

# Transient Spaces *Call for Contributions*

## 1\_CONTENT

Submissions of all formats will be accepted under the categories below. Please state your choice of themes (you may include more than one) and we will revise it accordingly. The final choice of content will aim at diversifying contributions across these different knowledge fields.

**Transiency** / temporality \_ pre-existences \_ adaptation  
**Refuge** / shelter \_ refugee \_ immigration \_ displacement  
**Identity** / community building \_ belonging \_ participatory design \_ conservation  
**Border** / enclosure \_ camp \_ territory \_ policy \_ resources

## 2\_FORMATS

**Projects:** Art and Design Proposals

**Documentaries:** Press records, Documentations of existing conditions, Interviews, other material that denounce the issues.

**Visual Micro-Narratives:** Informationally loaded constructed imagery with spatial articulation. Collages, mappings or other forms of representations that are discursive in their meanings and simultaneously visually powerful. The representations to be accompanied with a short statement of max. 600words.

**Texts:** Commentaries and Articles, of maximum 3000 words.

- Letter or A4 Microsoft word document.
- The text should include a title and the name of the author/authors on any of the upper corners of the 1st page. The document should include page numbers.
- Max. 6 visuals not to exceed 8"by8" or 16"width by 8"height in size. Every visual to have captions (under each visual or in a numbered list of illustrations in the end of the text).
- Citation System: Chicago Style (<http://subjectguides.library.american.edu/c.php?g=175008&p=1154150>)

For text w/ visuals please submit any of the following:

Option a. Letter or A4 size Microsoft word document with the images incorporated within the text. Additionally, the visuals sent separately in actual size and in high resolution (300DPI). You may send a compressed folder with all visuals included.

Option b. In-design file 8"by8" size and a compressed packaged folder with all links included.

## 3\_SCHEDULE

Visuals and Abstracts for (300 words):

September 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

Review of Abstracts and Submissions & Response:

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

Full Contribution (Texts and Visuals):

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

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## 4\_SUBMISSION

- Please name all files as follows: Work Title\_Last name of Author 1\_LN of Author 2\_LN of Author 3...
- Include in your submission a .doc file with 100 words short bio for each of the authors. Both individual and group submissions are welcomed.
- Submissions should be sent via email to [transiencespaces@gmail.com](mailto:transiencespaces@gmail.com) as direct attachments or as a link to a folder.

## 5\_REFERENCES

**Loukia Tsafoulia** / [plbny.com](http://plbny.com)

**Studio TRANSIENT SPACES:** Building Shelter in Crisis Context

The studio developed plans for deploying new strategies for disaster response that show economic and social sustainability through camp based program approaches and community integration strategies. The aim was to design a community driven, systems approach to providing the platform for populations to partake in alternative ways of addressing refugee shelter issues that are less dependent on the global relief industry. Issues of both temporality and space adaptation were the drivers for the design methodology and the production of policy and building typologies. How can architects optimize the capacity of people in acute need of protection, and at the same time ensure a high degree of livability? Could our methods adopt to the ever-increasing need for sheltering amidst ongoing crisis? Since relief operations are often a collaboration between organizing agencies, companies that make a profit off supplying the physical material, and the users on the ground, there can be a conflict between the economic and humanitarian aims of any relief project. How can design disrupt power structures in relief housing? These were a few of the critical questions the studio addressed.

**Carla Juaçaba** / [carlajuacaba.com.br](http://carlajuacaba.com.br)

**Studio AIR-VAGUE:** A research on temporary spaces and their permanent alterations.

*"Nothing ever truly disappears"* - Carl Andre

The studio focused on temporary buildings and art interventions in their relations to the city, to a specific site or to a building. The *Air-Vague* studio borrows the expression "*Terrain-Vague*" of Ignasi de Solà-Morales, not only to evoke the forgotten places of the city, but also to question the certainty of what is already established. As Solà-Morales described: "*these are places that are foreign to the urban system, mentally exterior in the physical interior of the city*". To intervene in left over spaces of the city can be an object of investigation, but not necessarily. It is also possible to work in established and coded areas of the city, or buildings, adding to them a different value or a criticism. A common place that we pass by everyday, a historical building: objects or places that became a **blind spot** of the city. The design solution did not necessarily attend a specific function, nor followed a current legislation. The architect loses her original function of solving a problem. The choice of a place is an

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important part of the work, where “context is half the work”. (APG group, England, 1967). It is a question about what a city desires but doesn't know.

**Marina Correia** / [marinacorreia.com](http://marinacorreia.com)

## **Research *BETWEEN GEOMETRY AND TIME***

Architecture carries in its materiality the awareness of the passing of time, of stillness, of absence, of that which is immortal. The architectural geometry is both subject and agent of the spirit and memory of its inhabitant. The imprints of our society and its cracks are engraved on the surface of the earth: the physical reality of architectural geometries can not be negated. Social segregation and lack of planning, as a project for collective living, are registered in the horizon of our cities. Their internal voids are being filled by uncontrolled processes of growth in which the practice of design remains marginal. The architect operates in a condition of exception, as a surgeon of a reality which is predominantly dysfunctional and may not be reconciled by architectural means. Processes of substitution in our present are different from the physical layering of cities within an extended historical period, as usually addressed in discourses of historic preservation. It is a mode of erasure and disappearance articulated in the present. The role of identity, history, memory and the subjective engagement between architecture and our imaginary are destabilized by the acceleration of the present. This slippage of time translates into fragile visions of the future and an overall sense of disorientation in architecture practice. This research focuses on the aesthetic analysis of projects that articulate a distinct relation between architecture and time, understanding the present of architectural form through the lenses of an often concealed cultural imaginary. The intent is to investigate the architectural operations that grant these projects an autonomous reality and enable them to propose an alternative idea of the city, beyond the reinstatement of its existing conditions, and inform the understanding of architecture's role within a larger project of cultural production, as an aesthetic practice capable of affecting our sense of being in the world.

**Suzan Wines** / [i-beamdesign.com](http://i-beamdesign.com)

## **Studio *TOOLS OF TRANSITION***

Temporary shelter is far from the only solution that provides refugees with stability, and in some cases, may be part of the problem. This course asks students to apply their spatial planning skills, strategic thinking and design acumen to long-term humanitarian goals that empower specifically because they are nomadic. Many of the most successful emergency housing solutions of the past have been those that people could take home with them, hence truly solving the need for temporary encampments by rendering them obsolete. Our task this semester is to design 'educational tools of transition' to mitigate the stagnation and suffering that accompanies protracted displacement by equipping people with the capacity to self-educate. These tools would cultivate useful skills and increase access to information while empowering and improving the lives of displaced people on a daily basis. By anticipating a productive resettlement, our tools provide intellectual shelter as opposed to physical architecture. Their investment is therefore long-term and can travel with owners wherever they go, specifically because learning is easily transportable and ethically undeniable.