STUDIO COURSES

FOURTH YEAR

DESIGN IV: FALL SEMESTER
Professor Kevin Bone
Associate Professor Tulay Atak
Instructor Teddy Kofman
Instructor Sophia Krimizi
Professor Sean Sculley

URBAN TERRITORIES: Landscape,
Infrastructure, Architecture

The fall 2013 Fourth Year Studio introduced students to urban design by investigating the possibility of integrating architecture, landscape, ecology and infrastructure. Based on the premise that the emerging urban condition transcends the limitations of traditional definitions of these disciplines, the studio sought for design propositions that offer strategies for integration. Establishing constructive forms of exchange between analytical research and design, the studio pursued an exploration and re-imagining of a site that included an archetype of modern urbanism, transitional zones occupied by arterial transit routes, abandoned industrial corridors and spaces that defy definition. These territories, common to many aging post-industrial cities, remain under-utilized and resist becoming part of the city fabric.

The studio focused on an area at the edge of the Harlem River in Kingsbridge Heights. Sitting on a steep topographical drop, the area is fractured by the multiple lanes of the William Francis Deegan Expressway, four sets of active and inactive railroad tracks and industrial brownfields. The site chosen for study was located on the eastern upland banks of the Harlem River—a body of water that has been radically transformed through the industrial era. Historically it was only a small stream course consisting of mostly tidal flats and wetlands. The selected site had very specific geophysical, cultural and historical attributes that impacted the proposed architectural actions.

The studio addressed a twofold program connecting the Heights with the water, while accommodating, defining and programming a Harlem River center for urban agrarian culture. Both programmatic segments are interwoven with each other, proposing the inhabitation of that transition between the water and the city. The program involved the integration of productive landscape, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, transportation, and all other appropriate ideas of urban life. The center for urban agrarian culture imagined urban agriculture in this specific context, as a new evolving model of human settlement. Projects sought to determine the activities that could take place on site in their own terms and develop programmatic scenarios of occupation and connection.

DESIGN IV: SPRING SEMESTER
Professor Diane Lewis
Professor Peter Schubert
Instructor Daniel Meridor
Instructor Robert Estrin
Visiting Assistant Professor Daniel Sherer

ARCHITECTURE OF THE CITY

STAGE: Staging a visionary humanitarian program of this time
Study one to be done within Teatrino and in drawing, model, etc.
Form to be determined as conceived by each participant. ... begin with drawings.

PROGRAM/SITE—SITE/PROGRAM: Study for preliminary concepts of project derivation
Students selected an approach to one or more of the following entries into the research. This work preceded and informed the eventual proposal. The study of program and site relationship is key to establishing a philosophy of form and signification for the work.
1. Approach: Commemorative. Research an event that is important to you in regard to emancipation with the memory of civilization. Explore the relation of the selected event to space, a place, a city, a landscape, the planet etc., as you imagine it. Explore its representation as the focus of a plan that responds to the limits of the Teatrino space.
2. Approach: The reading of place: the architectural still life—the civic conscious and architectural memory. Select a work of architecture made by a singular architect or one of earlier collective authorship as an element of a civic still tectonic still life. Crop its plan to respond to the limits of the Teatrino space.
3. Approach: The reading of place: civic fabric-urban subconscious. Select a condition within a city from memory or any other source that you find intriguing, compelling, interesting and crop it to be the focus of a plan that responds to the limits of the Teatrino space.
4. Approach: The reading of the place: natural. Select a formation of natural conditions that you consider to be in itself or to have a memorable or definitive architectural reading. Crop it to be the focus of a plan that responds to the limits of the Teatrino space.

Drawings are to be 24 inches square with an implicit centered 21 inch square. A required condition of plan view is first, with the option of your interest in exploring one or more of the plan conditions that respond to the approach/principle categories as elevation, section, backdrop, etc., relative to construction within the Teatrino as you wish. Sketching, drawing, collage and eventually model elements spring from this foray.

FIFTH YEAR

THESIS: FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER
Professor David Turnbull
Assistant Professor Hayley Eber
Assistant Professor Pep Aviles
Assistant Professor Cristina Goberna

Instructor Teddy Kofman

May 2013. The Architecture School lobby was painted black, it was empty. We kept it that way. Standing in silence before moving to the Foundation Building's first floor colonnade to talk about the school and about the work of the students, it was a review that was not quite a review, more of a rite of passage. A long table held carefully selected objects, drawings, books, projectors, maps and a square piece of turf bisected by a white painted line, two inches wide— two sides, home and away, them and us—positions taken. A simple confrontation. The end of an extraordinary year with remarkable students making exceptional work.... Former CIA employee and NSA contractor Edward Snowden flew to Hong Kong and the first documents released by Snowden to *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald and filmmaker Laura Poitras, uncovering the existence of numerous global surveillance programs, were published. In Syria the death toll approached 100,000. Our students graduated. The End of Year Show opened. It was bright, full of life and hope, a testament to the creativity and vitality of the thesis class. But the school had changed and would change more significantly during the summer and throughout the fall.

September 2013. The Thesis class entered this new Cooper Union, which appeared to be the same but was not. Charged with setting a goal for themselves and defining their own path through the year, they started with a short project called Messages & Messengers, an alibi perhaps, certainly a trick that would provoke a question, a thesis. In a world where uncertainty, anxiety, paranoia, fear, distrust and disbelief have almost comprehensively replaced any sense of comfort and security, with no firmness, too much commodity and only the most emaciated expression of delight, it comes as no surprise that the work this year tracks at least two paths, that might appear to be irreconcilable, but maybe are not: retreat and amelioration.

May 2014. Turning back the clock to a time of sense and sensibilities that were shared or looking forward to a new reality that is patched up, backed up and re-booted so that it will work better, more or less. Inevitably a third way is also apparent this year, an escape from the complication that comes with going backwards or forwards, as you never know quite what or who you might meet on the journey.

This involves inventing some kind of parallel world, where like a bitcoin miner, the student architect plays complex games in an alternate reality to make things that actually have value in our reality. All three paths and the decision about the path to be taken raise questions about the autonomy, semi-autonomy or quasi-autonomy of our discipline. As ever, the ghosts whisper in the early hours and the best work reminds us that however confusing the world has become, inside and outside, however cacophonous the ambient noise, a still, clear voice can be heard that belongs to nobody but can be shared by everyone. Architecture.

Thresholds. This thesis seeks to interrogate the limits of Venice and explore a new domesticity for Venetians in the city that is notoriously home to floods of tourists.

Terrain Vague. Rather than continuing the rhetoric of urban expansion by proposing another master plan, this project takes the
Redacted. This project explores the conditions in which secrets are kept and exposed.

The city center of L'Aquila. This thesis proposes a network of non-intrusive weaving supports that reorganizes the urban fabric and social structure of L'Aquila providing new public access and public spaces.

Architecture that Sees: Boston Marathon, April 2013. This thesis explores how architecture can challenge the role of the spectator, runners, police, and make the spectators the spectacles in today's metropolitan events.

Rivers of Gold: El Choco, Colombia. The aim of this proposal is to develop a new typology within these mining territories that will present an intermediate scale of mining, defining the size of the tools used as well as the impact the process creates.

Urban Transience: Transitional Habitation in the Era of Globalization. This thesis generates a type of transitional habitation that will have a substructure (architecture) placed into a megastructure (urban infrastructure).

Roosevelt Island: Site Exhaustion—Towards (A)Historical Poetics of Program. In an attempt to collapse the expansive notion of historical proximities this thesis constructs a continuous tectonic material that recuperates them from obsolescence.

The Unicorn Remystified. Adopting the subject of WCW's modern epic Paterson as its site, this thesis resolves to redeem the sordid city by rediscovering the symbolic unicorn of the place.

Navigating the Techno-Arctic. This project intends to confront the postindustrial transformation of natural landscapes through the implementation of networked and overlapping technological systems of organization.

City in Flux: Mobility as the Catalyst for the Revitalization of Shrinking Cities. This thesis addresses two American problems, the mobile home and the shrinking city, by reinventing one to revitalize the other.

Fermentation Architecture. Fermentation architecture is a way of understanding and managing the landscape for productive purposes without altering the existing conditions.

Free Trade Zone in Transit. This project deals with the internal workings of the Panama Canal as well as the growth in container vessels, as a way to create a new urbanism.

Fragmentary Refinery. The redevelopment of Brooklyn's Domino Sugar Factory provides an opportunity to question and propose a new vision of historical preservation.

Building in Time. The situation is a 40-acre site along the riverfront in Deptford, London. This thesis puts forward the design for two interventions for public institutions rooted in the histories of the site.

Albatross. The atmosphere, a location that has escaped the hold of archetypal architecture, offers a new world of possibilities that involves the transition from the traditional method and systems of constructing earthbound structures

Cauterized Terrain. Within the remote mountain town of Crown King, Arizona, this project proposes a new city form, which will coexist with the forest's natural fire regime.

Carnivalesque Infrastructure: A New Urban Approach to the Caribbean City. This project provokes a transformation of colonial urban form in Caribbean cities through the invention of new urban types that facilitate the festival as it moves from island to island.

Soundings Museum: A Natural History of Endangered Noise. The Michigan Building, a derelict renaissance revivalist theatre turned parking garage, is reimagined into a space of performance celebrating the phenomena of synthetic music.

Testing the possibilities of new architectural engagements in real time. Shared experiences between architectural ideas and other people and projects initiate cultural memory, which catalyzes investments in architecture, not as historic landmarks of design, but as successful relationships of communal engagements.

Beyond The Visible Terrain: The Persistance of Memory in Desert(ed) New Mexico. This thesis takes Socorro County as a laboratory to retrace and recuperate significant events from oblivion.

Underneath it all I knew that one cannot go beyond because there isn't any. This thesis explores the nature and effects of the relationship between notions of the world' and its multivalent representations.

Field in Flux: Techniques for Engaging Uncertain Waterfronts. This thesis proposes to use architecture and technology to coax out a new relationship between city and floodplain, industry and nature.

Sound as Space. By manipulating the trajectory and levels of a sound in a space, a new space can be drawn, not determined by physical boundaries but by sound perception.

Brahmaputra, Assam. This thesis begins with a critique of the rigid ideology of the embankment to develop new relationships with the Brahmaputra's sediment load.

Architectural Adaptation Through Delirium: Coney Island in its Dream State. By recuperating idiosyncratic aspects of the island, a more sustainable and playful Coney Island will surface.

Hunan, China. This project attacks the problem of the informal expansion of the current cities and proposes a frame to delimit and condense the socio-spatial events in an attempt to define the role of architecture as an urban and public domain.