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Thesis Reviews

Fall 22/Winter 23

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Urban Design

Visual Studies



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
JOHN H. DANIELS FACULTY OF
ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, AND DESIGN

This book showcases final thesis projects produced by Master of Architecture (MARC), Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA), Master of Urban Design (MUD) and Master of Visual Studies (MVS) students at the University of Toronto's John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design.

Master of Architecture Advisors

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Laura Miller
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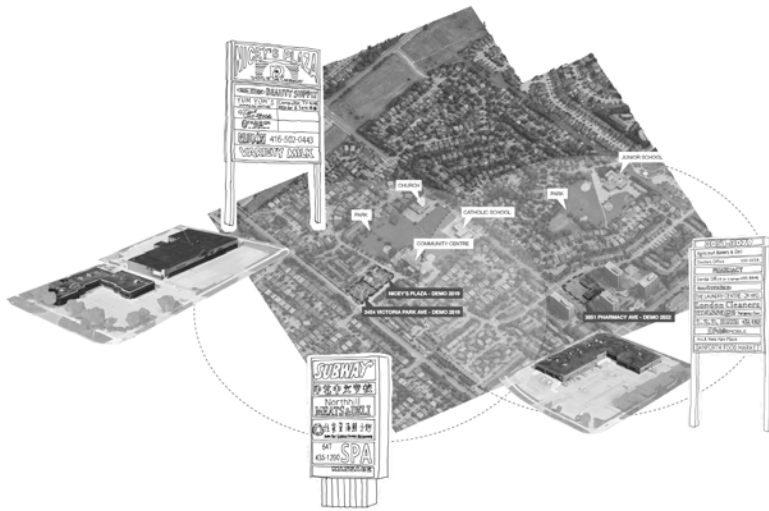
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Ophelia Lau

MARC

No Blank Slates

No Blank Slates is a proposal for an asset-based development framework in the City of Toronto that promotes maintenance, adaptation and infill. It focuses on finding alignments between the city's long-term development goals and its existing building stock in order to put forward policies that reduce redundancies in the cycle of demolition and development. This iterative approach recognizes that existing building typologies can often be adapted to reflect contemporary values and continue to have a place in our ever-changing urban fabric.

Advisor: Michael Piper



Robert Raynor

MARC

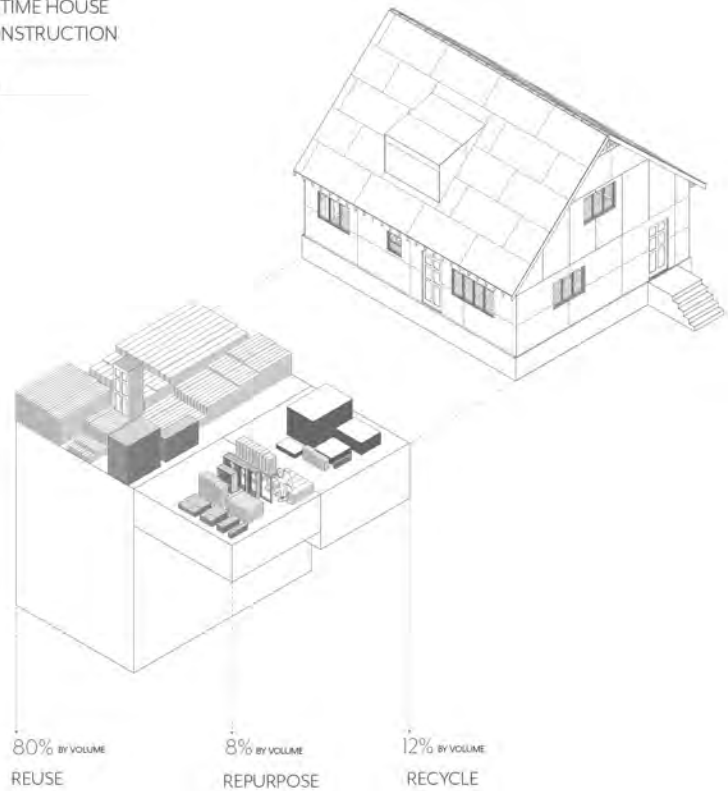
A House for Dom

I first met Domenico Saxida doing encampment outreach at Alexandra Park in fall 2020. We gave him eight tiny shelters to keep clothes, belongings, and his friends warm through the winter. Dom received housing from the City after living outdoors for four years, yet tragically died of an overdose two months later, alone in his new apartment.

The transitional housing spectrum doesn't suit individual users' basic human needs, sorely lacking in fostering personal agency and community. I propose a typology between 'temporary shelter' and 'permanent housing' that is flexible, inexpensive, and brings dignity to chronically unhoused individuals. Welcome to our cabin community.

Advisor: Reza Nik, Michael Piper

I WARTIME HOUSE DECONSTRUCTION



Rashmi Sirkar

MARC

Woodloop

Woodloop begins as an investigation into the creation of a circular economy of wood in Toronto through the deconstruction of stick framed detached houses and the salvage and reuse of this material. The initial phase of research uses life cycle analysis tools to uncover the carbon imperative of keeping wood out of landfill. The next phase involves field research in case study locations across North America where building deconstruction is practiced - documenting the synergies between policy, market and operators that enable a reuse economy. Finally, Woodloop is a proposal to establish an educational centre in Toronto that also acts as a warehousing and material processing facility in the pilot phase of the implementation of a building deconstruction bylaw.

Advisor: Michael Piper



Reem Abdelaal

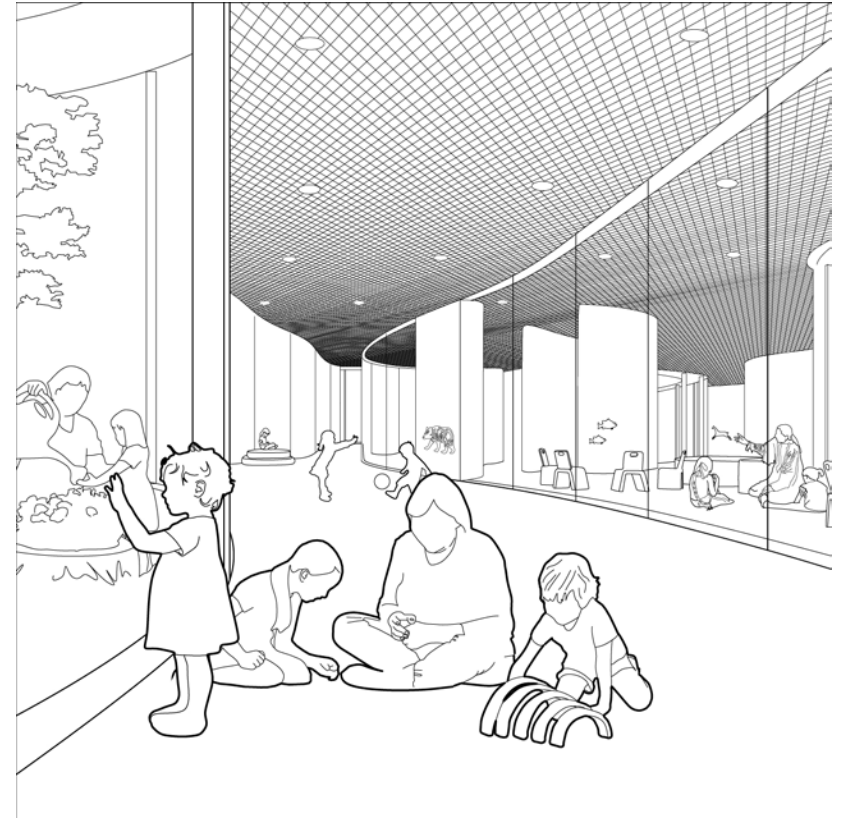
MARC

Welcome Home

Migration patterns in Canada lead to the natural reoccurring formation of ethnic communities. Due to the restrictive zoning within predominantly suburban cities, ethnic communities lack the urban and domestic tools for refugee families to permanently settle and age in place, emphasizing factors of social isolation and hidden homelessness.

Focusing on Muslim-Arab communities within the GTA, this thesis introduces religion to Geriatric Care. By revisiting the historic typology of the Mosque, layers of civic and communal spaces are implemented to transcend the notion that the Mosque is only meant for prayer.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



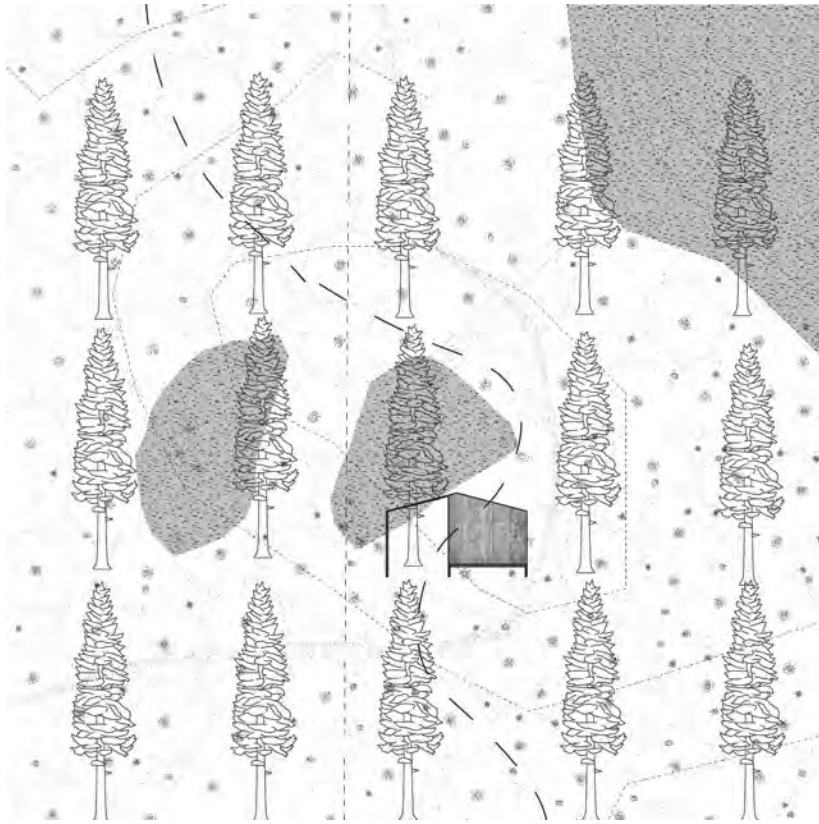
Erman Akyol

MARC

Nurturing the Indigenous Future

The focus of my thesis is demographic transition, specifically emphasizing knowledge sharing between aboriginal elders and the young. I want to explore how early childhood education might serve to maintain cultural identity in an urban environment which threatens to absorb and overwhelm it. I wanted to investigate how a child care center in an urban setting should be designed and equipped to serve indigenous-led early learning, including the involvement of elders. My concept reflects the indigenous existence in a post-colonial urban setting, a native culture finding ways to accommodate itself to the strictures imposed by colonial practices. The design aims to create a welcoming and nurturing space that facilitates teaching indigenous traditions and practices, including language immersion and ceremonial rituals. I envision it as a place where indigenous children can nurture a sense of pride in themselves and their people to serve them when they return to the world outside its doors.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



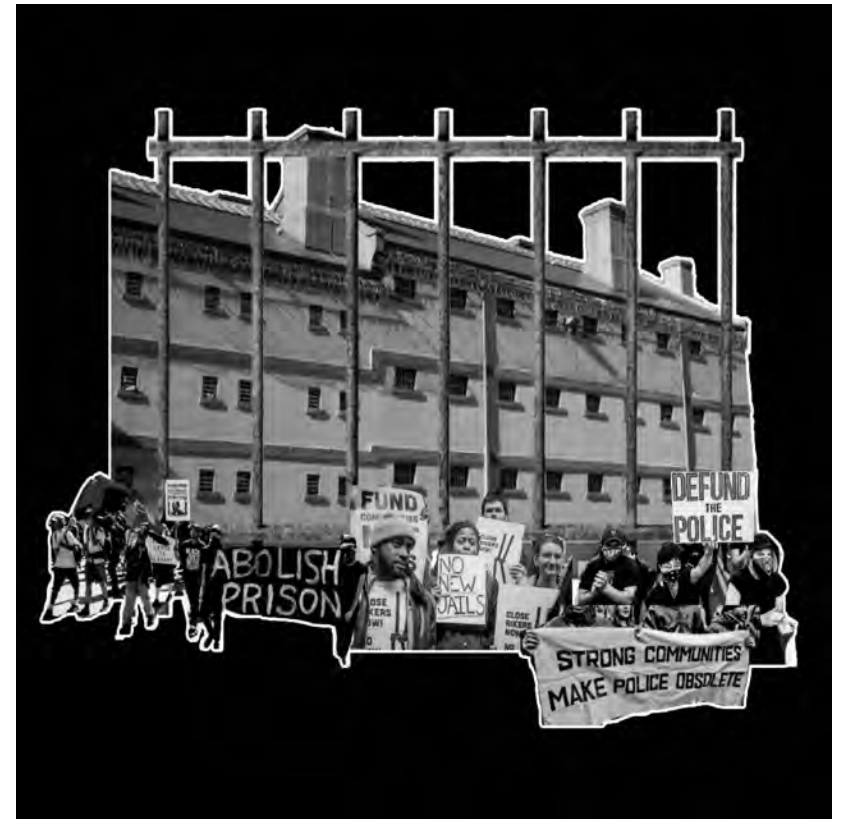
Farah Aldaghestani

MARC

An Atlas of Haida Gwaii: A Nation Striving For Sustenance and Resilience

A history of unsettlement and uprooting into new land tenures and new colonial settlements was lived by the Haida people. The Haida Land has seen an increase in illegal hunting, fishing and logging as a result of unsustainable extraction practices that have caused resource depletion. This thesis acknowledges the Haida Nation, ‘People of Haida’ to whom the lands they live upon have been their ancestral homes since time immemorial, and their steadfast efforts to protect and sustain the archipelago’s premises. This thesis intends to honor the long history and presence of the Haida Nation as well as to commemorate their knowledge and reflect on their methods of responding to crises. As part of the reconciliation process, this thesis criticizes the strains that Indigenous people in Haida Gwaii have endured as a result of colonialism and its impacts, which are still being felt today.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



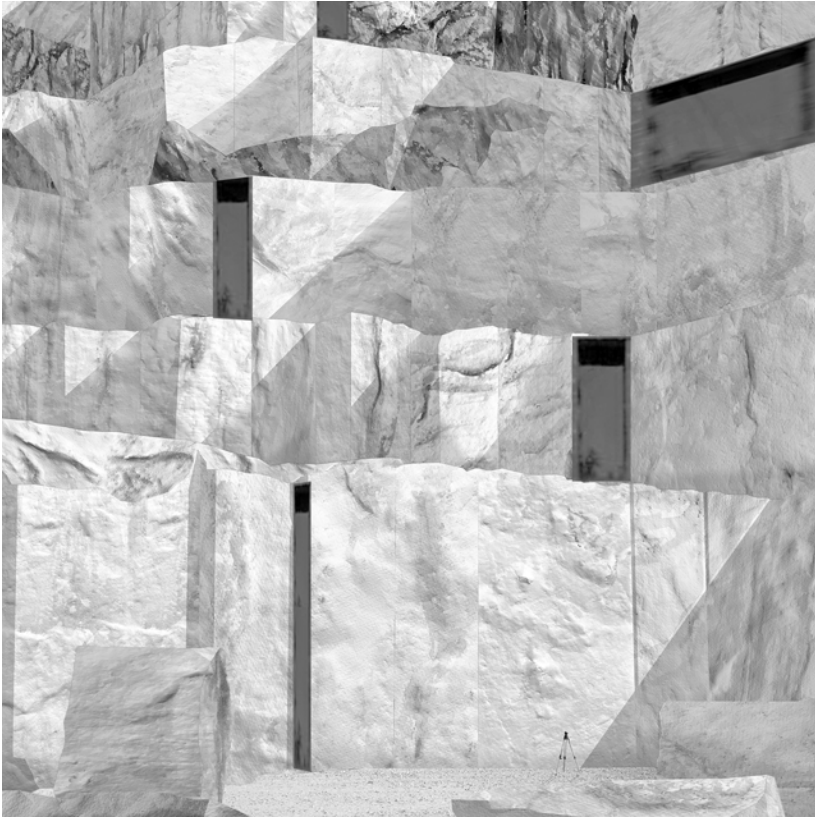
Zanira Ali

MARC

Towards Prison Abolition

Architecture is fundamental to shaping conditions of civil existence and must be interrogated for its involvement along this diffuse and mobile path. This research aims to expand the ways the built environment’s relationship to, and participation in the carceral state, is understood in architecture. It investigates how the implications of architecture in the more longstanding and pervasive legacies of racialized coercion in the US and Canada—and follows the premise that to understand how the prison enacts its violence in the present, we must understand the history of slavery and its connection to modern day incarceration.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



Nada Alobaidi

MARC

Material Portraits

This project explores the possibilities of material power in architecture in the rare moment of transformation between being raw and refined. It contemplates the monumentality of these events and studies the qualities that contribute to their makings, such as scale, tactility, pattern and the homogeneity of monolithic aesthetics. The project investigates bringing these visceral qualities to architecture and to engage with materials evocatively through experiments with representation methods between analog and digital techniques in ways that conceal the familiarity of both realms and question the limitations of the current digital design tools that lack materiality.

Advisor: John Shnier



Neha Bhargava

MARC

Self-Made

Premature deindustrialization refers to a phenomenon where developing countries begin to lose their manufacturing jobs without having the opportunity to profit from them first. In Zimbabwe, such a phenomenon has taken a toll on the natural environment, disproportionately affecting women whose livelihoods are intrinsically intertwined with the land and the resources it provides. Drawing from an ecofeminist perspective on economic growth, which emphasizes the collective well-being of human and non-human life over the limitless accumulation of monetary wealth, my thesis advances a sustainable and equitable manufacturing model that prioritizes the welfare of Zimbabwean female informal workers and the natural environment.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Liam Caldwell

MARC

The Sweat Institute

*Fitter happier
More productive...*

This exhibition on loan from the renowned Sweat institute explores the relationship between society, technology, and the body through the uniquely human mechanism of sweat. Its installations are meditations upon the sublimation of the modern human, wherein the processes of the body are subdued, ordered, and made productive. The show juxtaposes the collective action of sweating with the imagification of the body through digital technology, and attempts to understand the establishment of hygiene as a morality of the body.

Advisor: Brian Boigon



Pearl Cao

MARC

Waste-less Homes

The suburban model of development is wasteful, unsustainable and is increasingly out of touch with the needs of the modern world. Unfortunately, today's developments are still tethered to outdated ideals of the "American Dream". Using Toronto's Yellowbelt as a testbed, this thesis speculates a waste-less architecture that draws on a rereading of the Metabolism movement to create a reconfigurable, reusable, and biodegradable model of suburban homes. The proposed design strategy is a blueprint for a reconfigurable suburb in the age of evolving social and cultural norms and increasing eco-consciousness.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



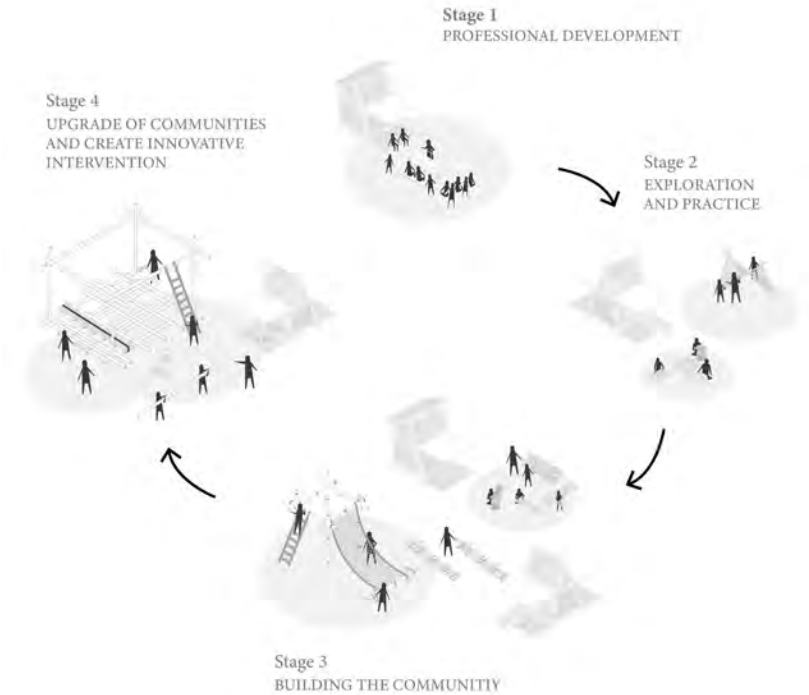
Victoria Cardoso

MARC

Third Place Suburbia

As baby boomers age-in-place within their suburban neighbourhoods, they are faced with new social and physical challenges, limiting them to their immediate environment. Using Ray Oldenburg's social theory of Third Place as a guide, the traditional suburban model is transformed to allow meaningful social interactions to happen close to home. The site re-imagines an existing natural gas pipeline corridor, drawing residents from the surrounding context into the new accessible landscape and built intervention, allowing meaningful relationships within the community to develop.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



Flora Chan

MARC

Exploration of modular bamboo structure as the aid for community growth

In the world's biggest refugee camp, the Kutapalong Refugee Camp, in Bangladesh, more than one hundred thousand of adolescents are excluded from formal education and desperately in need of marketable skills. To provide purpose for their living and hope for their future, this thesis explores ways to engage the "lost generation" of adolescent boys in vocational training, especially in bamboo construction, which is the main construction material in camp. The project aims to train adolescent boys as the agents to improve camp facilities through creating a multi-purpose vocational training center, simplifying bamboo construction through modularization, and engaging refugees in the construction process.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



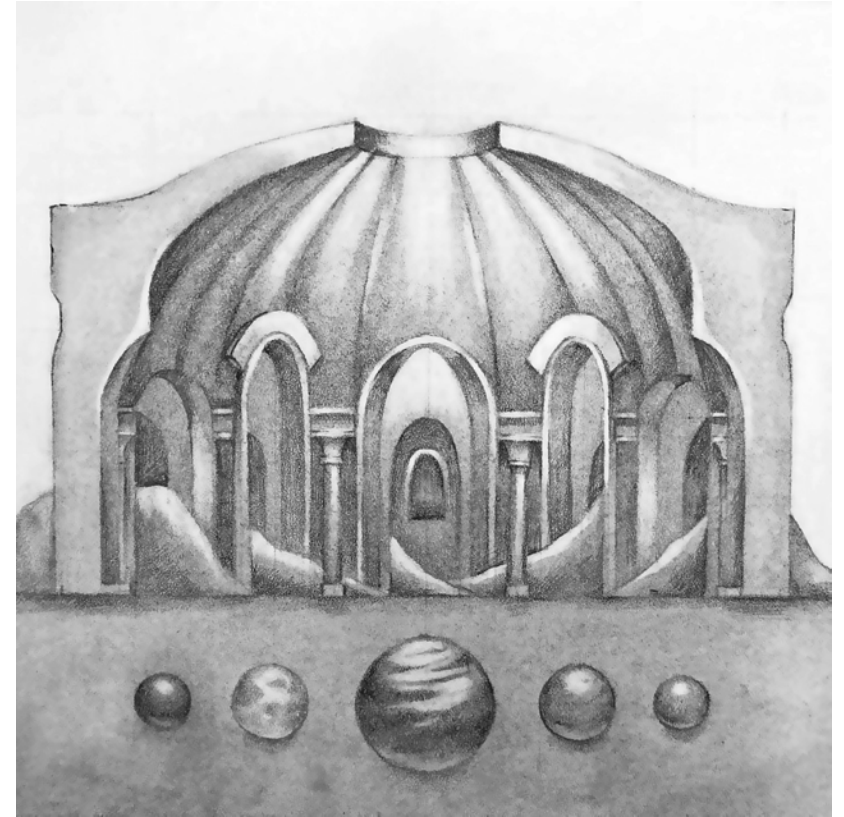
Tai-Man Chan

MARC

Mainlandization of the City with 18 Districts

The Sino-British Joint Declaration allowed Hong Kong to have a high level of autonomy until 2047. Yet, the Chinese government is eroding the city's autonomous status. This is exemplified by the construction of new buildings and other built objects that are more than mere symbolic paraphernalia. Building upon the fact that the Chinese government now requires Hong Kong students to take mandatory mainland study tours to promote patriotism, this project intends to educate Hong Kong citizens through a travel guide that reveals and decodes these transformations in their built environment, prompting relearning about how it reflects Chinese Mainland power.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



Zoey Chao

MARC

Another Reality

This thesis is inspired by the Chinese philosophy "The Butterfly Dream," which introduces the potential for architectural representation to demonstrate that layered realities can be perceived simultaneously. By exploring architectural elements to construct a surreal environment, an architectural immersive experience can evoke a sense of otherworldliness through framed, illustrated superimpositions. This strategy stages three spiritual realms: the pre-mortal, the mortal, and the post-mortal. The architect, as a protagonist, questions the boundaries between these realms and resides pleasurably within these oscillating, ethereal realms.

Advisor: John Shnier



Bo Chen

MARC

Alexandra park homeless rehousing

It was a place held the encampments, now not anymore. The thesis is to keep it as a public park and reactivate it to serve all people in a co-existing way. The strategy is to continue the shipping container element on Dundas street, reorganize it to eating space and working space for public. Make it become an iconic symbol. Elevate one portion of the green space for the encampments. Enhance the walking experience by redesign the "X" shape path with colorful elements and dig down space for gathering.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



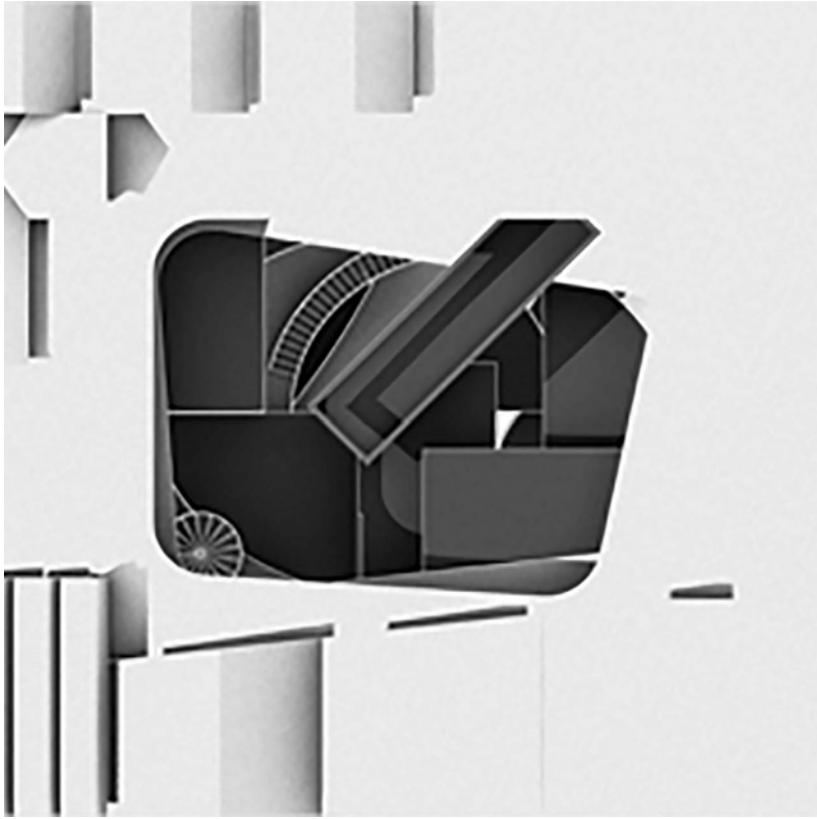
Mia Chen

MARC

Anti-isolation of Cheung Shan Estate, a "Desolate Island"

The thesis project seeks to create a network of buildings, infrastructure and landscape features to connect and revitalize the existing podiums of declining public housing estates in Tsuen Wan, Hong Kong. The access allows residents to easily travel between these neighbouring estates and benefit from the extended public spaces. Through the merge, smaller local communities can work together to manage their own public space and resources, then reframe their relationship to their local habitat and the city centre. In the end, the project aims to create an environment where inhabitants feel empowered, connected and engaged in their local communities.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



Yuluo Cheng

MARC

International House

We live in an increasingly international society, with varying cultures, rituals, ethics, and sensitivities. College students are one of the largest groups that feel the pressures and strains of that cosmopolitan world. In 2022, over three-quarters of college students experienced moderate to serious psychological distress. 35% of students were diagnosed with anxiety; 27% had depression. Yet the design of dormitories has evolved little over the last few decades to address this increased distress. My thesis design focuses on a new dorm typology to provide international students with a welcoming and supportive architecture which will fast-track their success in academic and social life.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



Dabin Choi

MARC

Reaching for the Moon

In the 1980s, post-Korean war settlers in Seoul were displaced to Guryong Village as part of rapid urbanization. This was conducted to make way for westernized high-rises which abandoned Korean heritage and culture. By gathering and salvaging materials, the community built their homes together.

Today, the now seniors of Guryong face poverty, inadequate housing, negligence, and another risk of eviction. They are in urgent need of humane action. Working within their current landscape and lifestyles, this project acknowledges the unethicality of the past and studies an incremental approach to provide safety and resources within the home and village. Combined, these celebrate the importance of stability, culture, and community.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



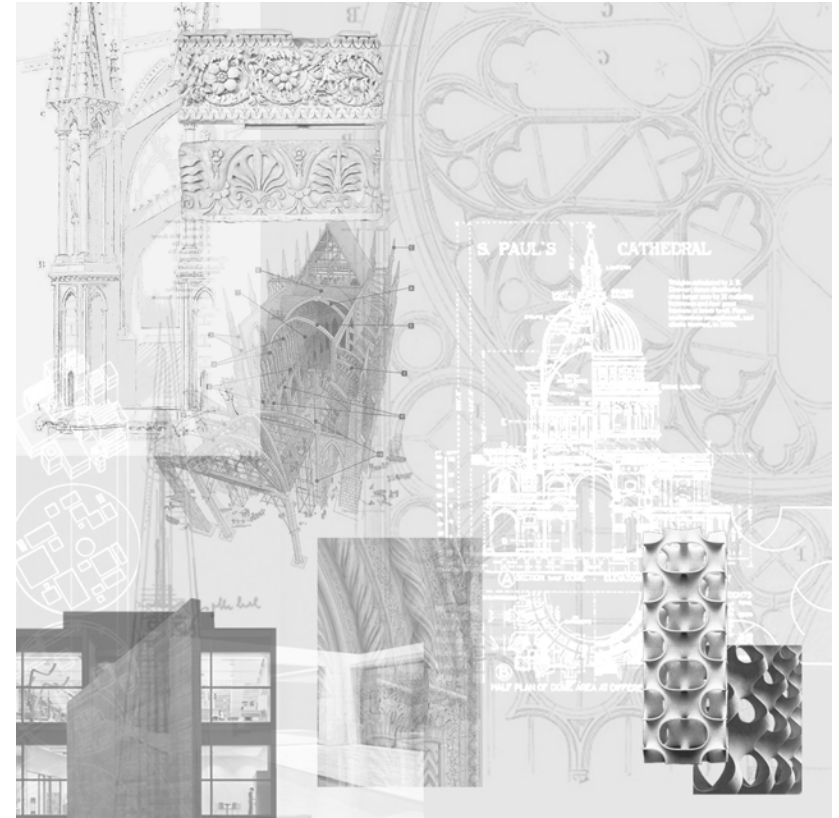
Jeremy Chow

MARC

Yip Lok On Kui (業樂安居) – Living and Working Gracefully

The proposal challenges the contemporary density and the stereotypical retirement in Hong Kong which depreciates active and productive aging. It aims to bridge the old yet valuable manufacturing industries by retrofitting the Yip On Factory to the new live-work environment that respects retirees as independent and energized to pick up new interests and jobs. By cultivating residents' interests in the sunset industries through interest classes, it sustains the unique culture and passes on generational knowledge, while promoting recreational and economic opportunities for the Young-old through developing a creative market for "Made in Hong Kong" goods.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



Megan Cyr

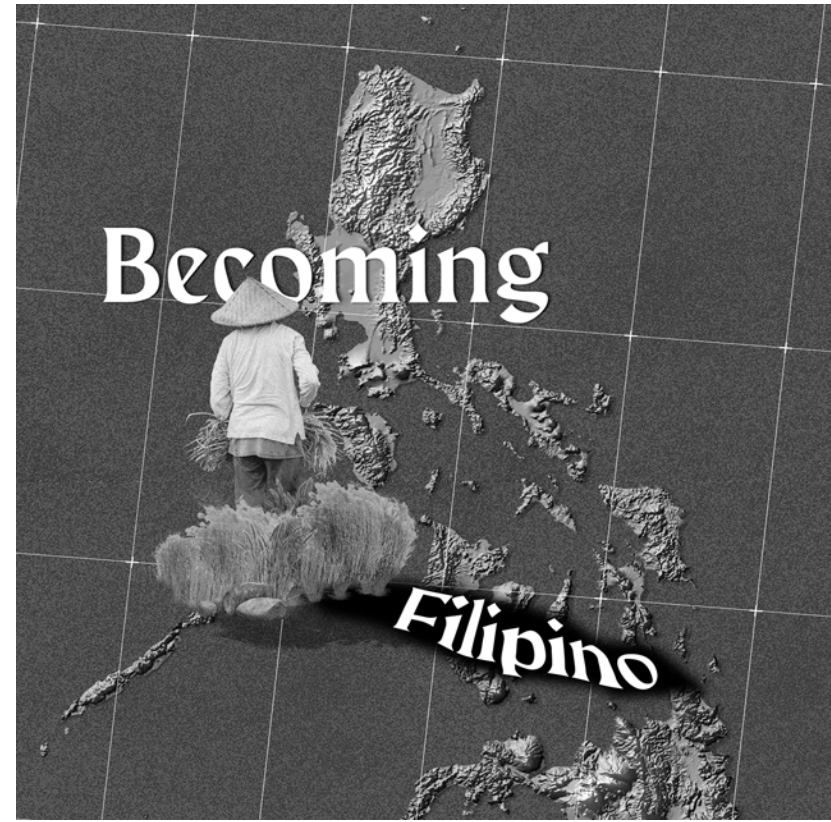
MARC

Depth in Architecture

Depth – too often lost to the constraints of cost and construction efficiencies – is a fundamental aspect of architecture that needs to be reinvigorated. Static assemblies that combine depth and texture are vital at all scales of design, from hand crafted wall tiles to urban design, and today we have new tools and techniques that make it possible to bring the richness of depth back into our designs. My presentation to you acts as a love letter to art and architecture, and to embracing the spatial effects we can achieve through thick 2D.

Advisor: Marc McQuade

Table with multiple columns of dates and times, likely a film schedule or program listing.



Catherine Dela Cruz

MARC

The Transitory Unseen: Investigating Perceptions and their Mutational Potential Within Transitional Spatial Moments

This project explores the use of film to enhance our perception of elusive spaces and their flow. It suggests that our experience of architecture is like occupying a fluid and continuous "in-between" state, which is both potent and elusive. By breaking down and choreographing transitional moments, film allows us to investigate the fluidity of these spaces. This enables us to categorize and position them according to "moment-types" with varying degrees of (un)certainly. The project employs early film-tropes to animate framed moments, shaping how we recognize and interpret place or space. Through anamorphosis and pareidolia, the project encourages viewers to decode the eye's perception and experience architecture in both shared and personal ways.

Advisor: John Shnier

Averill Christopher Dimabuy

MARC

Becoming Filipino

Colonization has had a significant impact on Filipino identity, eliding any sentiment that there is pride to be found in a complex and multivalent society. Carried into the broader Filipino psyche, this precipitates a lack of identity and pride in the culture. Heightened by rapidly diminishing traditional knowledge and practice, the preservation of culture requires the creation of a new commons. Set in northern Philippines, this thesis becomes a 'gateway' that engages local and diasporic Filipinos by advocating for research, education, and the transmission of knowledge that permanently lays the foundation for a new and necessarily dynamic identity.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Pablo Espinal Henao

MARC

Into the Canopy: Harnessing complexity through scanning

Once considered the easiest way to build with wood, our interest to engage with the material's natural complexity has dwindled as we mastered mass lumber production. This work stands on the shoulders of projects which grapple wood's complexity, curves, grain, and forks.

By scanning it, they harness its intricacies, leveraging fabrication methods and computational design. Current scanners, however, fail to pierce tree canopies accurately. This work employs traditional arborist practices to inform a robotic scanner design capable of doing so, granting us access to this complexity before ever cutting a tree.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



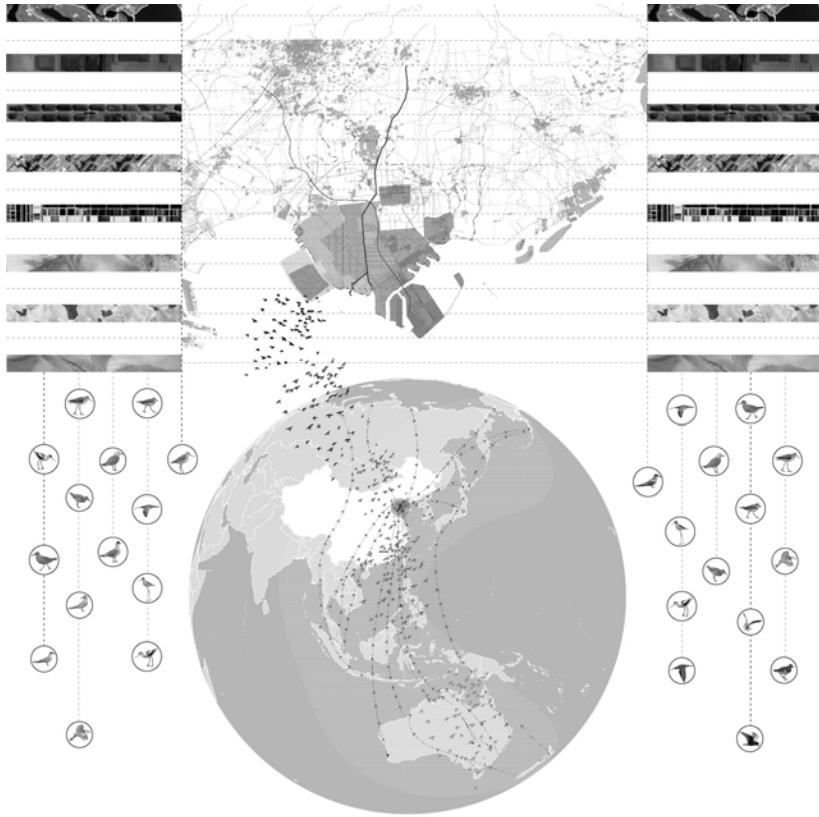
Ramisa Eva

MARC

Immersed City, Shifting Ground | Bagerhat, Khulna, Bangladesh

Brick and water have shaped the character of Bagerhat's landscape but also present challenges for preservation. The salinity seeps into the brickwork of Bagerhat's mosques which are located one meter above sea level through a process known as efflorescence. This site is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, a city from the early 15th century formerly known as "Khalifatabad." Climate change is exacerbating the influx of saline water to the region, increasing the problem of efflorescence, and putting these mosques at even greater risk. Will the ground take back everything to who it belongs? Will we be able to save it? What alternate route could be improvised to detain it from disappearing or immersing?

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



Sophie Fan

MARC

Shaping a Didactic Ecotone

China's Bohai coast is characterized by an amalgam of intense industrial and port activities – salt farms, oil and coal transport and manufacturing, and land reclamation operations. Inexplicably adding to this heterotopic mix, extreme forms of leisure-based mass “eco-tourism” also proliferate here. Coastal activities fragment habitats of migratory birds traveling along the East Asia Australasian Flyway. Countering the extant phenomena at play, this thesis addresses the Gulf of Bohai's vulnerable edge conditions by naturalizing the Shuang long River, establishing a regenerative ecotone that supports biodiversity, situates ecological research, advocates for climate action, encourages industrial rehabilitation, and introduces a form of eco-didactic tourism.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Sara Ghorban Pour

MARC

Transcending Patterns: Venturing into the Realm of Imaginal Colliding Worlds

As immigrants, we are displaced from our origins and must deconstruct memories to re-invent our identities. We dwell in a fragmented world of colliding realities where imagination and memory evolve or distort while hovering within overlaid perceptions. We become Nomads, moving between the places of fragmented memories, never content to be in one place or another. Rather than result in confusion, instead, this thesis proposes a strong "Imaginal Realm" a bridge created by translating sound patterns from resonant memories. Traditional patterns and forms are re-drawn, leading to a transformative identity born of the collision of worlds.

Advisor: John Shnier



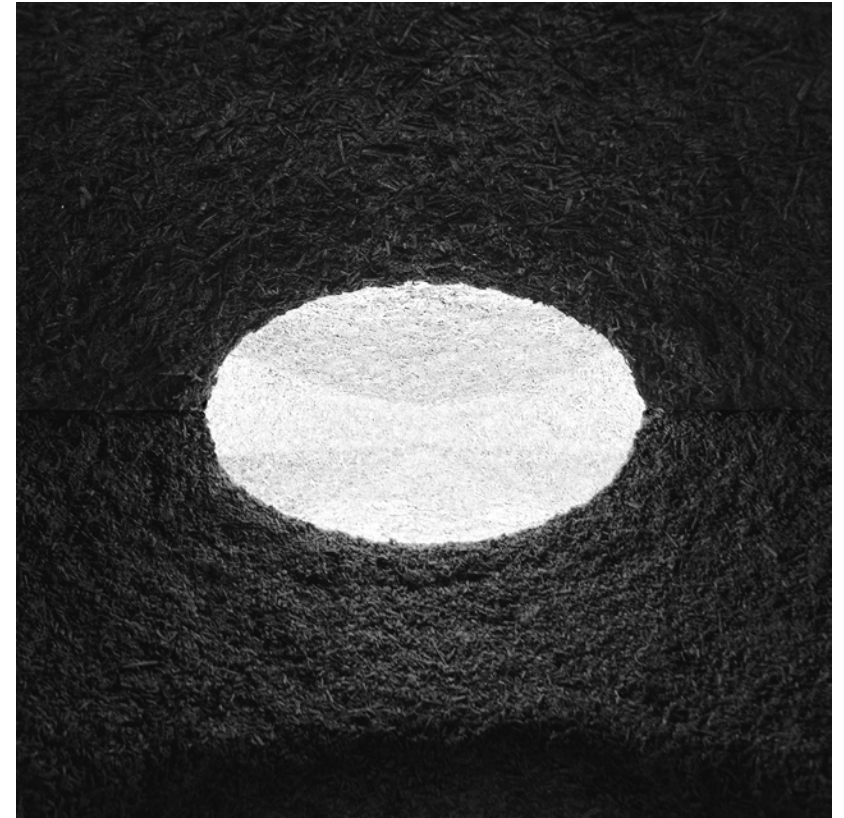
Bruce Gilchrist

MARC

Wicked Spaces

In the City of Detroit, a legacy of disinvestment is being met by the glimpse of resurgence. Where new affluence is driving investment into marginalized neighbourhoods still contending with the consequences of the city's past. For those under constant uncertainty of relocation and suppression, decades of prescribed solutions offer little solace. But what if instead, we embrace the legacies tied to place and enable autonomy through the strengthening of existing social fabrics? Looking beyond the model of mere services offered, spaces where community can take place hold the potential to confront even the most wicked problems of today.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Ryan Gillespie

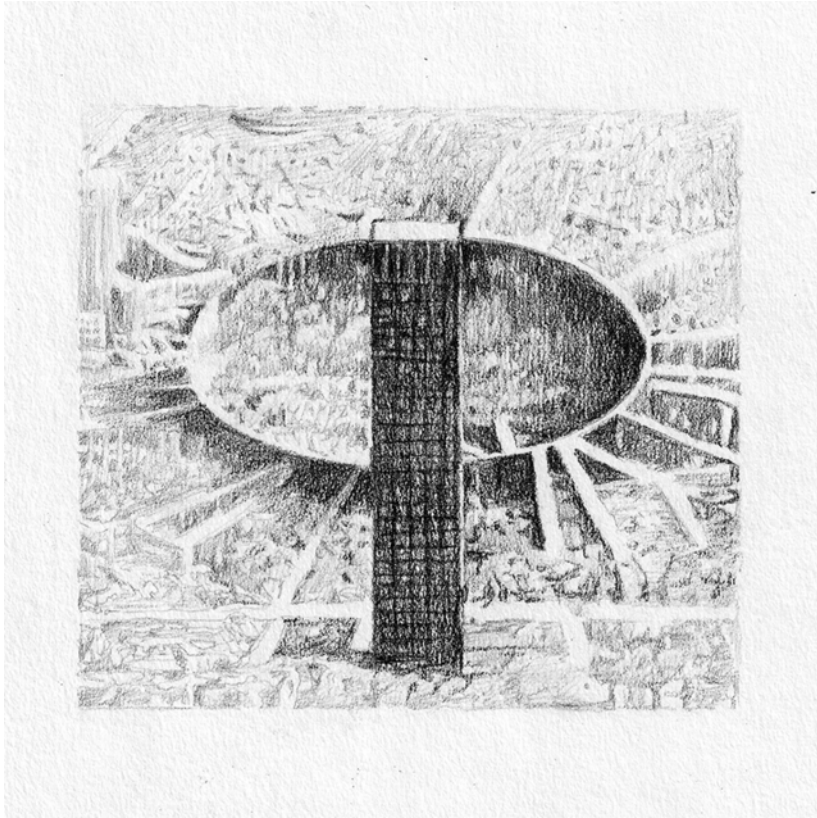
MARC

You and The Place

This thesis studies the technical and sensory properties of grown and carbon-sequestering materials like hemp, lime, biochar and wood to create an architecture which is healthy both for us and our environment. The project envisions an aesthetic which is simple and silent, allowing for subtler perception of oneself in space.

Currently, a proposed development threatens the culturally significant and historically public landscape of Ontario Place's west island with a dramatic reshaping and privatization of the land. My project is a counter proposal, deploying a low-carbon building system to revitalize the island in a way that is more sustainable, equitable, and simpler.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



Angela Yue Gou

MARC

The City of Cities

Drawing from a heterogeneity of experiences visiting cities in both the East and West, my thesis expands on the notion of drawing to demonstrate an immersive experience that combines drawing and a video that is at once both expansive and intimate. Analog and digital techniques are merged to re-imagine the many paradoxes and complexities made possible in the labyrinthian systems and structures. Inspired by my memory and imagination, I present megacity as drawing, static and kinetic, re-interpreting a city a boundless growing organism, yet controlled and contained by itself perpetuating form. It is The City of Morph(eus); something new yet also familiar.

Advisor: John Shnier



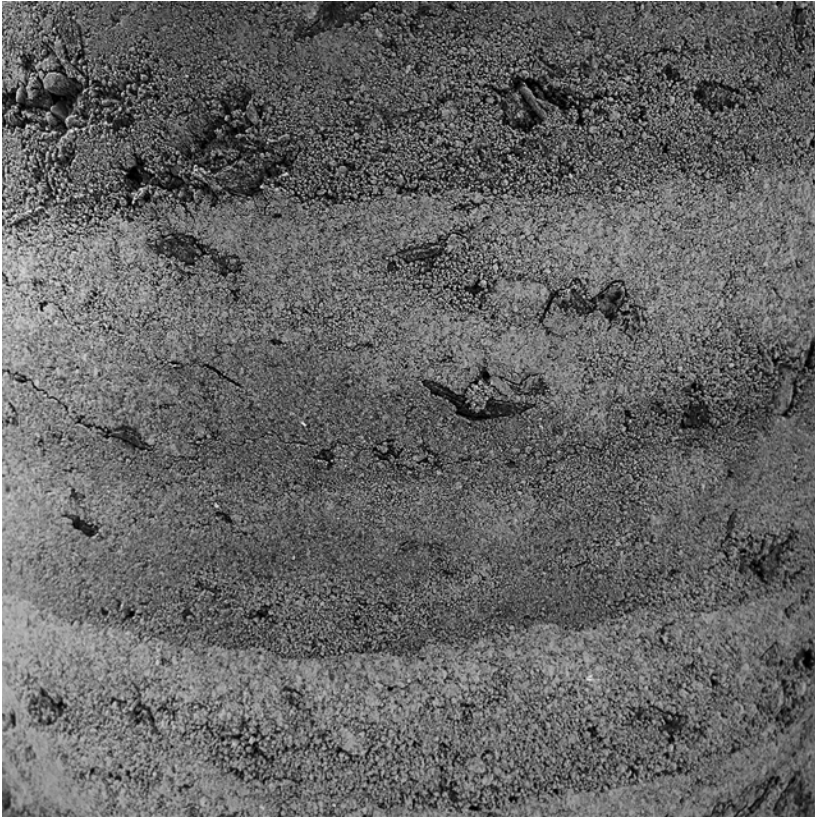
Eric Grigorof

MARC

Supplying A Future Demand

As the Canadian population ages, there will be a growing need for geriatricians and other elder care workers, and new initiatives are required to increase their numbers into the future. This project explores the potential of designed space as a catalyst for enticing students into entering elder care career fields. A program of student residences and retirement home apartments in a Downtown Toronto complex is designed to foster mutually beneficial interactions and relations between the generations through a dialogue between shared and private space.

Advisor: Shane Williamson

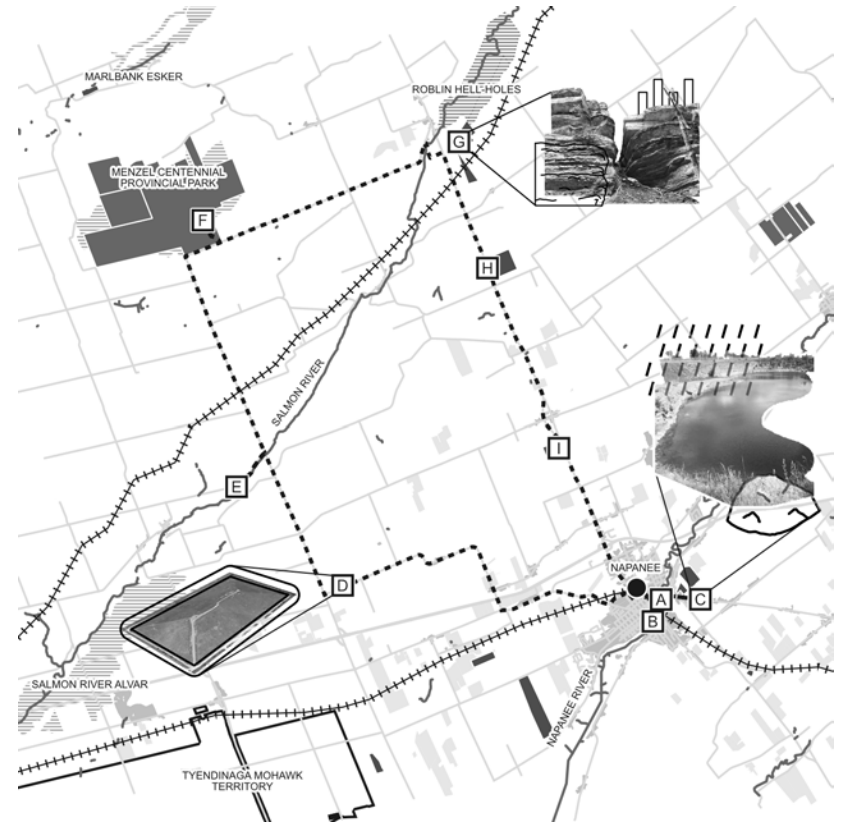


Lu Guo
MARC

Learning from Tulou: Building Communal Nature from Earth

Skyscrapers are efficient ways of constructing high-density buildings in urban centres, however, they are not applicable for fulfilling residential needs in the countryside. Looking back at the vernacular architecture from hundreds of years ago, the Fujian Tulou, is a successful form of low-rise high-density housing that is sustainable and supportive of communal multi-generational living. By focusing on the housing demand for vulnerable groups in rural China, this project seeks to learn from the space and living patterns of the Tulou to reimagine this typology as a new model for a contemporary community home.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



Liam Hall
MARC

Not Elsewhere, but Everywhere

Over a century ago national and provincial parks were conceived as a respite from an increasingly industrialized society. This dichotomy exempts most of our settled landscapes as being ‘outside’ of Nature. This thesis invents a new typology of peripatetic park: an itinerary constructed between natural protected areas and sites of industry, creating a composite network of discrete zones of conservation, mining, agriculture, human use, education, and tourism. Conflating infrastructures such as rail lines, roadways, and trails, this ‘park’ demonstrates that Nature is not elsewhere, but a part of the everyday, in the intersection of conservation and the post-industrial.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Zak Hamza
MARC

How Far Gone: Alternative Futures for Ontario's Greenbelt

A critical ecological resource, Ontario's Greenbelt is under dire threat from conflicting interests, economic priorities, and environmental commitments. Governmental policies linking rural development to housing shortages exacerbate this divide. Not only endangering the Greenbelt's very nature, but its habitats and ecosystems across North America. This thesis projects 'alternative futures' for the Greenbelt, visualizing potential outcomes of competing values in play regarding what is considered 'productive land.' Arguing that ecological limits must cap the pursuit of endless growth, this research exposes the obfuscation of the current government's position and provides citizens with concrete evidence with which to debate the Greenbelt's future.

Advisor: Laura Miller

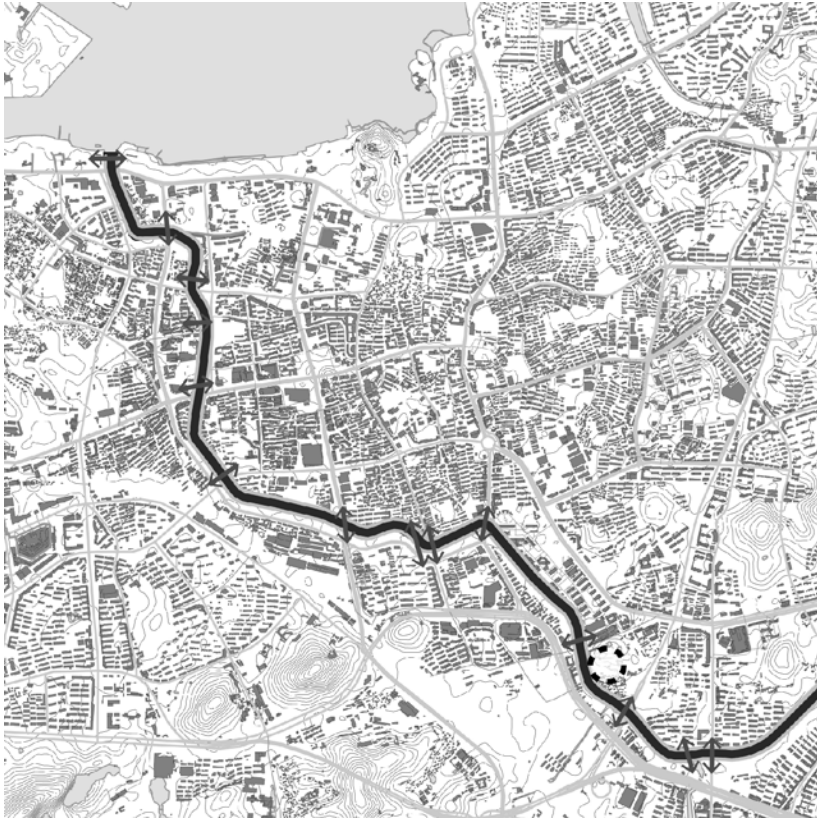


Christopher Tan Hardy
MARC

'Seeing through' Transit-led Displacement in Toronto's Chinatown

A new subway station is about to displace people in Toronto. As part of the province's Ontario Line project, the proposed Queen-Spadina station is projected to drive development in the historic low-income community of Chinatown, which would further accelerate its ongoing gentrification. This project seeks to address these displacive forces by empowering the community to negotiate with the actors responsible for the disappearance of its homes and essential businesses. By mobilizing municipal policies, financial models, business partnerships, architectural drawings, and marketing campaigns to counter the logic of real estate toward social benefit, this project advocates for a more equitable housing future in the city.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



Chuan He

MARC

The Grand Canal: An Invisible Monument

The grand canal, with a total length of 1776km, is the longest artificial river in the world. For over 1,400 years, it brought prosperity to many cities along the waterway, but today the great artifact is degraded and becomes invisible in the modern city. Zhenjiang is just this city. It rises and falls with the destiny of canal. This design aims to use pilot interventions to renovate the canal, make it clear and strong, as an artifact in the city, and bring it back to people.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



Lilian Ho

MARC

Park in the Station

Nature and infrastructure are not mutually exclusive. Yet the imperative of urban infrastructure is conceptualised and experienced as a collection of discrete systems: car parks, subway system, electrical grid, park system, etc. Toronto's Hydro Corridor illustrates another potential: how single-use infrastructure can be leveraged to create a more vital network of uses and temporalities. As large-scale infrastructure by nature samples geographically diverse sites, this thesis revisits a 1970s era multi-modal transportation hub by asking: can its local consequences be the impetus for new forms of leisure, recreation and access?

Advisor: Laura Miller



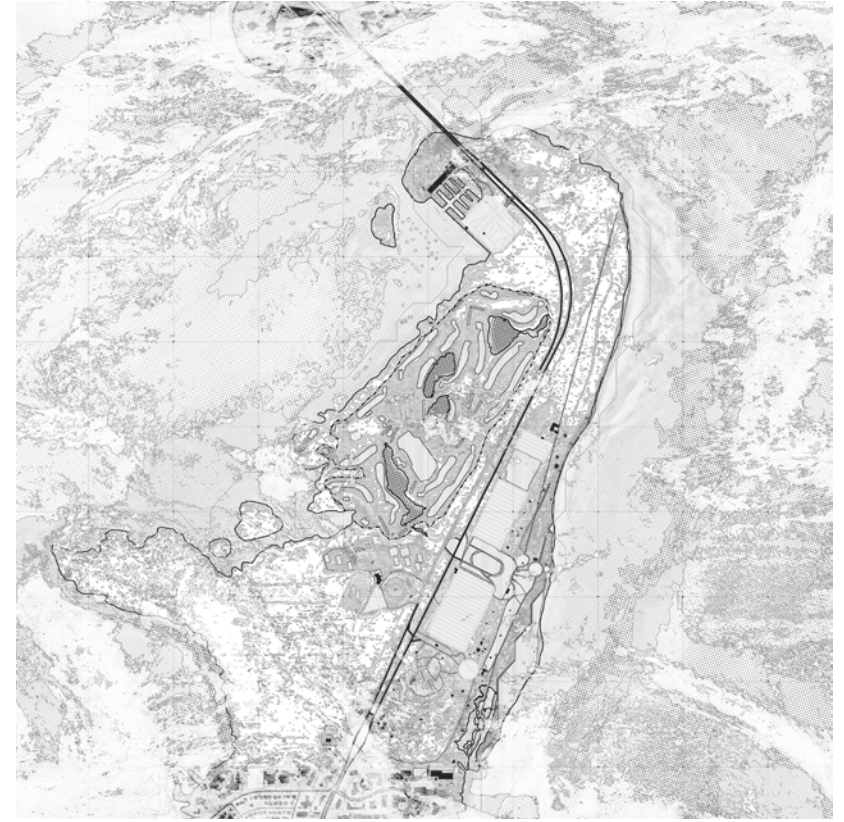
Duidui (Elva) Hu

MARC

Landings

The alteration and loss of natural habitats is the primary cause of our global biodiversity crisis. Urbanization and land use changes reduce and fragment habitat areas, impeding wildlife movement. Shanghai, a key stopover for migratory birds, is an example – experiencing industrial pollution, habitat degradation, and flooding due to rapid urbanization and population growth. These challenges threaten city environments supporting migratory birds. They also impact the health and well-being of human and other city-dwelling organisms. Based on habitat “stepping-stones,” this thesis introduces new ecological wetlands along the Huangpu River, creating a network for pedestrian and water traffic, combined with mixed-use development.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Yimin Hu

MARC

Nature Erased

The nature–culture divide is the conventional notion of a dichotomy between humans and the environment. Stemming from Rousseau, there is a historical belief that wilderness must not only be tamed to be protected, but that humans also need to be outside of it. Hence, the need for conservation agencies, borders, and boundaries dividing the built environment and wilderness. With a research interest in South Florida’s arbitrary conservation boundaries, and hybrid site conditions, the thesis aims to move the consideration of habitat, ecology, and environment beyond the conventional nature-culture dichotomy, toward agendas of an intricate and intertwined system of hybridity, and investigate the possibilities of symbiotic integration, and co-existence.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



Joshua Humphrey

MARC

Scenes Unseen

Natural history collections and their didactic visual devices are implicit colonial constructions. Historically, displays such as dioramas erased the larger contexts of organic life, instead framing idealized specimens as authentic samples of 'Nature.' Examining the work of Carl and Delia Akeley, my thesis re-appropriates the Akeleys' preferred visual construct, the diorama. I offer alternative visual narratives, challenging the ingrained institutional rhetorics surrounding their taxidermic constructions. I hope to expose the exploitative histories embedded within these visual artifacts, creating new, diverse perspectives through reimagining displays that range in scale from handheld viewing boxes to immersive room-scale dioramas.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Cezzane Ilagan

MARC

Mabuhay: Resilience in Metro Manila's Informal Settlements

How can urban poor communities navigate the anticipated globalization of Metro Manila as they get pushed out of the city in tandem with being particularly vulnerable to climate change?

Mabuhay explores the relationship and interdependency of informal and formal economies in Metro Manila, Philippines. It speculates how the actions of today and the recent past affecting these informal economies may change the landscape of Metro Manila in 2100. Through these future speculations, this thesis aims to give back the right to the city to informal settlers by giving them the right to stay.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Erin Jeong

MARC

Returning Nakwon

Increasing generational hostility and class segregation within Korean society has led to the marginalisation of a growing demographic of low-income seniors. Unwelcome elsewhere, seniors have formed their own informal community around Seoul's oldest urban park in the affordable Nakwon neighbourhood. For low-income seniors, Nakwon is the last bastion to resist the gentrification creep, protected only by the adjacent Nakwon Sangga, a derelict megastructure from a by-gone era.

However, recent city beautification and tourism efforts have led to the ousting of seniors from Nakwon. This thesis looks to reclaim the neighbourhood for the displaced seniors using Nakwon Sangga to transition the lost gathering space from the park to the building.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



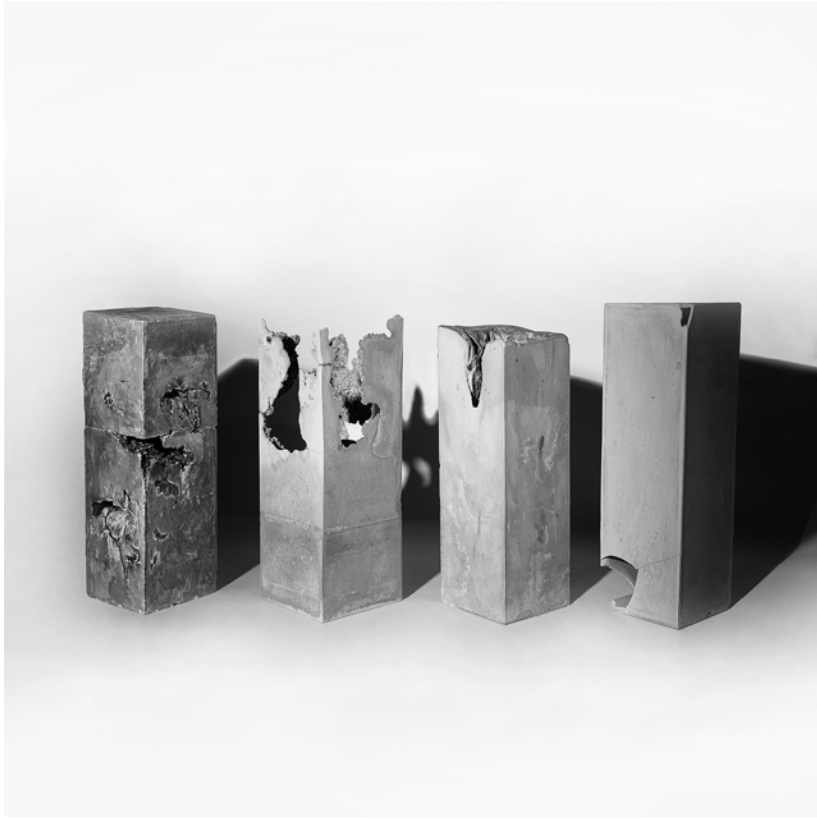
Lane Johnson

MARC

Recasting Concrete

Concrete is often negatively viewed as a material that is cold, alienating, rigid, and environmentally unfriendly. But is concrete as bad as it seems? In the Caribbean, it is time to rethink these labels to address our own reality. On the island of Dominica, concrete is unapologetically the most viable and sustainable material for construction. Its future provides an opportunity to be reimagined as an architectural system that emphasizes flexibility and resiliency.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



Eric Wonseob Jung

MARC

Wither the Garden?

Climate catastrophes are slow-moving threats to agricultural lands in North America. Corporatization and concomitant agglomeration of small farms jeopardize continuous agricultural production. At some future point, food security will become paramount, especially for population centers such as the GTA. Diasporic rearrangements of farming as it exists today are inevitable. Collectively, are these phenomena opportunities for reforming land conservation and agricultural practices? Or, are they mandates? Based on Jim Dator's notion of possible 'alternative futures' — Continuation, Transformation, Limit and Discipline, and Decline and Collapse — this thesis develops a demonstration farm of four archetypes for resilient farming, hoping to hedge inevitable change.

Advisor: Laura Miller



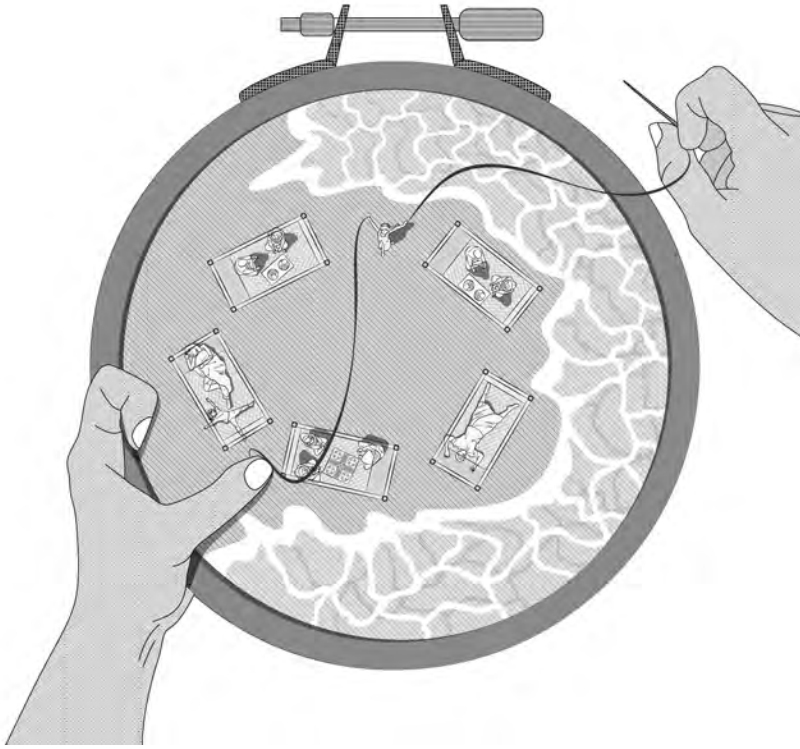
Ideh Khadjevand

MARC

Ports of Past and Future

Known for a long history of wooden shipbuilding, the Iranian island of Qeshm was once a trade and navigation center with significant marine forests and salt caves, and contemporary oil and military prospecting. Currently accessible primarily by air for a tourist economy concentrated on its eastern end, the island is environmentally and economically at risk. Through the design of a series of ports aimed at restoring local waterways and preserving the culture and traditional skills of the island, this thesis aims to precipitate a network of economic and cultural exchange through a series of intermittent interventions activated by sea travel.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Haadiyah Khan

MARC

Weaving a Community

Balochistan has historically been a blind spot for the Pakistani government; due to its negligence, Baloch women suffer the consequences of disenfranchisement with limited economic growth and low literacy rates. Despite Baloch women making significant cultural and financial contributions, they are still the most vulnerable members of society. In August 2022, the federal government's indifference resulted in astronomical levels of damage in Baloch villages during recent historically unprecedented levels of flooding. The project proposes a newly imagined typology for a Women's Vocational Centre that transforms into a Flood Relief Shelter for the entire village during the rainy season.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



Xiaoyu Lei

MARC

Restoring community connections by imagining the future of old barn

This work aims to develop a mixed used design for the restoration of disused barns across southern Ontario. The intention is both to preserve them and maximize their value to nearby community by adding spaces for various gatherings. In giving use and economic activity to these buildings, their maintenance can be self-maintaining in the future. The project's work starts from mapping and analyzing the distribution of barns. From this, a small community near Lake Simcoe was selected, and a comparable barn found in the City of Toronto was selected as an example that could be studied in detail.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Bonnie Ran Li

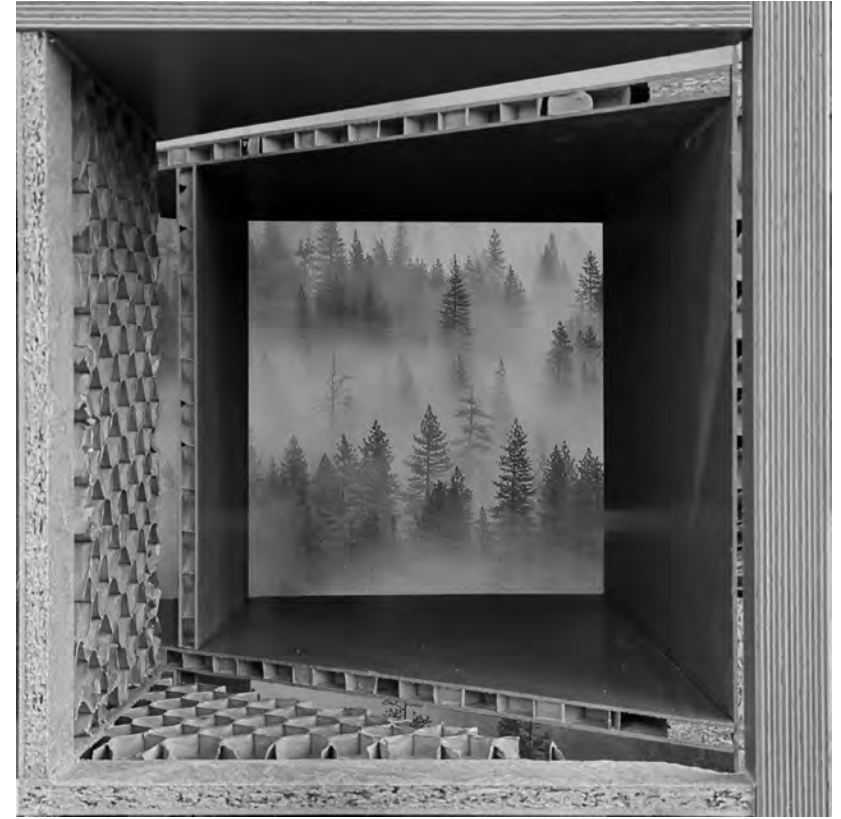
MARC

Amphibious Horizons: Redefining Coastal Living

What could the future look like when water covers our land?

As climate change continues to impact coastal communities, one of the most significant challenges is the displacement of people due to natural disasters such as flooding and rising sea levels. In the case of Kutubdia island, the local community is facing the prospect of losing their land to the rising waters. This situation has prompted a new architectural design project that aims to introduce an innovative solution: the amphibious structure. The goal of the project is to create a smooth transition between living on land and living on the water, without forcing the local community to give up their land ownership.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



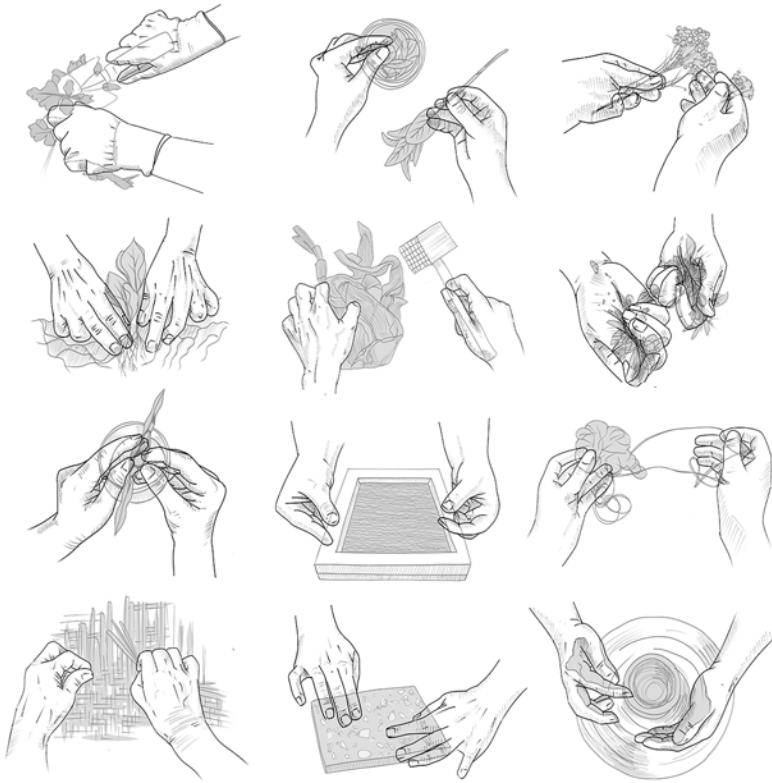
Chunying Li

MARC

Wood, Business, and Sustainability: Analyzing IKEA's Impact on the Environment

My research analyzes IKEA's wood usage in furniture and its impact on forests. By investigating wood sourcing, processing, and furniture construction, I evaluate environmental impact throughout its lifetime. I have taken apart to varying degrees pieces of IKEA furniture found on the streets of Toronto to thoroughly understand them. My study finds that evaluating IKEA's sustainability is a complex question. Higher wood utilization and lower prices make wooden furniture more accessible, but the hybrid construction of composed wood hurts the potential to reuse elements. Through this work, I aim to explore how to better use wood with commercial activities impact.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Michelle Li

MARC

Gardening in a Wasteland

Can viewing ecological disturbance through a lens of materiality create future narratives for post-wild landscapes? Urban wastelands are assemblages of habitats, colonized by human activity through material and species movements. The Great Lakes' non-native species cannot be 'remediated' away; attempts to do so are ineffective and counterproductive. Instead, harvesting introduced species can mitigate effects of their permanent position in local ecosystems. Recasting ecological threats of diasporic communities as abundant resources invites new modes of biodiversity and co-production. Through design thinking, discarded materials— construction rubble and spontaneous vegetation—can be transformed into tools and infrastructure for rewilding the Don River Watershed.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Jerry Lin

MARC

Of Water and Stone: Revitalizing Penghu

Located in the Taiwan Strait, Penghu has been a remote site of political importance. Being in the epipelagic zone, Penghu once thrived as communities of self-sustaining fisheries. However, these islands have been facing environmental and social decline in the past decades. Unsustainable activities and ecological damage from industrial fishing and over-tourism led residents to flee the islands and left traditions to fade. *Of Water and Stone* examines a series of vernacular stone forms — fishing weirs in the intertidal zone, terraces of cultivation, windbreak towers and houses — to rebuild conservation, environmental and social resiliency in pilot interventions.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



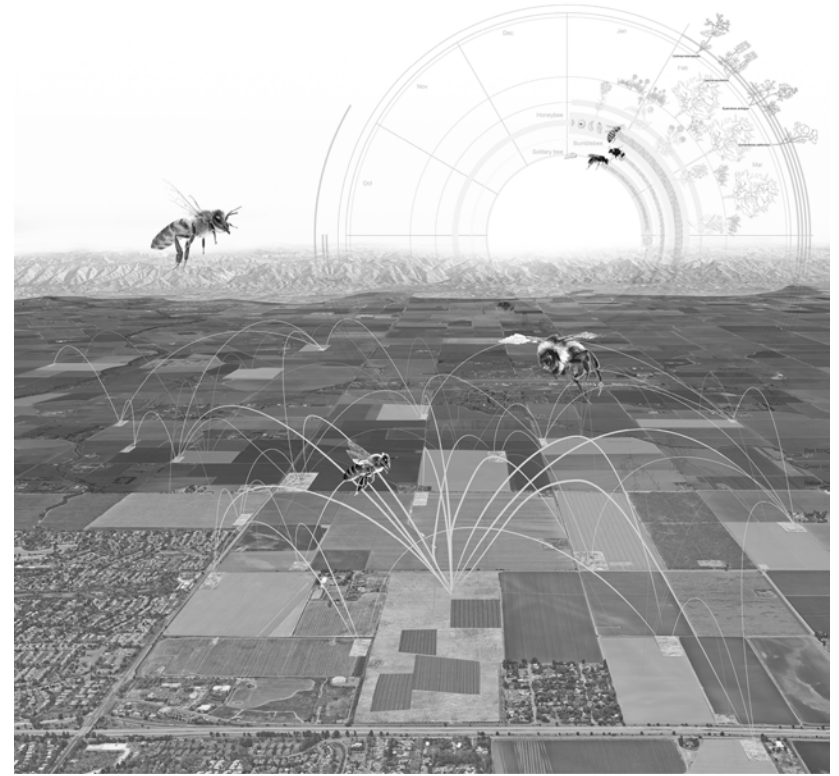
Jin Liu

MARC

The Vanishing Life of Wood

This thesis embarks on a journey to unveil the hidden beauty of salvaged wood collected from renovations of Bay'n Gable style houses - of the Victorian-Era. Transforming them into meaningful objects, it aims to rekindle a sense for the spirit of wood that is often lost in contemporary building. The pieces found were nurtured in the arms of nature, before living a second life in the walls and floors of someone's home. Too often, they end up as landfill. Through an apparently simple effort to revive them in the form of new artefacts, the project showcases the continued potential of solid wood.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Jianing Lv

MARC

Pollinate a resilient agriculture system

Through pollination, honeybees are a critical link in our food production cycle. The co-option of bee populations into mobile managed colonies utilised by industrialised agriculture poses a significant threat to bee health – resulting in stress, disease, and colony collapse. Is there a better model? This thesis proposes a new bee infrastructure in California's almond orchards, aimed at gradually phasing out large, mobile populations of bees. A bee research laboratory is the center of a 'collaboration network' incorporating local wild and native bees in pollination-friendly habitats within existing orchards, establishing a more sustainable and resilient agricultural system in the future.

Advisor: Laura Miller



Lena Ma

MARC

Vestibulum Memoriae

This project asserts that a complete architecture metamorphoses between its physical state and experiential potential. Its penultimate form approaches pure memory as it transits into an idea. It is as if it achieves a mortality that undermines its ambition to live forever, and thus, possesses a memory. Like all memories, it risks passing into a realm of the forgotten. No longer constrained by the limitations of its substantive form, architectural persona will exist in the forgiving purgatory of the Vestibulum Memoriae. In this indefinite realm, a nearly forgotten energy fills the voids of our consciousness, enduring a state beyond physical existence, contributing to an archive of continuously generated powerful fragments.

Advisor: John Shnier



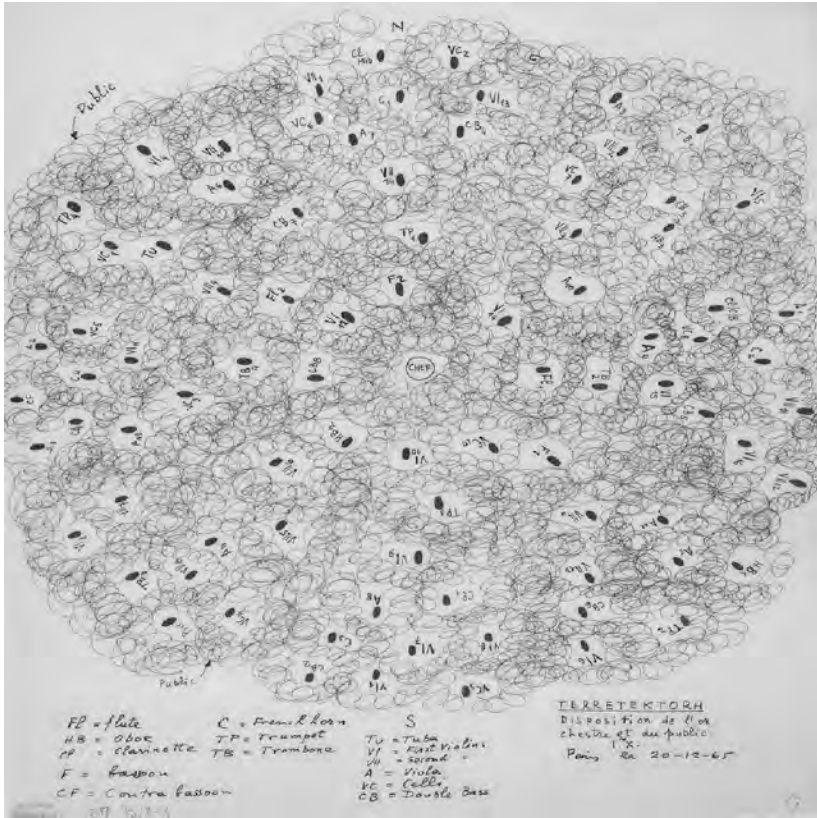
Maggie MacPhie

MARC

Beyond the Classroom

In the Kutupalong refugee camp, religious and cultural practices strongly discourage women from being in public spaces. This leads to limited educational opportunities as adolescent girls cannot attend schools alongside male students. To address this inequality, I designed a school for adolescent girls which also serves as a multi-functional space for women. The open floor plan and flexibility allows for the certification program for vocational skills which runs parallel to the academic program. Empowering and educating women creates a ripple effect that extends into the community, fostering a culture of learning and creating a sustainable cycle of development and economic possibilities for future generations.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



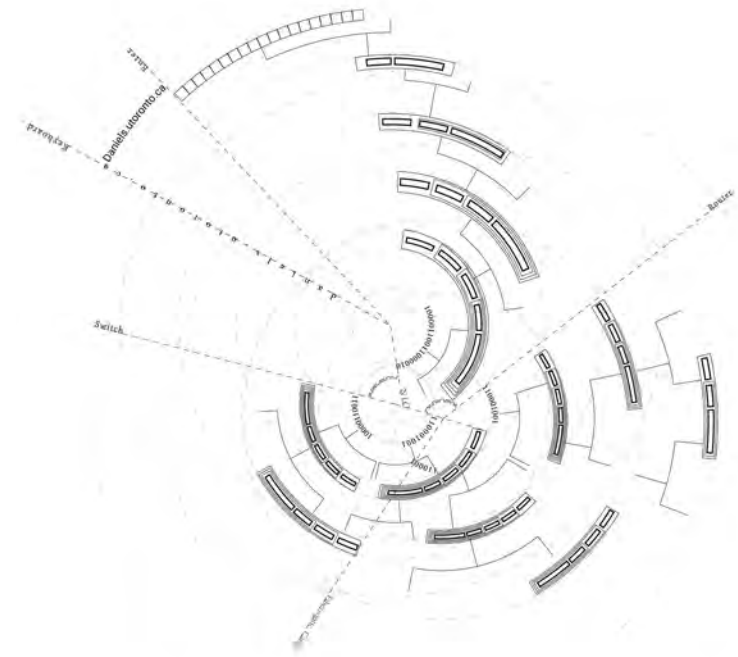
Anthony Mario Mattacchione

MARC

It's Time, It's Air, Then It's Gone

This thesis proposes that music offers a unique window into an alternate world that exists alongside our physical architecture, which is made tangible through the creation of intricate sound spaces. Sound spaces are crucial elements that enable us to perceive and connect with this hidden realm, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in the acoustic environment created by the music. By exploring the transformative power of music, this thesis argues that sound spaces serve as a bridge between the physical and the abstract world of music, offering an unparalleled opportunity to experience the full range of auditory sensation and emotion that music can evoke.

Advisor: Brian Boigon



Romina Mehrbod

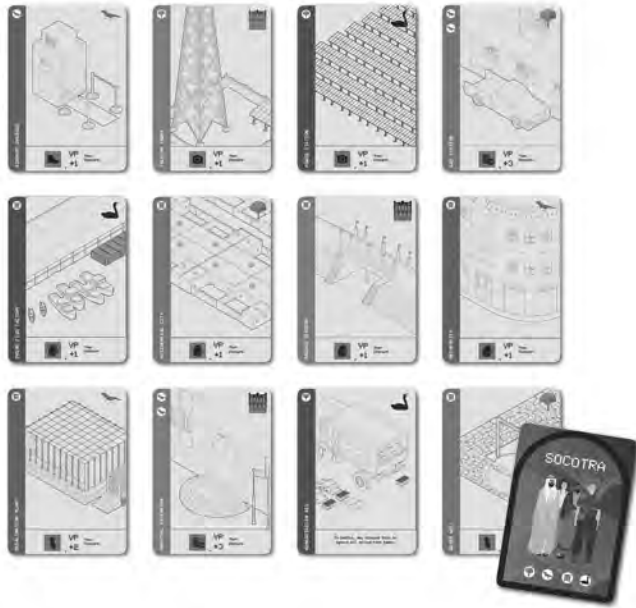
MARC

The route that made the world

We are in travel all the time. We travel physically by foot, on transit systems, or part of us, our information travels through the digital world to verify a transaction or to place an order online. Avatars of us are in transactions all the time.

This piece tries to dissect how the political view of a given era is reflected in the digital and physical infrastructure of transport and transactions. Through the lens of the past, zooming into the logistics and processes involved, and using the narration as the carrier of the individual experience, it is criticizing the current system in the way that these infrastructures marginalize people. Narration, mapping, and instruments are coming into play, helping to explain the different experiences from a new perspective.

Advisor: Maria Yablonina, Mitchell Akiyama



Farwa Mumtaz

MARC

Before the UAE there was the Dragon Blood Tree

Known for its endemic flora and fauna, the Yemeni Socotra Archipelago is a designated UNESCO world heritage site. Taking advantage of civil war on the mainland and consecutive cyclones, the UAE has incrementally gained control of Socotra through the construction of hospitals, schools, base transceiver stations, and other built objects under the guise of 'humanitarian aid and disaster relief'. This project aims to use the innocuous activity of playing a tabletop game as a spatial, social, and tactile tool to expose the imperial-colonial playbook of the UAE, prompting discussion, reactions, and possible long-term plans for Socotra among players and beyond.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



Sanjana Patel

MARC

The Shape of Water

Sited between two watersheds, Toronto's Downsview neighbourhood has been awaiting redevelopment for more than 25 years. This thesis views this as an opportunity to positively impact flooding and pollution taking place downstream. Through a series of small and large interventions, the project retrofits neighbourhoods and civic spaces, and renders proposals for stormwater reuse and treatment as part of the public realm. Viscous territory is reclaimed to be deliberately occupied by rain, snow, ice, groundwater, and mist; and a network of purple pipe brings what is typically hidden into a culture of stewardship that treats water as a commons.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Zhi Qiao (George Qiao)

MARC

Siheyuan Retirement Home and Kindergarten

As the global population continues to age, the demand for retirement homes is steadily increasing. This is especially true in densely populated countries like China in Asia, where elderly care homes are facing historic challenges. This research looks to the Chinese architectural typologies of the Hutong and Siheyuan as the means by which historical models can be adapted to the rapidly changing demographic environment in China. This allows more elderly people who wish to live in such traditional buildings to have a good modern living experience. In this project, the mutual support between seniors and children serves as additional means to address multi-generational living in what will hopefully become a new model of resiliency in light of demographic change.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



Chandni Rana

MARC

Capturing Time but Failing

Capturing Time but Failing, is an exploration of the nonlinear nature of time and the infinite realities co-existing in the castles of Scotland. These immeasurable layers of time are illustrated in a singular line – described as episodic memories – condensing the essence of their realities into a single moment; perhaps succeeding but possibly failing, “a mistake is not an error”. The reality of history and its architecture is constructed not by the progression of time, but rather the narrative of *times*. Since time flows differently within each memory, you must travel between the *times* to experience the world of castles.

Advisor: Brian Boigon



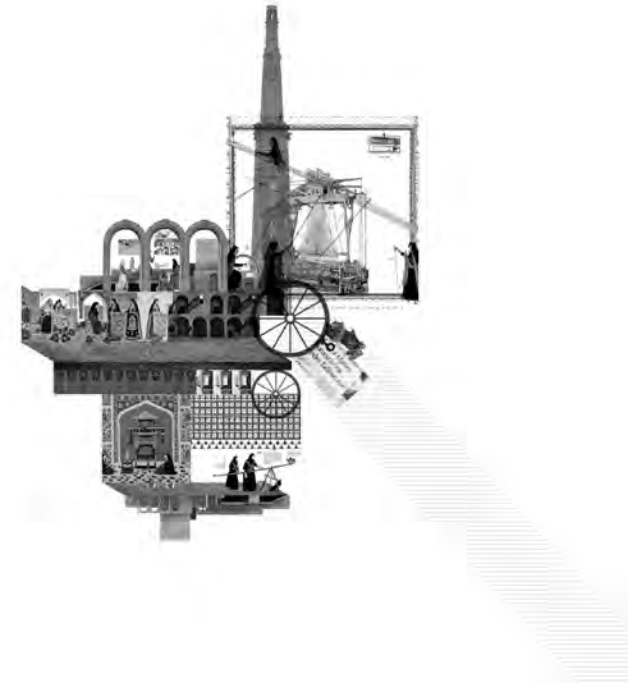
Aseel Sadat

MARC

A Journey to Wellness: The Sanctuary of Contemplation and Rehabilitation

Afghanistan's heroin epidemic affects a third of its population, despite being illegal, invisible, and punishable by death. Geopolitical insecurity failed to establish a viable economy in the landlocked country after successive occupations and wars, and dependency upon its most profitable product is, in turn, why its poppy fields are so valuable. This thesis proposes using the mosque – an underutilized typology and a safe space for free circulation – as a venue for rehabilitating people with substance use disorders. Mosques play a significant role in Afghan culture and can potentially serve as a refuge for individuals seeking help with addiction.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



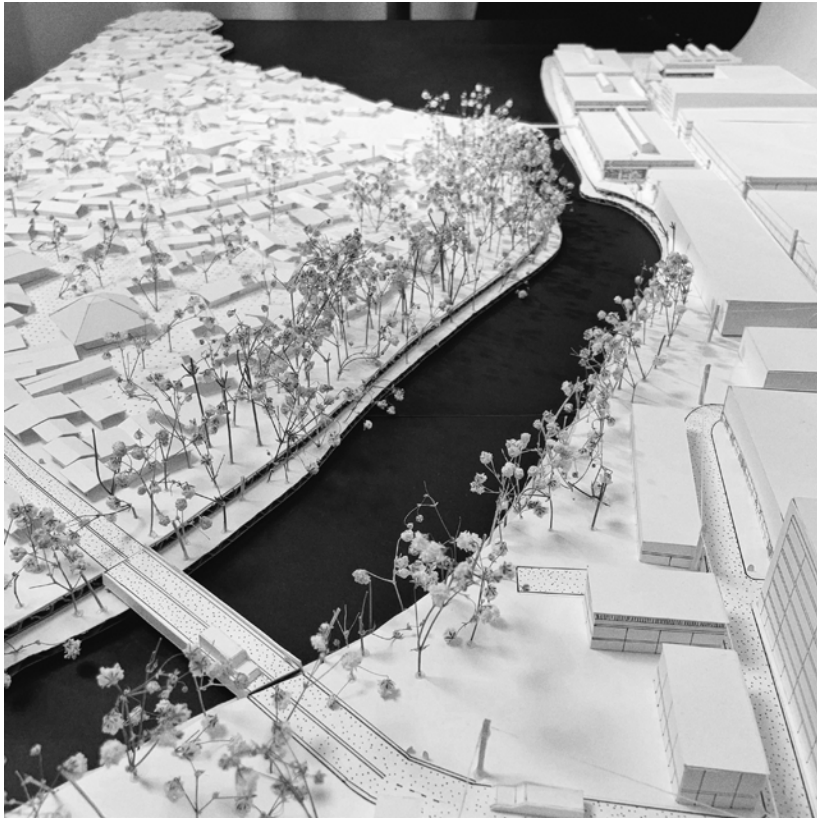
Yasaman Sana

MARC

Zan+Abad: Where Women Cultivate Their Empowerment

This thesis seeks to empower Afghan women by creating a self-sustaining village. In Afghanistan, 2.5 million widows are facing oppression and exclusion from public life, which seeks to strip them of their rights and dignity. To counteract this oppression, the project focuses on fostering community with local vernacular typologies that can be built incrementally by these women, aiming for increased economic opportunities, educational access, and ultimately autonomy from oppressive forces such as those under Taliban rule. This model master plan will serve 85 families in Herat province, working towards mutual co-dependency among its participants while providing refuge from injustice.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



Katrina Santos

MARC

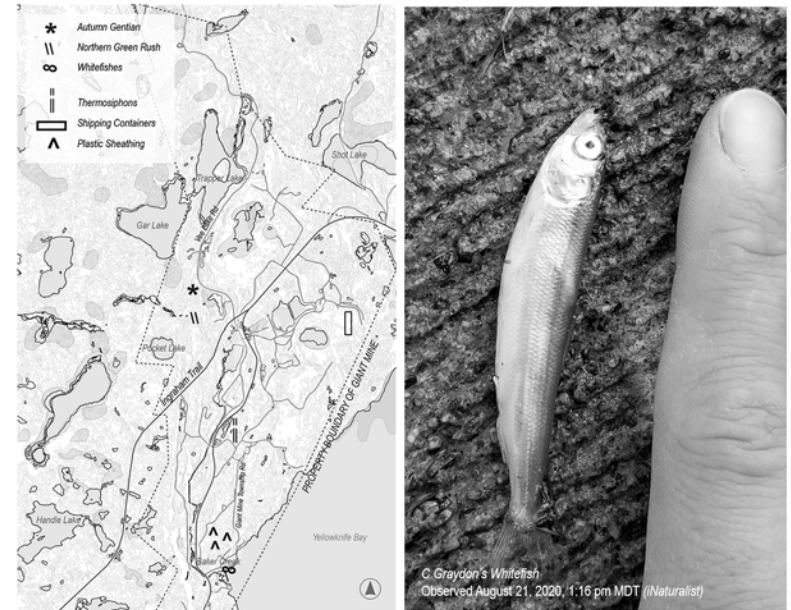
The In-between | The settlement of Tambacan, Iligan City, Philippines

Focusing on sub-alternate “Public” versus “public” spaces, this project challenges the distinction between the two, one being formal, organized, given priority and importance; while the latter is perceived inferior, informal, chaotic.

Emphasis is put on situated knowledge, particularly material culture and practices as the thread that binds culture and identity in the coastal community of Tambacan in Iligan City, Philippines.

The significance of the street and the in-between spaces as vital, critical, dynamic nodes of linkage from major public realms, settlements, pathways, to minor public spaces, is explored via spatial and ethnographic research, and design project of land- and home-based rehabilitation.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



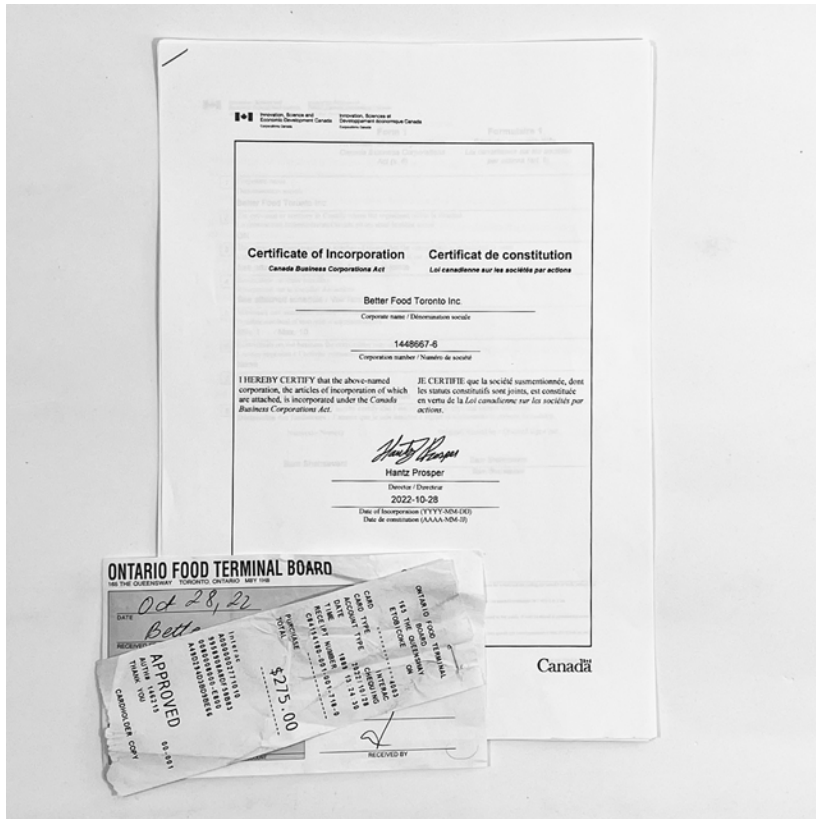
Gemma Savage

MARC

Mine and Yours

How do we make visible diffuse acts of violence that propagate in a globalized world, where being able to see anything makes us blind to most everything? The consequences of extractive operations reach beyond the local boundaries. The effects of mining can be felt across multiple scales of occupation. We are now stewards of contaminated lands that are scarred by exploitation and bathed in invisible toxins. Regeneration and recuperation will span numerous generations. Learning to recognize these landscapes, and their histories, is crucial. How can we equip current and future publics with the knowledge of these convoluted histories?

Advisor: Laura Miller



Sam Shahsavani

MARC

Better Food Toronto

Through investigative journalism and a process-driven design approach, the Better Food Toronto project aims to combat the adverse impacts of Toronto's industrial food system by honoring the capacity of other scales of operation to prioritize social, environmental, and health concerns. The project begins by showcasing the stories and itineraries of some of the actors involved in the food system and ends with proposing makeshift architectural interventions that respond both polemically and pragmatically to their challenges. In addition to tackling the issue around the thesis statement, the project hopes to encourage a more hands-on, grassroots, and civic approach to research and design.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



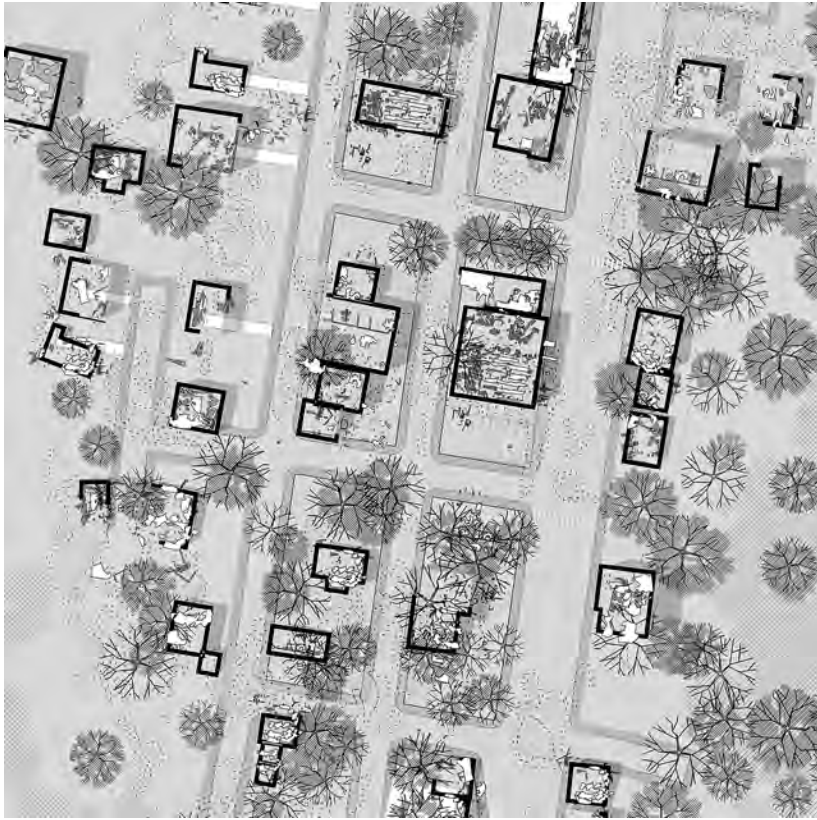
Lucas Siemucha

MARC

Immoral Function

With the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations (MChS, or 'EMERCOM'), has deployed a series of 'life-support facilities' in occupied areas of Ukraine. Although portrayed by the Russian government as 'humanitarian aid', these facilities have been instrumentalized for the detention, interrogation, abuse, and displacement of Ukrainian people. This project documents a selection of built objects complicit in this operation with a focus on how they could be memorialized for the public to raise awareness of such events post-conflict. This project is reflected in a two-parts: a proposal for a documentation center and an accompanying field guide.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



Marcelline Siu

MARC

Afterburn

Following a catastrophic fire, the village of Lytton contemplates its recovery amid multiple opposing approaches on how to rebuild. Lytton's history of disruption, extraction and adaptation as a part of its place-making, along with the role fire has had on the lives of the inhabitants, informs these conflicting perspectives. This thesis facilitates these discussions through a series of proposals for a form of architecture that recognizes the site's histories while adapting to the changing realities of the future. Through these proposals, the project reconsiders architecture's relationship to fire for a transformative way to inhabit a world on fire.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



Vanessa Sokic

MARC

Proximity to Care

In the 1950s and 1960s, Toronto built schools to sustain the growing Baby Boomer Generation. Today, many of these schools sit underutilized as demographic transitions have resulted in shifts in the localized demand for schools. At the same time, the city lacks adequate infrastructure to support its aging population. This adaptive reuse project exemplifies how these schools can be leveraged for use by the entire community. The school becomes a health hub that provides local support which could potentially alleviate long-term care (LTC) home waitlists by providing support to those aging-in-place who do not quite need the level of care that LTC provides.

Advisor: Shane Williamson



Jiashu Song

MARC

Pocket Façade

White Birch, also called Paper Birch, is an intermediate species for forest succession and its bark is well known for creating canoe that helps indigenous travels across the country. The species are commonly seen in the northern atmospheres across the globe. The project wants to explore ways to incorporate birch bark into architecture through various form-making so that a cross-disciplinary bond can benefit the wood, forest, architecture, and construction industries.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Clement Sung

MARC

Jeju-do, Distortion Island

Is there a reality where foreign tourists and the original inhabitants of the island of Jeju-do can coexist on a land that both groups consume for opposite uses? This thesis aims to critique the rapidly growing tourism industry in Jeju-do, South Korea, through its unique definition and phenomenon of a museum. A Jeju museum merely requires the display of 100 objects, and I aim to stretch this definition to examine the experience and consumption of landscapes through the juxtaposition of the Jeju museum and traditional Jeju culture.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



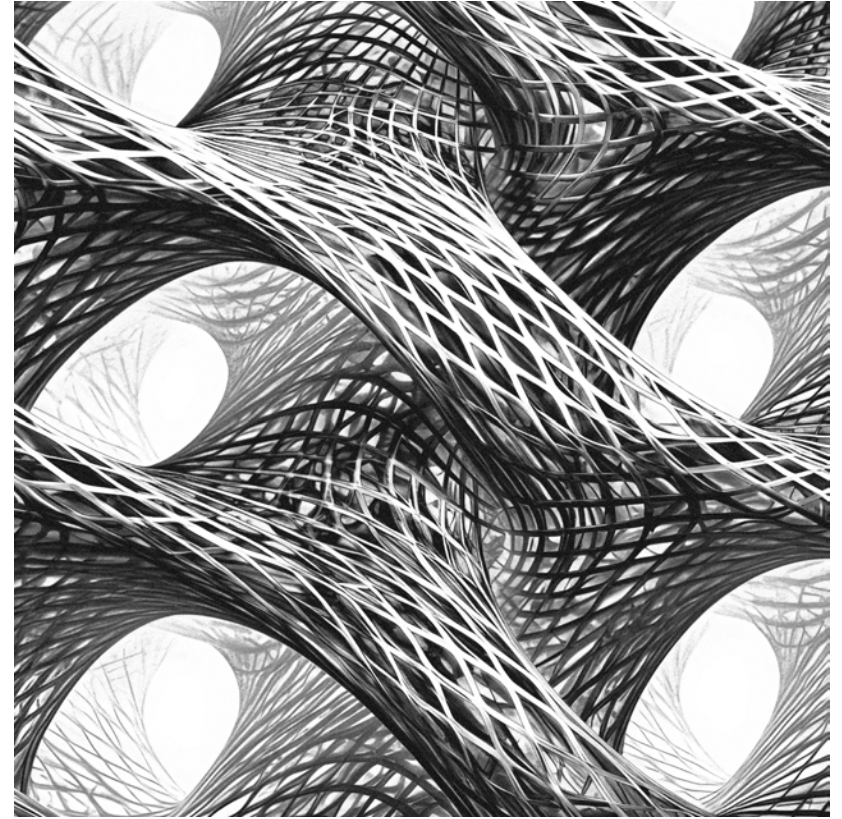
Samantha Tam

MARC

What does the Harvester leave behind?

In collaboration with existing craft practices, this thesis works with remnants, residues, and wastes observed in how conifer trees are harvested to pursue alternative scales and pipelines for making products and buildings from wood. Through a series of research studies and physical artefacts, the project considers the tree more broadly than conventional practices of forestry and building today: adding biological concerns to economic ones. While convention pushes for further standardization, this work aims to reveal trees many complexities, and to treat each as design opportunity. A hope throughout is that we might through this efficiency use fewer trees.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Jennifer Tian

MARC

The Maritime Theatre of Decoded Fragments

Through a collaborative process between AI and the designer, the research aims to leverage artificial intelligence as an experimental tectonic tool to create a series of architectural phenomenological interpretations built from discovered fragments. Fragments allow the space where creativity can flourish by delaying the AI from reaching its own conclusion and allowing the collaborative process to live with a penultimate state. The objective is to maintain authority over new technology that is disrupting the status quo of design by obstructing its own algorithms. Advocating for a pro-active collaboration rather than submitting to the usurper.

Advisor: John Shnier



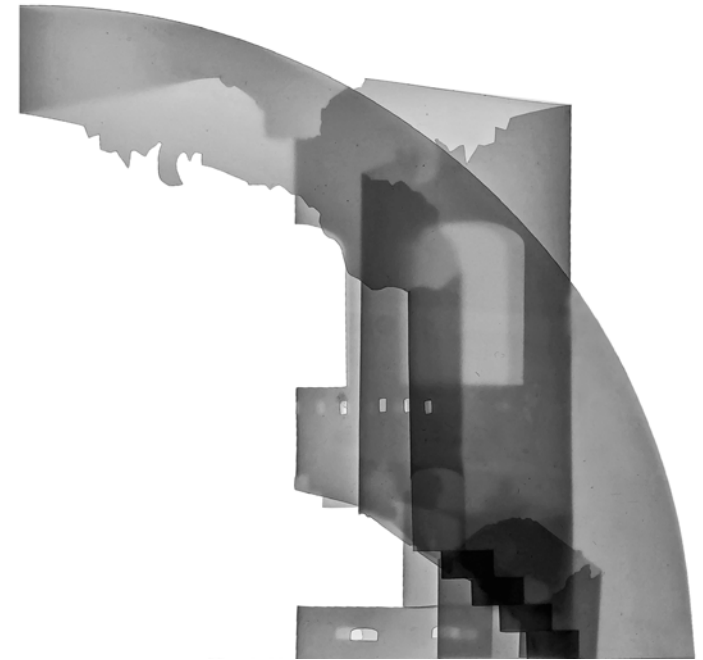
Alexander Tomasi

MARC

Urban Gradients: Strategies for Reconnecting Weston

The neighbourhood of Weston in Toronto, Ontario is bracing for drastic change in its future. Changes in government growth policy mean that Weston has become a prime target for an increase in density. However, there are many unresolved issues in the neighbourhood relating to connectivity and public space. Weston is home to an active and established population of new Canadians with diverse cultural, language, and economic backgrounds particularly susceptible to gentrification. If growth is not approached sensitively while working with the existing context, the neighbourhood and its people are at risk of complete displacement.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Yvonne Tran

MARC

The Complex of Layers

This project explores the processes and techniques of how architecture can be revealed from its two-dimensional elements into a transformative three-dimensional form. The cinematic transformation builds upon a layered experience from planar to spatial towards its penultimate experience. As fragments and elements are collected and exposed, the pleasure and delight of an exquisite corpse emerges in which accumulative results are perceived as a series of reveals that goes beyond the original subject.

Advisor: John Shnier



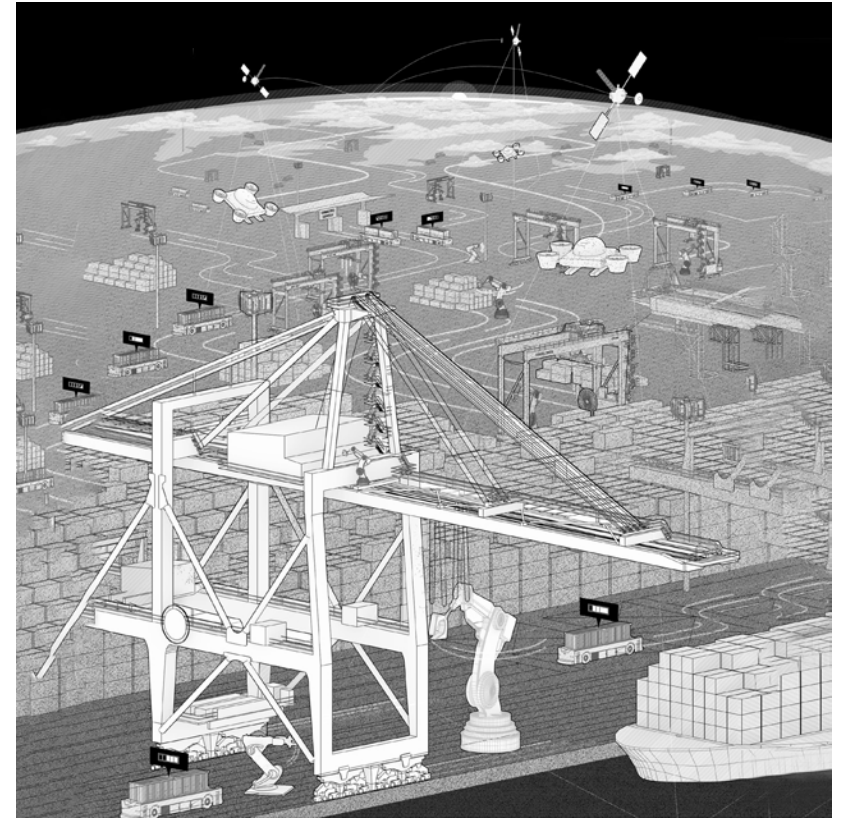
Deanna Tzanopoulos-Tzanis

MARC

The Multi-residence | Polykatoikia

Athens, a city made of architectural improvisations in a post-war era finds itself at the mercy of the standard multigenerational apartment typology: the polykatoikia. This typology has proliferated the urban landscape thanks to its affordability and easy construction, but it also inherits traditionalist notions of family and gender-roles. In Kypseli, a historical neighbourhood experiencing urban revival, newcomers like refugees and foreign families are amalgamating to the type and blending with existing households, thus challenging the orthodoxy engrained in the structure. An opportunity of exploration is present: what is the contemporary polykatoikia and can these cultural changes inform its architecture?

Advisor: Shane Williamson



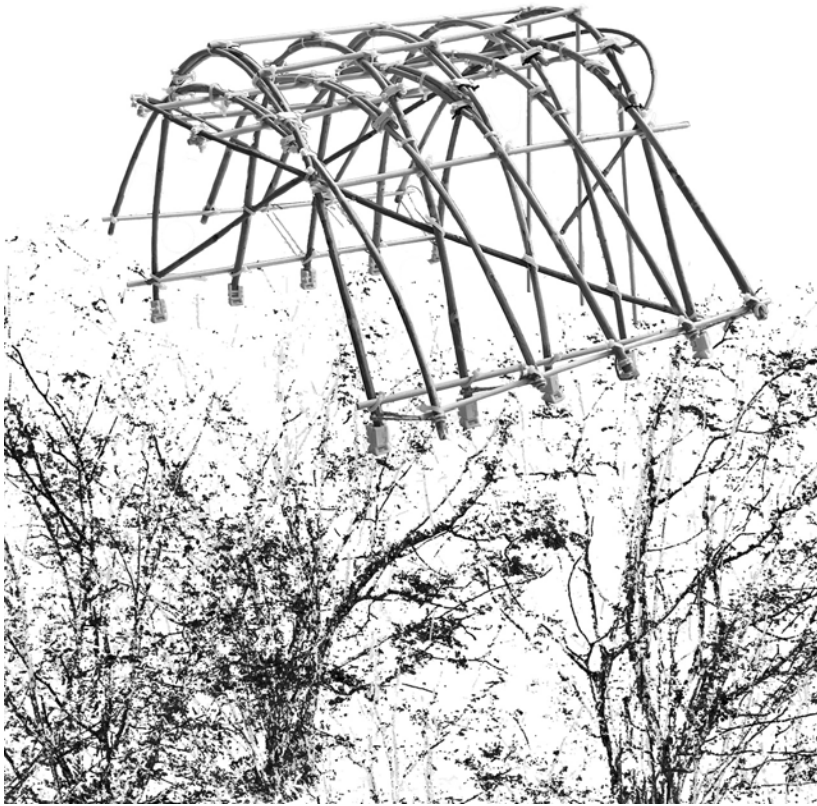
Annie Zhaocheng Wang

MARC

Glo-cal-cosms: F[r]ictional Stories of the Port

Intermittently engulfed by thick fog and floating 32km off the coast of Shanghai, Yangshan Port is an artificial island dominated by autonomous machines. It resides within the Free Trade Zone, an urban periphery littered with warehouses and corporate campuses – in a never-ending pursuit for quantity and efficiency. This thesis questions the role and scale of humans in this large entangled logistical realm, where local and global trade violently collide. It taps into perspectival moments within the port - individual stories of isolation, persistence, propaganda, and transience to locate the tiny human presence within a sea of machines.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



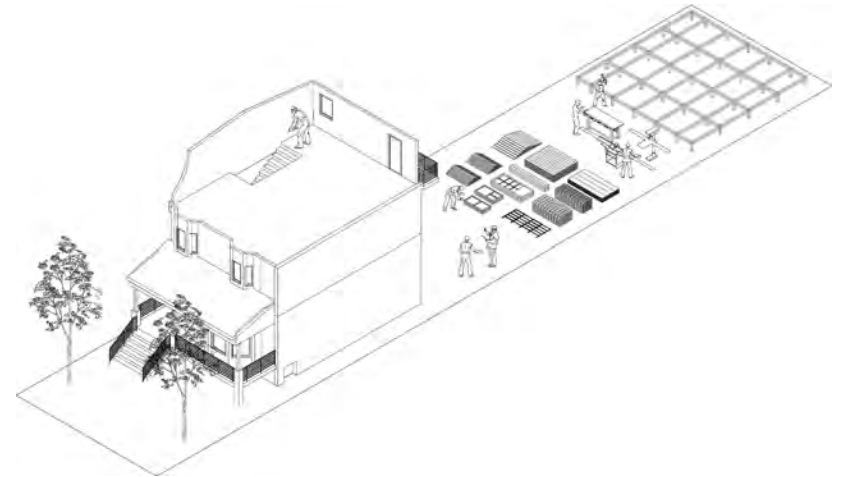
Lulu Wang

MARC

Coppice Semi-permanent Shell

This work aims to demonstrate a low-energy approach to constructing lightweight, semi-permanent structures, using slender wood poles. It learns from projects such as the Hooke Park Workshop (UK), to exploit the inherent elasticity of freshly cut trees through the design of bending-active structures. For a material source, this project looks towards coppice forests hardwood species such as beech and oak. To facilitate deconstruction and reassembly, elements are joined by a standardized set of connections which each resolve a condition while adapting to the wood's unique local section. Low-energy approaches will be employed throughout the production and transportation of materials.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Xuansong Wang

MARC

Build a Laneway House from Deconstructed Materials

This thesis focuses on the design of a new laneway house in Toronto constructed primarily of salvaged building materials from the demolition of an older house on the same site. As many houses across the city grow older than 100 years, there is an increase in renovations and demolitions occurring. Across Canada, nearly 4 million tons of building waste is generated each year, and too much of this ends up in landfills. Using deconstruction materials from old houses to build new laneway houses on the same site can not only extend the lifecycle of materials, but also reduce carbon emissions.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



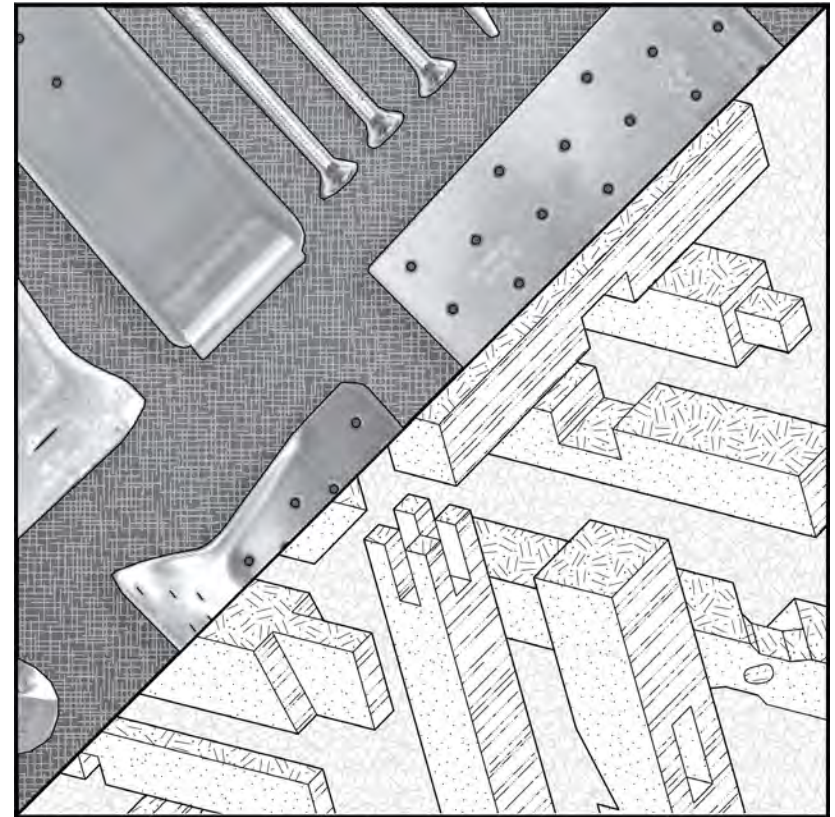
Liane Werdina

MARC

An Archive of Memories, Washed Away

The Turkish government has recently celebrated the completion of a hydroelectric power station, projected along the Tigris River, as an object of 'progress' and 'sustainability'. Yet, it is the same infrastructure that has led to the forced displacement of Indigenous local Kurdish people, submerging the land that for centuries has held Kurdish histories, culture, flora, and fauna. This project seeks to subvert the Turkish government's colonial displays of progress and preservation, through its world expositions, proposing a counter-pavilion for the Kurds of Hasankeyf. Countering this object of 'progress', this project will uncover the sacrificed history that is buried within it.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



Edward Minar Widjaja

MARC

In the Details

The contemporary infatuation with form making has led to trophy architecture focused on gradients and seamlessness, denying the realities of construction, connections, and craft. This thesis reintroduces material connections as tools of architecture which express their importance beyond structural and aesthetical function. Joints and connections are vital in the expression of cultural and environmental significance through out history. From ordinary houses to monumental palaces, temples, and shrines, the designs of well elaborated joints have the potential to offer social order, religious importance and practical solutions to hygiene and health. Therefore, architecture should begin to re-embrace the design of material connections.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



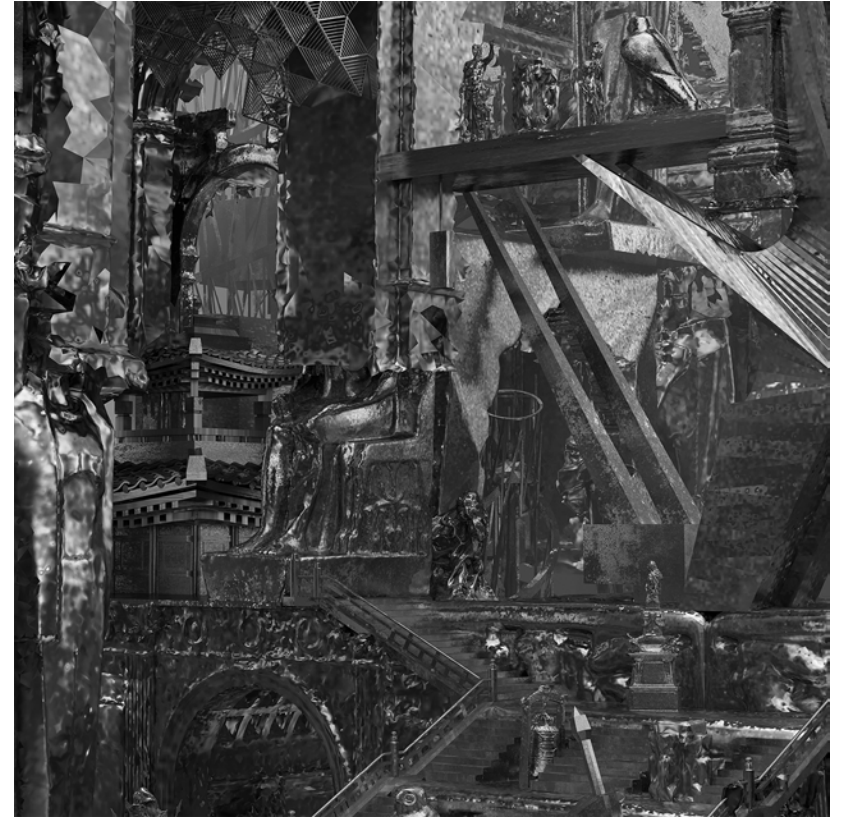
Jr Osei Wireko

MARC

Fragile Fringes

Waste is an ever-escalating global plague that will worsen with increased waste production, expanded product markets, and human population growth as is the case within the unplanned settlements and informal economy of Accra, Ghana. The thesis analyzes the consequences that arise from Waste Routes — the vessels that move waste throughout Accra, and Waste Roots — the new geographies of waste that begin to form. The proposal focuses on textile waste as a case study and explores how both architecture and urbanism can function as a catalyst in instilling a circular economy within the unplanned settlements of Accra.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



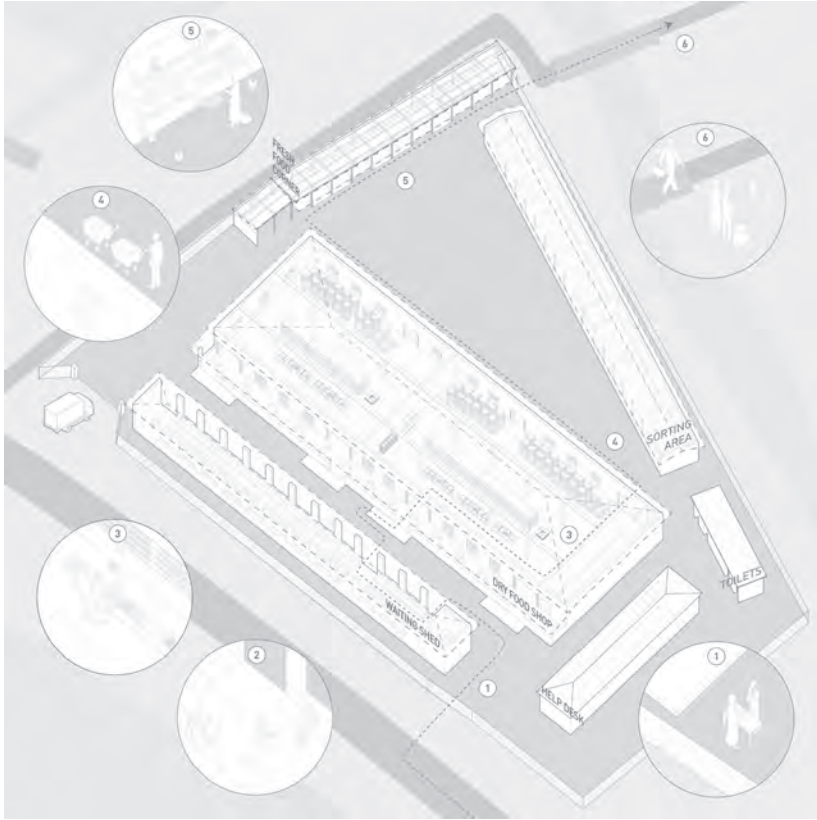
Eugenia Wong

MARC

When STRUCTURE become SHACKLES

The intention of this thesis is to (re)orient an observer's viewpoint to understand the implications embedded in our relationship with architecture across paradigms of power and values. My investigation deals with the comprehension of historical currency's abstraction through the passage of time, along with our appreciation in how time tracks on the artifact and how it yields latent potential in the retelling of the past. I explore the fragility that bely its original vanity, interrogate the legitimacy of intensive refinement, and uncover motives that hinge on rewriting the physical archive we value and select to maintain within our evolving cultural landscapes

Advisor: John Shnier



Gracia Wong

MARC

Food Outlet as an Aggregator - Rethinking Dignified Ways of Getting Food

Food is more than nutrition and survival, it connects with culture and memories. Displaced from their homes, refugees find hope and solace from cooking and eating their traditional food. Sited at the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar, this Thesis questions the way World Food Program (WFP) Food Outlet operates - how the WFP responds in a dignified and culturally sensitive manner to the refugees' experience of getting food. The new food outlet provides an authentic way of buying food by spatially integrating a bazaar experience and highlighting the fresh food corners, bringing together the refugees and host community.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



Tiffany Wong

MARC

Many Truths

Our understanding of a space is not limited to what we see, but rather how we see it; what are the moods, materials, sounds, smells, or other sensory elements that contextualize and translate our perception. Using mutating tableaus with changing sounds, tastes or smells, context transforms creating multiplicities. Architecture can be many Architectures occupying the threshold of the in-between, between culture, time, and place. Loosen your hold on assumptions and narratives and be prepared for many truths.

Advisor: John Shnier



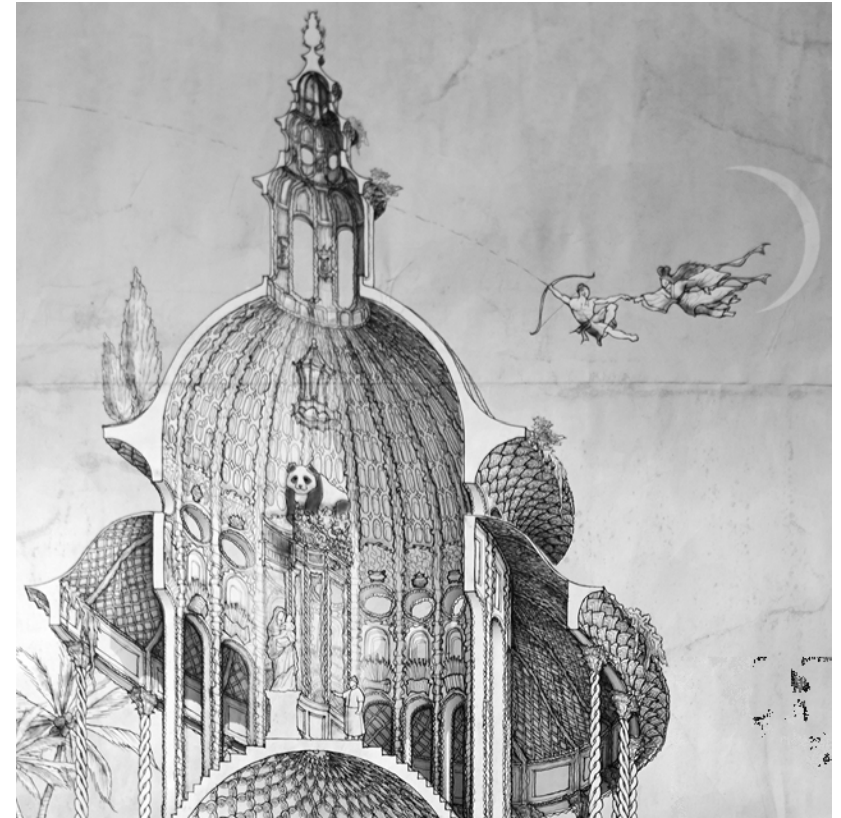
Bryson Wood

MARC

Forward Not Back, Reconsidering the Past in a Future Ukraine

After Ukraine gained independence from a dissolving Soviet Union in 1991, most Soviet-era memorials have been removed under Ukrainian law. However, with recent Russian invasion of Ukraine, new Russian memorials have been constructed, others reconstructed. By decoding how select histories have been memorialized for very particular ways forward, this exhibition proposal and paired publication seeks to prompt more critical reflection and conversation on the cyclical push-and-pull nature of past approaches to monument-making. Ultimately, this project asks how to deal with disputes over the memorialization of history in the hope of more productive ways forward.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



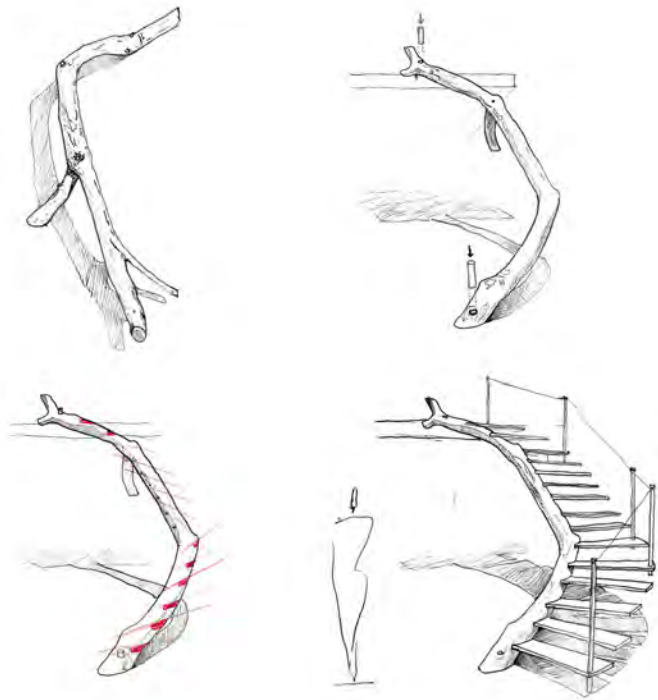
Jason Wu

MARC

Hadrian's Diolou: Appropriation, Counter-appropriation and Architecture of Transnational Exchange

We often view Hadrian as a world traveler who designed his villa as a miniature of the world. However, this thesis exhibition of cultural artefacts highlights that Hadrian traveled time as much as the world. He found a people moving greater distances than himself – the Toishanese, Chinese pioneers of the Americas, created tower villas called diolou, inspiring Hadrian with their aspirations for cultural transcendence. For a brief moment as the sun sets, it and the moon shine synchronically. If every design acts in a continuous lineage of appropriation – what differentiates homage from exploitation?

Advisor: John Shnier



Tingxu Yan

MARC

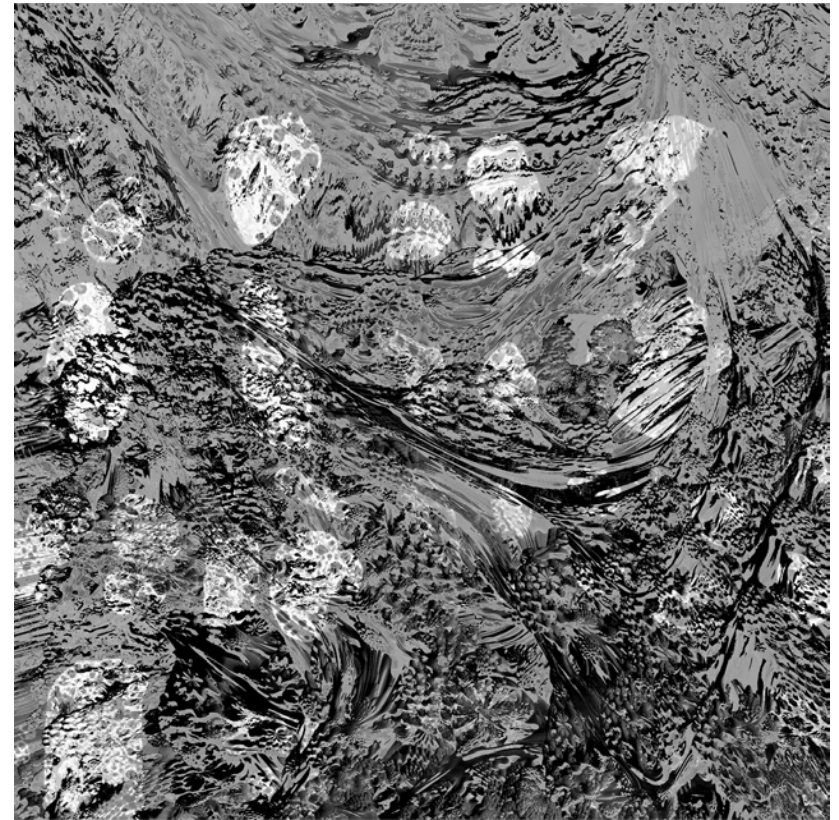
Rethink the wood identity.

—Nonlinear Wood usage experiment in architectural staircase

Wood is often thought of as just lumber and engineered wood, but it is much more than that. Each tree and type of wood has its own unique characteristics, such as curvature, forks, branches, and knots. Unfortunately, in today's efficient forest industry, these unique characteristics are often seen as problems. They were cut down and left over.

This thesis project aims to celebrate the identity of wood by exploring the use of non-linear parts in stair design to showcase the beauty of wood. By doing so, we hope to encourage a new appreciation for the unique characteristics of different types of wood and promote sustainable forestry practices that prioritize the preservation of these distinctive features.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



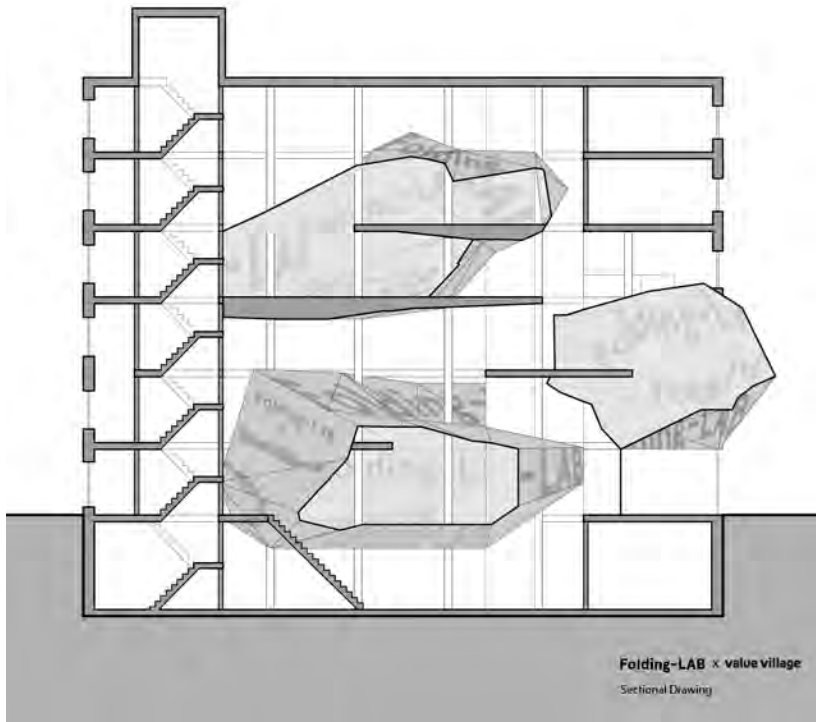
Ziyue Yang

MARC

Sugartainment

Sugartainment is a new non-standard architectural world which integrates surrealism into a new postmodern architecture. It is only made possible by today's digital VR landscape. This approach has the potential to enhance mood, creativity, focus, productivity, and fosters social and cultural connections, despite the possible challenges of discomfort and anxiety. The concepts of loop, matrix, and infinity are pertinent to the notion of continuous exploration, accentuating the potential for personal growth.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



Laura Ye

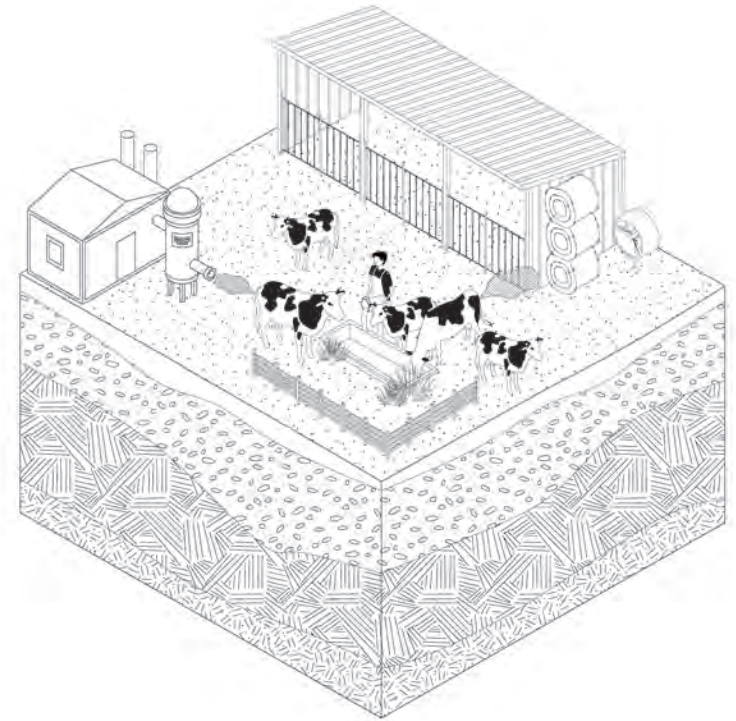
MARC

Folding Machine

Folding Machine is a theoretical retail model to redefine "vintage fashion" ecology and products for the future of retail experience in Toronto. With the increasing amounts of textiles ending up in the waste stream, this model responds to how pre-consumer waste can be transformed through an innovative fashion brand, Folding-LAB.

Taking Value Village boutique as a testing site, Folding-LAB is partnered with the store to help pay massive rent, yet creating new vintage clothing through unsold textiles and offcuts. Ultimately, it provides strategies for developing a new "personalized experience" for the future of the fashion ecosystem intellectually and spatially.

Advisor: Brian Boigon



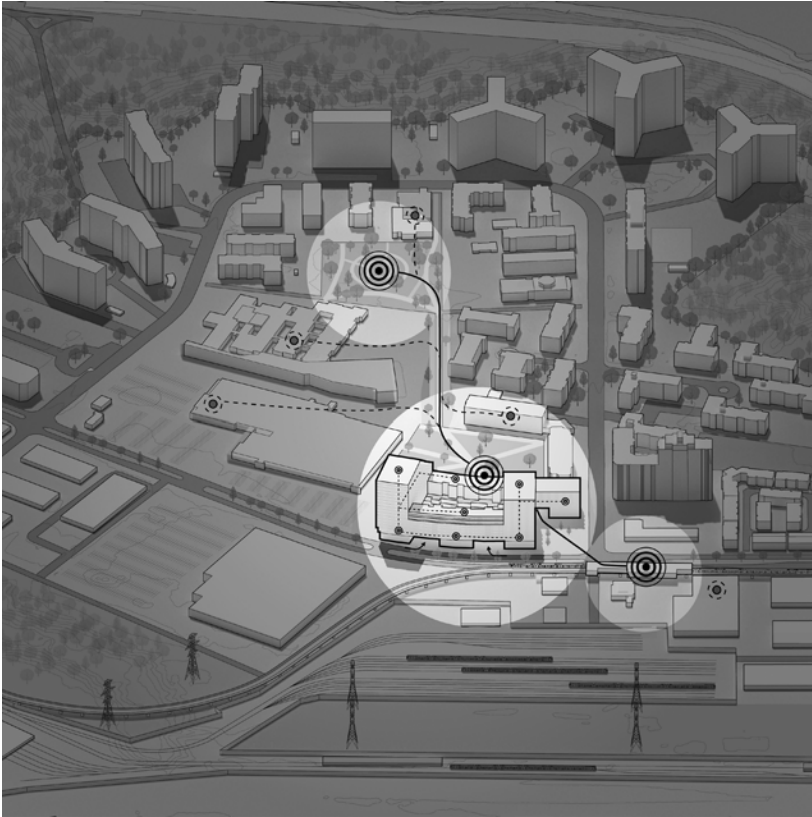
Mina Yip

MARC

The Dam & the Farm: A Future with/out Bitcoin

With bitcoin production dominating the American northwest, inexpensive energy resources are being exploited on former agricultural lands. Due to the subsequent rise in energy consumption, there is an increase in carbon emitted into the environment - making bitcoin farming one of the top three contributors to climate change. Accepting a future where volatile bitcoin is either embraced by capitalism or eradicated, this thesis envisions two possible futures that aim to meet energy and environmental conservation demands in the region. Addressing waning agriculture, aging energy infrastructure, and resource exploitation, the farm and the dam will be retrofitted as environmentally productive landscapes.

Advisor: Jeannie Kim



Sarah Young

MARC

The Arrival Hive

The words “housing” and “home” have strong connotations, particularly for refugees who have fled their homes in persecution. A refugee’s first home in Canada is often a hotel leased and repurposed by the government. In Toronto, refugees are staying in hotels for longer and longer, unable to find affordable housing. Housed in hotels, refugees remain disconnected from newcomer resources, their future communities, and a sense of growth. Located in “arrival city” Thorncliffe Park, the Arrival Hive clusters housing with an expanded umbrella of newcomer resources, including institutional programming, entrepreneurial and vocational skills training, childcare, and micro-scale retail opportunities.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



Brian Zhang

MARC

Monumental Reckoning

By definition, monuments have been static and passive sites. However, now more than ever, it is time to reconsider the monument as an active site of engagement that memorializes the past and has the potential to evolve to reflect new thinking and interpretations over time. This architecture provides an opportunity for contemporary dialogue that supports and reflects evolving knowledge and understanding. Monuments have a responsibility not only to celebrate the inspiring positive acts of our heroes but also to shed light on destructive forces, injustices, and systems that might otherwise be overlooked or ignored. They serve as potent reminders of the critical social issues and values that shape our society.

Advisor: Marc McQuade



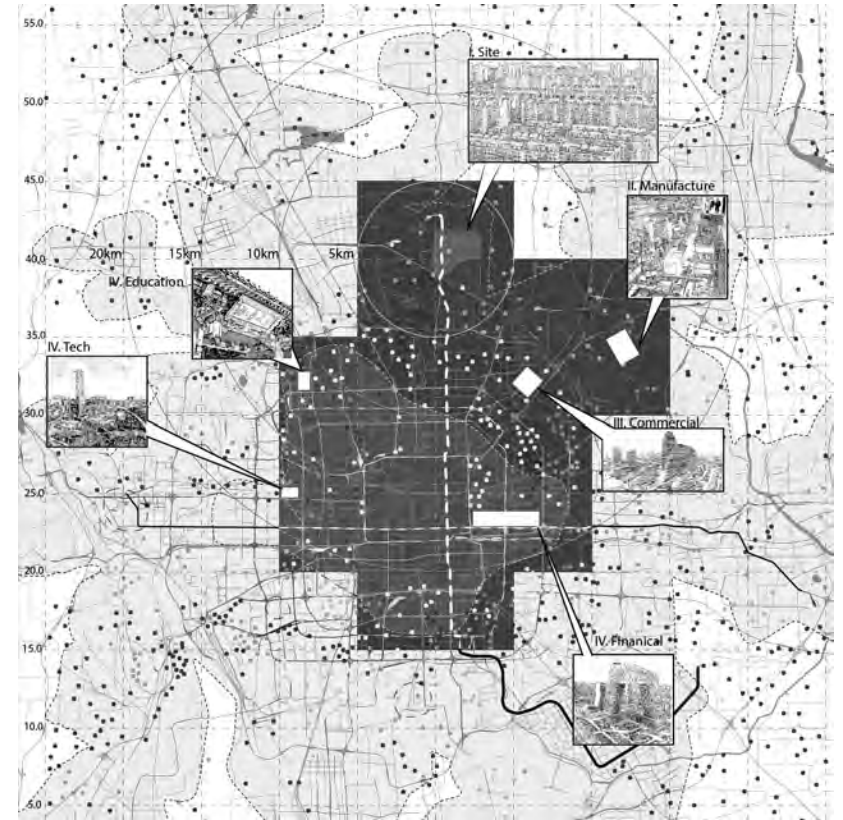
Rui Zhang

MARC

Change from Within

This project investigates migration across the US-Mexico border and the built objects that play a key role in the expansion of US American border control. Seeking to expose the ambiguity and off-the-shelf nature of these objects, the output of this project is both a proposal for a documentation center as well as an accompanying field guide. The proposed building would collect and preserve these objects, really serving as a pretext for being designated as a polling place that could speak to US citizens able to make a difference. The accompanying field guide further exposes the seemingly innocuous but violent nature of these objects.

Advisor: Lukas Pauer



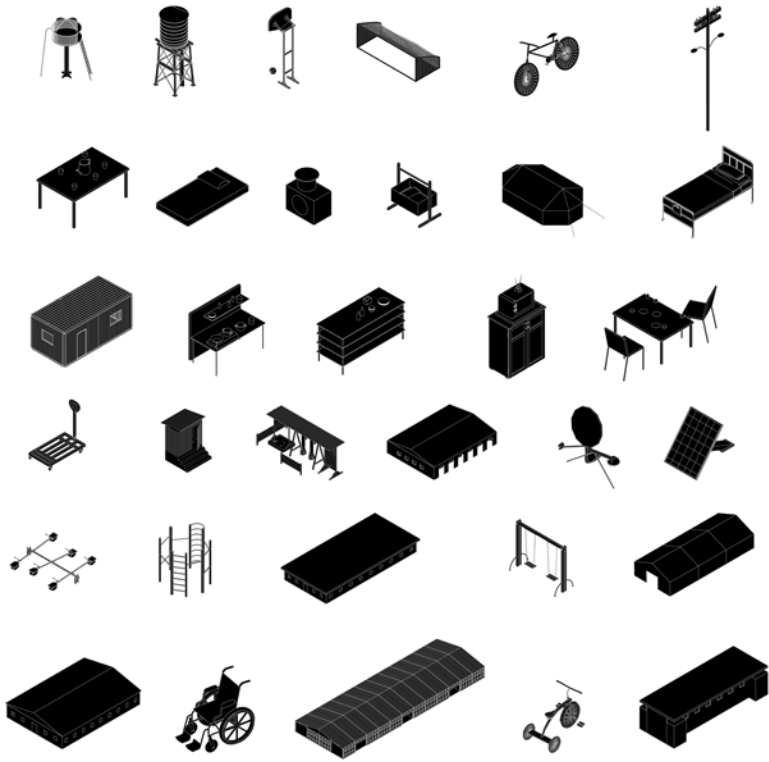
Tianyu Zhang

MARC

Beijing Drifters

Since Chinese economic reform, Beijing became a symbol, magnet, and destination for social achievement for people from the countryside. Those people, chasing their dream, are officially identified as Beijing Drifters; they contribute to Beijing's massive growth as a global megacity but this development isn't credited to them, despite their indispensable contribution; they are invisible. This thesis documents the massive gap between the Drifters' reality and dreams, and redesigns it as an urban speculation. The design focuses on the reframing a series of hypotheses of urban transformation and their measurable consequences, a place where reality is stranger than fiction.

Advisor: Petros Babasikas



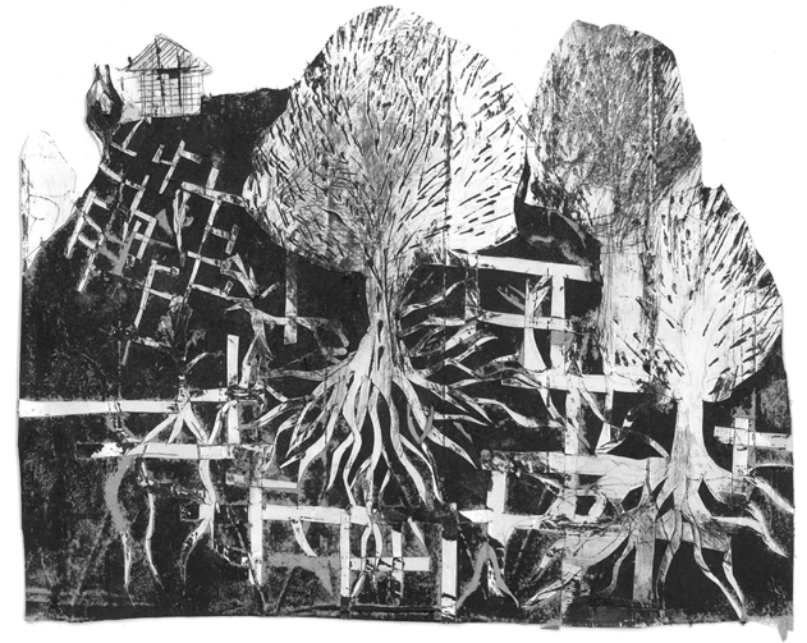
Zheren Zheng

MARC

The Other Home – Refugee Settlement Planning Strategy

With the growing number of refugees worldwide, caused by natural disasters and crises, it is essential to provide more than just basic survival needs in refugee settlements. This thesis is about studying and developing a general planning strategy that transforms a refugee camp into a livable settlement. The objective is to introduce a planning framework that allows the camp to transition from an emergency response to a long-term settlement that evolves with all the socio-cultural public realm amenities and public spaces that are necessary to the vitality of a modern city. By using the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan as a reference, this project will redevelop the zaatari camp as a sustainable, flexible, and self-sufficient city with a long-term vision.

Advisor: Marina Tabassum, Saarinen Balagengatharadilak



Yi Zhou

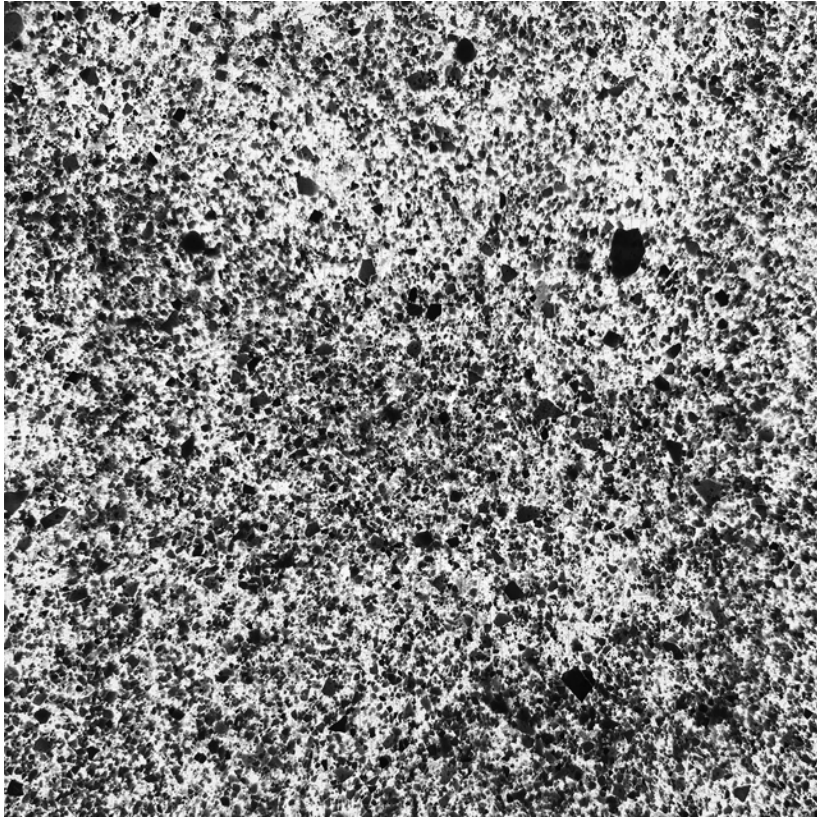
MARC

Reclaimed Pallet Retaining System

-An adaptive prototype for long term soil management

The research demonstrates using recycled wooden pallets as raw materials for soil management tools in Greater Toronto Area's ravine regions in response to the soil erosion problems due to human activities. The proposed design involves the usage of biodegradable soil retaining structures, which decompose over time, integrating with the retained soil and root systems of the trees. The materiality encourages the rejuvenation of the local plant growth as a healing process from household to holistic landscape scale.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Ning Zhu
MARC

EGGPO - The Future of Lightweight Architecture

EGGPO is an innovative material derived from eggshell waste and natural additives for use in multifaceted architectural applications, including UV protection coatings, load-bearing and folded structures, tensile canopies, and integrated skin and bone systems. The pressures of global warming, environmental pollution, and scarcity of resources challenges today's architects to re-prioritize energy-efficient, sustainable, recyclable, and lightweight buildings. EGGPO is vital to realizing that climate positive architectural future!

Advisor: Marc McQuade



Yinuo Zou
MARC

How to Prolong the Life of Paper – Fibre Guard

Paper is a flat, planar, and throwaway material, which we throw in the blue bin after use, believing it is always recyclable. The paper products, however, cannot be remade 100% or as many times as we expected. Paper discarded every day and paper fibers that have reached their worst grades at the end of their recyclable life will be used in this thesis project to form 3D molded pulp products that can be used in building shearing layers with longer timescales of change, also serving as carbon sinks to increase the durability, resilience, and longevity of buildings.

Advisor: Zachary Mollica



Afsah Ali

MLA

SEEP/ RISNA/ رسنا

Within the walls bounding the Lyari River in Karachi, Pakistan there is tension between the relationship of water, people, economy, and pollution. Despite the colonial roots of the region, which have influenced rigid and imposing forms of city development, the communities near Lyari Town and the river itself have not lost sight of the autonomous programming adjacent to the water. The essence of SEEP/ RISNA/ رسنا is to avoid the typical enforcement of design practices that become an imposition onto a space and instead place designs to integrate and seep into the existing fabric and ultimately fortify a resilient community.

Advisor: Fadi Masoud



Luis Felipe Bendezu Carbajal

MLA

Making Space for Democracy

In recent years there has been a sustained spike in demonstrations around the world. In cities, demonstrations take different forms, but protesters always aim to occupy, disrupt, and make themselves seen and heard as means to show resistance. This thesis explores the way civic expression takes public space as a material and immaterial resource to decrease the distance between government and citizens in the Historic Centre of Lima in Peru - a contested site where heritage buildings, power institutions and growing social discontent coexist. By creating a coordinated public space that formalizes the symbolically-charged and popular route for marches, the proposal aims to materialize the social change that has already occurred, upholding the values of democracy, and hidden layers of memory.

Advisor: Alissa North



Meimnat Cheng

MLA

Moss Park For Everyone: Take Care of Each Other

Moss Park is home to Toronto's largest community housing project. The park is often used by the unhoused as a place of refuge, and social stigmas have created concerns around safety. The thesis challenges exclusionary accepted design practices and seeks to design a new kind of community park; one for a public often forgotten or neglected. The project speculates on how to design for a public, landscape architecture often excludes or negates. Considering a new set of parameters for a more complete public, can create opportunities for a communal space for the unhoused and the residents of the Moss Park Community. (Image Citation: Samuel Engelking. Julai Mastroianni. "Housing activists: Toronto Shelter hotel program for encampment residents isn't a solution", nowtoronto.com. Accessed April 4th, 2023.)

Advisor: Francesco Martire



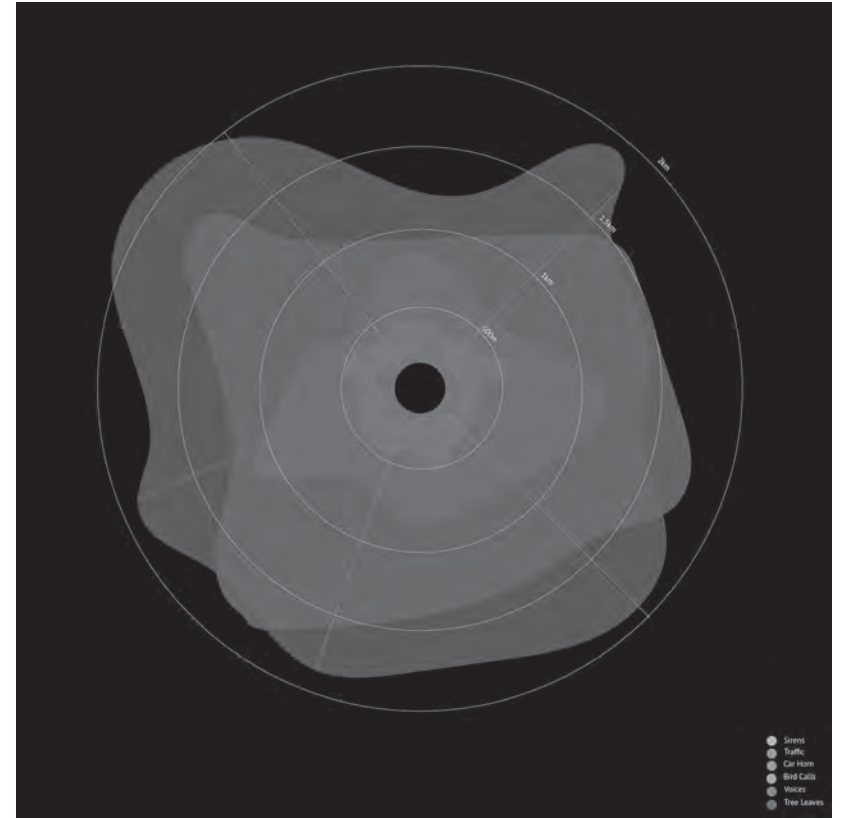
Kuan-Yi (May) Chiang

MLA

“Let Us Build!” Indigeneity and Urbanism

This thesis addresses the challenges faced by the urban indigenous community in Keelung, Taiwan. The indigenous population in Keelung are affected by social discrimination, economic disparities, and cultural issues. The utilization of nature-oriented design, and participatory design methodologies, shapes the fundamental principles of the study to empower the indigenous community and celebrate their culture. The proposed interventions and strategies aim to improve the quality of life and foster community identities promoting sustainable tourism. This thesis contributes to the discourse on the issues relevant to the urban indigenous in Taiwan by proposing a community-driven and culturally sensitive approach to urban development in this region.

Advisor: Francesco Martire, Ted Kesik



Samantha Dauphinais

MLA

Decibels of Downtown: A Soundscape Study

Sound is a rhythm of everyday life cycles indicative of social culture - as is the case with soundscapes, and a tool to measure patterns and well-being of various ecosystems, including cities. For my thesis I examine the creation and effects of noise pollution, its overall toll on cities and their inhabitants, and the role which landscape can play through implementation of mitigation techniques such as green infrastructure.

Advisor: Behnaz Assadi



Shayan Givehchian

MLA

Mirabs Reimagined: A Community-Based Approach to Sustainable Water Management

In the historic land of Isfahan, a community is facing a water crisis due to political oppression and drought, threatening their survival. Mirabs Reimagined proposes a unique solution to restore the cultural connection to water, and aims to revive traditional water management practices through the concept of "Mirabs," meaning masters of water. Each sub-watershed will have its own "Mirab", managing and supplying their local order, restoring the balance and the bond between the people and water. By re-imagining traditional methods, this community-driven effort seeks to bring hope and resilience, as cultural heritage is restored and the once-thriving agriculture is preserved.

Advisor: Megan Esopenko



Hsuan-Fen (Mia) Hsu

MLA

Landscape of Power- redefining "public" space

The thesis topic is exploring landscape and its role as an expression of power. Historically in Taiwan, monuments and architecture are used to express political authority. The western core district of Taipei has been a central location for the national government and its symbols since the founding of Taiwan. The buildings in this district are government-led and controlled. Over time, outdoor space has gradually transitioned to more public use for residents' daily activities, demonstrations, and protests, reflecting the more democratic voice of the people. This project aims to further establish this democratic relationship through landscape by connecting the past and the present, creating spaces for true public use, and encouraging a new relationship between the government and the people.

Advisor: Elise Shelley, Ted Kesik



Xinyi (Susanna) Jiang

MLA

Retreat OR Rebuild: The Future of Cliff Walk

With the reality of climate change looming, it is crucial to redesign public space that promotes environmental consciousness and resilience. The Cliff Walk of Newport, with its luxurious mansions and remarkable views attracting over a million visitors annually, embodies a history of socio-economic disparity and environmental neglect. Today, frequent collapses place a significant burden on public resources, making this iconic location increasingly vulnerable. The project proposes a radical reimagining of the public and private spaces, employing innovative design strategies such as retreat, and restore to create a dynamic and resilient public space that prioritizes equitable access and adapts to changing circumstances.

Advisor: Megan Esopenko



Kiran Khurana

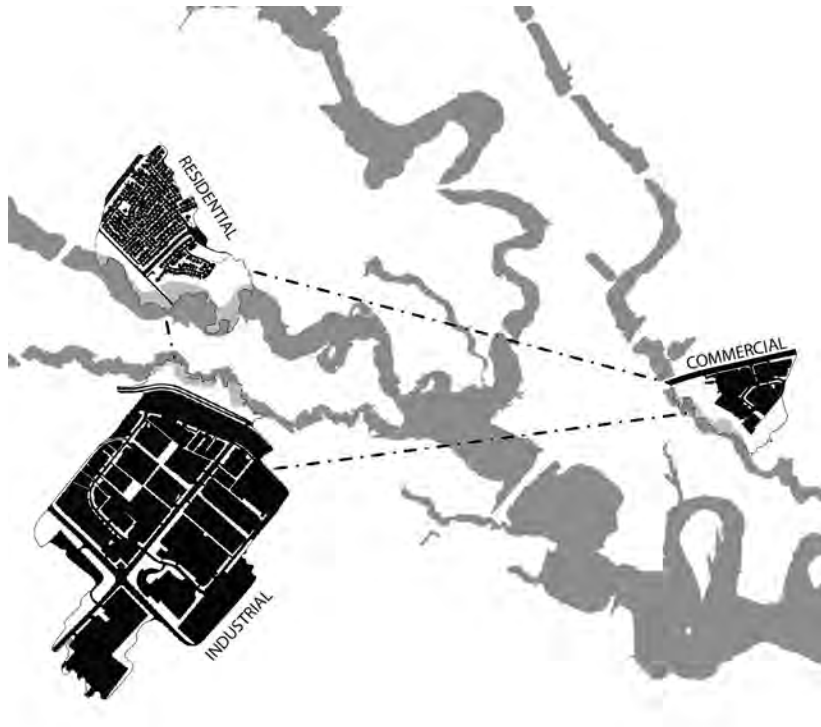
MLA

Atlas of Unsettling Lagosian Ecologies

How might we devise a new way of looking and belonging in the wake of destruction that we have propagated, and to honor the vulnerable ecologies that live among our ruins?

In grappling with the existential urgencies that arise in this moment of planetary transformation, this atlas looks to mapping the spontaneous economies and ecologies of Plastics to reveal the underlying power structures, material culture, and impossible dilemmas that are engaged in unsettling Lagosian ecologies. By slowing down in urgent times, this project arrives at waste landscapes through a grammar of thinking otherwise, and noticing plastics as landscape agents.

Advisor: Behnaz Assadi



Tharanketha Kirupaneshan

MLA

The Urban Chain of Flooding Ravines

For over 25 years, Claireville Conservation's 540 hectares of natural and forested area, slowly became constrained by development and could be under threat of a major 100-year storm. Tackling this at the source, within the urban impermeable landscape, ecological restoration and cultural systems can be created from within the community. With the growing risk of adverse impacts on terrestrial vulnerability harming the natural ecosystem, increasing stream water temperatures affecting the aquatic species and an aging water infrastructure, this project looks into mitigating flooding within existing neighbourhoods, protecting the rights of property owners without resulting in expropriation, through context-based decentralized stormwater infrastructures.

Advisor: Matthew Perotto



Chloë Quinn Lauder

MLA

The Force of Fungi

The Force of Fungi uses mycelium as a design tool to address the tensions that exist between the cultural communities of cottage and property owners, and the natural forest environment. Haliburton, ON is used as a testing site for a new Mycelium Research and Production Centre which produces sustainable mycelium biomaterials in a closed-loop system. Mycelium biomaterials offer a renewable and low-carbon alternative to synthetic products and are made from surplus natural materials from the site. Customizable mycelium-based insulation significantly reduces home energy cost burdens, and decomposing habitat follies promote ecosystem restoration. A new form of local ecology-based economy is created by threading vulnerable ecosystems back together.

Advisor: Megan Esopenko



Zirong Liu (刘子榕)

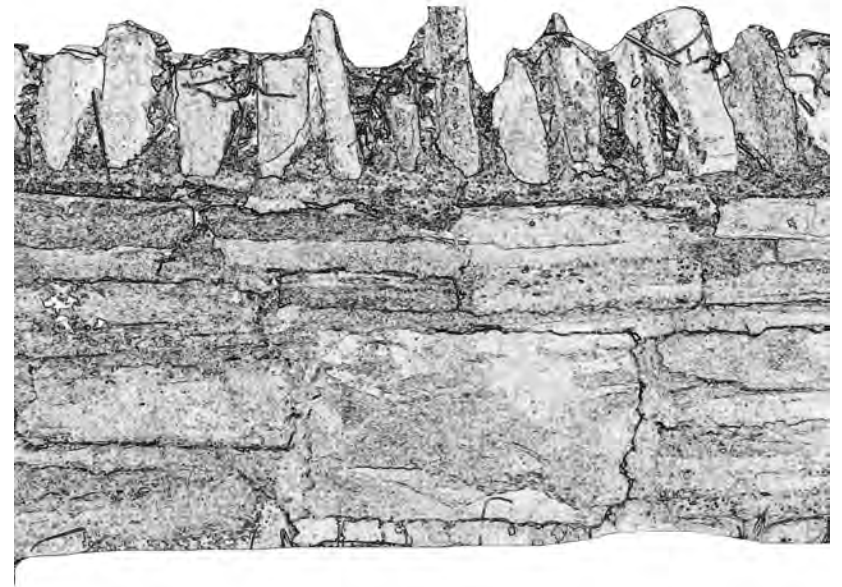
MLA

Exposing Hidden Hydrology in Metropolitan Landscape

This project investigates the ever-changing role that water plays in our daily lives through an analysis of the transition from natural river courses to engineered combined sewer systems over the past 150 years, and projects a new inner-urban and river future.

Over this time, even though these natural systems have become the foundation for many of Toronto's sewers, their respective urban watersheds are still visible in the metropolitan landscape of Toronto. By studying a lost river – Garrison Creek, this project reimagines the possibilities of how urban fabric and paved watershed meet the memory of the river – two diverging systems that have not crossed paths after the river burial, that can potentially be developed in a co-evolving system together.

Advisor: Matthew Perotto



Michelle (Yichen) Ma

MLA

New Imprints of the Past: Humber Stone Walls

The stone walls dotted throughout the Weston community along the Humber in Toronto, rest inconspicuously low to the ground demarcating edges, boundaries and zones. They are quiet witnesses of time, geology, and human ingenuity. However, as time passes, their embedded collective memories are fading away. Presently, mining from the Humber riverbed is prohibited. How do we embrace the living legacy of the Humber stone walls and document their collective memory? The thesis explores the curation of surface manifested in contemporary materials and fabrication techniques. Imprints of the past are catalogued and reinterpreted in a contemporary context.

Advisor: Francesco Martire

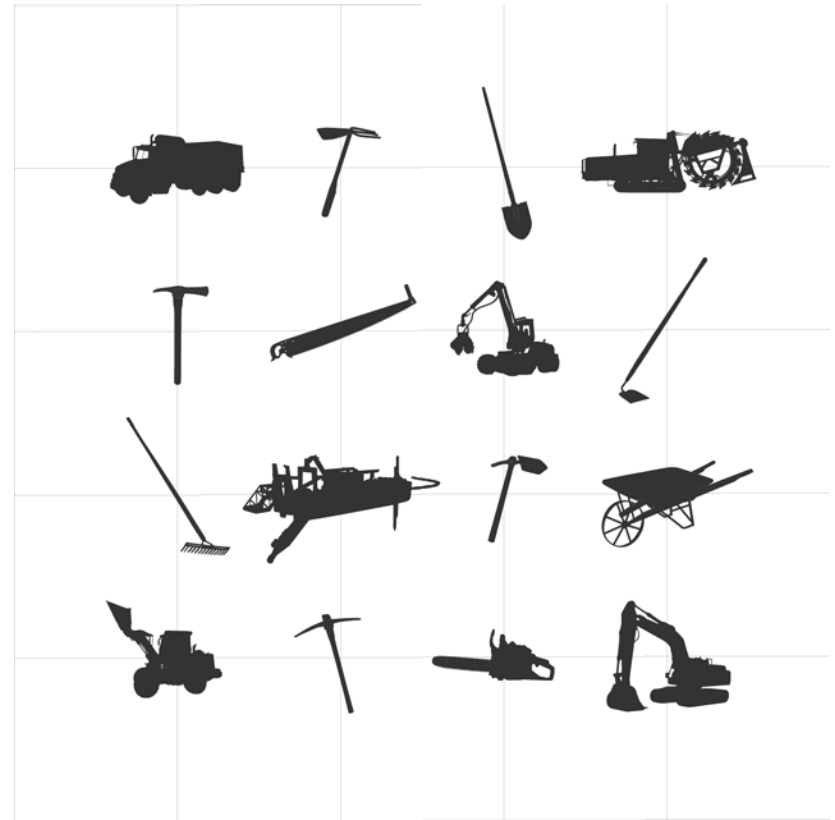


Yige (Meg) Ma
MLA

Gayer and Better: "The Village" Imprint on Public Realm

In Toronto's Church and Wellesley neighbourhood, we can find features of people shaping the local landscape. This neighbourhood is known as the most vibrant 2SLGTBQIA+ community in Toronto and it shapes a unique urban landscape environment with this cultural background. Going beyond the typical city standards, this thesis aims to develop a new design approach that integrates site and community specific interventions in the public realm that will empower the community to make a lasting imprint on its environment, celebrating community spirit. "The Village" will not only be suitable for the local community but will also be an exceptional and celebrated destination for all.

Advisor: Peter North



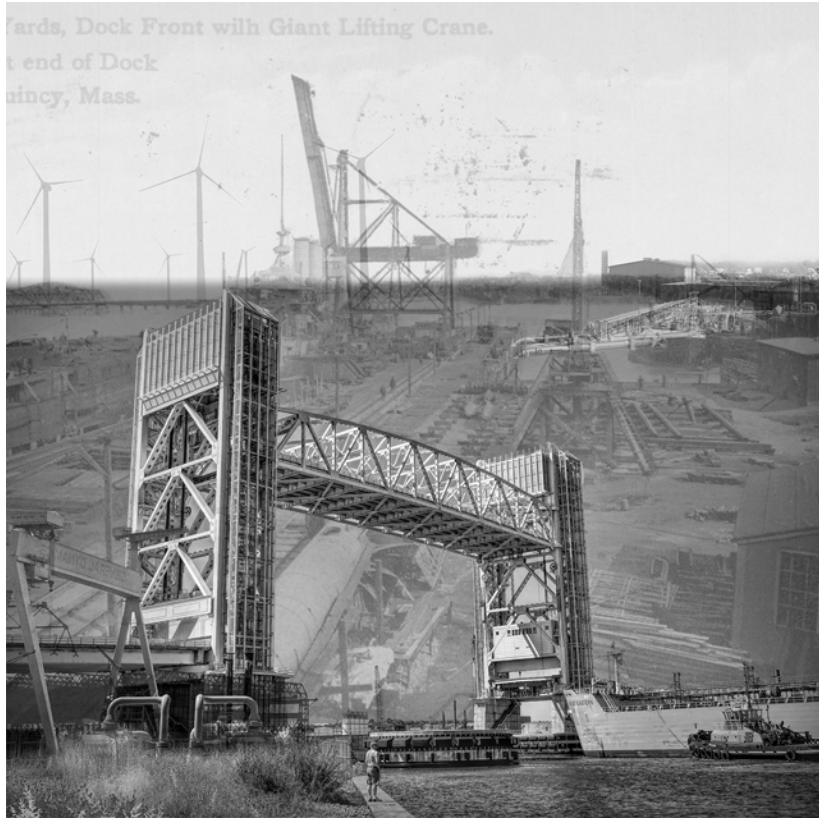
Emily McCarthy
MLA

Forged: In Steel, Anew, Ahead

Throughout history, labourers have played a crucial role in the transformation of our natural landscapes. This thesis explores the contentious relationship between labourers, capital, and the environment through extractive and manufacturing industries.

Contextualized in Hamilton's union-driven steel manufacturing, the city's industrial waterfront presents a unique opportunity to recalibrate these relationships by converting a site of degradation into a platform for active green employment and environmental regeneration. At the nexus of the labour movement and renewable energy is an opportunity to stimulate economic and environmental equity.

Advisor: Fadi Masoud



Samantha Miotto

MLA

Traces, Transitions, and Trajectories: Redefining the Urban-Industrial Interface

As Quincy residents are actively trying to break away from a legacy of pollution, the petrochemical industry is establishing itself in an already overburdened industrial waterfront. With Massachusetts transitioning away from fossil fuel consumption, how can we guide landscapes transitioning to a post-industrial state, through the lens of environmental justice? This thesis confronts the risks and realities of living near polluting industries through a new urban-industrial interface. A layering of interventions focused on mitigation, community resilience, decontamination, and new adjacencies instills value back into forgotten landscapes, while imagining a more liveable future for residents within an active industrial landscape.

Advisor: Matthew Perotto



Irene Patrinos

MLA

[re]generational

Tourism in Naxos, Greece has caused rural migration to the coastal lowlands resulting in insufficient labour for agricultural activities in the mountainous villages. Cultivation terraces constitute the cultural heritage landscape, demonstrating a relationship between human and landscape. Due to centuries of intensive agriculture and subsequent land mismanagement, the Mediterranean is one of the most degraded regions in the world. Rural inhabitants are the stewards of the countryside, reinvigorating the traditional practices will stabilize rural economies providing autonomy to the village lifestyle. [Re]generational aims to holistically design a multi-functional landscape through the restoration and modernization of the cultural landscape, utilizing rewilding, agroforestry and agrotourism.

Advisor: Peter North



Emiley Switzer-Martell

MLA

Erasure | Exposure: Revealing Identity in Northern Ontario's Extractive Landscapes

The landscape of Sudbury has been dramatically shaped over the last one-hundred years by the external forces of nickel and copper mining, and more recently from the re-greening program. The ongoing mass tree planting is an effort to blend Sudbury's mining legacy of land made barren, with its surrounding northern Ontario landscape. While a laudable greening strategy, it is effectively concealing generations of profit-driven abuse of Sudbury's landscape.

Using landscape archeology, oral history, and socioeconomics to uncover the complex social and ecological stratification, a critical sequence of designed re-exposures now marks the next stage of Sudbury's ongoing revitalization, and formally articulates this landscape's significance in Canadian history.

Advisor: Alissa North



Godfrey, Brian. Chinatown NYC - 14. 2015. Photo. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/global_geographer/16359810653

Jiaying Wang

MLA

Delicious Chinatown

Food in Manhattan's Chinatown is an expansion of local culture. It represents immigrant history and early livelihood. It has helped preserve the economy and character of the neighborhood and has become an essential part of community resilience. The project capitalizes on city initiatives and proposes a design strategy that will enable the neighbourhood to preserve its local businesses and continue to evolve as a cultural landscape by providing new directions for food security and nature stewardship.

Advisor: Elise Shelley



Ma Yutang 马玉祥, *Caifou* 惨祸, Datong maixiang wanrenkang shihua 大同煤矿“万人坑”实景
[Datong coal mine “mass grave” actual record] zhonggong dengshu chubanshe, 2010

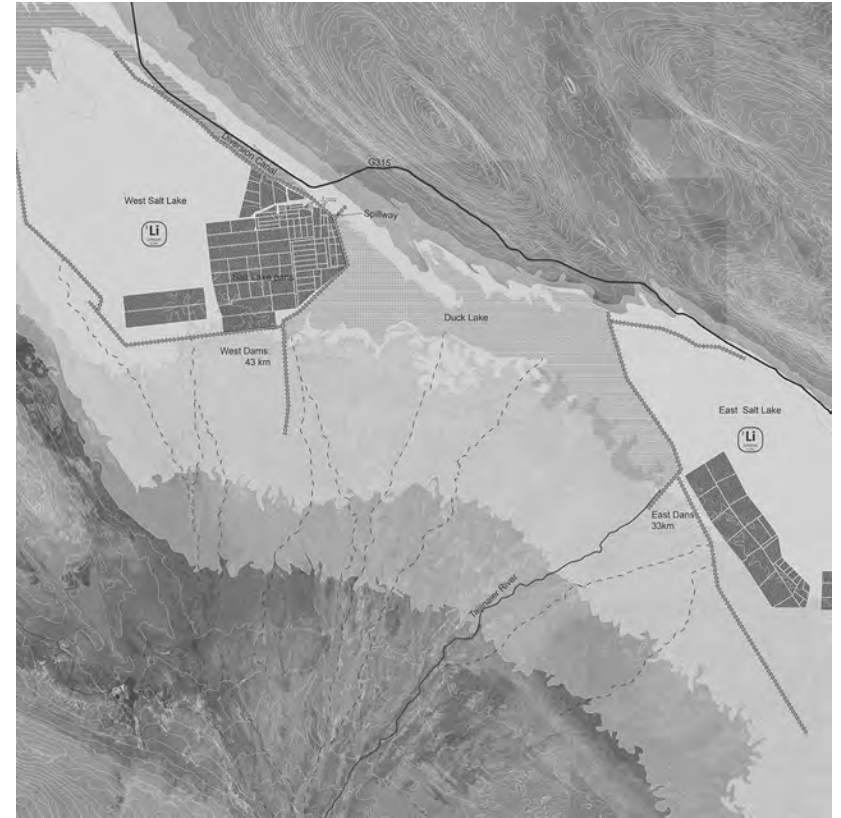
Yue Wang

MLA

Burning field memorial design

My thesis project creates a memorial for miners murdered during the Second Sino-Japanese War, when Japanese forces occupied mining sites on the Loess Plateau, China. Rooted in my family’s connection to the site and tragedy, the design centres on a pathway through the forgotten burning field; it creates a journey with landscape processes and elements to memorialize forgotten traumas and form a new way of healing and connecting.

Advisor: Jane Wolff



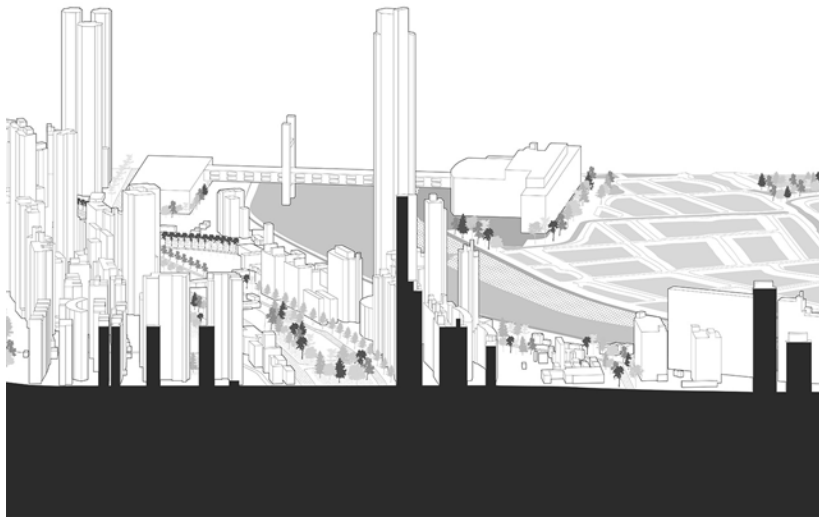
Yiying (Lydia) Wu

MLA

Redefining the Treasure Basin

The Qaidam Basin in northwest China has two adjacent salt lakes that serve as important lithium resources. However, the construction of dams to block glacial meltwater recharge has created unintended consequences, resulting in a vast freshwater lake between the salt lakes and flooding of the Yardang landscape, creating a unique feature called Yardang-On-Water. This has led to tourism development but also brought flooding and food crises. This thesis project aims to view the excess water as a potential to develop a local food source and expand tourism. Reconnecting the salt lake, desert, and water creates a resilient and productive cultural landscape.

Advisor: Jane Wolff



Siyun Xue

MLA

Border Reimagination

On July 1, 2047, the border between Shenzhen and Hong Kong will be removed after 149 years of existence. Border landscapes are unique, and the erasure of a border between two dense urban regions presents a generational opportunity to create a new extensive park system. This thesis proposes a border park as a social and ecological bridge between the two cities and their people. Carving out a space for cultural, social, ecological, and economic activities by implementing a border park that is meant to prevent the encroachment of high-density urban developments. The park's 30-kilometres establish a protected green zone that links the mountains to the sea while preserving and enhancing the local villages, farms, reservoirs, aquaculture zones, wetlands, mangroves, and recreational spaces; all are critical components for the long-term resilience of this hyper-dense urban region.

Advisor: Fadi Masoud



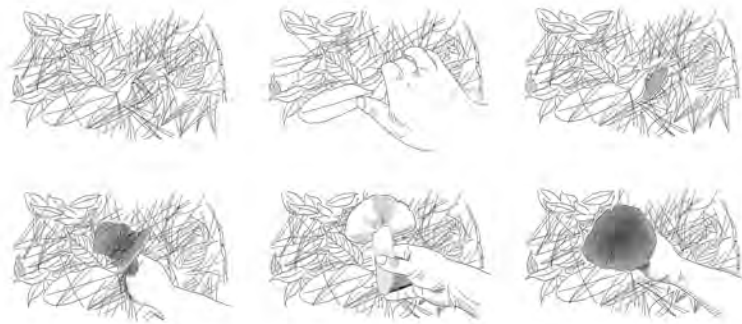
Yu (Sophie) Yan

MLA

Persimmon Paradise - Reactivating a Quarry Landscape

Located in Zhengzhou Province, inland China, the thesis site is part of the Xinyang Southern Mine, which used to be the most productive mining area in China at the beginning of the 20th century. However, after years of mining activity, the now abandoned quarry has left a legacy of environmental issues including soil erosion, contamination, and severe water scarcity. In order to solve the water shortage issue and revitalize local economy, various remediation measures are applied, and a persimmon-orchard-oriented economic system is proposed.

Advisor: Peter North

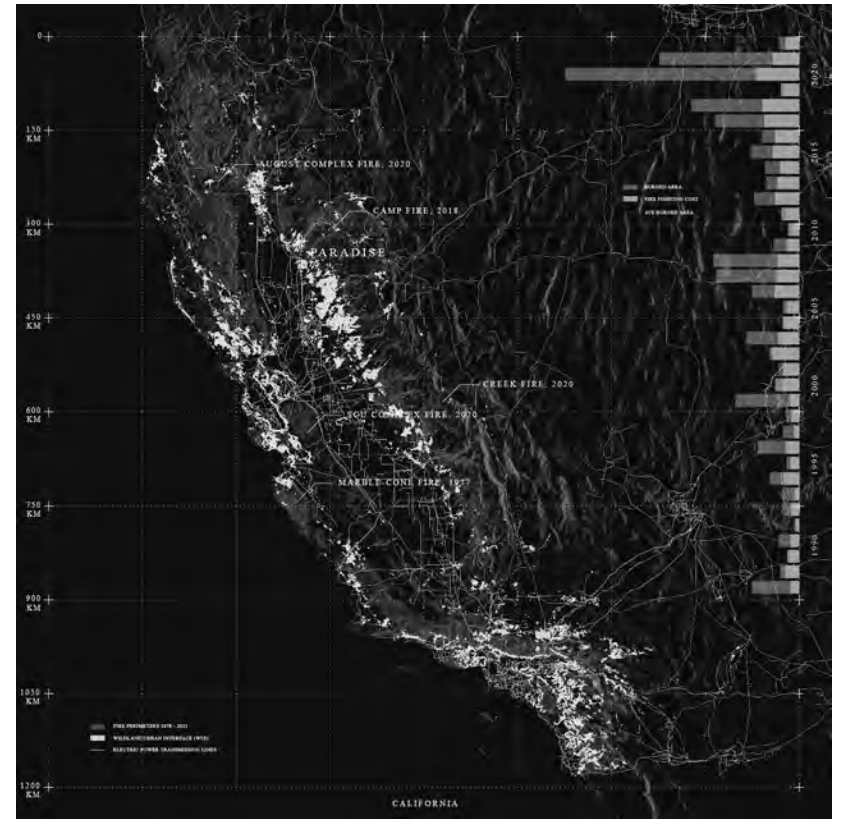


Ying Zheng
 MLA

Auto-Ethnography: Connecting to the Nearby

This project explores how people establish place attachment in constantly changing landscapes. Globalization and capitalism can create "psychological homelessness" as people migrate and face unfamiliar environments, and even people who stay in place experience loss as familiar surroundings evolve. Starting with mushroom foraging in Yunnan, China as a way of registering the landscape relationship, ethnobotany studies, fieldwork, and interviews reveal that place attachment is tied to the nearby, where everyday practices evoke memories of old homes and generate new meanings of a new residence. The insights are expanded to the multicultural city of Toronto to explore how people build attachment to the local landscape.

Advisor: Jane Wolff



Zeyu Zhu
 MLA

Paradise Reimagined

Wildfires and extreme weather in California are getting worse as the climate changes and forest fuels overaccumulation. The town of Paradise was the centre of the 2018 disaster, named The Camp Fire. Living with wildfires is a necessary response to the Green New Deal. To achieve this goal, a series of landscape strategies are proposed. Fungus is introduced to reduce soil erosion, rainwater during the wet season is stored for emergency use, while agriculture and forestry practices build new green buffers at the town boundary. Clean energy and industrial development is layered to help restore resilience in Paradise.

Advisor: Alissa North



Benson Yuhao Zou

MLA

When water rises

The thesis investigates the impact of sand mining on Poyang, the largest freshwater Lake in China, which serves as a vital economic resource, and a critical ecological habitat. The study focuses on process-based interventions and explores how landscape architecture can contribute to regenerating the social, cultural, and ecological landscapes of Poyang Lake.

Advisor: Behnaz Assadi

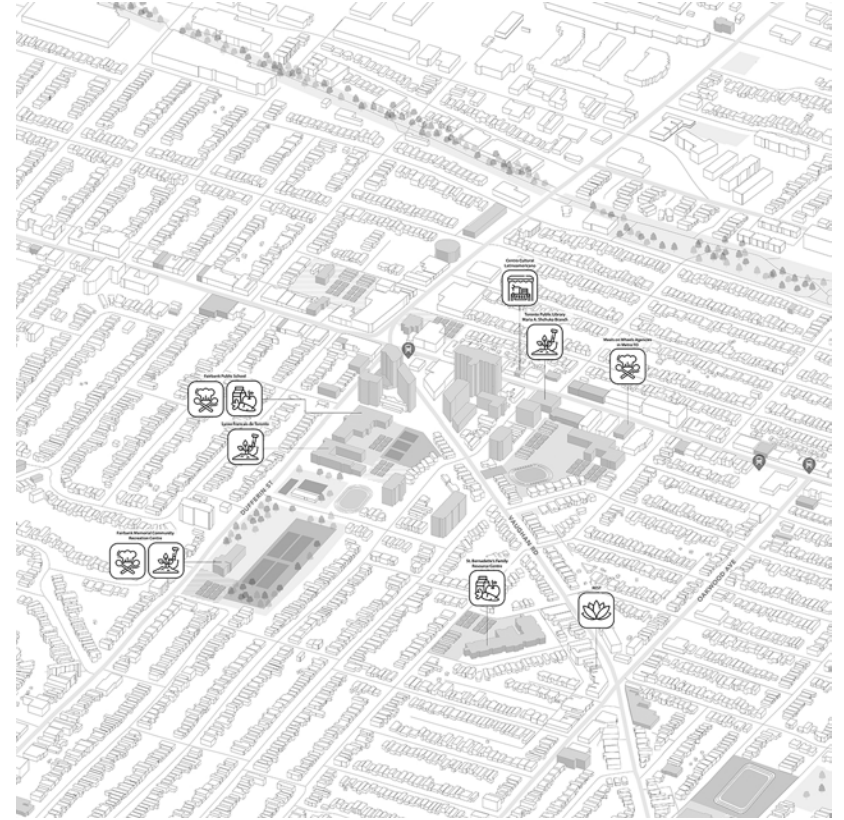


Milan Desai
MUD

Social Service Space

The project focuses on the topical issues faced by the communities in Toronto's Little Jamaica Neighborhood. The prolonged Eglinton Line 5LRT construction and corona virus pandemic have resulted in the closure of many black owned local businesses, while also posing the threat of gentrification. Over the last decade the neighborhood has seen a loss of its legacy and cultural presence. While the community groups and volunteers are continuing efforts to preserve and encourage the cultural activities, there appears to be larger site-specific social issues that are worth addressing first. The project is an attempt to amalgamate the provision of social service infrastructure with that of purpose built public & event spaces and by doing so propose a path towards a more sustainable and thriving community.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



Doris Huang
MUD

Urban Harvest

Urban Harvest aims to address food insecurity in urban areas through creating small-scale urban agriculture clusters, specifically in Toronto's Little Jamaica neighbourhood. They encompass apartment housing where residents can benefit from social service sites and would administer and manage. Planting areas consisting of greenhouses, community and milk crate gardens, are designed to strategically provide fresh, locally grown produce to underserved neighbourhoods. The purpose is to educate and empower locals by incorporating year-round farming practices to access healthy food and participate various food-related programs. This proposal is designed to strive for more informative, resilient, and equitable food systems in our cities.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



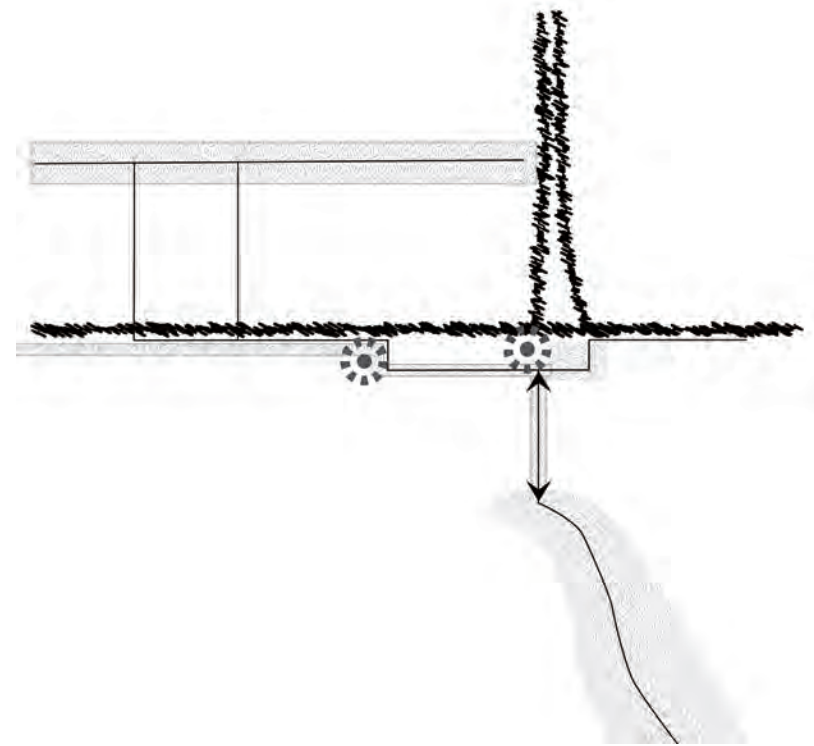
Anusha Prakash

MUD

LITTLE JAMAICA MULTI-FLEX - Revitalizing Multi-Functional Space for Small Business

Eglinton Avenue West, also known as Little Jamaica, is now a diverse corridor in terms of land use and ethnic groups, with businesses and cultural institutions reflecting the area's multiculturalism. Due to economic pressure or cultural practice, many businesses have adopted secondary activities resulting in a multiplicity of use. The project advocates for the multiplicity of uses of retail spaces as an opportunity to promote neighbourhood stability, preserve the cultural legacy, and prevent the displacement of small businesses and residents. Encouraging a mix of uses can lead to more equitable and resilient neighbourhoods that meet the diverse needs of their residents.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



Hongzuo Sun

MUD

Reggae Way Linear Park

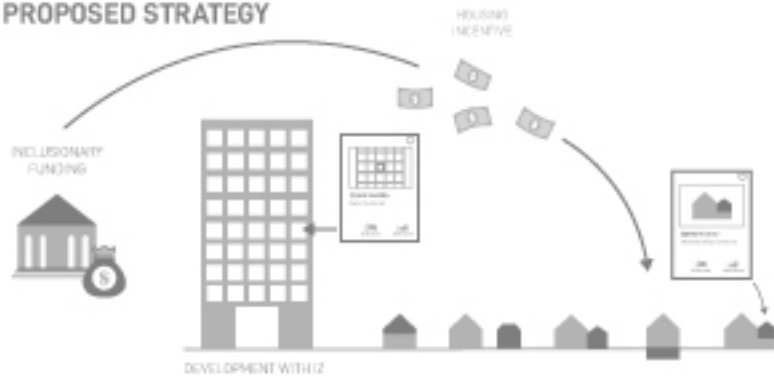
The Little Jamaica Neighborhood aims to address its infrastructural problems of too many cars and too little green space and community facilities by reorganizing vehicular traffic, bike paths, green spaces, and social amenities. The proposed infrastructure overhaul includes a linear park integrated with a comprehensive bicycle network to provide transit hubs that promote eco-friendly transportation. By blending natural and built environments, this project aims to transform urban spaces into more resilient, attractive, and sustainable environments. It will increase social interaction, community engagement, and business reactivation by providing social amenities such as seating areas, playgrounds, and event spaces. This innovative approach will improve overall livability and socio-economic outcomes.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo

CURRENT STRATEGY



PROPOSED STRATEGY



Becky (Siyi) Tang

MUD

Decentralized Density (Remodeling Affordable Housing Options in Little Jamaica)

Toronto's Little Jamaica neighborhood is facing an affordable housing crisis despite the upcoming completion of the Eglinton LRT and multiple development bids. Inclusionary zoning (IZ) is being used as a strategy to designate a percentage of units in large-scale developments as affordable housing. However, Little Jamaica was excluded from the city-wide IZ zoning plan. Decentralized Density offers an alternative solution by encouraging homeowners in the area to create smaller, affordable housing options on their existing properties. This approach incentivizes locals to participate, provides accessible housing options, neighbourhood amenities, and reduces reliance on developers for affordability.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



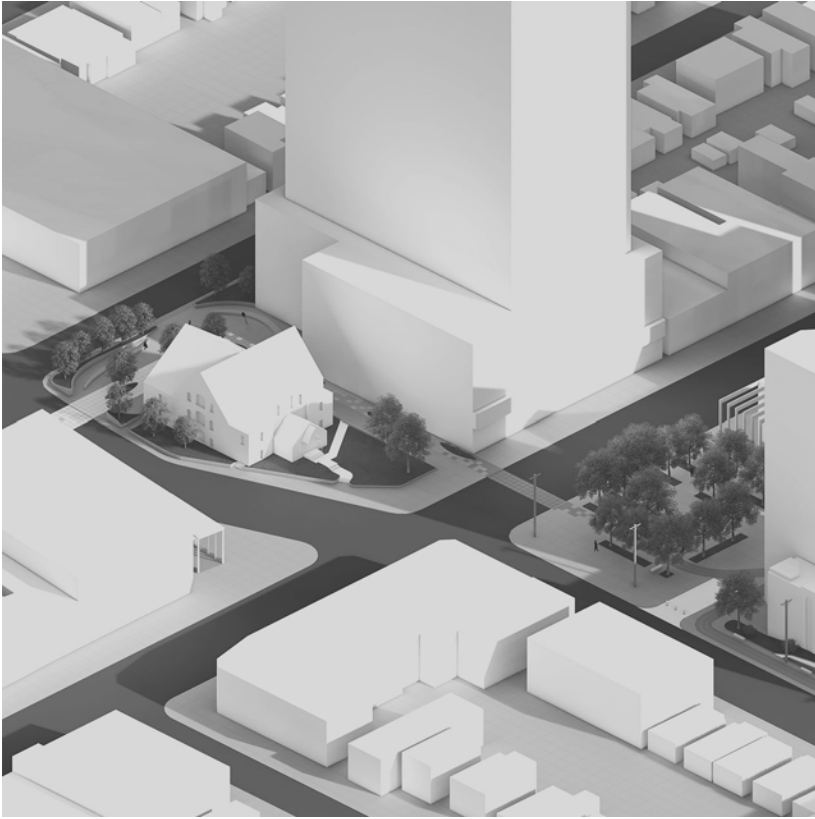
He Wang

MUD

Daily Life in a Laneway

Reggae Lane is the most popular laneway in Little Jamaica, which has witnessed a decade of social and economic decline. There are proposals to renew this space and transform it into a pedestrian public space. This project explores this idea but with a soft touch that builds on the daily life and artifacts that currently exist. Based on the daily life in laneways, a detailed list of proposals was created, to improve the laneway as a connective tissue, a secondary pedestrian oriented thoroughfare. This includes public art, conversation spaces, seating areas, laneway businesses, and micro landscapes.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



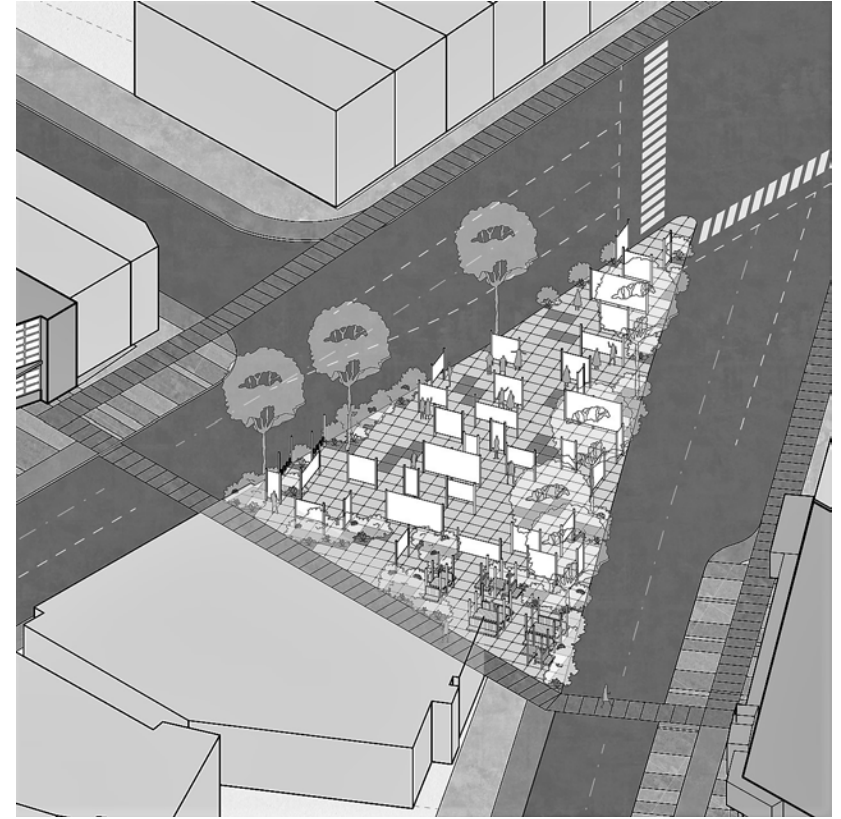
Lichao Wang

MUD

Communal Path

Toronto's Little Jamaica Neighborhood has been home to a number of festivals and celebrations of public life. In the last decade, the construction of the Eglinton LRT and Covid pandemic has seen a massive decline in these events and a withering of the social and public life of the neighborhood. The communal path is a transformative urban design project that seeks to revitalize Toronto's Little Jamaica Neighborhood by creating a vibrant and welcoming public space. Inspired by the rich cultural heritage of the neighborhood, the communal Path centers around a strip pedestrian walkway that connects the community's diverse residents, culture space, and public amenities.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



Chenyu (Sierra) Yang

MUD

Public Circuit

Public Circuit is an urban design public space network proposed for Toronto's Little Jamaica neighborhood. The project articulated as a loop with a series of interconnected nodes aims to provide a network of multi-event spaces for communities to gather, connect, and engage in shared experiences. Each node is anchored and builds on services offered by existing community stakeholders. The spaces envisioned are intended to be versatile and multi-functional, offering various amenities, including flexible seating arrangements, performance stages, interactive public art installations, markets, and parks. These spaces investigate the potential of strengthening social connections as a means of preserving and enhancing neighborhood identity.

Advisor: Michael Piper, Otto Ojo



Omolola Ajao

MVS

I Believe I Saw Aliens: Dispersing the Assumptive Narratives of Black Conditions

Is a two-channel video essay/document that forms as a speculative analysis upon public & private performance upon the stage of anti-black conditions. In text and video, Black alterity is positioned as an entryway into ulterior visions; attentive to gesture, language and interaction. As we disappear the contemporary forms of ontologizing Black humanity, this work is creating a lens that embodies & observes a continued state of Black life that forms outside the demand of external recognition.

Advisor: Zach Blas

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Nimisha Bhanot

MVS

Encounters

This research project investigates quotidian archival practices like ‘liking’, ‘screenshotting’, ‘retweeting’, etc, in third spaces, the impulses that create a feverish desire for consignment, and how they facilitate opportunities ripe for curiosity, creativity, growth and play. The resulting body of work critically engages with a personal archive built over a decade, revelling in hope and refusal to materialize a segment of the ever-complex, ongoing, process of diasporic identity formation. Many thanks to Dr. Dina Georgis for her research on the Aesthetics of Radical Hope!

Advisor: Zach Blas



atif mikhail khan

MVS

Theorizing Curatorial Columbus / Colonialisms / Crossings

A brief description: Despite the recent surge of professionalized curatorial studies programs in academic institutions, the term curator has often been read in isolation from related systems of violence such as the military, with an overemphasis on its etymology of care. Problematizing care, this dissertation begins by theorizing what I refer to as curatorial *columbus*, a play on words of conquistador Christopher Columbus. Working through a transnational methodology with thinkers such as Ariella Azoulay, Irit Rogoff, M. Jacqui Alexander and Sylvia Wynter, I argue that contemporary curatorial frameworks of ‘care’ must be challenged to account for roots in present-day conquest and dispossession. (Image Citation: Illustration Forth Day of Creation by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld [1852-1860]).

Advisor: Barbara Fischer, Zach Blas, Lisa Yoneyama, KJ Abudu



Sherry Chunqing Liu

MVS

Where have I arrived?

Prompted by a personal polaroid of the curator of her childhood home in Xiamen, China, this thesis exhibition explores the themes of food/kitchen, translation, and body through the lens of “diaspora space”, defined by sociologist Avtar Brah as a conceptual category that “includes the entanglement, the intertwining of the genealogies of dispersion with those of ‘staying put’”. The project explores the relation between arriving in a gallery space and in diaspora space, and opens up the complexity of the idea of “Asian Diaspora.” (Source of image: Lotus Laurie Kang, *Mother (Details)*, 2019. Multimedia installation, varied dimensions. Photo credit to Sebastian Bach/Courtesy of Helen Anrather and Franz Kaka.)

Advisor: Barbara Fischer