

Fall 2022
GRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE **DRAFT**

COURSE CODE: ARC3020Y F
COURSE TITLE: ARCHITECTURE OF TRANSITION
PREREQUISITE COURSES: MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
CLASSROOM LOCATION: TBD
CLASS HOURS:

Online: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 3pm – 6pm [Instructor will join online from Dhaka, Bangladesh. The time difference between Dhaka and Toronto is 10 hours.]

In Person: September 12 – 15, October 24 - 27, November 28 - 30, December 1 - 9

INSTRUCTOR NAME: MARINA TABASSUM

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CO INSTRUCTOR: SAARINEN BALAGEN

CO INSTRUCTOR EMAIL: saarinenb@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS: TBD

OFFICE LOCATION: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*No one leaves home unless
Home is the mouth of a shark.
You only run for the border
When you see the whole city running as well
Your neighbours running faster than you . . .*

*You only leave home
When home won't let you stay.
No one leaves home unless home chases you
Fire under feet. . .*

*You have to understand
That no one puts their children in a boat
Unless the water is safer than the land. . .*

Extracted from *Conversation about Home* by Warsan Shire

Mass displacement of people is posing as a major challenge in the 21st century. Forced migration due to war and genocide have displaced large number of people internally within the countries and cross border as refugees and asylum seekers. The trend of displacement is also happening due to extreme climatic and geographic conditions induced by climate



crisis. The studio will look into these various forms of displacements that are affecting millions of people around the world and increasing.

Voluntary migration is a natural phenomenon observed among all species of the animal world including humans. The history of movement and migration of human goes back thousands of years. The studio will begin with the basic query 'why people move' a research on voluntary and forceful migration of people all over the world from historical context to present day.

According to UNHCR, 89.3 million people are facing various forms of displacement. Among them 27.1 million people are refugees and 4.6 million people are asylum seekers. According to IDMC, 59 million people are internally displaced within their country, who are termed as invisible citizens. What are the differences in rights of internally displaced population, cross-border asylum seekers and or refugees?

Displacement of people is a transitional state undefined by a period of time. Displacement is associated with physical, mental, emotional exhaustion and trauma. It is also associated with lack of hope, basic rights and dignity. Can architecture be a process of healing? How can architecture contribute to the dignity of people in transition?

'Architect as an agent of change' is a contemporary phenomenon visible in many parts of the world. This shift in Architecture thinking allows architects to reach out to vulnerable population of the world with knowledge and expertise to address the basic human conditions and rights using architecture as a tool.

How do we address the aspects of permanent versus temporary in architecture? Does material play a role? How can architecture contribute to a society in transition to a new ecological paradigm?

Through these various queries the studio will focus on various materials and construction techniques that allow architecture to produce meaningful spaces in a temporary context.

Bangladesh is housing 1 million Rohingya community who are a minority Muslim population from the Rakhine State of Myanmar. They have fled the atrocities of genocide and ethnic cleansing by the Myanmar Army. Rohingyas are termed as stateless as Myanmar have denied them the rights of citizenship. The camps in Kutupalong, Ukhiya houses 600,000 people in 13 square kilometers area making it the largest concentration of displaced people in the world.

In the Spring 2023, (January 2023 tentatively) the studio will visit the Refugee Camps in Bangladesh. The studio will gain a firsthand experience of visiting shelters of refugees. In addition to visiting the camps they will also meet with architects who are involved in various projects in the camps such as Women Friendly Centers, Women led Community Centers, Disability Friendly Centers, Safe Space for Children. They will also interact will local host communities who have also experienced displacement due to the exodus of refugees from Myanmar. Marina Tabassum Architects have built several projects in and outside the camps. The studio will visit the Aggregation Centers for the host communities in Teknaf.

This trip will enhance their understanding of the issues of displacement but will not be instrumental in the formulation of the final thesis project.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Objective of the Research Studio 1 is as follows:

01. A comprehensive understanding and creation of knowledge base on the phenomenon of displacement through data collection and investigation.
02. Study of architectural precedence to understand the power of architecture as a tool for healing and empowering people with better living environment.
03. Understanding co-creation as a design process and 'Architect' as an agent of change.
04. Study of various materials used for transitory architecture through an evaluation of temporary vs permanent forms of architecture.
05. By the end of this course, a successful learner will be able to formulate idea of the final project for Research Studio 2, that will focus on Architecture of Transition

SCHEDULE:

Instructor present in person:

September 12, 14, 16

October 24, 26, 27,

November 28, 29, 30

December 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (Final Review Dec 9th)

12th September: Orientation of the studio and an overview of the objectives and methodology of the research studio

Lecture on Displacement

Assignment: Explore various forms of Displacement to understand 'Why people move?'

Due on 16th September

14th September: Studio discussion on the various findings

16th September: Presentation of the assignment

Studio will cover the following topics in the Research Studio 1

A. Why people move? _Week 1 and 2

1. Anthropological understanding of movement
2. Difference in migration and displacement
3. The causes and effects of displacement,
4. Various forms of displacement
5. Rights of displaced people
6. Mapping the movement of the people around the world in current context with demography of displacement

Submission: last studio of week two

Lecture on Displacement by Marina Tabassum

Guest Lecture: Humanitarian Agency (to be announced)

B. Home in transition: Precedence Study in Refugee Response_ Week 3 and 4

1. Emotional, mental and physical health of people in transition
2. State of transitional shelters: policies, demography, density, living conditions
3. Architecture of transitional shelters around the world
4. Shelters designed by architects
5. Architecture of other facilities offered to displaced communities

Submission: last studio of week 4

Lecture on MTA's work in the refugee camps in Ukhiya, Bangladesh

Guest Lecture by Architects working with various displaced communities



C. Off the Grid: Precedence study of Internal Displacement_Week 5 and 6

1. Various forms of internal displacements and the causes
2. Off the grid living conditions and architectural interventions

Submission: Last studio of week 6

Guest Lecture on Mobile Shelters and Tiny House Movements

Guest Lecture on Slum upgradation projects

D. Architect as an agent of change: Process design through co-creation_Week 7

01. Exploring the benefits and drawbacks of co-creation
02. Exploration of various projects, process and design employing co-creation technic.

Submission: Last studio of week 7

Guest Lecture on Co-creation by Hasibul Kabir and Suhailey Farzana

E. Material of impermanence_Week 8 and 9

1. Politics and perception of permanence and impermanence in the use of material in housing displaced communities
2. List of materials, exploration of new materials and details

Submission: Last studio of week 9

F. A small scale self initiated project as a final outcome of the studio work_Week10, 11, 12, 13

Submission: Final Review

READING MATERIALS

To be published

<https://theconversation.com/global/topics/human-displacement-28116>

Important Dates:

Fall 2022	
Labour Day (University Closed)	Monday, September 5, 2022
First day of F/Y Classes	Monday, September 12, 2022
Final date to add F/Y courses	Monday, September 26, 2022
Thanksgiving (University Closed)	Monday, October 10, 2022
Last day to cancel without academic penalty	Monday, October 31, 2022
Black Out Week (no deadlines)	Monday, November 28, 2022 – Friday, December 2, 2022
Last day of F/Y Classes	Friday, December 2, 2022
Final Examination and Studio Review period	Monday, December 5, 2022 – Tuesday, December 20, 2022 (including Saturday and/or Sundays)
Holiday Break (University Closed)	December 21, 2022 – January 1, 2023



Conflicts with religious observances should be brought to the attention of the course instructor and the Office of the Registrar and Student Services no later than the second week of classes. For more information, please see the [Policy on Scheduling of Classes and Examinations and Other Accommodations for Religious Observances](#).

EVALUATION:

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy. Please refer to the policy located on the governing council website.
http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Governing_Council/policies.htm#G

The graduate grading scale is listed as letter grades. The graduate grading scale is included below for your reference:

Graduate		
Letter Grade Scale	Grade Meaning	Numerical Scale of Marks
A+		90 – 100%
A	Excellent	85 – 89%
A-		80 – 84%
B+		77 – 79%
B	Good	73 – 76%
B-		70 – 72%
FZ*	Inadequate	0 – 69%

*FZ=Fail

Please refer to the University of Toronto Grading Practices Policy for additional information:
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>.

