplay of germane powers/forces/interests through the lens of De-lamination. In Bernard Tschumi's Manhattan Transcripts, architectural conditions were divided into Event, Space and Movement. Instead of directly employing Tschumi's strategy, we interrogated the concept that each of these three levels of reality is a readily visible facet of a problem that requires further delamination from within in order for latencies to be revealed.

Through delamination as a mode of operation, we continued to explore questions such as: Could a great architecture be born without attempting to transcend contradictions or bring to a new synthesis between occupants? Could the idea of contradictions and harmony exist in the same building proposal? Could relational frameworks play a key role in driving the architectural form while fulfilling its functional and transcendental purpose?

In this final act, we hope to explicate those hidden frameworks of relationships into new sets of architectural requirements and re-laminate them into integral building, urban and social projects conceptually, programmatically, formally, technologically and topologically.

**The New Urban Landscape of Venice, CA |
An Exploration of Performative Architecture**

Crystal Chan

The pursuit of urban revitalization through the manipulation of urban landscape has yet to be explored through the lens of eclectic innovative strategies like this project proposes. Venice Beach has developed its own unconventional ways of living throughout the years.This project aims to use its cultural qualities as the foundation to propose an urban lifestyle without the cars, instead, offering changes in mobility through urban and architectural interventions. Designed around the Venice canals, this project explores the urban lifestyle change by strategically manipulating the groundscape to create performative architecture that generates spatial conditions and program.The project aims to pose questions as such: Can a community collectively adapt to a more favorable way of transportation in order to increase the aesthetics of their urban environment and increase their overall health by increasing walking, biking, and boat riding?
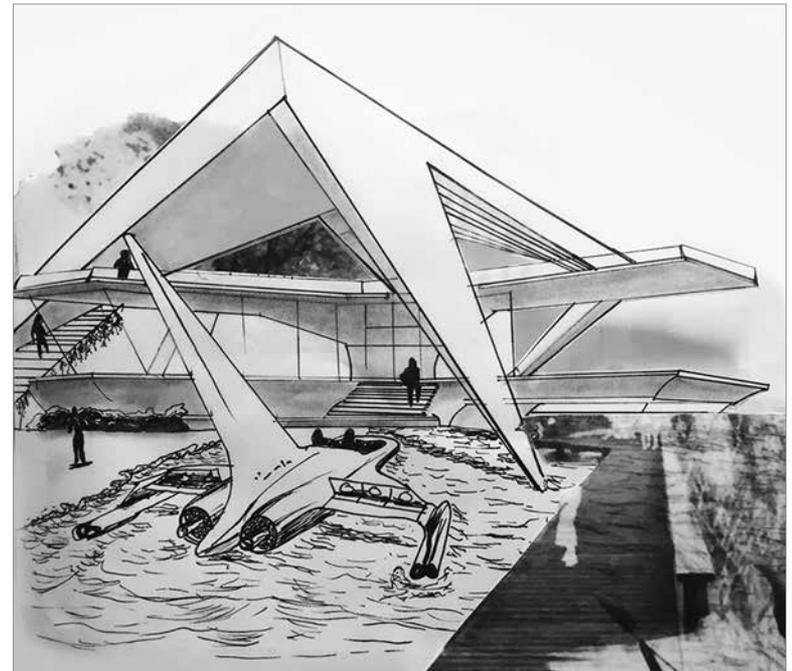
Fragmented History

Architecture and History in relationship to one another can be divided into the three integral aspects of Architecture. The three areas, construction, discourse, and representation, serve as an analogy and analytical tool for erasure of memory within Los Angeles. Erasure of memory is defined as the process of the removal of writing, material or data that embodies history. The direct translation of this definition can be seen with Bunker Hill, Los Angeles today. Filled with rich historical content, Bunker Hill evolved from grand Victorian neighborhoods decayed into a slum that is eventually eradicated by the building of the Financial District today. This erasure of history and layering of site leads into the exploration of the three integral aspects of architecture and its geometric principles to generate form and program. The interconnection of these concepts formulates a series of museum interventions, exposing the history that only remains in living memory.

Peter Flores
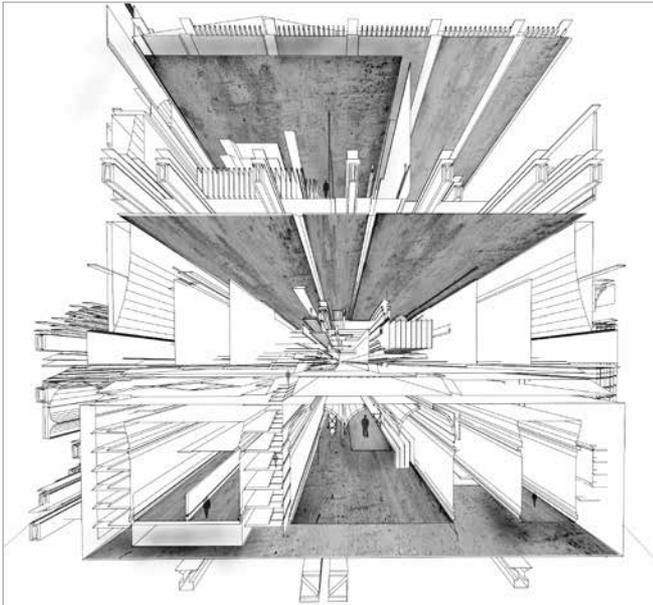
Building Reality

Fake façade construction can be found all over United States. The most common and extreme example is the use of surface applied EPS foams underneath the plaster to add classical architecture details, such as column capitals, cornices and moldings.

Frequently, these fake facades are coupled with an interior or exterior environment that is intentionally disconnected with its urban surrounding, such as the casinos, shopping malls and some work places. As this practice by developers and business owners become prevailing, we grow accustomed to the disengagement from reality, causing radical change in the way we perceive and understand this physical reality.

The aim of this thesis is to create a rupture between two existing buildings situated in the interstitial space between the Americana Mall and the Glendale Galleria. This architectural intervention will allow shoppers to temporarily remove themselves from the fabricated reality and confront the mechanisms that enables/encloses the fabricated reality, but offers them an opportunity to interact with the ultimate reality.

Juan Hernandez
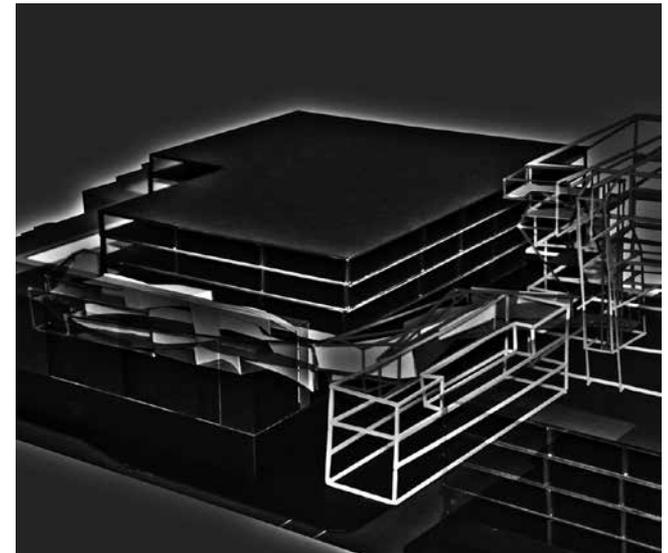
Holacracy – Subverting Panopticon

**Vardan
Kasemyan**

Holacracy is a new way of running an organization that removes power from a single management hierarchy; while panopticonis an 18th century prison typology that all inmates are to be observed by a single watchman without the inmates knowing whether they are being watched.

Los Angeles County Jails, with an average daily population nearing 22,000, is the largest jail system in the world and one of the most troubled in the U.S.

Based on the concept of Holacracy, this project proposes a prisoner education facility in the historic Chaves Ravine, currently part of the Elysian Park.To mirror the adjacent Dodger Stadium, the building will be round within which programs, security and circulation strategically separate spaces and subvert the assumption of a panoptical organization. The proposed building is elevated to give the space below back to the park while providing a contrast of freedom inside and outside the facility.
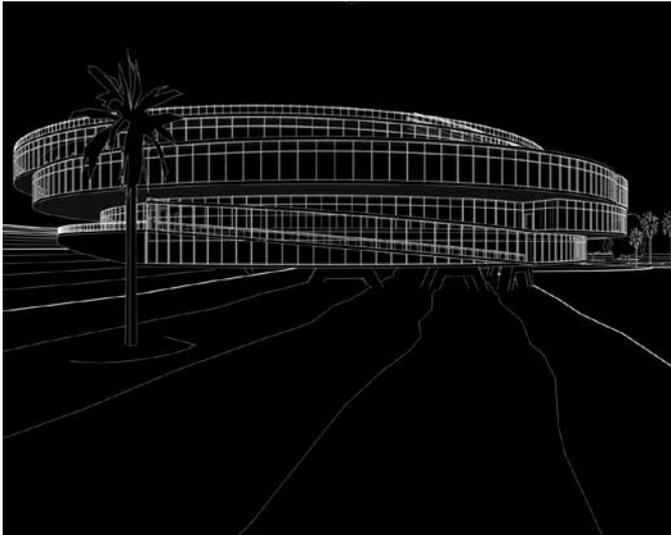
Space For All Senses

**Celine
Khashadoori**

This degree project proposes an experiment for an ideal place where nobody is handicapped, spaces are accessible to everyone and the architecture is formulated to heighten sensory input and therefore occupants' perception and understanding of spaces. The program is a multi-sensorial and delightful learning environment for mixed group of people, primarily those visually or audibly impaired 3-18 years old, and secondarily the general public.The key to this project is to bring explicit attention for human cognition and the role played by various senses to space making. The proposed school occupies a corner of the lake in the Hollenbeck Park, under the 5 freeway in Boyle Heights. The site is a strategic ground for its rich sensory resources and social context. Its ultimate goal is to turn architecture into a method of aiding people and making the public aware of the rich sensory experiences that surround them.

Tween Sports Center

WIND•VERSITY

"*Animation is the art of manipulating the invisible interstices that lie between the frames. What happens between each frame is much more important than what exists on each frame.*"
– Norman McLaren

Jung Mi Kim

The original LAC USC Medical Hospital stands as a so-called historical monument of the present time after handing its title to the new LAC USC Medical Center in 2008. Overtime, the veteran hospital continues to stagnate as it only serves as a non-profit wellness center and equipment storage. Treating the heavy steel structure as a grided- frame system, the idea is to insert new frames of sectional program components: rehabilitation center, research lab, mechanics, and sports (martial arts, slacklining, parkour, and gymnastics). By tweening within the new frames, unseen transformative spaces are revealed and wall mechanical systems are integrated according to the athletes' actions. The building is reconfigured anew within and reanimated back to life from the past.
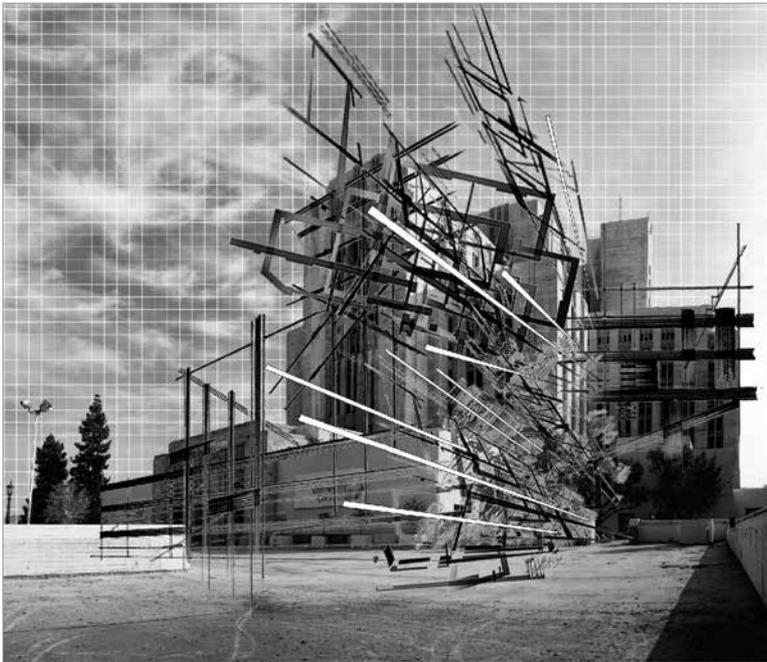
Wind is an external force acting upon buildings that architects and engineers cannot ignore. What interests me the most is that wind occupies the space that is the inverse of the built structures. As an architectural student, I have long passionate about incorporating wind internally, beyond using it to shape the exterior form or simply creating passive ventilation. Frogtown, LA, is the location that not only offers a site for utilizing the wind but also demands a program that can be used strategically to test out my objectives for incorporating wind in architecture — pragmatically and culturally. Frogtown is an urban island isolated by the freeways and the LA River. By creating a bakery that acts as a bridge, it can harvest wind and carry the smell of bread to the surrounding neighborhoods without modifying the Frogtown's physical boundary. The project also aims to provide low-skill jobs for the locals.

Ho Yin Lai

[SUB]Sprawl-Urbia
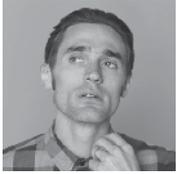
As an immigrant nation, the "American dream" is the ethos of the United States. This ideal is represented with the sprawling development of suburbia. However in another lesser known example, young adults are transplanting themselves, rather than away from the city center, they find themselves beginning their adult life in decayed urban zones, seeking lower rent, personal expression and freedom. This wave of new urban immigrants has adverse effects including displacement of local inhabitants. The process of gentrification begins with this new subset of the population.

By extracting a common thread between those urban immigrants and their local home grown counterparts, street art and examples of graffiti give a new language of formal intervention. The intent of this architectural system, is to foster the regional characteristics of local culture, and preserve the cultural fabric of the local inhabitants, minimizing the inequitable displacement of those who have called these urban zones home.

Samuel Lewis
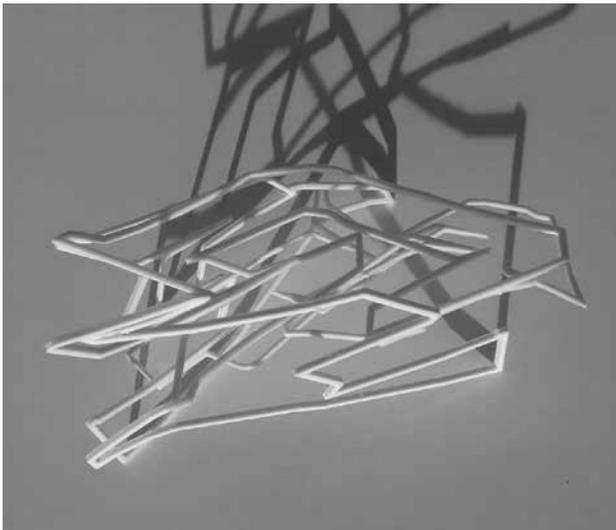
The Last Room

Saten Mkrtchian

This degree project proposal is consisted of a mourning room complex within a new progressive cemetery campus on the landfill site in Griffith Park. The site is adjacent to the Forest Lawn Cemetery. A mourning room is used to hold extended viewing of the deceased after the religious ceremony and before the burial or cremation. Its purpose is to allow the friends and family members to say farewell to the deceased without the pressure from the brevity of the contemporary funerals. The goal is to design a collection of rooms that its architecture actively facilitates the grieving process during which non-verbal communication is expected. This project began with my desire to search for architecture's role in non-verbal intelligence. After concentrated research based on Edward Hall's proxemics, with the decision to combine his social science and phenomenology to form functional and poetic spaces for the proposed program.
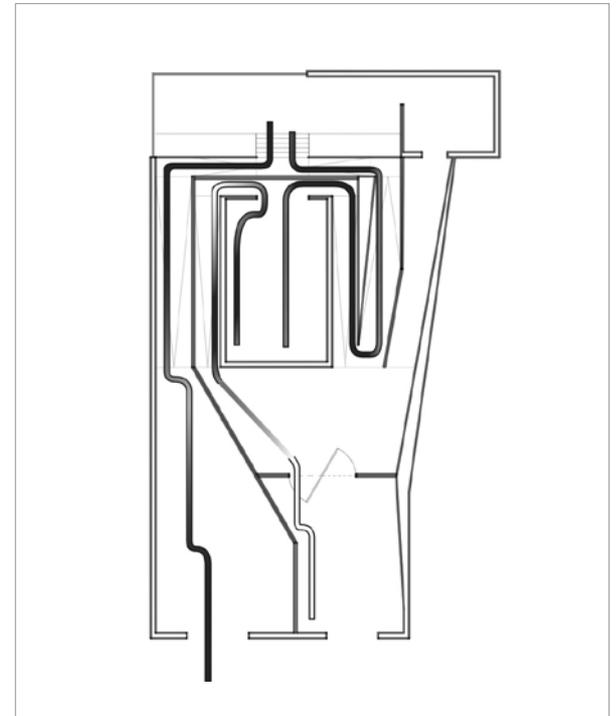
Architecture & Crime

**Avedis
Nalbandian**

The psychological threat of the vast barriers created by freeways today has developed the nodes of lost dimensions all over the greater Los Angeles area. This leads to the common misconception and depreciation of the communities. With labeling of these areas as "ghettos," the growth of these poverty-stricken areas increased in population but decreased in jobs and education, only to promote the introduction of gang related activities in these communities. The urban environment has since decayed and continues to face gentrification. The premise of this thesis is to invent a new typological development that will focus on crime prevention through architecture for potential Civic Engagement opportunities operated for the public to protect, inhabit and grow from. Through manipulation of form, material and site, the architecture is able to establish itself as a key component that the public utilize to prevent crime from taking place.


Skid Row's Transient Beacon

The foundation of this thesis, which addresses the increased densification in Skid Row Los Angeles, is built upon this notion:

Thien Nguyen

"To overcome slums, we must regard slum dwellers as people capable of understanding and acting upon their own self-interests. We need to discern, respect and build upon the forces for regeneration that exist in slums themselves."
– Jane Jacobs

By extracting this concept and translate it into architectural strategies, the thesis proposes the first tower typology in Skid Row. The tower serves not only as an infrastructure but as a social framework open to homeless residents who wish to work and be reintroduced to the society. The programs include the existing social services on site while incorporating businesses connection from the surrounding districts adjacent to Skid Row. As a result, the tower enables homeless residents to self-regulate and to elevate the community.
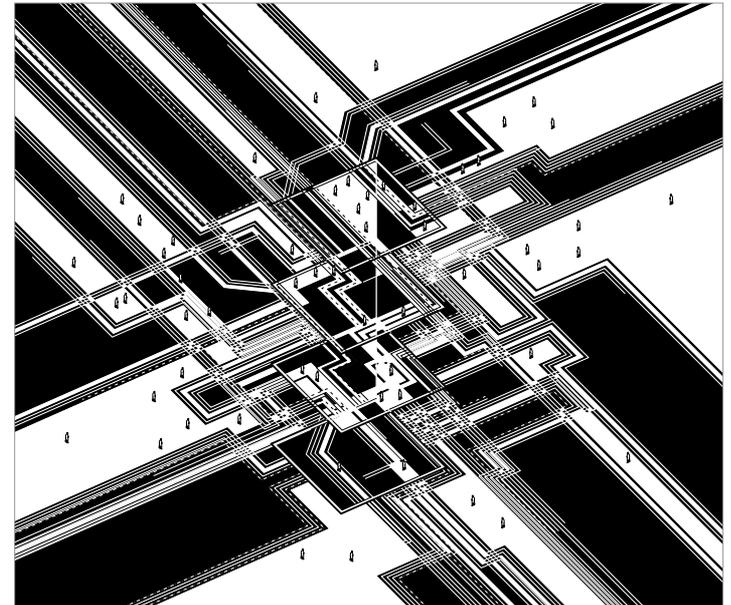
Los Angeles River Cycleway & Ecological Laboratory

**Tigran
Parsamyan**

The Los Angeles River Cycleway & Ecological Laboratory is a proposed two-part development which focuses on connecting the communities with the environment. The current phase of part one, proposes a network of elevated bicycle paths connecting Lincoln Heights, Chinatown and Elysian Valley; while part two proposes an ecological educational laboratory for the L.A. River.

The proposed Cycleway is designed to continue the current bike path along the L.A. River, as well as create a network of elevated Cycleways to connect multiple communities, providing safer routes for pedestrians and bicyclists and paving ways for the continuous experience of the L.A. River.

Doubled as the funneling point of the Cycleway network is part two of this proposal – an ecological research laboratory. The L.A. River Ecological Laboratory pursues basic and applied research at multiple levels of the ecosystems. It provides opportunities for undergraduate research training and provides service to the community through environmental outreach.
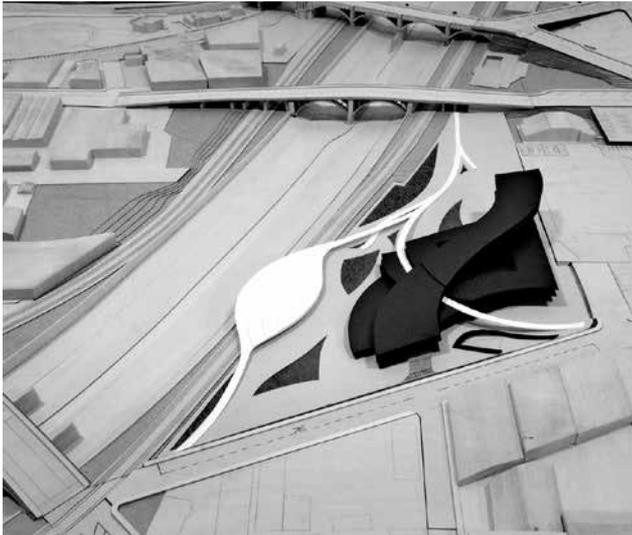

Recalibration of Ethnicities

Los Angeles is a host to different cultures of the world which seek better horizons than the ones lost in their countries of origin.

**Mauricio
Pensamiento**

Caught in the eagerness to succeed and make a mark, the intrinsic value of relating to other cultures is often forgotten. City Terrace, east of downtown Los Angeles, enjoys the richness of two prominent cultures; the entrepreneurial Chinese and the blue collar Latino force.

CCAD (Cultural Center for Art and Design) is a community center accessible to all. The center serves as a transitional point on the path to a better social platform.This public center will enable everyone to learn a skill by participation. The center will offer workshops from entrepreneurs, artisans and tradesman. It will allow for the fabricators to sell their creations on the premises while it provides free housing for the creative artists for 6 months at a time.
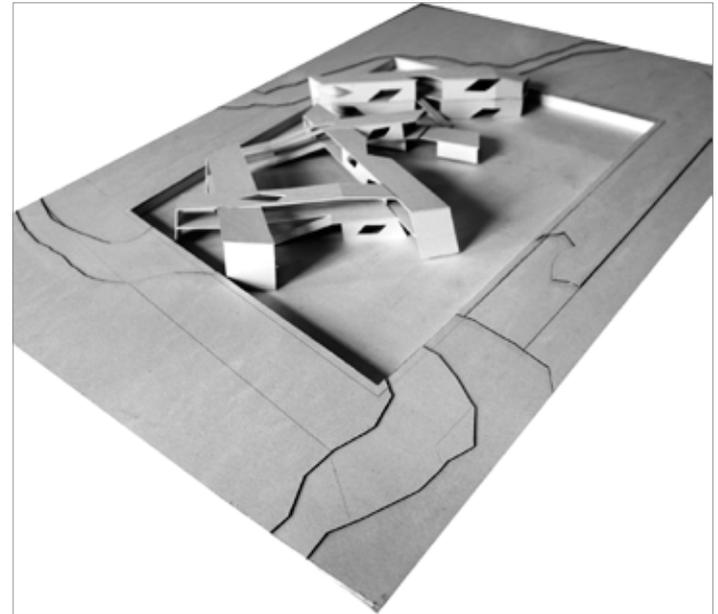
Walking Simulator

Walking-Simulator is a video game genre characterized by an underlining branching system and algorithm of walking sequences along with their architectural scenery.It is often accompanied by an interactive narrative, upon which sets of rules form a gaming environment that is normally impossible to conceive in reality. These games are experience-based designs that often pertain a theme of sublimity with post-apocalyptic scenarios. Real-world architecture on the other hand often involves restriction of context, programs, ergonomics etc. While sublimity is offered by the man-made landscapes of the Salton Sea, I propose a project that by activating the landscape through multiple architectural interventions, the spatial constructs are intentionally made to reference and amplify the sublimity in this physical world.

Ariel Alberto Souza

re-L-ification

Gestalt is an idea meaning "an organized whole that is perceived as more than the sum of its parts." Within every cultures, there are multiple beliefs that people follow, but never has one place that can include multiple beliefs in one whole. Within Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, the notion of death is perceived very similarly, but also with unique differences. Therefore, the goal is to design a unique architectural typology that serves the purpose of funeral ceremonies. Different key elements from each religious belief are implemented within one space. Each member of belief will be able to recognize the ceremonial space as its own through different perspective view. The site will be located at the Toyon Canyon Landfill in the Griffith Park, with great potential to serve as a cemetery addition to the adjacent Forest Lawn. The site will accommodate a multi-belief centered burial ground.

Ling Tseng
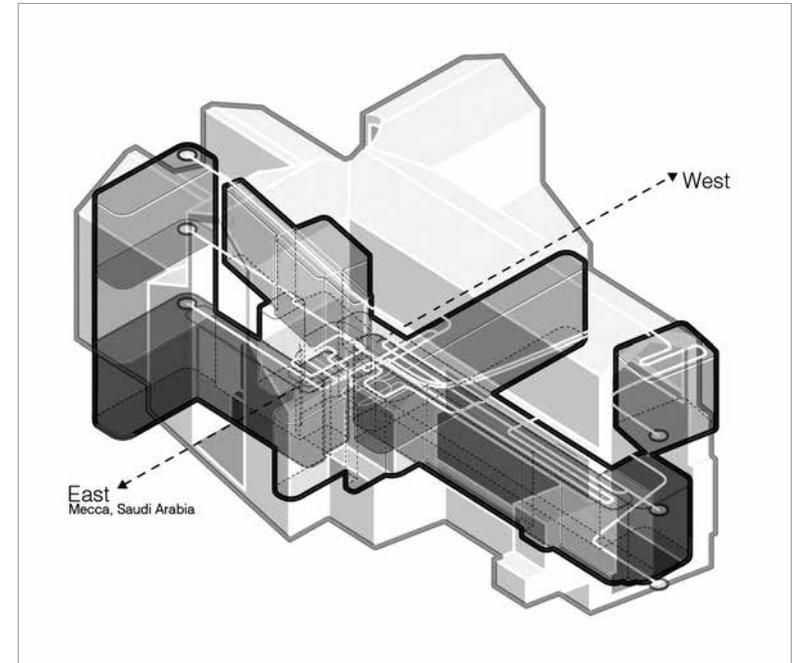
Los   Angeles

Mark Ericson, Instructor

Students   Abdulkader Al Swaidan

Wijdan Aldowsary

Mashael Alshammary

Kira Dong

Eryanne Edgerley

Hussain Qutub

Daniel Spilman

Chao Xu

Elevation Unhinged

Traditionally a facade operates as two dimensional elements that indexes the building and establish a boundary. Challenging this convention, this thesis utilizes the unfolded elevation drawing as a means of thickening, excavating, cutting, and delineating form.

**Abdulkader
Al Swaidan**

Lines of Movement

Circulation in architecture defined as the way people move and interact with a building. However, architects often focus on the movement part instead of engaging people with the architecture. This thesis seeks circulation as the generator of interactive architectural forms. The methodology studies forms a series of flexible lines that can twist, stretch, overlap and intersect. Those actions manipulate lines through a mathematical process inorder to create in motion forms that pull people into a space unconsciously. In this project the density of lines play a role of strengthen interior/exterior relationship by dividing those spaces visually rather than physically.
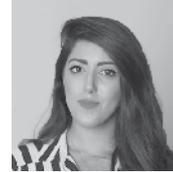
**Wijdan
Aldowsary**
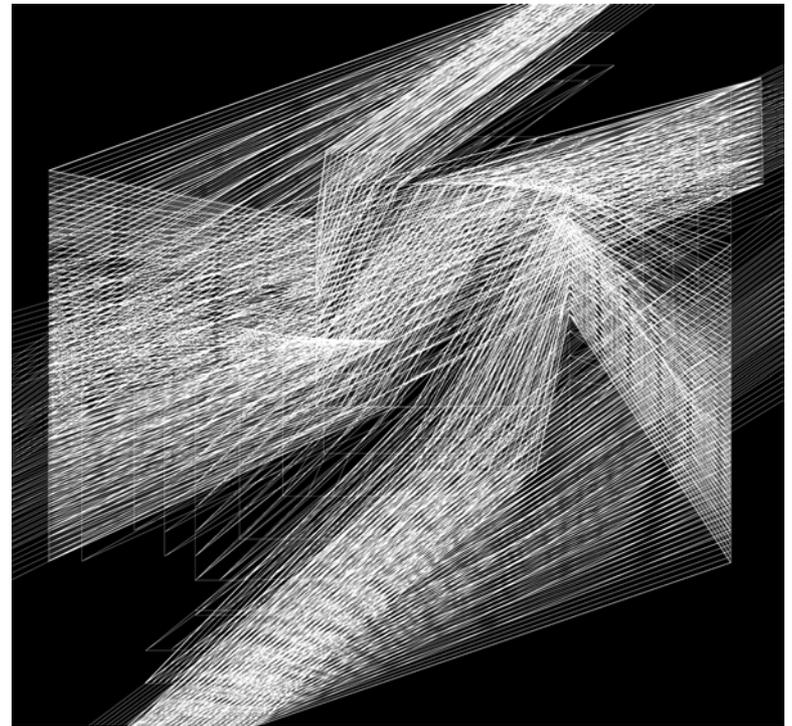
Light Form

Light is understood in architecture principally as an effect or condition. However in the history of architecture, light also appears as the generator of drawing and constantly form. This thesis seek to assert lights potential not as an effect but rather as a method that generate of form. Through projection of light and shadow casting that fill a space, turning it to volumetric from light and shadow.

Mashael Alshammary
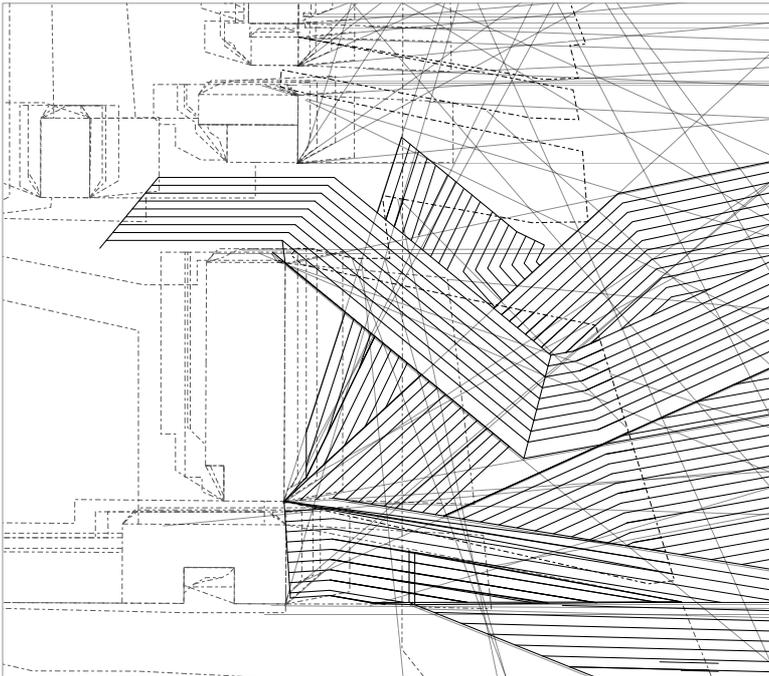
Context to Volume : An Experiential Performance Center

Within the field of architecture, buildings have become abstract vessels douord to their experiential values that they provide to their users. This thesis explores the production of forms and visual experience through a projective deformation of context. It analyzes the individualized experience that can be created by excavating geometric perceptions and projections upon structural forms, to allow users to embrace the experiential values of the building instead of its construction. In dissecting the visual complexity of an urban site, a three corner axes was identified for the projections, each intersecting one another to create the form of the architecture. With the ability to control extrusions, volumes, and projections within the site, it gives us the ability to excavate surfaces to allow an individual's experience to become enhanced. By using the process of excavation, strategic components were designed by carving away at the structure. With the diverse programmatic elements of the Experiential Performance Center, the excavated spaces create a variety of volumes to be experienced by the users.

Kira Dong
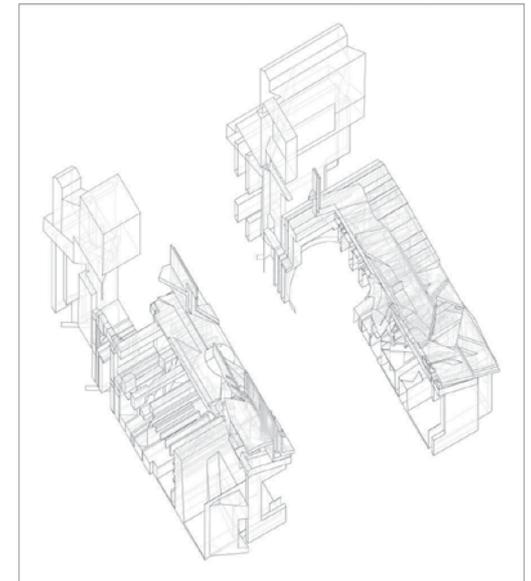
Unfolding Interiority

**Eryanne
Edgerley**

Through the production of three houses, this thesis attempts to define an inverted projective approach for the creation of interior space. In architecture, typically design is thought of as originating from the outside and working inwards. This thesis seeks to do the opposite by inverting the relationship between inside and out, putting the interior first. The houses, titled The Object, The Body, and The Diagram, each use a distinct method of projection in order to derive spaces which are developed from the inside outwards. Methodologies will test the quality of interior spaces produced and the potentials of an inside-out approach to design.

Awkward Rotation

Hussain Qutub
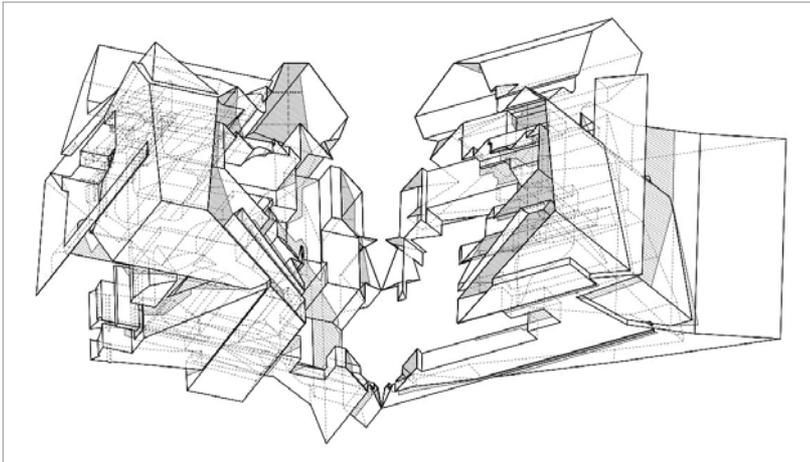
Within the history of architecture, rotation appears in a serious of canonical form. From helicodal ramps to semispherical domes. In these serious rotation utilized as procedure method of form generation. Once the rotation is set the form is determined. However, these exist as alternative form of rotation control of composition in lieu of procedure. This thesis seek to combine procedure and composition rotation in the pursued of form.
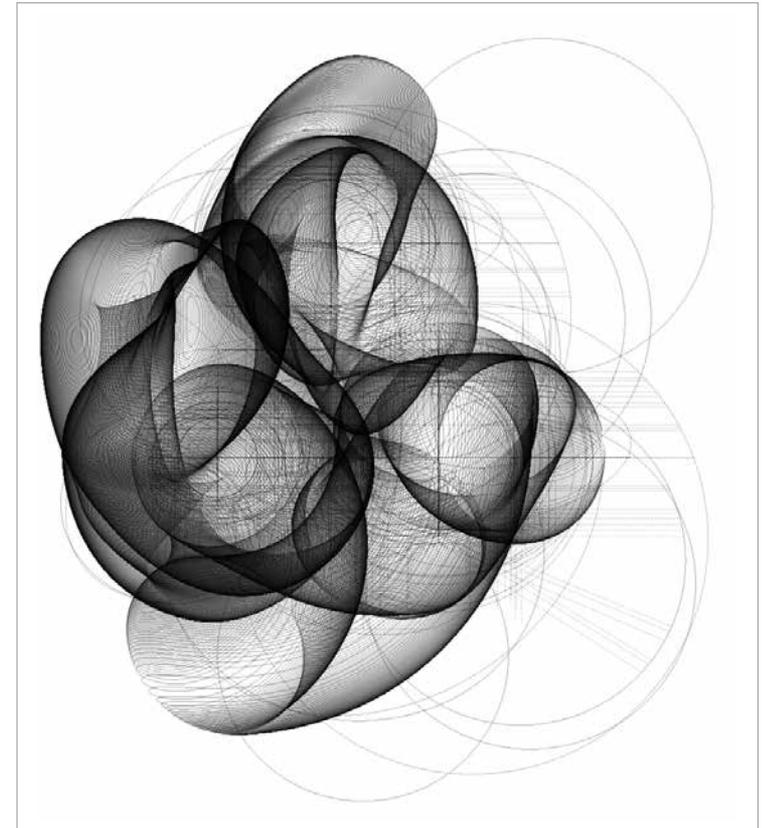
Superficial Repetition

Daniel Spilman

The accepted definition of the mat-building, usually refers to a building type that is high-density, homogeneous in layout, and consists of systematic repetition of modular elements in plan. The repetition provides the framework, both conceptually and spatially, for different possibilities of inhabitation. The mat-building system of spatial organization is often dominated by relationships established by horizontal patterns of vertical walls. This thesis seeks to explore the mat-building typology through the excessive repetition of surfaces of varying slope for differentiating space.


Shadow Vault

Chao Xu

Shadow has existed architectural drawings for thousand years. In fact, one could argue as other have, that architectural drawings are derived from shadows cast by the sun. However, within contemporary architecture shadows are seen as effects rather than generative elements. Regardless, the orthographic projection of shadows has other potentials. This thesis asserts the role of the shadow as generative element within production of architectural form, space, and atmosphere through a series of curvilinear deformations of orthographically project shadows. The project stands not as either a form or effect, but rather as a combination of both.
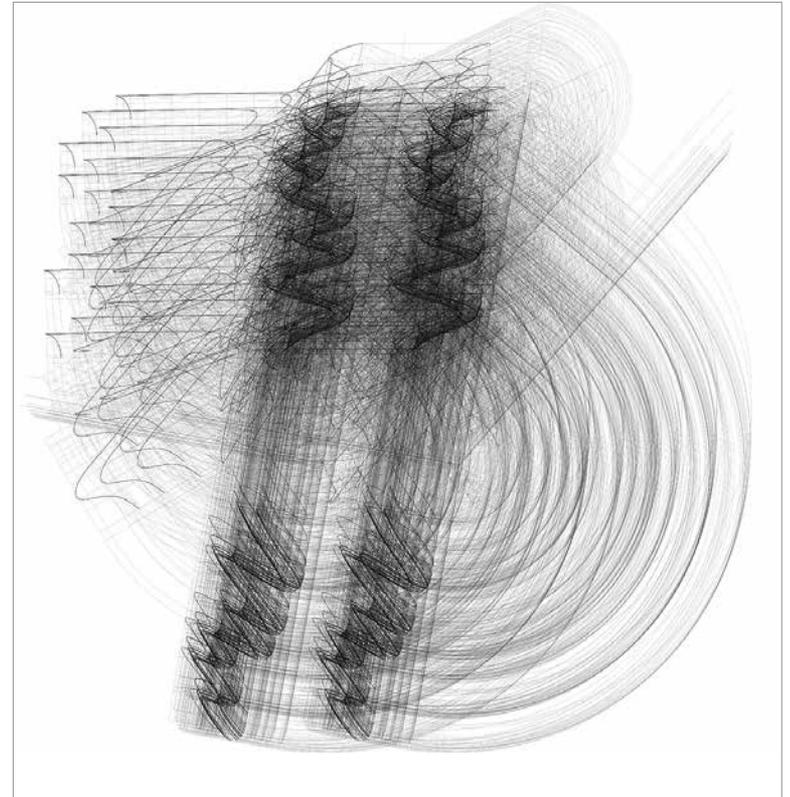
Los Angeles

Jason Rebillot, Instructor

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Rana Aldaud

Shweta Joshi

Laura Kazmierczak

Hooman Kia

Homa Moazami Goudarzi

Husam Murad

Vaheh Vartanian

SOURCE : Water Pavilion

**Alneoush
Aghajanians**

Architecture maintains an ongoing dialogue with the environment, and one of the purest and basic elements of nature is water. Water emphasizes the features of architecture in a very particular way. In our era where water is largely commodified, this thesis seeks to create a platform to invite people to explore the emotional, mystical, and experimental aspects of water. Located in Long Beach where the Los Angeles River meets the ocean, the exhibit will involve all aspects of the water the sound, smell, taste and feeling. The project will also explore the educational aspects of the water. By having filtration strips to clean and store the river's water, the project will act as a catalyst for changing the way water is treated. The web-like structure of the program creates a framework for hosting water in different physical stages. The program is closely working with its surroundings and changes according to environmental impacts like rain, fog and tides.

Buoyant Urbanism: Keeping the Maldives Afloat

Rana Aldaud

Climate change has emerged as a serious issue facing the planet. As one result, rising sea levels are projected to lead to the loss of many coastal areas and islands. According to several reports, waters will rise between 8 and 35 inches during the 21st Century. Nowhere is this urgency felt more than in the Maldives, which are estimated to be fully submerged by 2050. In November 2008, Maldives President Nasheed announced plans to entirely relocate the country's population by purchasing new land in India, Sri Lanka, and Australia. This thesis proposes to offer a counterproposal in the form of a series of artificial floating islands to replace the submerged islands of the Maldives. The process of restructuring the Maldive's home territory will be undertaken in a phased strategy throughout the coming decades.
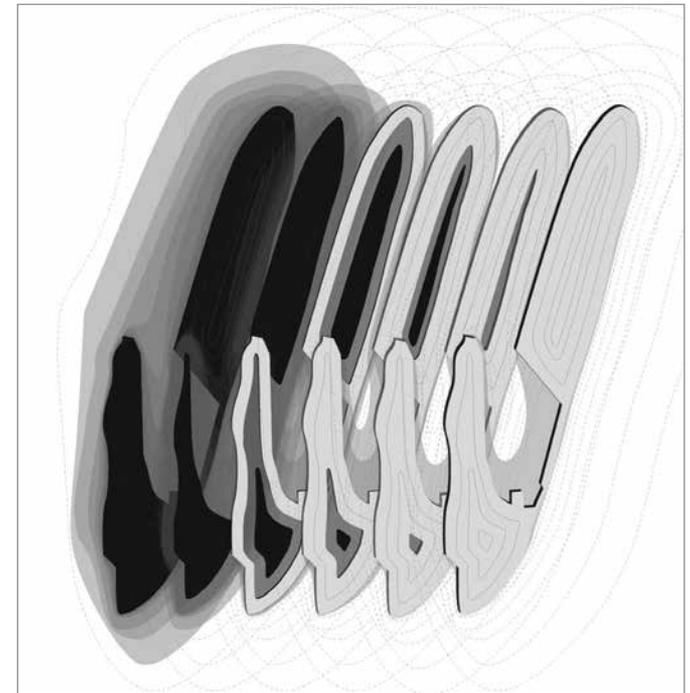
**Architecture of Community:
Advocating for the Preservation of Culture**

This thesis aims to improve a region devastated by indiscriminate exploitation of geography and loss of cultural heritage. Situated on the bank of the Saraswati River, the Indian city of Patan is host to a series of 12-century stepwells that comprise a UNESCO World Hertage Site. The city is also home to a community of weavers who create 'patolu' saris, drawing inspiration from the patterned material conditions of the nearby stepwells. Current apathy is forcing this community to shift to other sources of income. The thesis is interested in preserving their traditional craft, providing a platform for the weaver community to thrive. The idea is to create a collaborative architecture, using local materials and traditional building techniques. The thesis also seeks to maximize spatial and material efficiency with the goal of creating a sustainable, self sufficient society.

Shweta Joshi
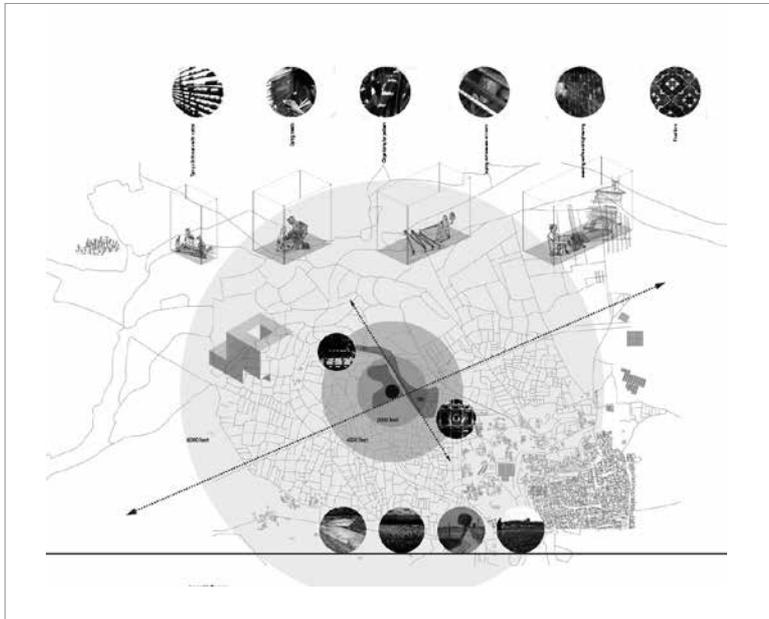
**The Kids Aren't Alright:
Architecture's Response to Nature-Deficit Disorder**

In 2008, author Richard Louv published his best-selling book Last Child in the Woods, speculating that in today's society we misdiagnose and overmedicate scores of children who have trouble focusing. Louv states that a lack of attention may not be the problem, but that of nature. Nature-Deficit Disorder (NDD) is a term Louv coined to describe a clear pattern in the many interviews he conducted with these children. Louv postulated that by spending more time in the relatively untouched outdoors, away from today's artificial, electronic world of technology, children grow into mentally, emotionally, and physically healthier persons. This thesis seeks to explore how architecture can operate as a viable response to the emerging phenomenon of NDD through the design of a K-5 elementary school located on a 2.5 acre urban site along the Los Angeles River in the Elysian Valley neighborhood of Los Angeles.

**Laura
Kazmierczak**
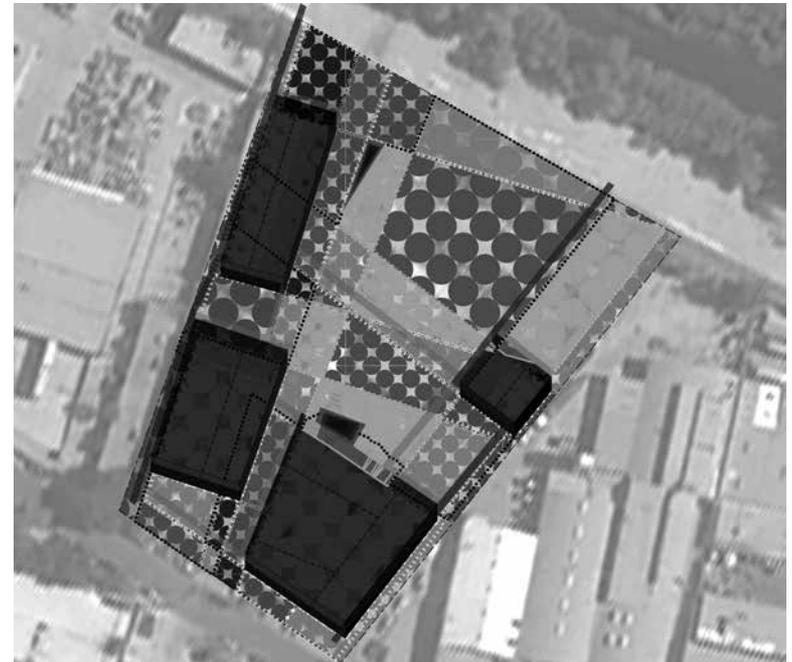
**Critical Regionalism in the Digital Age:
A Participatory Cultural Center for LA**

Hooman Kia

Thirty-three years after Keneth Frampton artic-
ulated a critical regionalism, this thesis seeks to
rethink that discourse through the design of a
cultural center in downtown Los Angeles. The site
is at the intersection of Grand Avenue and 1st
Street, in front of the Walt Disney Concert Hall
and the Broad Museum. One of the most import-
ant issues in this part of the city is a lack of place
and identity. The cultural center will be a par-
ticipatory place; a place where diverse people of
different cultures want to stay, learn, gather, and
share information with one another. This project
has connected other cultural spaces in this area to
people's daily life by bringing them to the site and
making spaces, where people can stay, see outside
from different points of view and move through it.
By continue certain aspects of the idea and ques-
tioning others, the thesis defines new principles
for a critical regionalism in the digital age.

Recreating the Lost Space of the Meykadeh

**Homa Moazami
Goudarzi**

This thesis explores a lost space in Iranian archi-
tecture known as the Meykade – a place where
people went to drink wine, get high, and so on.
Following the introduction of Islam to Iran, the
Meykadeh was forgotten. This thesis considers the
character of the Meykade in Persian literature as
primary source material and it presents a compar-
ison between the two symbolic pieces of archi-
tecture in Persian literature – the Mosque and
the Meykade. The latter is positioned as a clear
antithesis to the former. The thesis explores archi-
tecture as a place for stories of the people who
live and work there. A narrative is constructed by
identifying hypothetical characters and following
them throughout the experiential sequences of
the Meykade. Finally, the building itself is consid-
ered an urban actor, something that writes stories
at the urban scale through an interaction with the
Shah Mosque immediately in front of it.
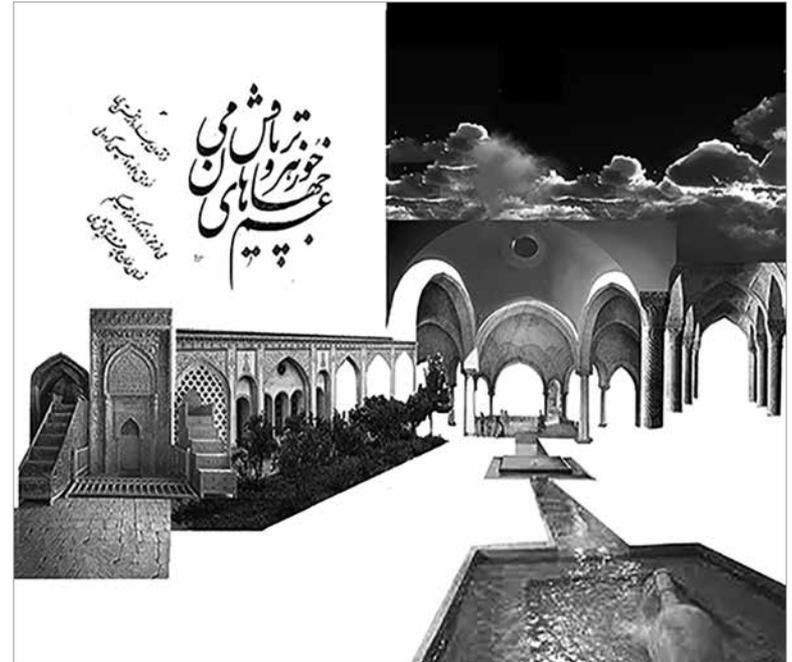
Reflective Monument: Refugee Housing

Husam Murad

Today, it has been more than five years since the war started in Syria and there are more than six million refugees fleeing from their country. The existing refugee camps are temporary while the United Nation stated that the average living time inside those camps is from 12 to 17 years. Furthermore, these housing don't comply with basic living standards. Current shelters do not offer a larger vision for refugees. This thesis proposes an icon of unity and strength in the form of a large permanent structure which derives inspiration from traditional arabic house forms. Accommodating 8,400 Syrian refugees, the strategy aims to address the essential needs of refugees and provides good quality living until they return to their homes.
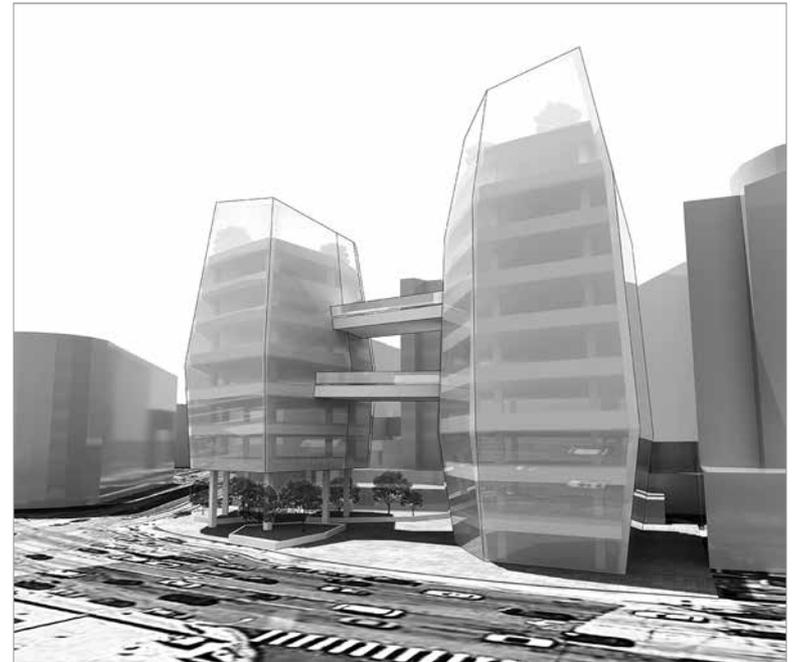

Intelligent Healing

Vaheh Vartanian

The built environment that surrounds us has a huge impact on our mental and physical well-being. In contemporary health care design, this concept is increasingly described as "healing environments" and "healing architecture." Cancer patients in particular spend more time in hospitals for their treatment than any other population. A well-designed environment can now be considered as a form of therapy. This theses proposal is an 'intelligent cancer center' located on the campus of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. It explores how can the built environment of a health care facility can help support patients' mental and physical recovery. The project uses intelligent architecture design ideas to be able to respond to the points above and to have a healing environment that is constantly changing to be able to adapt to the Patient's needs, new equipment, and new methods of treatment.

facilitating water commoning
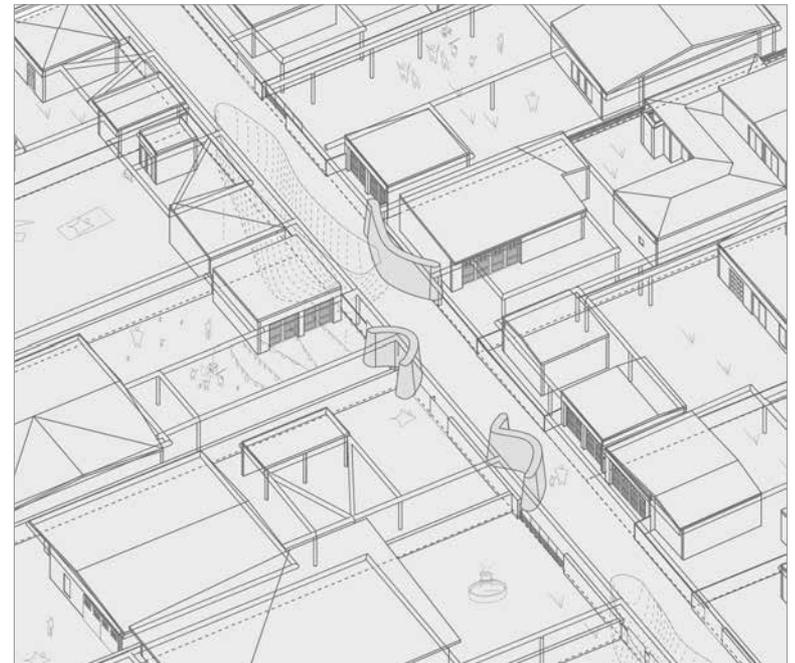
With current city and county stormwater runoff plans focusing on improving conditions through centralized projects on public land, this investigation focuses on the possibilities of water collectivization in between private properties in order to implement an effective strategy of watershed management. Commoning over water is an opportunity for a new method of urban water stewardship: one that integrates an individual with hidden water cycle process. A water commons is the shared collection, distribution and management of water as a resource. Evaluating the San Fernando Valley as a case study, specifically within low-income Latino neighborhoods the focus will be on investigating a process of commoning between private owners using rainwater and stormwater harvesting as a platform for an untapped economic, social and cultural dimension to water.

**Stephanie
Newcomb**

Los Angeles

Hadley Arnold, Instructor

Student   Stephanie Newcomb

Christoph Korner
Interior Architecture Chair

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise

it won't be boring."

– David Bowie

Over the last years our graduating students have been living an exciting life. They were part of the Woodbury family, a time full of personal and intellectual growth. Stimulated by our faculty, staff, and each other, they achieved great things. Now it is time for change. A new chapter is about to start, outside of the challenging, but warm world of academia, but just as exciting as their time at university. Some will continue their education; some will start to practice within their field. Some might even shift their focus and begin a new career. Different experiences will add to their lives and make them develop into even more complete beings. Their days will be just as exciting as their time here. For some this change might be frightening at first, but don't be afraid of change, the best still lies ahead. Embrace the new and look forward to the next steps. Change doesn't mean to give something up, but rather to add something on. You will always stay a part of the Woodbury family. Let's keep in touch.

Los Angeles

Annie Chu and Heather Peterson,
Instructors

Students

Jerel Agtarap

Marieam Alhamody

Feras Almayouf   Isle Keijser

Naif Altouri   Maria Kobalyan

Maria Avigliano   Anna Kobalyan

Kianna Bjarnson   Yanqiao Lin

Ari Danaci   Kayla Manio

Tracey Franklin   Gonzalo Moran

Casandra Gonzalez   Misako Ohno

Narin Hagopian   Jing Wang

Jacqueline Jauregui   Ximan Wu

                               Jing Yuan

                               Yumin Zeng

Time Shift

Sampling techniques have generated a great deal of contemporary music by reorganizing and modifying existingsongs to create new content. These techniques can provide an analogous model for rethinking the paradigm of inherited site and intervention that define interior architecture. Chopping, rearranging, layering, and distorting can be leveraged to expand notions of tectonics, materiality, and parti. Utilizing these various techniques and sampling the stratigraphic information of my inherited site, Mount Vesuvius, and its many layers of volcanic material from various eruption periods, will allow an individual to travel through time as they experience shifts through sequential spaces. Geology is both technique and inherited site, and with the use of sectioning, a broader understanding of the geological events are aligned with the content of architectural events.

Jerel Agtarap
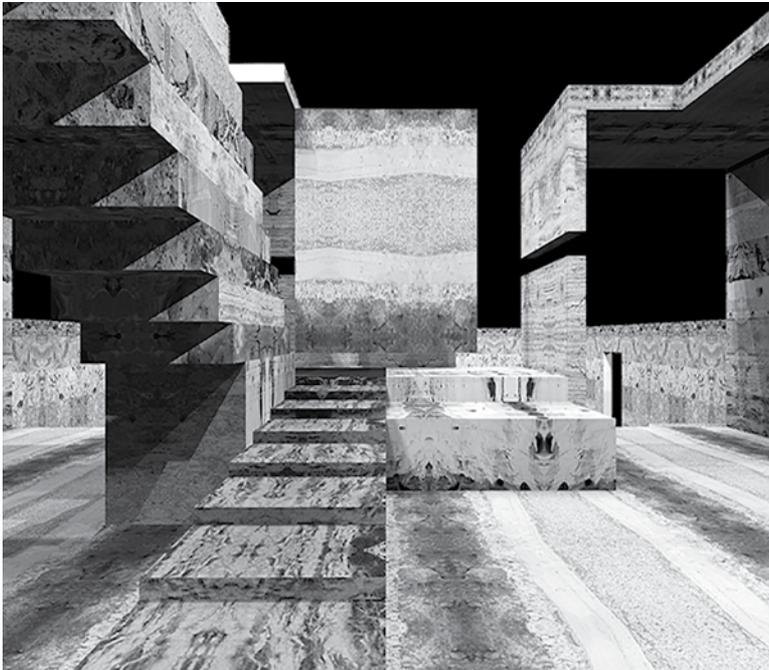
Extending Pattern

Interior Architecture has been exercising a strong interest in patterns and surface making in the last decades. Decorative use of patterned surfaces has been proliferating, and producing nearly unbearable ennui. Most patterns are two dimensional and are deployed on or as spatial elements at times indiscriminately. Throughout the history of interiors from William Morris to Kengo Kuma, pattern was often explored as a system that implemented an architectural strategy to render space. Yet seldom is the three dimensional potential of pattern such as layering, density, gradient, disruption and abeyance explored. What if pattern is conceptualized as material with qualifiers such as thickness? What if the layering of patterns bore space? The project analyzes the range of tree-branch modules of SunnyHills at Minami-Aoyama designed by Kengo Kuma & Associates, and investigates density as a strategy to extend the role of the modules beyond structure, enclosure and decoration to windows, interior walls and furniture.
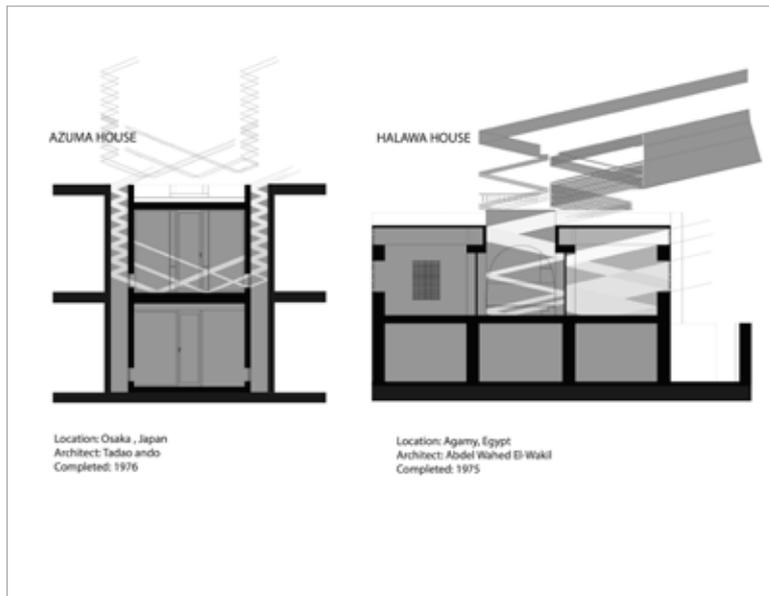
Marieam Alhamody

Pattern Sytem Analyzing

1. Structural

2. Enclosure

3. Decorative
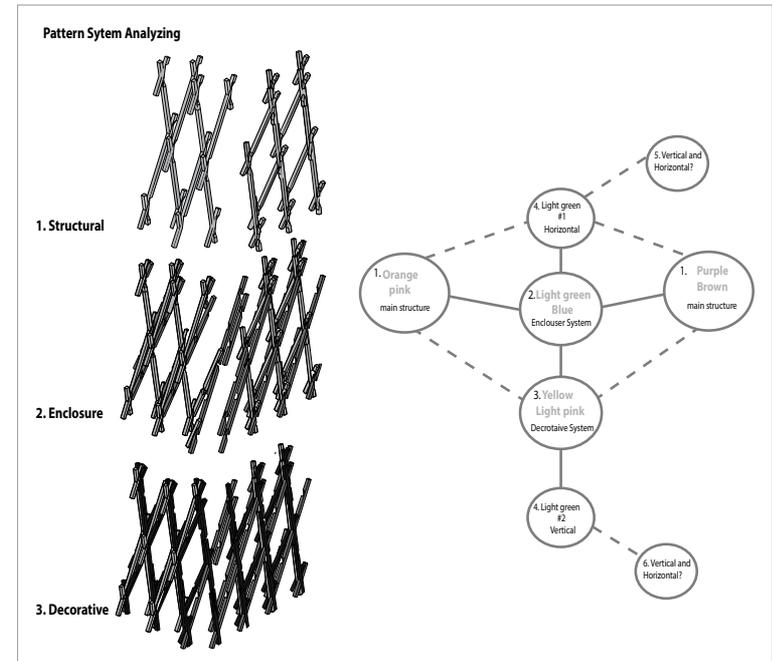
Gradient Light_ Transcultural Exploration in Saudi Arabian Space

Feras Almayouf

In traditional Saudi Arabian architecture, design elements are conceived primarily for function at the expense of spatial and light qualities. Cultural attitudes and neglect for the value of architecture engendered the habitual replication of traditional home design. One of the result of this rote building culture is the proliferation of living spaces of ubiquitous high contrast light conditions between shadow and glare.

The project proposed to:

– Study Tadao Ando's design for light in space, and in particular the gradient quality of light achieved in some of his Japanese home designs.

– Compare these Japanese and a traditional Saudi Arabian home model for their light qualities.

– Engage in an adaptive project to introduce the gradient Japanese light qualities to a traditional Saudi Arabian home.


AZUMA HOUSE

HALAWA HOUSE

Location: Osaka , Japan
Architect: Tadao ando
Completed: 1976

Location: Agamy, Egypt
Architect: Abdel Wahed El-Wakil
Completed: 1975

Displaced Coexistence

Naif Altouri

Current workspace design in Western cultures focus on engendering collaboration, brand identification and team unification. One of the effects of this driving agenda isa disregard for the more conservative cultures of the world that yearn for a specific type of privacy. Predicated on analysis of social behavior in the gender segregated Middle Eastern workplace, the project aims to address these long-established conditions of the Middle Eastern social behaviors and displace them intoa Western setting. The exploration aims to forge a transcultural environment that can accommodate both the distinct needs of the conservative Middle Eastern culture and that of the more liberal Western culture. The project tests the efficacy of unfolding the transcript of the mashrabiya in its displaced setting. (The mashrabiya is a traditional screened oriel that offers a range of spatial experiences by modulating vision and orchestrating privacy depending on the position of the gaze of the viewer and the occupant).
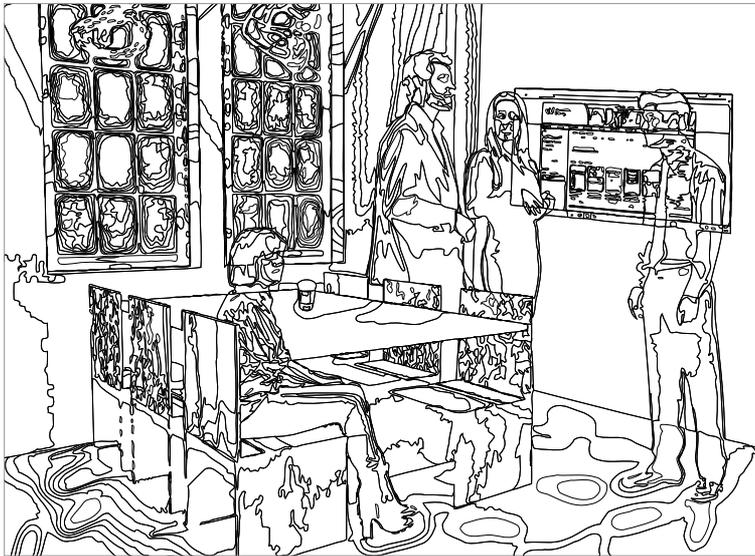

1.5 Seconds
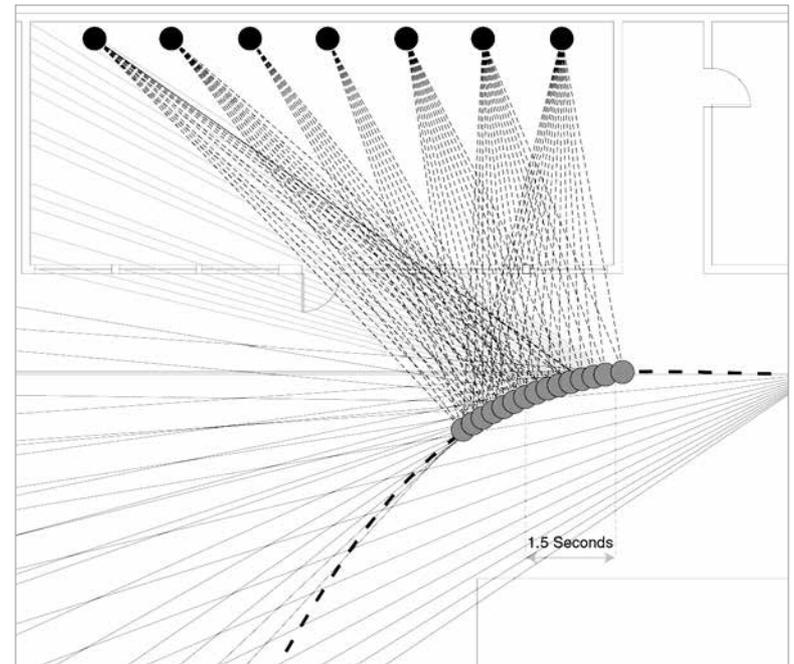
Voce Materiale – Indexing Material Time

Montage

Maria Avigliano

Kianna Bjarnson

Architecture relies on the communicative power of materials to create connections to our perception, ideas and sensation. The project explores materiality, and specifically about its potential as a tool to translate historical narratives and to reflect historical attributes across time. In considering material and time, we recognize that materials exhibit a temporal or a permanent change, communicating through their thingness the palimpsest moments marked by contact with human. These changes can potentially build an indexing system to orchestrate the architectural elements, furnishings and furniture into a coherent narrative. Woodbury University's Library is the site of this territory of material inquiry. The original building was a chapel erected in 1950 in honor of Mother Francis Cabrini for the Villa Cabrini Academy, a Catholic school for girls. Research into historic Catholic rituals at the chapel and into the contemporary rituals of the Woodbury library provided a launch to identify sites of distinguishing material integration.

The cinematic technique of montage can be described as the formation of a continuous whole in which the viewer stitches together the sequential information through past and present experiences offered by the film. Though montage is often perceived as a historical device within the cinematic context, this project re-positions the technique into current architectural practice. While the experience of traversing through an architectural space is commonly felt as linear, montage may offer a way into design by deliberately emphasizing the stitching and overlay of memory with the immediate encounter. The project inserts the unlikely protagonist of an early childhood education center into the Neue Nationalgalerie by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1968) in an experiment with the adopted cinematic device.

Anamorphic Furnishing

Typically we encounter the exterior conditions of architecture first, which sets up our expectations for the interior. This thesis challenges that convention by exploring the perceptual inversion of interior and exterior that occurs in glass houses. The transparency of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House performs such an inversion by collapsing the interior into the exterior, and the site into a living wallpaper. These perceptual events challenge the conventional sequence of façade, threshold, followed by interior. This is achieved by exploring the potential of glass, to reprioritize our visual understanding of interior and exterior, structure verses furnishing, site and boundary; thus blending our accepted notions of interiority/exteriority into new visual combinations of space.

Ari Danaci

NOIRSCAPES

At a time when the culture of design is increasingly focused on the abstractions of algorithmic form and synthetic materials, the generative potentials of phenomenological conditions such as natural light are often overlooked or deprioritized in contemporary design processes. Their latent capacities to drive spatial and tectonic decisions are therefore consigned to residual effects. This thesis argues for the potential applications and installation of material interaction with natural light to drive architectural design agendas.

Tracey Franklin

In a constructed subterranean urban condition, calibrated between an historical mapping of Bunker Hill and lighting qualities depicted in Noir films, an atmospheric lighting program will determine design objectives. Implementing aperture strategies to capture and accentuate natural effects of lighting through filters and material transparencies, will result in variations of intensity, directionality and color.
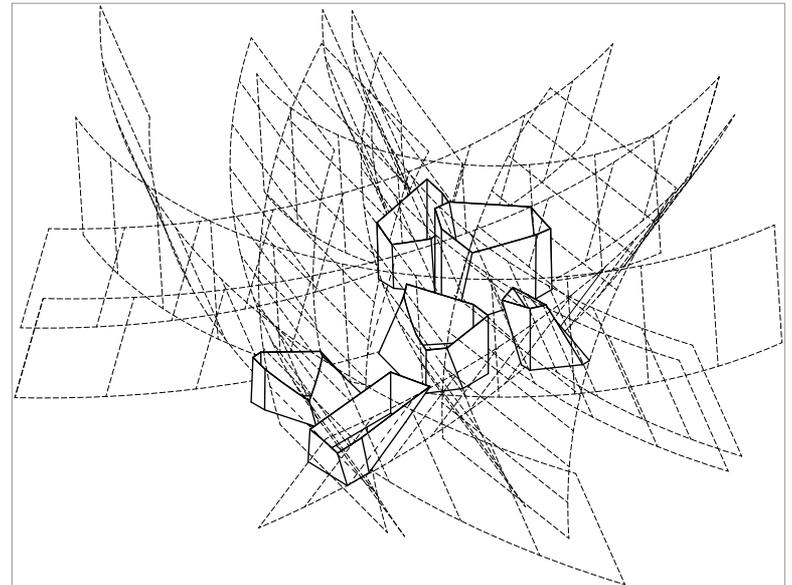
Stereometric Fictions:
A Retelling of the Tracing Floor of Wells Cathedral

Archaeology relies on physical remains to decrypt historical construction techniques of architectures that are no longer extant. This thesis will explore the possibilities for rethinking masonry traditions of building and the particular tectonics of stone; appearing in poche, tracery, and techniques of stereotomy. Through the invented narrative of a future archeologist who rediscovers the plaster floor of the Wells Cathedral, a new reading of the original tracery will be transcribed into an unforeseen formation.

Casandra
Gonzalez
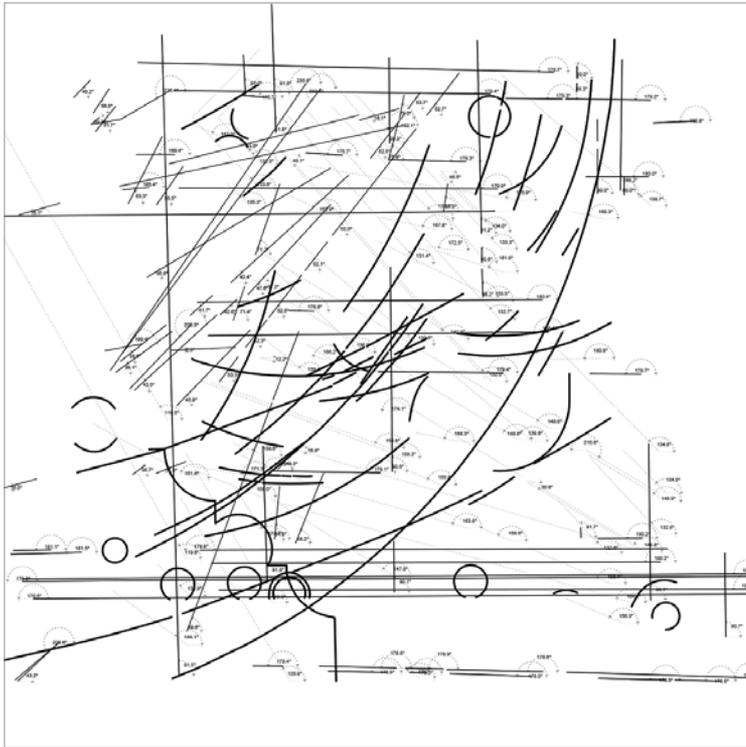
Marmoreal Space

Historically, screens have been understood as architectural elements that are part window, aperture, wall, and surface. This thesis will challenge the notion of screens as two-dimensional elements and explore their potential as three-dimensional conditions, through changes in thickness, layering, variable porosity, and scalar shifts. This expanded definition of the screen may begin to assume spatial qualities, become occupiable, and demonstrate volume, mass, and void. The octagonal tomb at the center of the Taj Mahal, which houses the cenotaphs of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan, is surrounded by a marble lattice screen that emphasizes it's importance. This thesis will attempt to re-envision the tomb as an embodiment of the screen as a three-dimensional space.
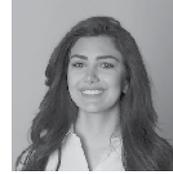
Narin Hagopian
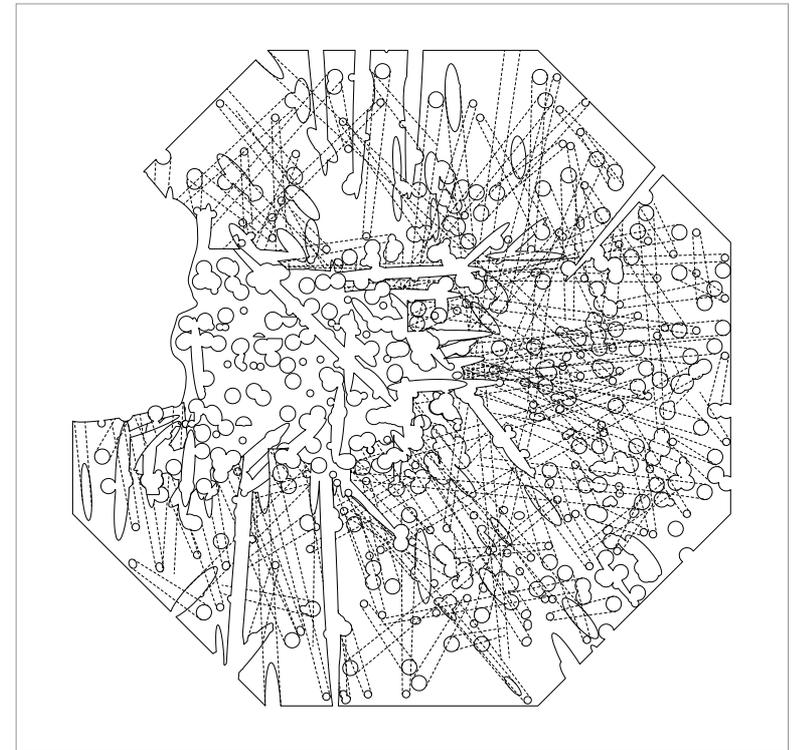
Inhabiting the VOID space

Jacqueline Jauregui

Interior Architecture offers a myriad of ways to come to terms with the notion of a void through intellectual, visual, perceptual, and sensorial realms. Often under-explored are the role of vast spaces to simultaneously foster a range of scale of social activities while mediating the scale difference between the human and the large volume. One concept for a void is a removal of the mass of a building, a carved out space or an absence of mass. Inversely, a void may be a dominantly perceived volume created by the defining elements of that space. In either case the juxtaposition between mass and volume is fundamental to the craft of space making. This project reflects on the existing relational situation of mass and void at the Beinecke Rare Books Library by Gordon Bunshaft (1963) to envision a program of a free library in its lower levels.
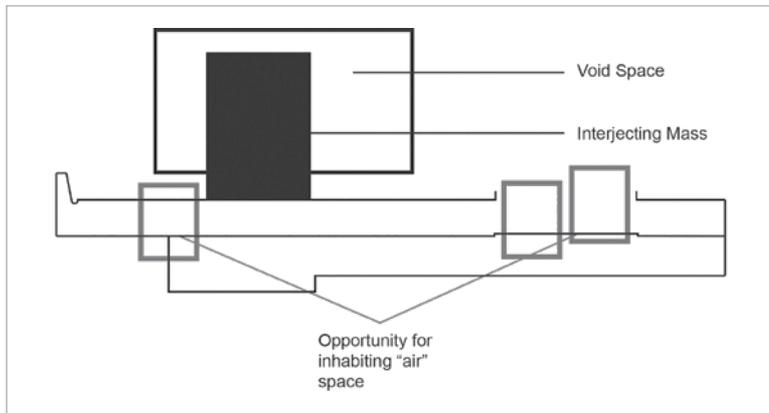
Mumbai Bath House

Isle Keijser

A bath house in Mumbai, India investigates how an interior space can be used as a vessel for water. The presence or absence of water facilitates different functions within the space. Water is the dynamic element that changes function and the experience of the space. The vessel allows summer monsoon rainfall to be harvested throughout the year. When there is a shortage of fresh water, it is necessary to conserve water in India's dry climate. The form derives from stepping modules, allowing access to water at varying levels. The stepping modules carve inhabitable space out of the ground. The scale of each program is influenced by the volume of rainwater. The scale correlates to the interaction of the human body. Smaller scale interactions of the body include ritual washing of the body and clothing. Larger scale interactions involve diving and swimming. The rising and falling datums allow different programs to be activated.

Burls, Birds Eyes, And Ambrosia

Architecture can be thought of as an attempt to stabilize, regulate, and control unpredictable atmospheric changes through physical (and technological) means. The concrete visual enclosures that have conventionally been identified as architecture, mediate, scale, or reorient unpredictable shifts in climatic conditions such as temperature, humidity, or precipitation, and the amounts, intensity, and availability of light. Although concrete visual boundaries are credited with defining occupiable space, they are guided by intangible atmospheric conditions that are dynamic in time, location, context, and material. This thesis explores the expanded potentials of atmospheric fluctuations to generate occupiable space by leveraging the hyper-responsive pith of diseased wood veneer to moisture; thus becoming a spatial index of a dynamic environment.
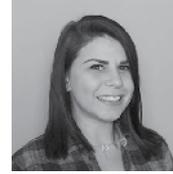
Anna Kobalyan
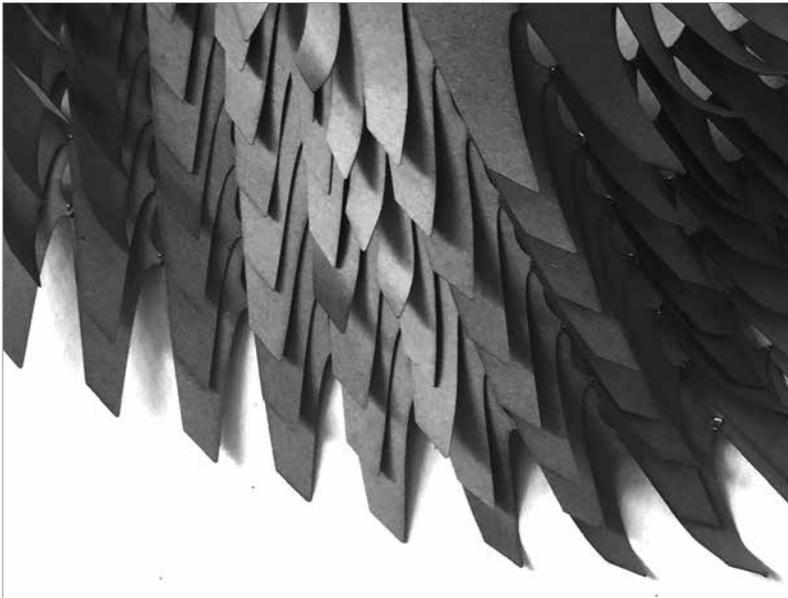
Enigmatic Fields

The prioritization of vision over other senses since the Renaissance led to decades of exploration of space and sight.

Artists, filmmakers and set-designers have challenged our normative understanding of perspectival vision and offered alternative ways for us to engage space through vision. Our understanding of the unique properties of the visual sense: perspectival flatness (3D into 2D) via parallax, fore-shortening, and blind-spots offered us ways to explore the mental and physical seductive powers of space.

Architects and designers have been exploring the concept of space-time but have seldom exploited spatial ambiguity through the dynamic relativity between the mise-en-scene of architectural elements and body movement.

Perspectival flattening engenders concealed spaces. These enigmatic fields give rise to opportunities to experiment: asserting illicit programs that can reveal the hidden mental spaces of a culture. The Helsinki Stair in Finlandia Hall by Alvar Aalto will be the site of the first experiment.

Maria Kobalyan
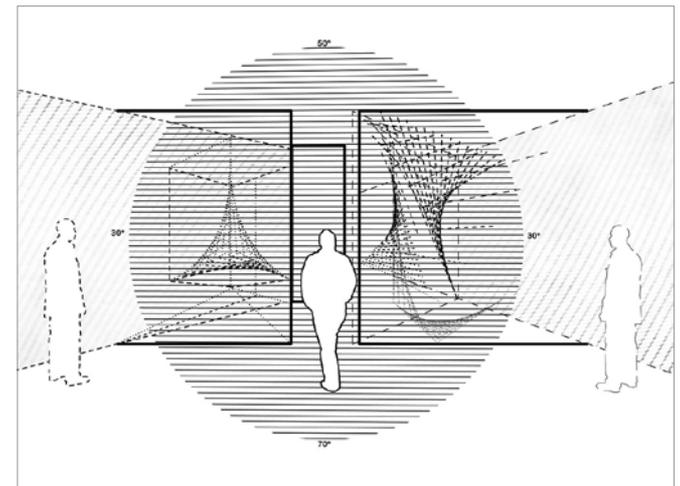
Tramp Tectonics

Tramp art is a folk art traditional that uses everyday materials and objects and transforms them into surprising and inventive tectonic systems. This thesis explores the ingenuity of everyday objects as sources for architectural tectonics, and the resourcefulness of reusing common materials. Railroad ties will be appropriated as a module for the construction of six bus stops along the Wilshire corridor in downtown Los Angeles.

Yanqiao Lin
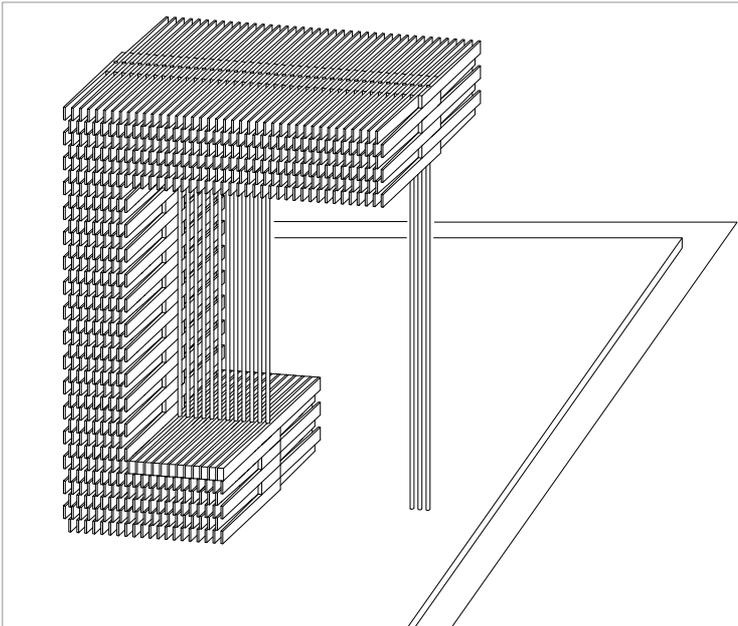
Ikusi Shimasu (to nurture)

As baby boomers continue to age, 45% of their aging population has reported some form of-dementia (alz.org). Designers of environments for that population seem held captive by their responsibility towards ADA compliance, and distracted from the potential to create a compassionate design that addresses both the body and the spirit of the user. Interior architecture distinguishes design methodologies towards intimate scale and human experience that can offer agency to prompt memory. The project focuses on the relational potentials between the dementia patient, the activities of showering, the space of the shower and the connection to nature. Coming to terms with the impact by the burgeoning expansion of technical existence into the realm ofour daily life, the project re-asserts design for the often neglected typology of the shower to elevate the experience of the daily ritual and to bolster the patient's sense of independence.

Kayla Manio
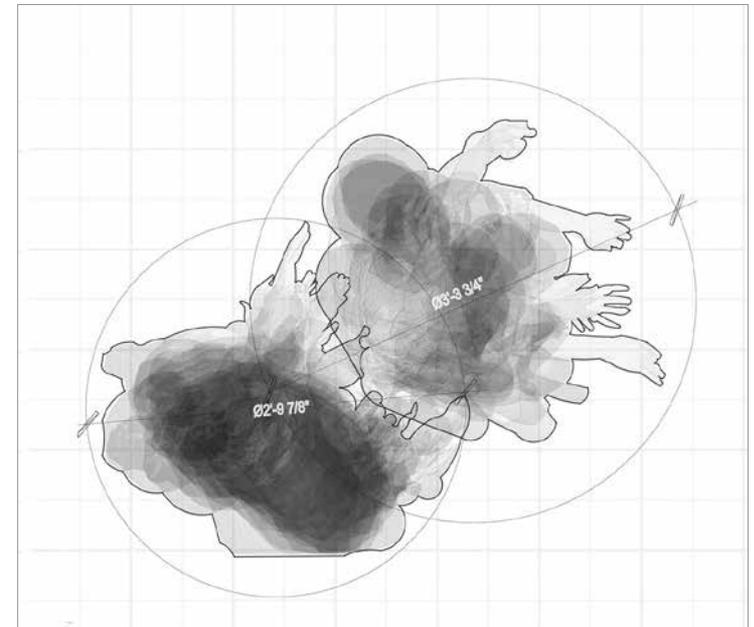
House of Parts: A Rethinking of The Loosian Raumplan

In Adolf Loos' domestic architecture the exteriors were the residual effects of an interior agenda. This thesis explores the possibility of maintaining Loos' interest in interior volumes through the concept of the raumplan, but privileges the framing of views from the exterior to the interior as a means of shaping and designing the relationship of outside to inside.

Gonzalo Moran
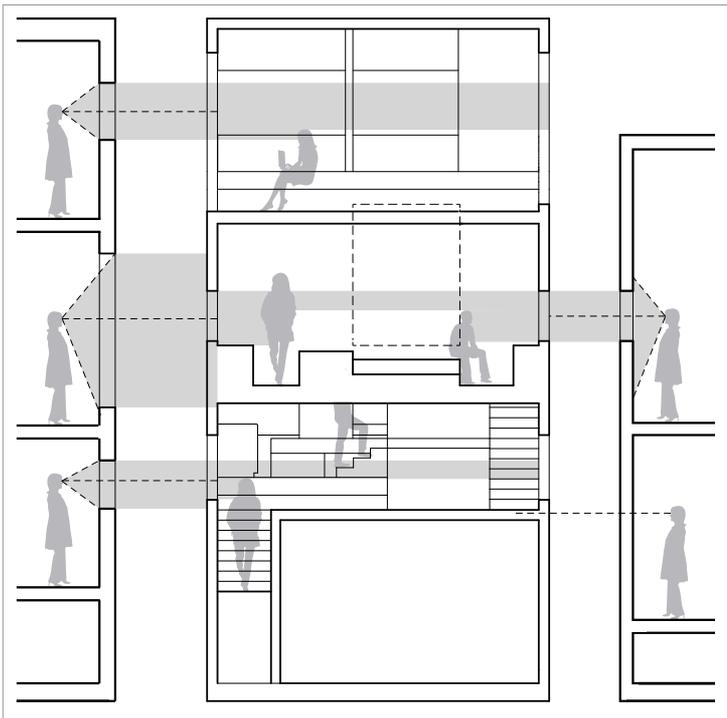
Vapor Theater
Molecular Gastronomy and the Sensual Object

Vapor has been an under-explored material and phenomenon. It is more commonly investigated as an object in art, and used as an effect in creating atmosphere on stage and screen. Vapor has seldom been explored as an architectural material. The first precedents of using vapor as both form and space were Cloudscapes by Transsolar & Tetsuo Kondo architects (2010) and the Blur Building by Diller Scofidio + Renfro (2002). Situated as an establishment for molecular gastronomy, the project continues the exploration of vapor for its potential to offer dynamic spatial experiences and to integrate its material effects with body movements with the theater of fine dining.

Misako Ohno

Courtyard Legacy

Jing Wang

In the two decades of modernization and explosive building activities in China, a large part of the traditional architectural heritage have been destroyed. The negative impact is the loss of design knowledge and building tradition that has been tuned over centuries to address the needs of the extended Chinese family structure. This project explores the potential of adaptive reuse of the 'Four Harmony Court' typology to address a contemporary Chinese residential model for the extended family 35 years after the implementation of the 'one-child' policy. The project will focus on recognizing the synergy and encumbrance of the millennial and baby boomer generations living in proximity, and on extending the architectural techniques of the multi-fold courtyard threshold to achieve balance of community and privacy inherent in the traditional model.
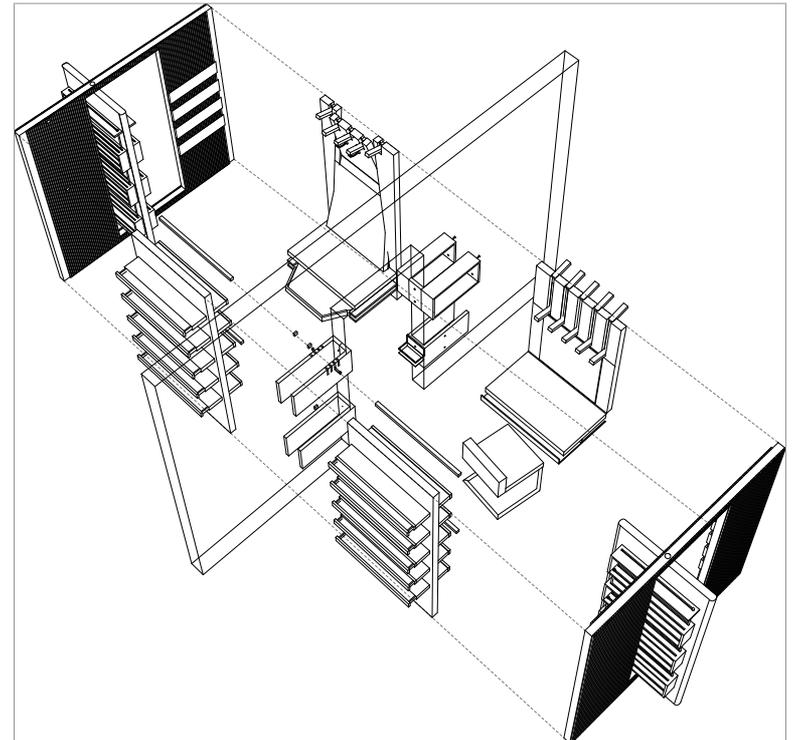

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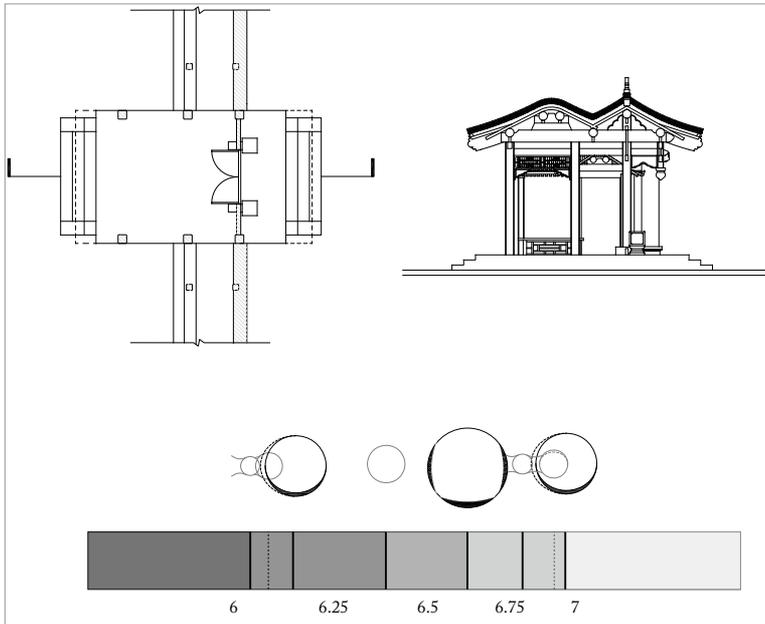
The Third Room

Ximan Wu

Rooms are typically assigned for a single function. This status quo is increasingly being challenged in reaction to the rising cost of construction and property value. One strategy to extract the most value of one's living space is to create possibilities for multiple use within the same area. Traditionally, the zone of the door threshold has been perceived and use only as a moment of circulation, and specifically a passage from one space to another. The project explores this underutilized area to reclaim a multi-use space-object that straddles the boundary between room and furniture.
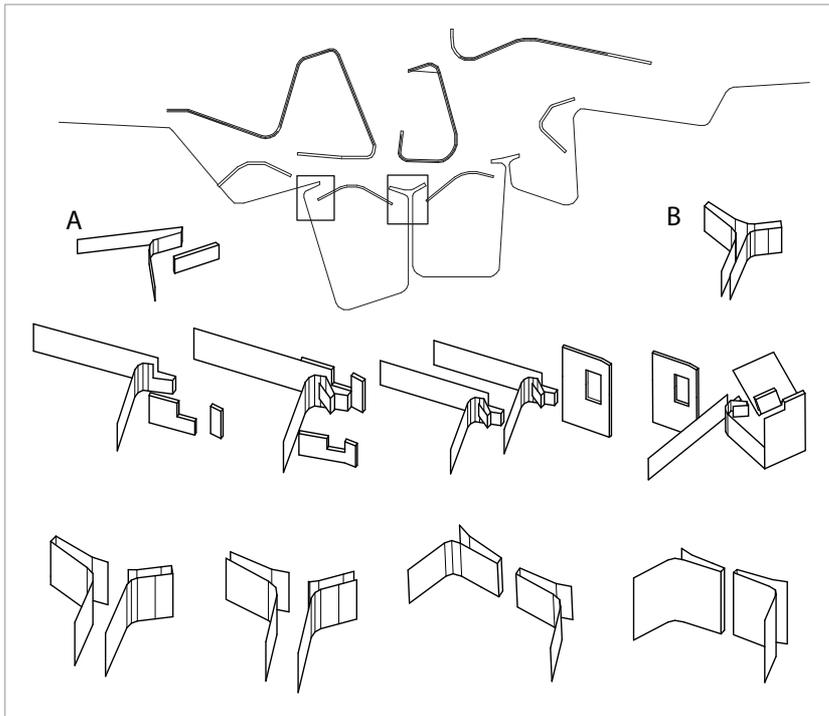
Transform Design

Soot: An Argument for Contextual Parametricism

Jing Yuan

The project identified and analyzed the fluidi-ty and the unfolding characteristics in the form language of the Olympic Archery Range, Barcelo-na (1991) designed by Enric Miralles and Carmé Pinos in 1984 and completed in 1994. Affected by the characteristics of formal gestures evocative of nature and codified by the figural characteristics of steel bent plates, two 'seed' forms from the precedent study were subjected to the implied actions of cut, graft and repeat in order to expand their formal capacity to motivate the design of a scholar in residence live-work unit.

Yumin Zeng

The term "parametric design" is defined as the gen-eral action of a design as produced by the adop-tion of parameters. Over the past two decades, parametric design has been driven by algorithmic software, which favors geometry and construction, generating projects that are primarily concerned with form and surface. As a result, parametric processes have rarely been focused on issues of enclosure, space making, or context. This thesis argues for the values of a contextual parametricism, in which the specific parameters of a location, environment, or situation are utilized in order to develop spaces that are responsive to the dynamic conditions of a place. Architecture should become the interface of formal conditions and situations.
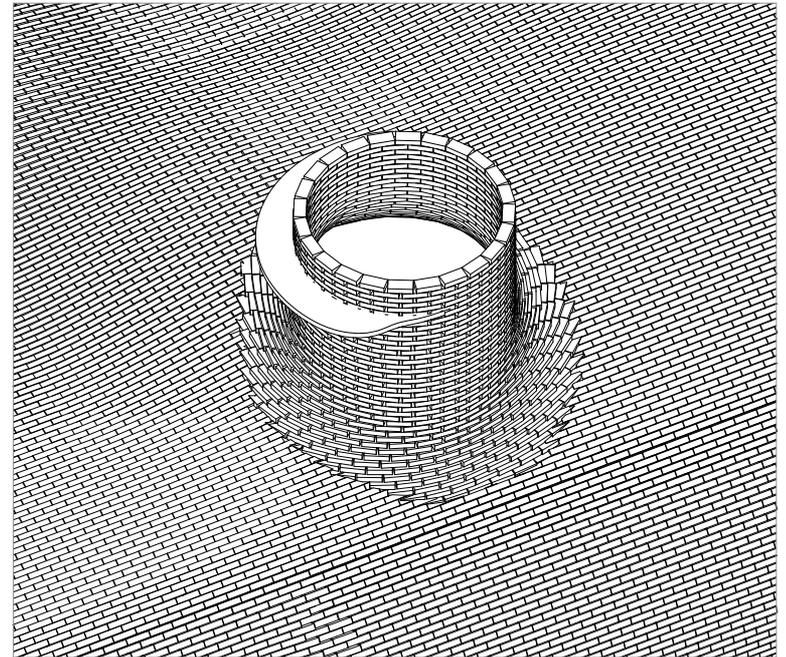
Los Angeles

Annie Chu and **Heather Peterson,**
Instructors

Students   Bahar Abedi

Nooshin Moosavi

Light & AIR Space:
Spatial Translation of Air on the G-string by J.S. Bach

The arts share fundamental values to address the human experience. The nomenclature of architecture and music share in common terms such as rhythm, sequence, hierarchy, form, proportion and scale.

For music, the conceptual scaffolds like tempo, time and key signatures set the parameters for the entire piece; and may have counterparts in architecture.

"Air" is a ubiquitous composition that commonly conjures up images of verdant pastures and forests. In the case of architectural space, a similar attitude may be tested on the experience of enclosure and the orchestration of all its sensorial impact on the body and mind.

Utilizing the modes of drawing, translational exploration focuses on a series of etudes - elemental spatial studies that codify a series of operations to activate the basic interior architectural elements of floor, wall, ceiling, light and shadow with a focus on the scale of movement of the body in space and the potential for the perceptual correspondence between the space and music.

Bahar Abedi

The Door and The Stair:
**An Exploration in the Ambiguity of Thresholds**

The house has been a conceptual testing ground for designers. The elements of a house such as doors and stairs embody social dynamics and orchestrate the transition from one spatial experience to another. Doors and stairs specifically register human scale, and are design details that can be mined for their generative potential.

The door becomes a kinetic and performative vertical element participating in the assembly of a threshold condition. Its role ranges from a part of a wall plane to a space in between.

The horizontal levels of a stair can be studied specifically for their ability to choreograph spatial variations. Its power to activate the section relative to human dimensions and domestic activities provide a robust scaffold to situate the complex social dynamics and movements inherent in the challenges of any architectural brief.

Nooshin
Moosavi

Catherine Herbst
Architecture Chair
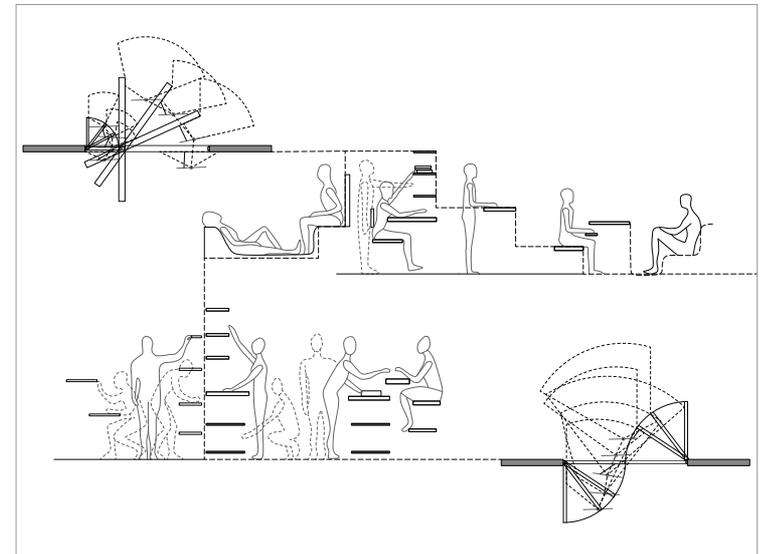
"It's just another project."

"It is not how you are ending your education,
but how you are beginning your career."

I hear myself and my colleagues say this and countless other clichés to each class of students as they struggle through their last project. From my perspective, the Degree Project is a measuring stick for a group of people who complete their degree at the same time. It is etched with friendships and hardships and I think the best classes remember it fondly. Every year it morphs with the directions of an able faculty. Aspects get better and sometimes things are lost. But when the studio is humming at eight in the morning, I know the students have found their ethic. Their motivation is their own, and that will carry them a long way. The only thing I enjoy more than students is alumni. And so I wish them all well and will see them again.

Eric Johnson and David Pearson,
Instructors

Students

Ahmad Al Falasi

Menekse Alptekin

Paola Alvarez

William
Bustos-Martinez

Quinn Doerr

Ryan Gallegos

Colin Jones

Kha Nguyen

Julijana Petrovic

Rafael
Quinones-Garcia

Muna Rahman

Andrew Sadera

Isabella Santini

Scott Shaver

Richard Torres

Seungjae Yi

Locating a region...
The influence of a region on a project and a project on a region.

How does a region define a project? Through an exploration into the range of architectural discourse, as influenced by the specifics of place, the region of San Diego helps situate a field of topics or issues at the forefront of architectural thought. Student investigations navigate and evaluate the relationships between topics of a global culture and lifestyle, and topics specific to their region of emergence. We work towards understanding both the broad and the specific as an integral part in forming a position within the Southern California Region.

How does a project define a region? As a class, we position the overall themes of degree projects that represent the whole, in order to further grander discussions of the city at large. Identifying a school of thought (or thoughts), which serve as platforms for collaboration. Similarities between projects are harnessed to benefit individual projects as well as larger class discussions. Through research, exploration, and development, individual interests and explorations are encouraged, while relating interests are cultivated.

"Copy + Paste"

Like other disciplines, architecture relies heavily on the act of copying. Through the copy, architecture can be dispersed and created more rapidly, particularly at a global scale. At its worst the copy becomes copyright infringement. But at its best the copy can be used more in the vein of Picasso, where the good artist copies and the great artist steals.

Embracing the copy reflects an age bombarded by 2 dimensional media. It calls for radical reformation of architectural imagination that both invents and 'steals.' It allows for the renunciation of form making that is yet to be discovered. These new formulations manifest the inextricable relationship to the past as well as the present. They allow an exploration of multiple histories and cultures and begin to re-define the discipline.

This thesis specifically investigates the methodology of copying from 2D media to 3D architectural space through notational systems. The goal is to empower architects to take ownership over multiple histories to redefine architecture in the present.

Ahmad Al Falasi
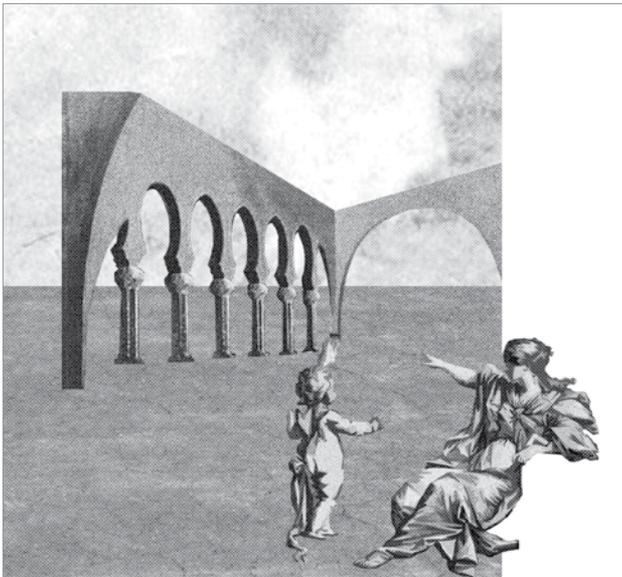
HUB Networking Device Connecting Innovation, Education, and Production

Our world faces environmental and social challenges at a scale that requires the attention of individuals, nations, and international organizations. Building and development professionals have a particular responsibility and a unique opportunity to tackle these issues.

Physical solutions by themselves will not solve social and economic problems, but neither can economic vitality, community stability, and environmental health be sustained without a coherent and supportive physical framework.

The border between Tijuana and San Diego forms a physical line between developing and developed worlds. The bicultural nature of Tijuana makes it an ideal city for U.S. startups trying to enter Latin American market, and vice versa.

HUB project aims to give people a coherent and supportive physical framework required to advance technology and create a new economy in the region. It will serve as a networking device to connect innovation, education, and production.
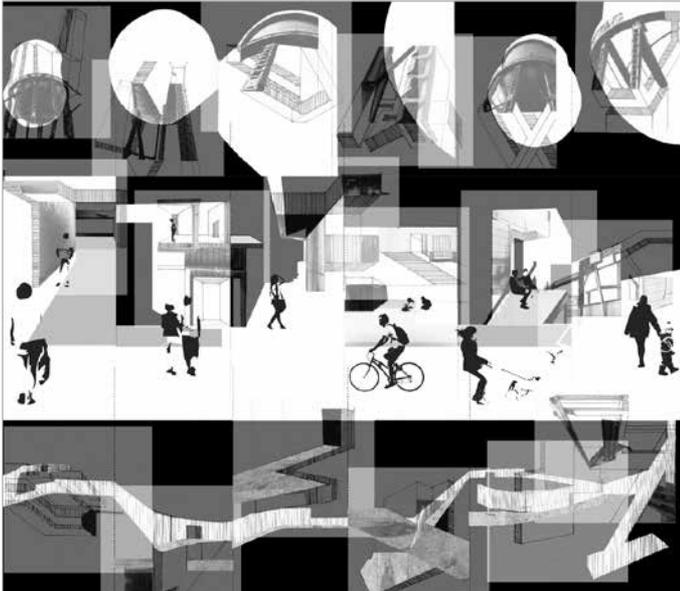
Menekse Alptekin

Hidden Narratives

Doctor's Gym: A Playground for Healthy Architecture
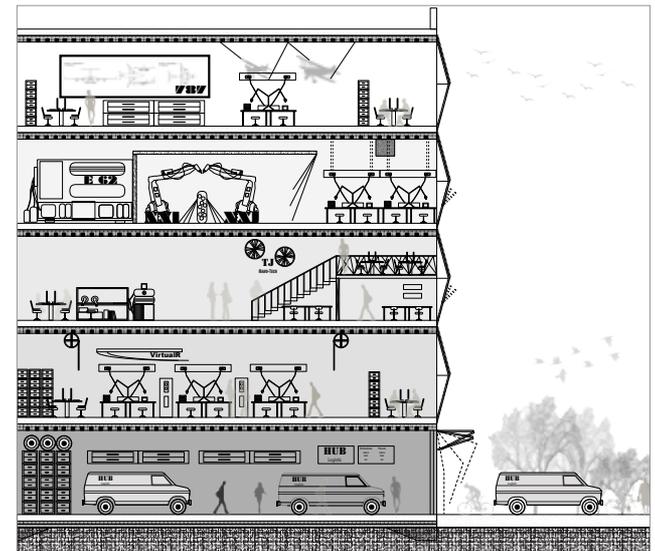
Narrative is storytelling: the human device that links a system of connected events that relate the real and surreal. Visual storytelling occurs in architectural form through a developed multi-layered language to let the appropriate stories relate to us. My thesis starts with the exploration of the potential for narrative as a design approach maintaining architecture's relevance in our ethereal-age by conducting an investigation of the hidden narratives within one of San Diego's historical districts. The aim is to discover and remember forgotten links that re-connect the edges of the site to our modern environment by designing the physical that grounds the existential. This architectural study in writing and producing becomes a duality influenced by writing and reacting, reacting and writing which narrows down three existing elements: the water tank, the caretaker, and the fields. This interaction alludes to a meaningful present space that promotes a dialogue between the site, its citizens and their memories.

Paola Alvarez

Our living and working environments impact our health two times more than our DNA. More doctors are investigating where we "live work and play" to help with their diagnosis and treatment plans. Doctors are also looking for better ways to connect with their neighborhoods. Architecture can help in this connection by reevaluating the clinic to be more social and integrated within the community.

This degree project proposes to evolve the clinic by merging it with a gym. When people exercise, they are actively and positively thinking about their health. Shared spaces where fitness and medicine live, work and play together will help facilitate stronger doctor/patient relationships.

This project is located in Ocean Beach near many homes, restaurants and retail spaces. By locating a Doctor's Gym by a popular beach this project hopes to take advantage of the existing healthy environment to facilitate healthy architecture and build stronger connections.

William Bustos-Martinez

Architecture of Gradients

Located along the harbor of downtown San Diego, the site for a future brewery is surrounded on one side by industrial technology and on the other by public services and gatherings. The waterfront is dominated by government and shipping needs. Private residences including many small condos exist in nearby Little Italy. These qualities allow for opportunities of connection from private to public and from industrial activities to social life. The transition presents itself as a gradient of connections. A brewery consists of private, industrialized space coordinating with areas of public access and social activity. It becomes an ideal testing ground for a gradient architecture. Points of connection are emphasized and reveal a structural system of small connections that help to complete the transition.

Quinn Doerr
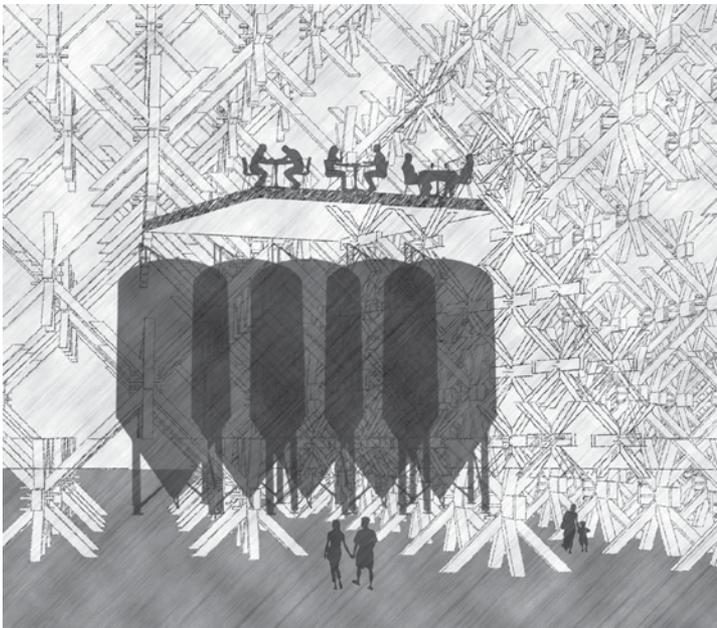
Control & Perception

The controlling of space, utilizing window/apertures can influence thought and alter one's perception on a specific topic relative to city conditions. The topic began as a critique on a window's higher potential. Rather than traditional window standards; the use of atmospheric volumes, curation of views, and directional circulations are emphasized to create a provocative experience. Several elements become the main conditions to be framed. These are commercial, homeless/pollution, transportation, naval, construction, and residential. With these conditions in mind, framed, and focused on, a town hall serves many unique relationships between program and condition. The town hall consists of a grand chamber, plaza, lobby/waiting, meeting rooms, library, and restrooms. Condition and program are paired together based on contextual masses of the condition. Relative to importance in the overall program, the size of each space is a direct correlation. Through the approach, circulation, volume, and aperture; perceptive thought becomes an experiential movement.

Ryan Gallegos
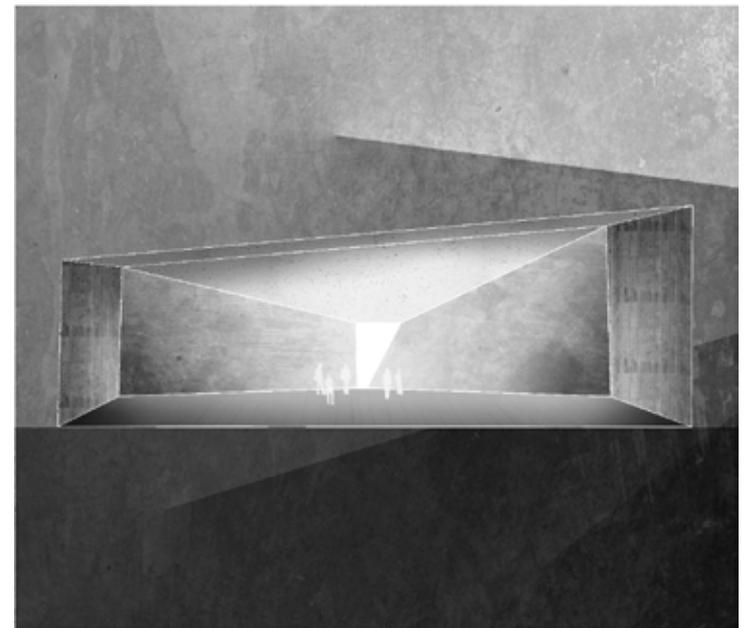
Parchipelago

The focus of this building system is to modify or improve upon a building material strategy to allow the building to function as a living system. Introducing new technologies in building materials in conjunction with passive and active energy systems allows the building to function as a living system. All systems act in collaboration, the structural skeleton as the bones, mechanical electrical and plumbing components function as the nervous system and façade or a living skin that reacts to environment and the occupant's exposers. These hybrid materials protect and harness the spent or unused heat and air in the build. This building organism generates its own environmental condition on the interior through a clear understanding of its exterior climate and weather patterns. These alternative materials become a generator form of the build to survive and flourish on its own without exterior infrastructure or impact on the environment.

Colin Jones
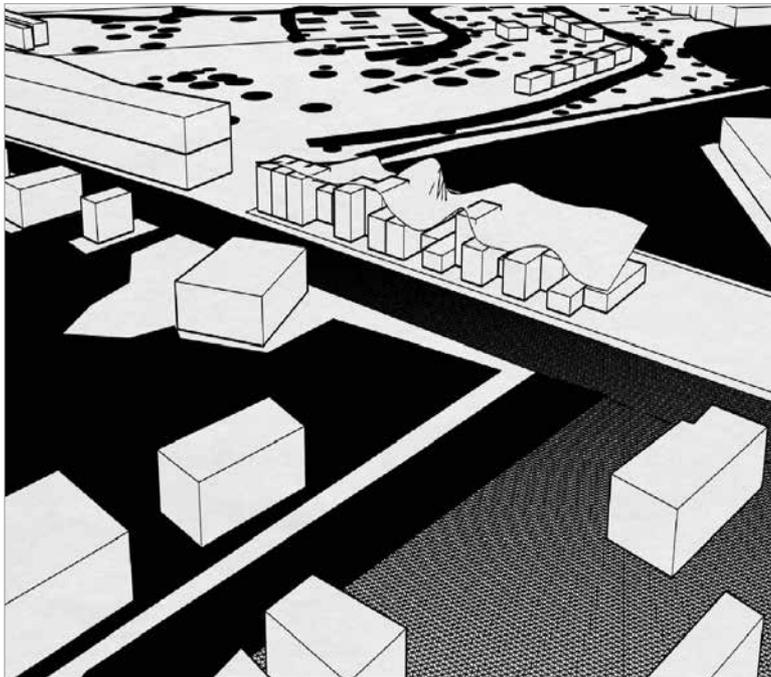
'The BLVD'

The BLVD is not a representation of a single thoroughfare but a culmination of spatial inventories that generate a series of potent intercommunity activities and programs.

Spaces, however, are becoming habitual and forgotten, associated with the monotonous and the mundane. Their values and characteristics, because of their steady affiliation with the normal, are suppressed from the forefront of thinking and consideration. These 'everyday spaces' are tested against 'everyday objects'. This progresses a catalyst that creates the capacity to measure not only the programmatic and social use, but the personal and interpersonal shared experiences; Recognize not only their object's intention, but the occupancy and contextual effects it inspires in a given space; Finally be activate not only by the productivity of chores, but the desired sensibility of leisure.

The BLVD is a design process that is a crucible for the object and typologies of the 'everyday'.

Kha Nguyen
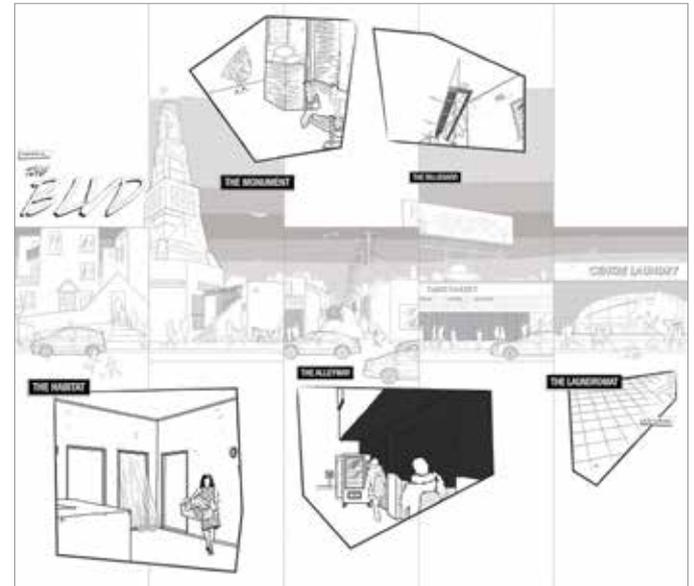
Attenuating Grid, Emerging Identity

Juliana Petrovic

What makes the grid so ubiquitous? This thesis starts with the idea of infinity – the grid that extends beyond works of art/architecture and that expands their significance.

The grid is a tool of organization, control and an unbiased response to the subject matter. Recognizing the importance of the grid while allowing it to become secondary, this thesis is a reaction to the evolution of Balboa Park's "true" and "idealized" identity. To understand this duality, I investigated Balboa Park's traditions and ideals and critiqued existing conditions. The goal of this research is to sculpt the identity of Florida Canyon and draw program into the area allowing it to live and evolve.

The project approaches these issues by understanding existing archetypes, site conditions, activities, and thresholds within Balboa Park to create transformative moments.

This project will defy time and evolve despite the conditions and surroundings, creating architecture as a living organism and not a monument of time.
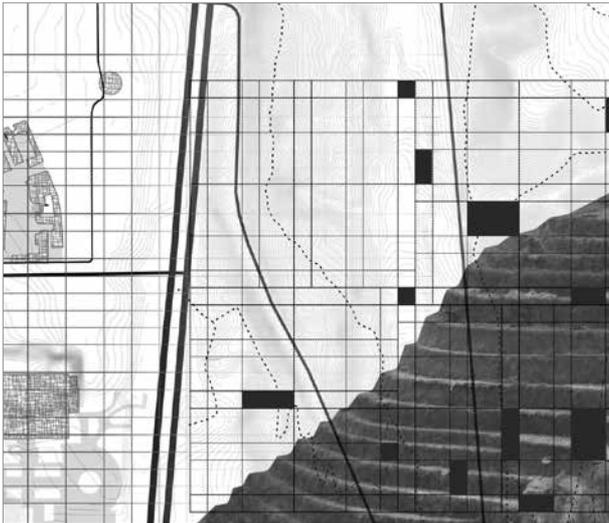
The Flux Capacitor: A Church For The Car

Rafael Quinones-Garcia

Creating a church for the car begins with capturing the drivers' attention on the road adjacent to the site as they pass by using large screen advertisements similar to casinos in Las Vegas. From the vantage of non-committal parking space, the driver can choose the length of their church attendance while sitting in a drive-in atmosphere. The array of parked vehicles will gracefully overlook the plaza below with a clear view of the screens ahead showing the live content. This gives the driver three modalities to participate: remain in their car, collect in the open plazas or enter the main venue from which the live event is being broadcasted. As the cars leave the site they can choose to exit via fast-trak donation lanes or drive thru prayer kiosks. Once the driver feels the desire to commit to a traditional religious practice, the flux is capable of acting as a conduit hub recommending drivers to the appropriate place of worship. In an age when humanity shares a symbiotic relationship with technology, architecture is fundamental to the designing of a core church in cnotext to the all-encompassing car. Inviting auxiliary programs such as free farmers' markets, concerts, conventions and other social events for drivers allows for site utilization during non-service hours that evolves the church typology for a society that spends more time in cars than in church.

**Preservation of Contrasting Limitations**

Muna Rahman

This exploration examines preservation and interpretation of archaeological and architectural remains of the historic 1927 California Theater in Downtown San Diego. The project presents conditions that show contrasting elements carried throughout the structure. Through historical evidence, visual image, settings and interpretation, elements of contrast will aid in identifying the building's values and limitations. The objective is not only to preserve the Spanish Colonial architectural style, but also to maintain the program of the theater through contrast. The investigation of the California Theater's program and configuration is one of the unique aspects of this preservation research. The interior needs to respond to the conditions of the past while staying relevant to the needs of the present and future using emerging typologies that reconnect to the downtown area. Historic preservation is not only rooted in the image, atmosphere and nostalgic value, but also in the method the building frames and operates those conditions.
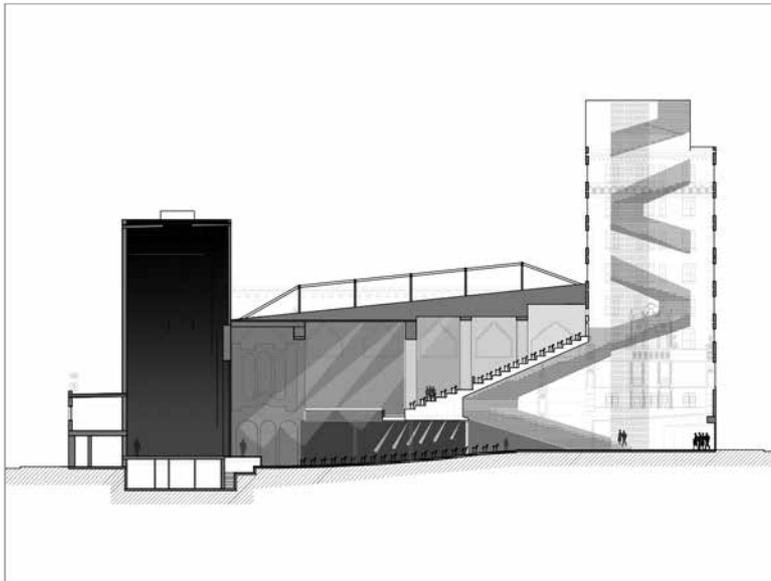
Denstopia

Andrew Sadera

In Southern California the single family house rules the landscape and the foothills. It is the engine that drives our economy, our society, and our environment. The zoning laws operate this engine deciding form, means and location of our single family houses. Together this machine has left tracks of tremendous consequence that we have been experiencing over the last fifty years. The zoning laws in Southern California have led to the development of autotopian neighborhoods and segregated land uses that smother the evolution of single family living. Due to huge single family housing demands in our ideal climate large quantities of housing tracts have been developed creating the exopolis: the city that no longer conveys the traditional qualities of cityness. Simultaneously the enforcement of zoning laws require appearances, heights, and set backs of housing to be homogenous creating a landscape of monotony repressing individuality in order to maintain an illusion of community. Additionally the low density of our neighborhoods hinders and limits the nuclear families ability to form strong communal relationships. This thesis removes the restrictions of zoning laws and suggests principles derived from single family living in order to increase density in neighborhoods in a manner more properly suited for the nuclear family.
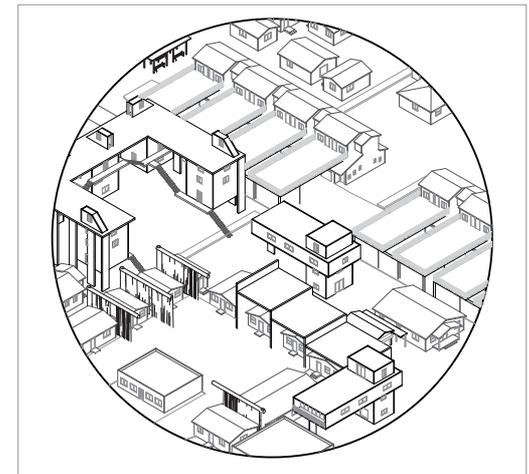
Preserving Memory

Isabella Santini

This thesis takes place in the context of Tijuana where the subject of memory has become crucial as the original history of Tijuana fades with the destruction of historic places and buildings. The construction of the Jai Alai began during the 1920's Prohibition, in order to bring a leisure resort environment to foreigners, resulting in the rapid development of Tijuana as a city. Tourism is no longer Tijuana's strength, so old memories of the city are vanishing. I started researching concepts of memory in order to think of new ways to approach historical preservation of architecture. This thesis starts with the relationship between the definition of terms such as long-term, short-term, sensory, and transience memory. Constructing new interpretations within these definitions; long term relating to the context and the historical spaces of Tijuana, short term creates spatial perception and movement, sensory being non-tangible elements (ie., light & sound), and transience with materiality and its decaying properties. Translating these equations of memory into architectural concepts and elements, gives us new ways to talk about the preservation of the architecture of the Jai Alai.
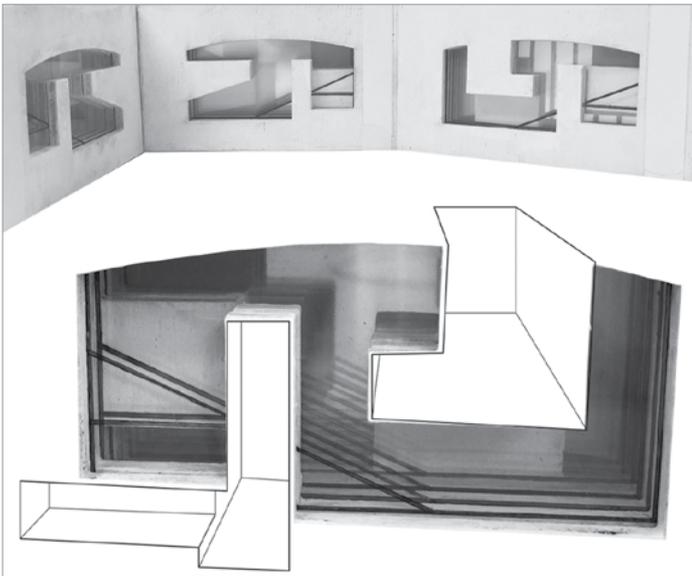
Open | To the Public

Scott Shaver

Open to the public acknowledges the intimate relationship between human, water, and architecture. It begins along a public promenade with a fountain and a restroom that provides open access to water. Descending into the site, creating pedestrian thoroughfares and variable programs, a venue, a market, or space for play, captures the middle of the site. A bath house emerges on one end and has the most controlled access to water, upon entering you encounter a large pool. Proceeding to navigate the space you discover a series of tempered waters for hygienic, therapeutic, spiritual, and recreational uses. The cultural importance and life sustaining attributes of water are explored and articulated with horizontal surfaces that hold and move water. A proposal that provokes an interaction to educate and rejuvenate.
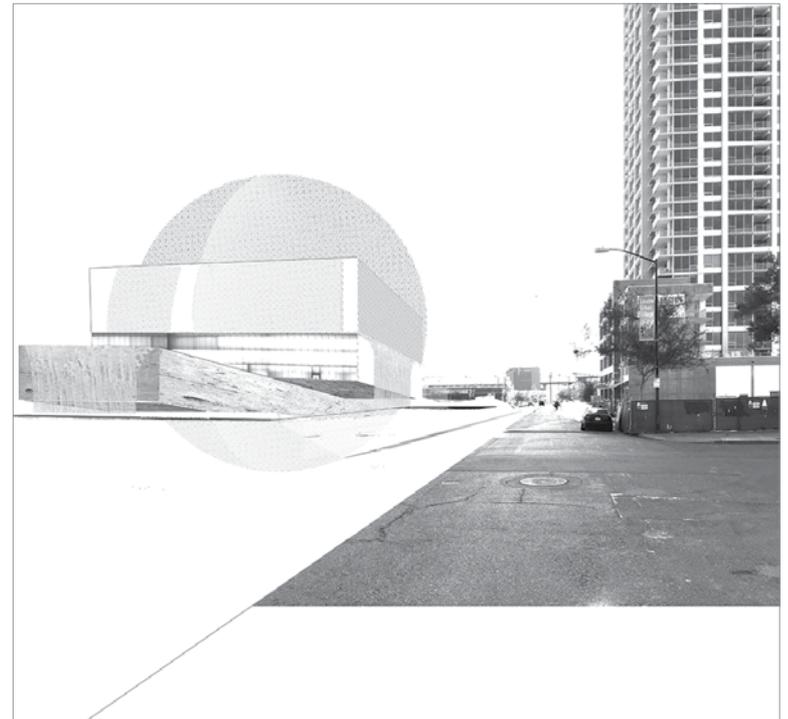
Discovering Water

Discovering Water is an educational and meditative typology. Within the context of the San Diego River there are many diverse conditions and ecological systems. Focusing on these conditions will curate a series of spaces that critique the way nature has been viewed. Water will become the driver for architectural details, materials and the presence of observations. Exposing these observations is an attempt to address the idea of infrastructure and its relationships to water. Both the San Diego River and city infrastructure use systems that depend on water. As an edge condition, the architecture will meet the San Diego River within the limits of the watershed. In an attempt to allow the river to reclaim its natural presence the architectural language will follow abstracted natural processes: Screening the way that the site is observed, Filtering the experiences in spaces, Occupying the mind and body...

Richard Torres
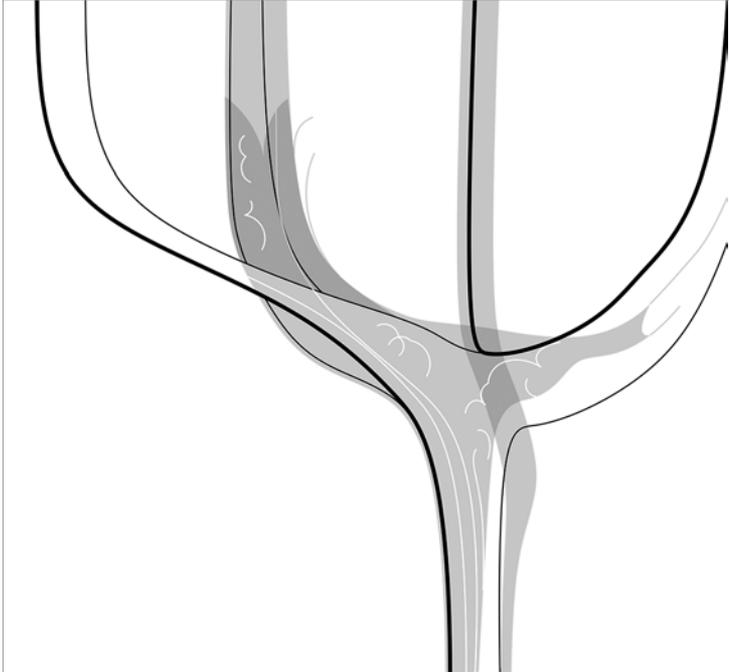
Homo Consurge (awake)

Homo Consurge is the name of the post-Homo sapiens. Being wise (the translation of Latin: sapiens) is not enough to fully merge into the contemporary world, where the boundary between real and virtual is blurred by media and literature. Being wise in the real is often awkward in the virtual. The opposite is the commonly accepted truth just like Einstein's relativity is non-sense in Newtonian space. While traditional nomads are preserving the Edenic nostalgia and still wandering around the over-abused land, contemporary nomads refuse to be victimized by pre-existing conditions and boldly pave the surface and neutralize all the sentiments left on ground. The traditional deterritorialization was geographical and romantic, producing maps and chronicles. Contemporary deterritorialization is rather non-physical and indifferent, almost brutal. This brutality is the mother of all contemporary architectural mutations. Wherever it reaches, only something unfamiliar will come out such as 24 hour spaces.

Seungjae Yi
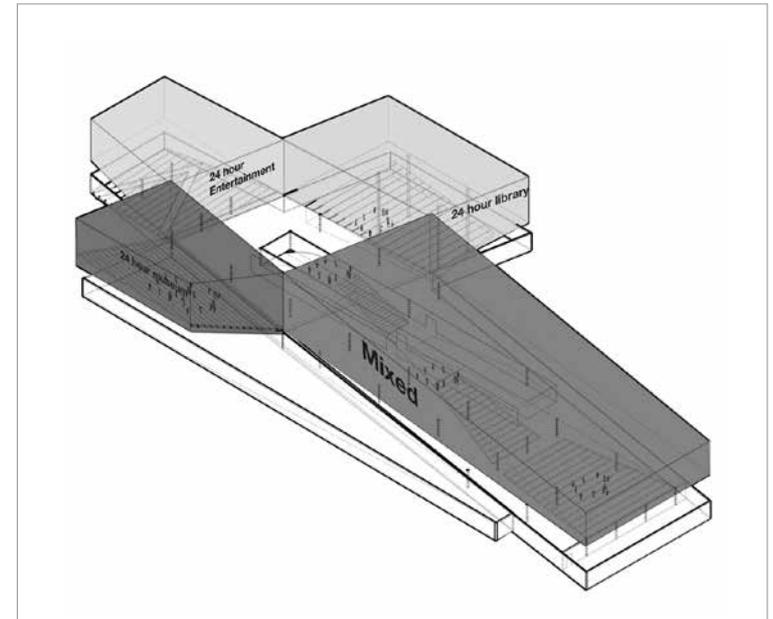
San Diego

Stan Bertheaud, Instructor

Students   Bryon Benz

Christian Dimeling

Jennifer Fillip

Juris Flores

Nico Gemmell

Anthony Salamone

Kelly Tarter

Michelle Wills

"Seismic What?"

The Earthquake Mitigation Research Athenae-um (EMRA), a campus of "sacrificial buildings", sits astride a locked section of the Southern San Andreas Fault. The buildings, constructed using current and experimental earthquake mitigation technologies shall, for research, survive or be sac-rificed when this section of the fault breaks.

During an earthquake land moves laterally and vertically in unpredictable ways. This thesis be-gins by understanding the effects of earthquake movement gravity forces on the built environment and then develops structures capable of absorbing that movement with the aim of remaining fully functional when the shaking stops.

Earthquakes are typically unpredictable, however, through the study of the measurable vertical and lateral accelerations that occur during an earth-quake and the effects on the built environment shall allow development of better construction technologies which are currently unknown and untested.

The EMRA Campus shall be a repository of current and future earthquake mitigation technologies.

Bryon Benz
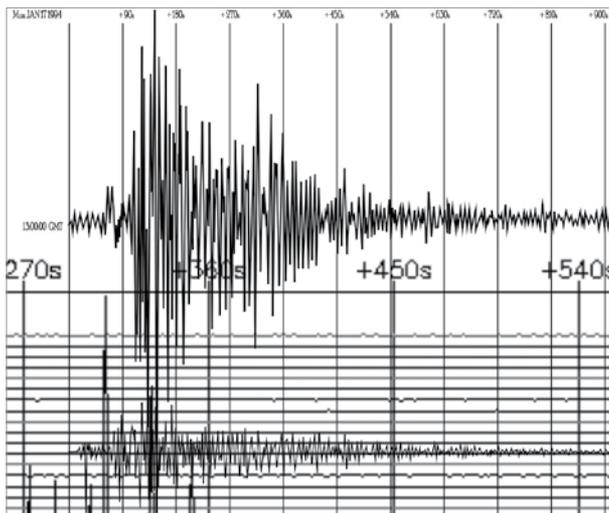
The Neighborhood & the Superstructure
Seducing the Transient Through Voyeurism

A survey of San Diego's multi-modal transportation network and its antagonistic approach to urbanism

The sprawling, car-dependent and destination-ori-ented design of San Diego is well documented. With little opportunity for meandering by bike or foot that is not prescriptive to tourism, "ordinary life" has become fragmented and passive. The resident has become the transient: A temporal commuter in their own community and at their place of work. This daily commuter passes around, through and above clusters of neighborhoods at a velocity where the resolution of culture and the built environment is represented by a mere flicker... a blur of parts.

Broadcasting from Logan Heights, the unlikely pair-ing of a culturally rich ethnic enclave with a super-structure, targets the transient citizen, seducing them to deviate from their routine through architectural tectonics and to more intimately explore the blur they had previously disregarded.

Christian Dimeling

On Becoming Iconic

folly [fol-ee]

3. a costly and foolish undertaking; unwise investment or expenditure.

4. a whimsical or extravagant structure built to serve as a conversation piece, lend interest to a view, commemorate a person or event, etc.

To be iconic is to disrupt the redundancy of the normal. Often this is achieved by inflating scale and rejecting context. This thesis is a series of follies that challenge the modern typology of icon in an urban environment exploring programmatic relationships of existing activity.

The selected site exists between the redundancies of a commercial corridor and a residential quadrant in the neighborhood of North Park. Temporal events and movements are congregated and analyzed to create a snapshot of the context's character and informing the choreography of folly programs.

From these observations emerged four categories: interval, performance, depot, and thoroughfare. The design investigates these programs through follies in relationship to scale and permanence. The resulting collection of follies add to the shared and projected memory of the neighborhood becoming iconic.

Jennifer Fillip

Re-configuring Civility
Formalizing Existing and Emerging Activities

Formal: Belonging to or constituting the form or essence of an object.
Informal: The lack of an order or hierarchy displayed in form.
Formalize: To give a certain or definite form to shape.
Civility: Human behavior in relation to civic and public spaces.

The historic district of San Salvador has been overtaken by the informal vendors, creating transformations throughout the city center. These transformations have became neglected and depleted public spaces, producing dysfunctional patterns of people/economies/transportation flows.

The loss of civility through the "permanence" of such temporal informal economies results in the single-mindedness of limited activities and ultimately decline of the city center of San Salvador.

By repositioning natural processes and human activities, FORM emerges as a way to manage these dynamic economic activities. It also serves to formalize emerging activities, resulting in the re-imaging of civic spaces within the city's historic district.
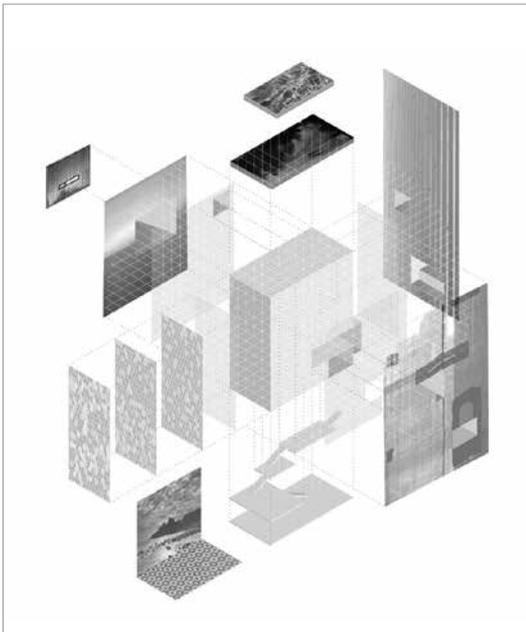
Juris Flores

**9 Propositions for a More Civil Architecture
for a Less Severed Citizenry**

Nico Gemmell

This thesis starts with the idea that there is a crisis of civic participation in San Diego. Government officiousness and beaurocratic stupor repudiate the redeeming qualities of San Diego's mid-century modern municipal buildings. These architectural vestiges, atenuated in their qualities of atmosphere and community, still possess a civic quality in the DNA of their structure that can be re-animated. If humans are sensitive to spatial behavioral cues derived from architectural space, then architects can be influential in arbitrating civic culture. This thesis analyzes an existing building — The City of San Diego Administration Building — and contemplates the current civic condition to derive 9 PROPOSITIONS for a more civic architecture in San Diego as a means to re-engage a severed citizenry.

**Play it Cool.
12 Reasons to Regain Your Figure**

**Anthony
Salamone**

Opposed to the homogenized and the generic, this thesis isan exploration of a figurative architecture seeking to engage a wider audience and amplify space. The choreography offiguration mediates between public and private realms. Residual spaces between figuration are loose-fit and solicit unanticipated activities allowing for potential transactions between body, imagination and situation.

Architecture along the North Embarcadero in San Diego, CA has been plagued by a conservative approach, never moving beyond routine competence. Repeated typologies have led to banal and uncommitted public space.

The unvarying homogenized redevelopment weakens the values and atmosphere of Southern California. Rather than play if safe, San Diego needs to"play it cool." Using figuration as a medium to liberate architecture from critical rhetoric allows for immediate graphic communication and social engagement.

Activity. Assembly. Assimilation. ... RECONNECTION

This thesis focuses on RECONNECTION through Activity, Assembly and Assimilation. The project will create connection between the walking paths west of the 163 Freeway with the northern edge of the museum district of Balboa Park by recolonizing the abandoned bridge at Richmond Street that once connected the park to the freeway.

Kelly Tarter

By seeing the bridge as a repurposed point of connection, the new architecture will utilize the abandoned space to give the bridge a neoteric expanded identity. By investigating new program, it introduces a space that allows both visitors and everyday users to utilize the space informed by their own intentions and ideas. Through different transparencies and overlays of structure and materials, the density will determine the platform of the project. The final design will extend and enhance interactions between people and their park.

The State of TRANSITion

Architecture has not kept pace with the demands of population growth. A remodeled architectural typology is needed to address the growing population, as well as the shift in work habits and lifestyles.

Michelle Wills

South American informal settlements and more formal "unfinished architecture" projects encourage inhabitants to infill the program and customize as needed. These case studies are the inspiration for this project. however provocative, they only begin to resolve the residential side of the equation. Yielding, even eliminating some zoning laws, accommodate transportation requirements, resolve urban food deserts, and increase density allowing for incorporated residential and commercial programs, structure, and spaces.

The focus of this thesis is to create a system that draws inspiration from "unfinished architecture", to form the basis of hybridized programs, and to test it on a site in Houston, Texas.

The state of transition has arrived.

Degree Project / Senior Project / Graduate Thesis 2016

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