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Thesis Reviews

Winter 24

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.

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Master of Landscape Architecture

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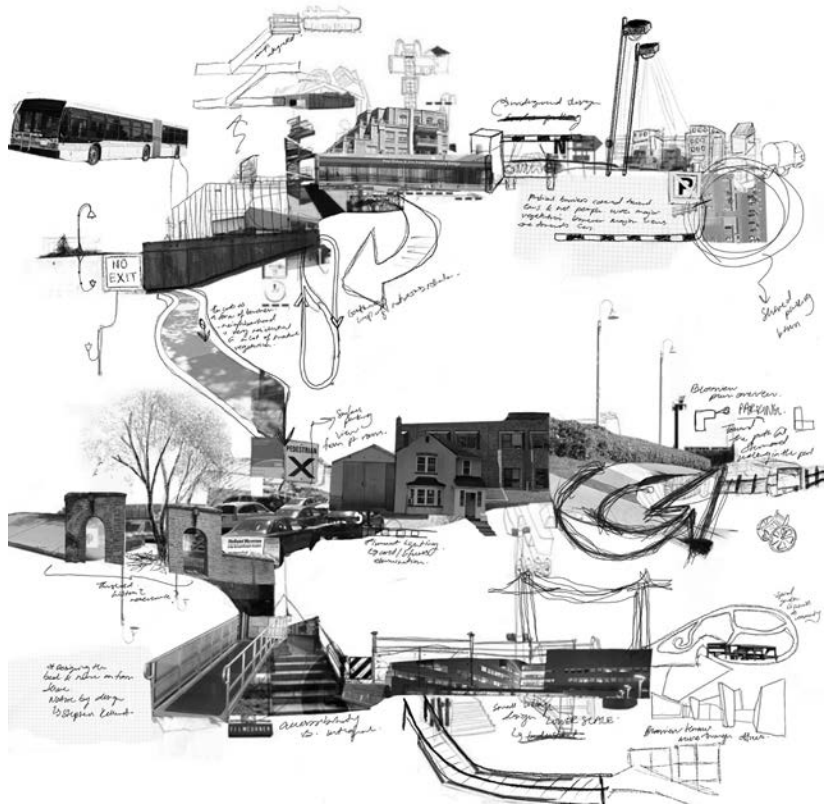
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Mehrnaz Adli
MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Revitalizing Architecture for Long Term Care & Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation centers for stroke and spinal cord injury recovery play a vital role in holistic healing for patients. These centers, distinct due to their patients' unique experiences, serve as more than just treatment spaces. Often, patients spend extended periods bedridden, making these centers their temporary homes during a challenging chapter in their lives. They go beyond medical facilities, integrating physical, psychological, and social rehabilitation. This thesis proposal explores how architectural design influences psychological healing by creating a building that actively aids patient therapy through a connection with nature. It considers the crucial role of design and nature in shaping a healing environment.

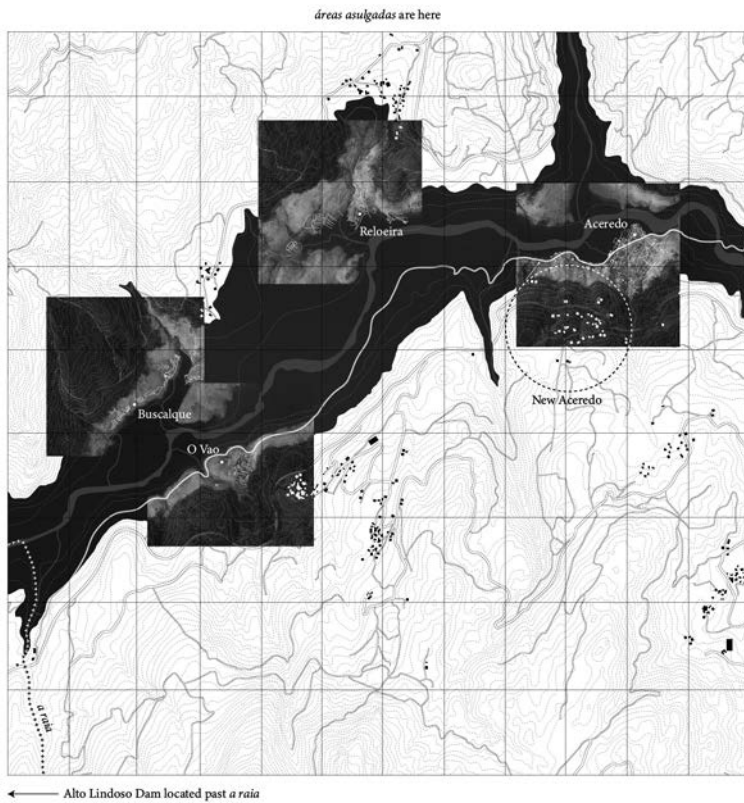


Shahmir Adnan
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Growing Together

An aging population faces rising costs towards retirement and long-term care. Students face insufficient housing options offered by their post-secondary institutions. Drawing upon programs such as Canada Homeshare where students and seniors live together, as well as George Brown College's initiative of converting existing buildings into student housing, this thesis aims to provide a new residential model of inter-generational living in the city. Leveraging students enrolled in health-related programs allows them the opportunity of gaining firsthand experience in their respective fields by providing long-term care and companionship towards seniors.



Andreia Afonso
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

O Río do Esquecimento (The River of Forgetting)

In 1985, the Alto Lindoso Dam was constructed on Portuguese territory within the Limia River. By 1992, its reservoir stretched into Galicia, Spain, flooding four villages upon its dam's completion: O Vao, Buscalque, Reloeira, and Acedo. These submerged Galician villages have intermittently emerged through the Limia waters during seasonal cycles, and most recently, were temporarily exposed due to periods of extreme drought, revealing their ruins. Layers of history currently lie beneath the water's surface, symbolizing its irreversibility, yet waiting to be exposed again.

Is it possible to grasp the magnitude and complexities of the catastrophes that took place, both old and new?

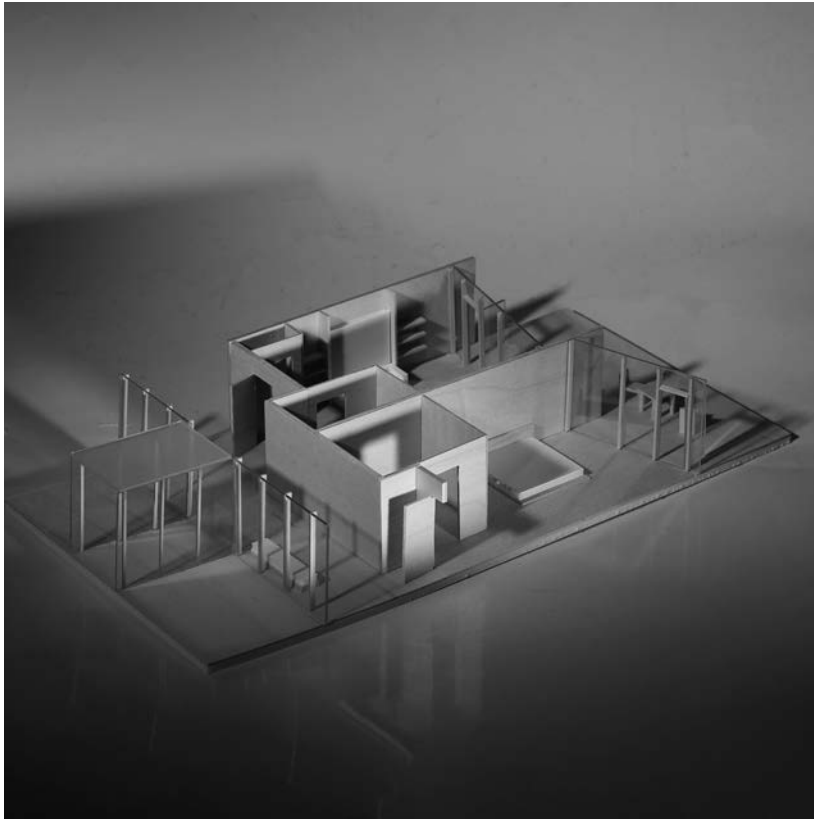


Zikun An
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Ordos100[years]

The project proposes a resilient site strategy that combines landscape and architectural measures to combat climate and social challenges in ghost cities in China from design to construction. It introduces manageable-sized green infrastructures allowing extensive application. They not only aim to mitigate flood's impact but also use it to increase biodiversity. Architecturally, it targets at transforming the site into a place of production through urban farming programs with pier and beam foundations that post lower impact to the ground and flexible for various uses. For construction, it will reuse construction wastes from housing projects on and off-site throughout the city.



Evan Andrews
MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Playground

This project is about playfully exploring solutions for the massive demand of long term housing care that has emerged. Prefab construction and its benefits can help to rapidly meet this need, and Playground aims to highlight the potential it has to meet these needs while breaking free of the stigma of both long term care facilities and prefabricated architecture. Playground is about encouraging activity, socialization, exposure to nature, and other healing aspects through architectural means, and that even in an urban context such as downtown Toronto, this system is able to succeed.



Jessica Babe
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Artifacts for Three Migrations

Each artifact of migration is encoded with memory. This is a form of narrative building that prompts a contemplation of the impermanence of physical built spaces and a re-examination of how cultural heritage is preserved. It reveals the significance of artifacts of migration in safeguarding cultural knowledge, even surpassing the importance of individual architectural works. This is a kind of cultural preservation that involves the agency of individuals of a migrant community. It occurs over a vast expanse of space. It is multi-generational. It is not a static process, but one that is highly dynamic, spanning geographic and political boundaries.

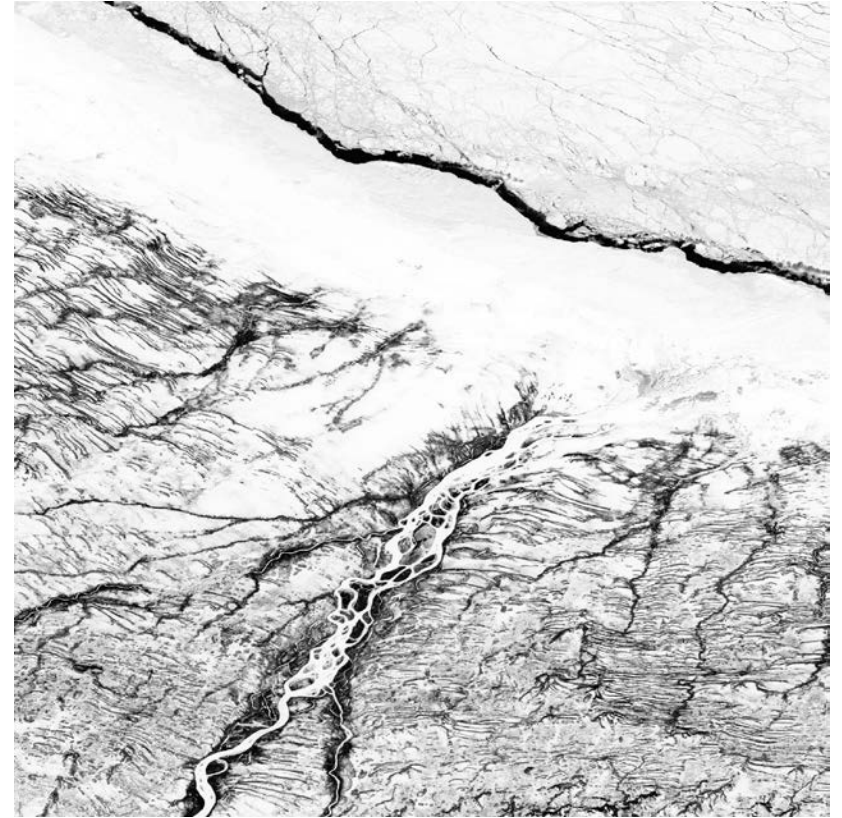


Cassia Baert
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

(Extra)Ordinary

As an exaltation of the Everyday, we hope to find seemingly faithful vignettes of the mundane, anticipated encounters with environments, elevated to pay reverence to the quotidian. A curated collection of composite images are gleaned from the inquiries of individuals' distinct testimonies aspiring to translate the personal into the sacred. Confessions of material, light, configuration, and sentiment, define a personification that when subtly manipulated and composed expose the often overlooked experience of habitual space. In a meditative rendering process, these spaces are elevated from their status of the mundane to that of the revered, further enshrined by their arrangement within the altarpiece triptych.

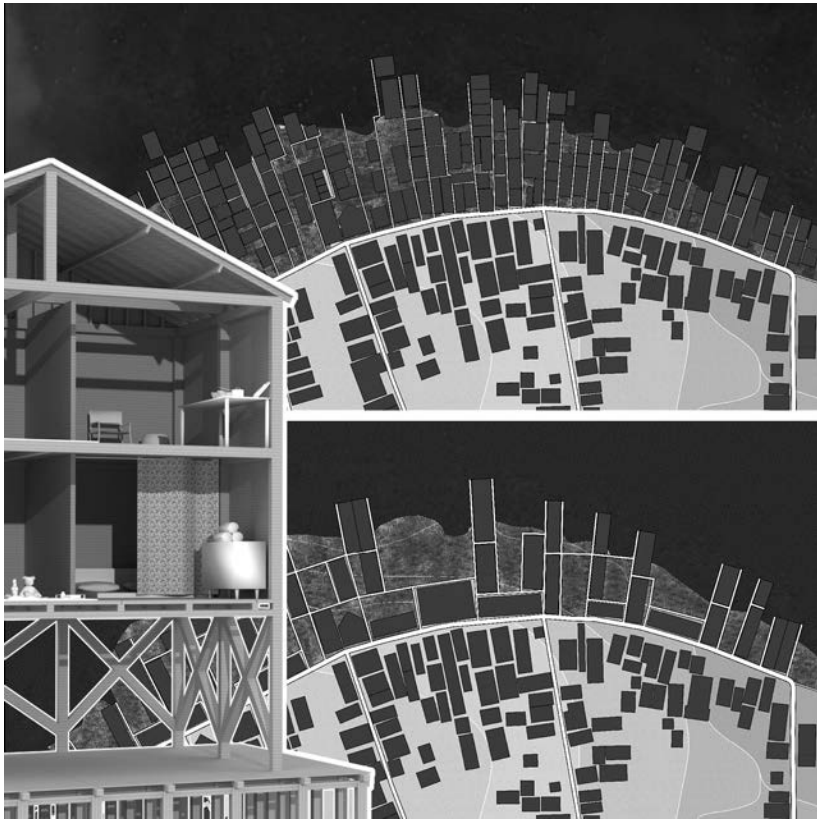


William Banks
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Into the Breathing Lands

Aski-Gitchi Bayou, or “the land that expands into water” is the traditional territory of the Omushkego Cree. The land covers a vast, biodiverse, and carbon-rich network of peatlands, forests, and rivers which connect to *Washaybeyoh* and *Weeneebeg* (Hudson and James Bays) in Ontario's Far North. In collaboration with Mushkegowuk Council and members of Weenusk First Nation, this thesis investigates how a remote research station tied to the proposed Indigenous-led Mushkegowuk National Marine Conservation Area could contribute to the study, protection, and continued stewardship of Omushkego land and waters.

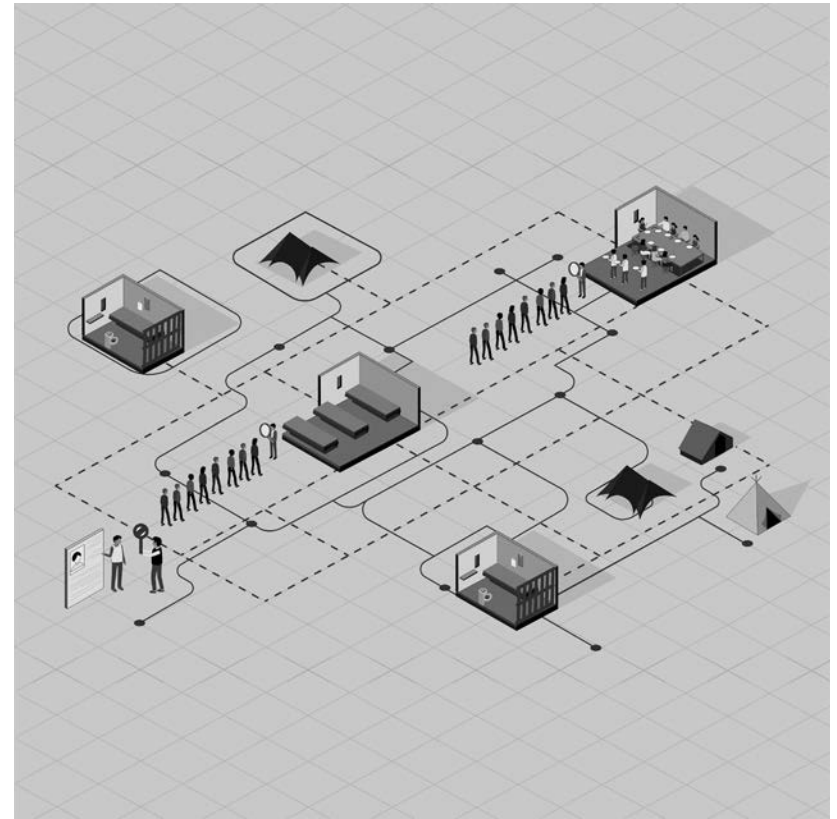


Nada Basamh
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Living with Water

Water in Banjarmasin, Indonesia is not merely an edge of the city, but a common resource, a public space, and the physical ground that percolates the day-to-day lives of riverbank residents. The lens with which this thesis views the site is always water- a deep-ground condition that is volatile and complex. The thesis focuses on addressing the multi-layered crises facing riverbank settlements, including flooding, poor sewage and sanitation infrastructure, sheer density, and fire outbreaks. By taking on an architectural and landscape position through an incremental urbanism approach, the intervention doesn't intend to reinvent the wheel but to make simple design decisions in tandem with adopting local crisis management protocols.



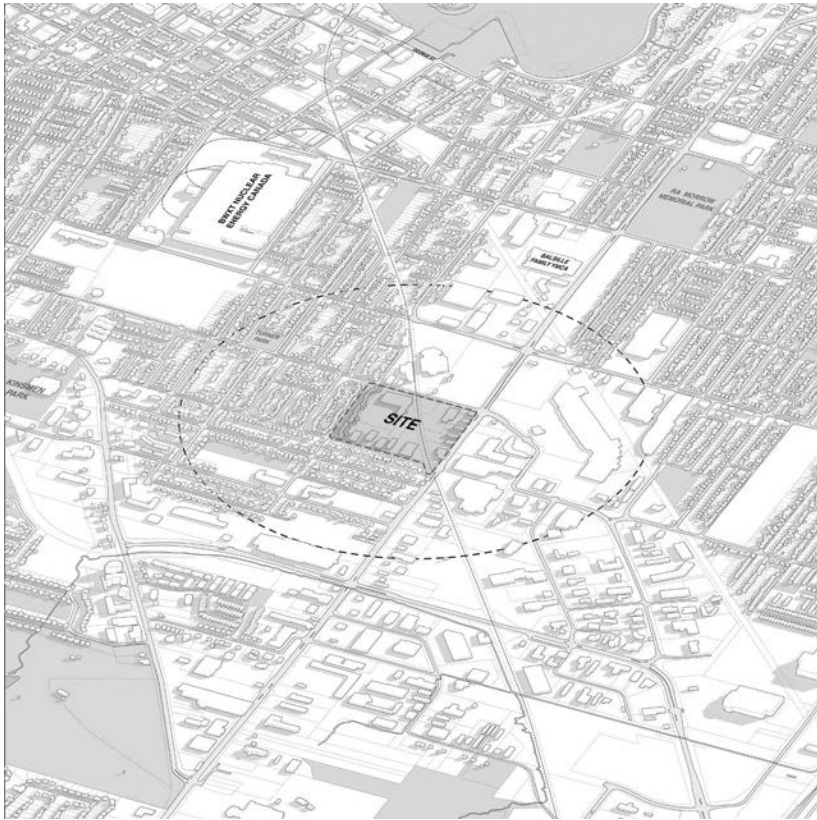
Shayma Ben Brahim
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

A Room with a Community:

Co-Designing the Architecture of Restorative Justice

This thesis investigates transitional housing for formerly incarcerated individuals and the potential for architecture to ease their reintegration into society. Focusing on a Toronto based non-profit organization, the thesis examines the efficacy of co-design workshops to open a conversation about these transitional domestic environments. Through community-centred design, it seeks not only to potentially improve existing transitional housing conditions but to cultivate an integrated sense of belonging, demonstrated to lead to reduced recidivism. The thesis posits that a modest architecture might simultaneously improve both individual lives and gradually undo systemic societal barriers. Ultimately, the thesis asks: how can design empower our sense of community as individuals, while embracing the tenets of a more inclusive and just society for all?

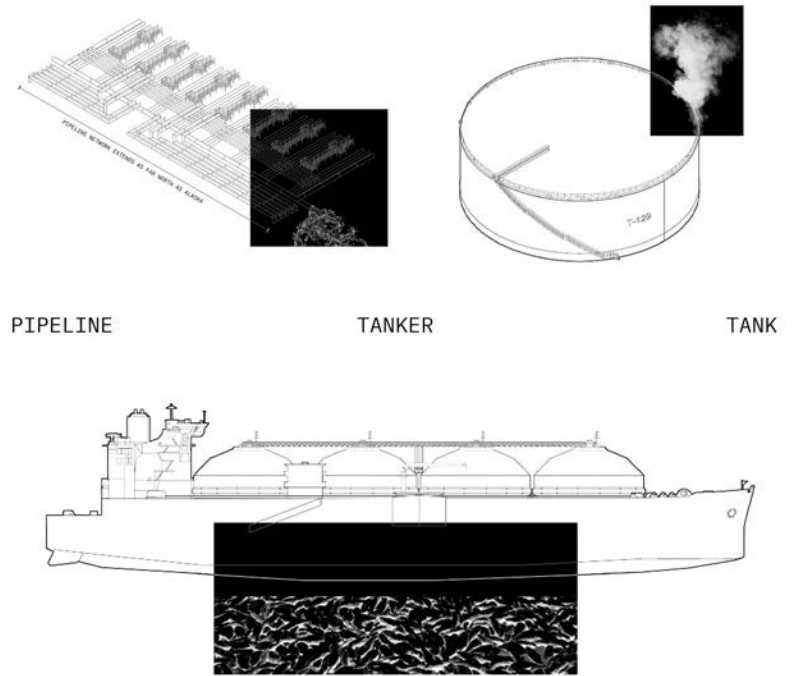


Yoon Chai
MARC

Advisors: Miles Gertler, Roberto Damiani

Shared and connected

VIA's recently announced high frequency rail aiming to connect the Quebec City-Windsor corridor opens the possibility for a completely decentralized yet interconnected province. The introduction of a high frequency rail network would allow corridor residents to live and work virtually anywhere, disrupting our dependence on a centralized housing stock while questioning what housing can be when distance becomes irrelevant. Set in 2046, this design thesis proposes a new housing typology along HFR stations with a focus on mobility, temporality, and the movement of bodies.



Avijit Chakrabarty
MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

Utepa; or, Reoccupying the Coastal Bend

The traditional lands of the Karankawas, located in what is today known as Texas, have been subject to intense resource extraction and are at risk of being irreparably harmed. Enbridge's expansion of the Ingleside Energy Centre onto a Karankawa archaeological site marks the latest step of this process and will hasten rising sea levels, devastate coastal ecology, and continue the erosion of Indigenous sovereignty.

Utepa proposes a strategy for the recovery of Karankawa lands through two phases: one, a guerrilla reoccupation of industrial sites in the form of a lightweight, portable cultural embassy; and two, the expansion of the Embassy into a permanent presence that posits a vision of consent-based governance and the restoration of Indigenous sovereignty post-decarbonization.

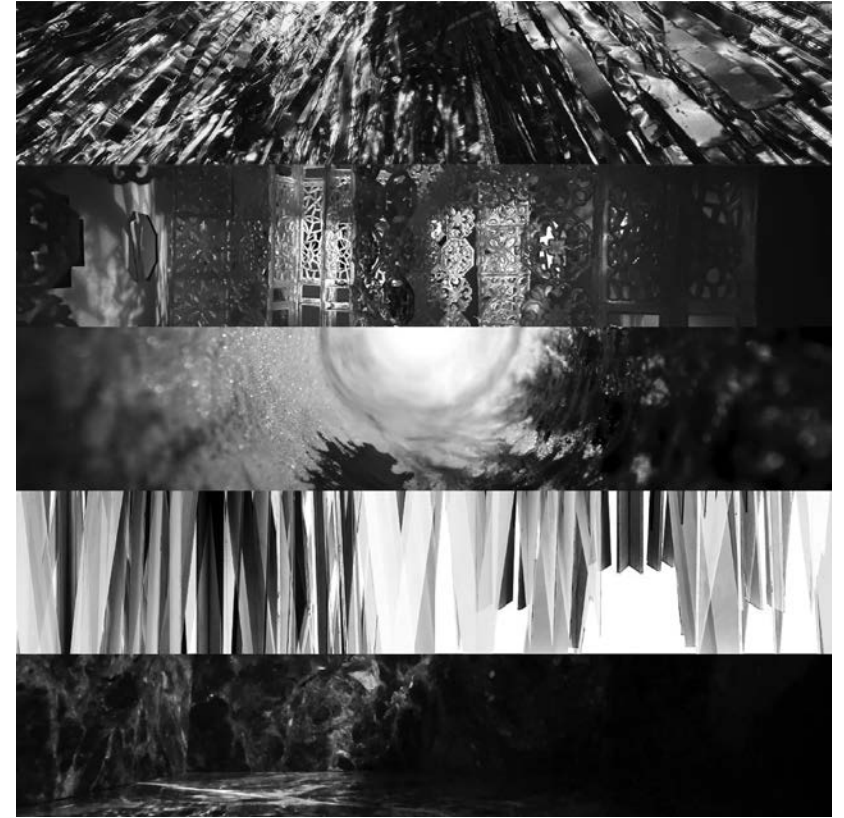


Natalie Chan
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

Drawings of the In-Between

Drawings of the In-Between is a series of experiential representations that accentuate the architectural and spatial qualities of stairs through various drawing tectonics. Stairs serve as interstitial infrastructure that allows for movement and transition in space. The process of drawing becomes a medium portraying an array of experiences in the “in-between”, as well as experimenting with materiality, depth and dimension. The “Drawing of the In-Between” installation encompasses exploration of kinetic drawing, thickened 2.5D drawing, tactile drawing, and immaterial drawing; while creating a dynamic experience where people’s movement and interactions become part of the exhibition.



Zehui Emma Chen
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

Material Experience

My thesis explores the intricate relationship between experiential design and materiality within architecture. At the heart of this discourse lies the dynamic interplay between human perception and the inherent qualities of materials. Materiality transcends its traditional role, embodying a vitality and agency that shape the sensory, emotional, and cultural dimensions of architectural environments. The project takes the medium of video to explore the integration of movement and transition as a naturally more immersive experiment in experiential representation. Through a curated narrative, I aim to demonstrate how the essence of material, light, shadow, and sound orchestrate profound encounters for users, leaving a lasting impact on their senses.



Yichen Cheng
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Mogao Caves, The Sequel

This thesis delves into the challenges faced by architectural heritage sites. UNESCO reports reveal a crisis confronting these sites. Global climate change intensifies the risk of abandonment or closure. Rather than rigidly maintaining original appearances, this research advocates for architectural interventions that introduce alternative functions within the historical framework. The study centers on the Mogao Caves, a significant Silk Road Buddhist cultural hub threatened by flooding and erosion. Focused on preserving tradition and culture, the exploration seeks durable strategies to ensure the endurance of the Mogao Caves for the next 1,700 years.



Angela Chimienti
MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Designing for Wellness: A Comprehensive Healing Center

The impact on mental health after the pandemic, particularly among children and adolescents, demonstrates the need for an urgent shift in the overlooked realm of mental healthcare. By embracing decentralized and community-based approaches, mental health concerns can be addressed in a faster way ultimately reducing stigma, educating, and promoting long-term recovery through urban design and compassionate care. This specialized healing center will be tailored to children ages 8-18 suffering from nutritional eating disorders in acute and non-acute conditions. The comprehensive treatments will address the physical and psychological aspects of these disorders while promoting long-term recovery in a community setting.

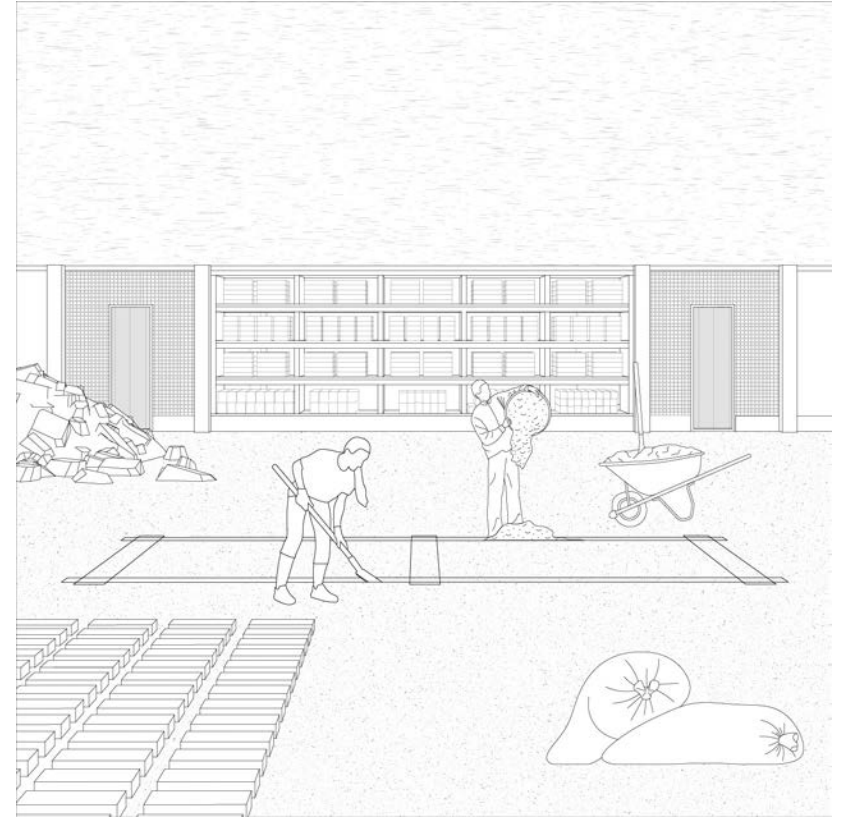


Melissa Chin
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Hidden Homes

Amid a growing aging population and rising demand for affordable and supportive housing options in Toronto, the prevalence of senior poverty among women and the underrepresentation of homeless women due to the hidden nature of their homelessness has not been thoroughly addressed. This thesis proposes the integration of a women and children’s shelter with all-women’s senior housing and establishes how the convergence of these two demographics can foster a mutually supportive continuum of care for vulnerable women and their families. Through a cultivation of layers, Hidden Homes allows for a safe and secure environment conducive to exploration with a core focus around community engagement and individual autonomy.



Gabriela Coca León
MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

Building Community | Construyendo Comunidades

In Peru’s informal settlements, necessity drives residents to construct their homes amidst precarious conditions. Seismic activity puts over 30% of homes at risk of collapse. This thesis proposes a community-building workshop as a central infrastructure for informal settlement growth. Through step-by-step guidance, from brickmaking to complete house construction, the workshop aims to educate individuals on safe building practices through demonstration and collaborative building of housing; also providing community social spaces where food, water, and building supplies can be received. The workshop empowers Peruvians with the knowledge and skills vital for safer, more sustainable, and enriched living environments.



Lori Colucci
MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

Stories of Resilience

The island of Barbados is scarred by its colonial past. This thesis confronts actors that have translocated and exploited people, plants, animals, irrevocably transforming the island's environment. Carrying the indelible imprint of slavery that underpins the structures of sugar plantations, the 'plantocracy' destroyed native ecosystems and surveilled enslaved people, constructing an island-wide 'signal station' network. Nonetheless, spaces of resilience and counter-surveillance persisted in the form of the island's gully networks, where biodiversity prevailed and historically, refuge, 'free'-mobility, and sustenance could be found. How can the stories and experiences of exploited people, plants and animals be told?



Francesca Cornacchione
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

La Dolce Vita Degli Anziani | The Sweet Life of the Elderly

As Italian immigrants established themselves in Canada, maintaining ties to their homeland through agriculture and landscape practices have become aspects of a physically and emotionally healthy lifestyle. However, shifting societal priorities have led to the decline of once-thriving social centers, leaving elderly Italians in Ontario feeling isolated. Adapting suburban landscapes can revitalize community connections, easing loneliness among this population. These spaces can encourage interaction, address social cognition deficits, and support aging in place. Such initiatives are crucial for elderly Italians living alone or with family, fostering collective growth and association within the community, ultimately enhancing their physical and emotional health.

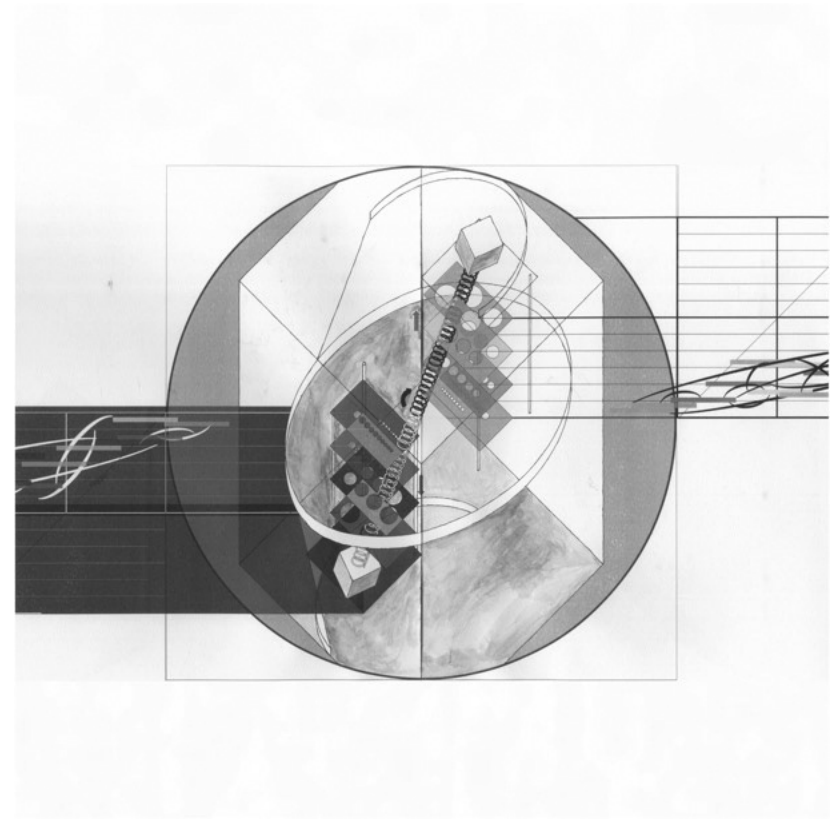


Jianghong Dai
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Aged with Pride: Living Option for 2SLGBTQI+ Seniors in City Centre

2SLGBTQI+ population has been a significant part of Toronto demography, clusters of this community were formed along church-corridor as a safe space. However, the development of this central hub was driven by real estate and tourism, leaving little empathy for providing affordable and inclusive seniors living options. This thesis proposes a residential model dedicated to “family of choice” and establishes its potential in creating an inclusive and mutually supported communities for 2SLGBTQI+ seniors through both peer and multigenerational interactions. Throughout the project, diverse programs and familiarity of spatial experience are explored to reassemble the community that supports seniors to age-in-place.

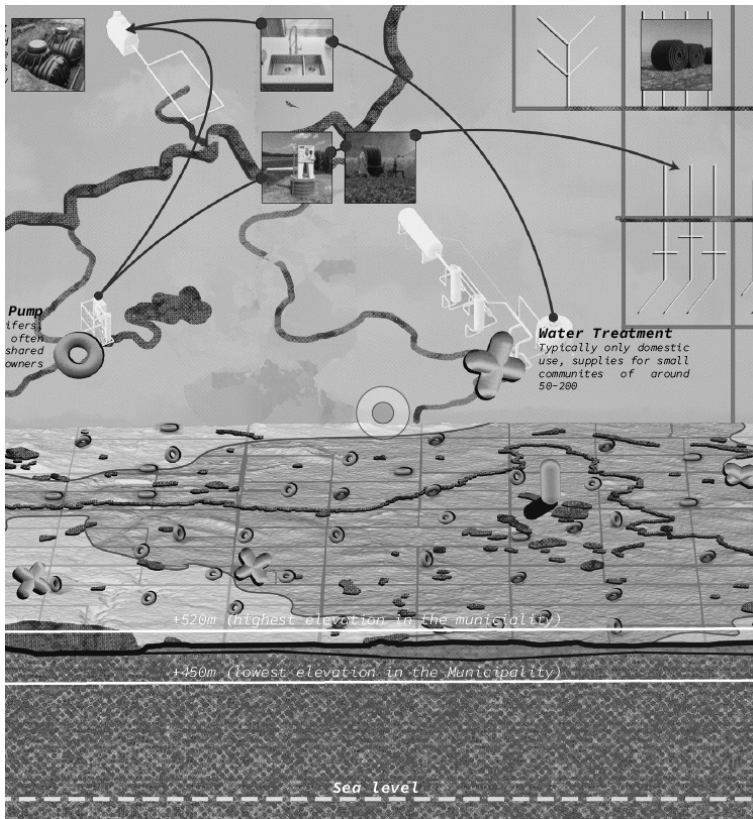


Graham Davies
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

Score with Three Themes

Description: My project is driven by two questions related to our studio group’s theme of “Drawing as Thesis”: 1. How can a notational drawing be immersive and spatial?; and 2. How can a drawing be an instrument? I’ve examined historic musical instruments, theatre architecture, and musical motifs as the basic elements for unfolding a logical response to these questions. My project curates a set of drawings and models that argue for how these three distinct elements can be experienced as a unified whole.

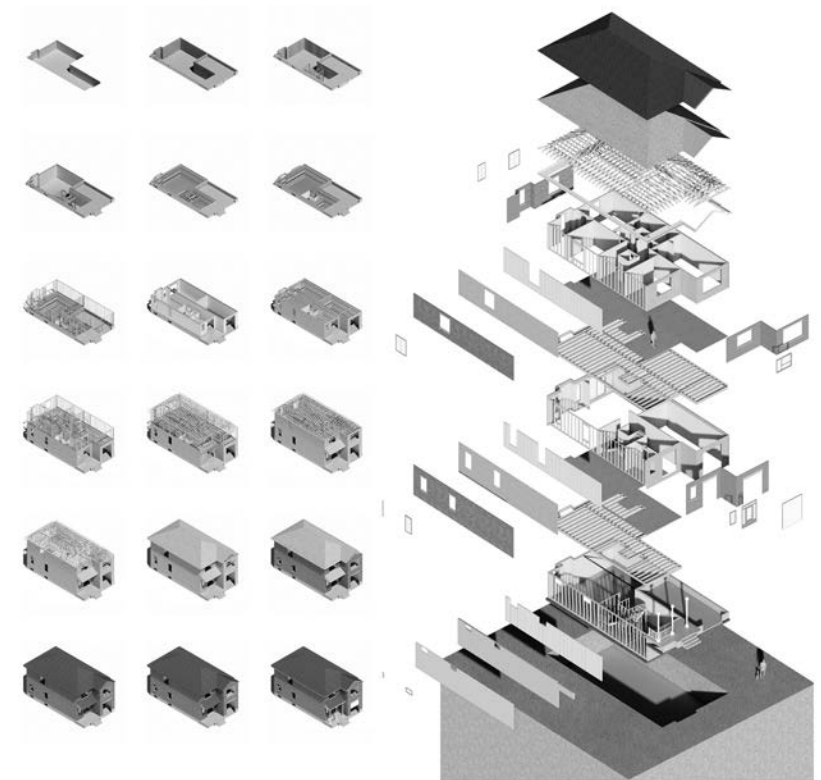


Jacob Deir
MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

Tall Grass, Gunter Chains, and the Anthropocene

Disregarding terrestrial ecologies, from 1871-1930 the Dominion Land Survey subdivided the Canadian West into square-mile grids, implementing a colonial infrastructure that continues to dominate the Canadian West. The grid dictates much of the land use patterns, management techniques, and environmental policies in Southern Manitoba's agricultural belt, exposing an increasingly fragile landscape in the wake of climate change. Assuming the form of an atlas, this thesis juxtaposes non-settler narratives against the intrinsic rhetoric of the Dominion Grid, posing the question: Can the grid be reconceived so as to broker a new engagement with our changing environment?



Malav Desai
MARC

Advisor: Zachary Mollica

Homegrown, Rethinking Stick-built Suburbs of Ontario

This thesis delves into innovative stick-built construction assemblies for single-family detached houses in Ontario, incorporating locally sourced bio-based materials, forestry products, and native trees. It stands as a counterpoint to the prevailing developer-driven suburbs of Ontario. Through iterative research, it showcases various techniques and systems that could enable the utilization of locally sourced, low-value round wood lumber in conjunction with 2x4 construction methods. The project's goal is to demonstrate how small-scale changes and interventions, when implemented on a larger scale, can result in significant ecological and economical benefits.



Farhan Dhanani
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

Essential Resistance: Tectonics, the Void, and the Trojan Horse

We can observe that often, architectural form emerges from increments and is module based – the arrangement of elements varying in scale, material, and shape. Due to a predictable logic of assembly, the trajectory of completion and resolution may be anticipated in the module itself. The humble, utilitarian sawhorse is unexpectedly re-imagined as a “difficult-module” of self-construction, and having accepted its resistance to a modular logic, challenges the predictability of traditional and understood formal conventions. Experimenting with the “anti-module” creates familiar but uncomfortable relationships between the individual & aggregate, incompleteness & stability, and predictability & possible outcomes.

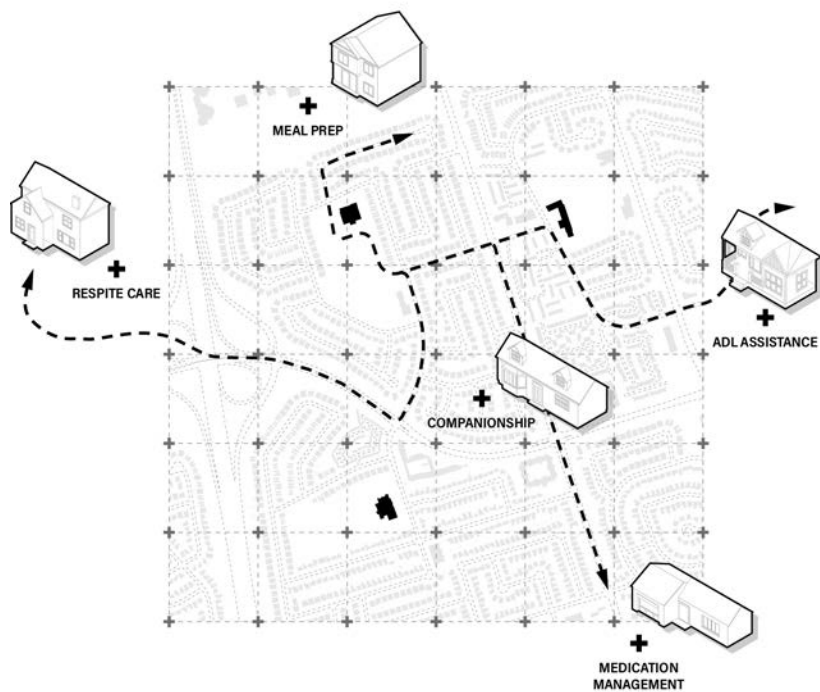


Navjot Dhanoa
MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

You can go to hell, I'm going to Texas.

In the American Southwest, cowboy economies still prospect for valuable commodities: not gold, or oil, but helium. As the only non-renewable element on earth, its rarity prompted the creation of the US Federal Helium Reserve in 1925. However, in January 2024, the government auctioned off the reserve to Messer, a private industrial gas company that, among other things, supplies helium for Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day Parade. This thesis aims to evince dissonance by developing an imaginary of resource scarcity and the ways it might atomize daily urban life to remote corners of the American desert.

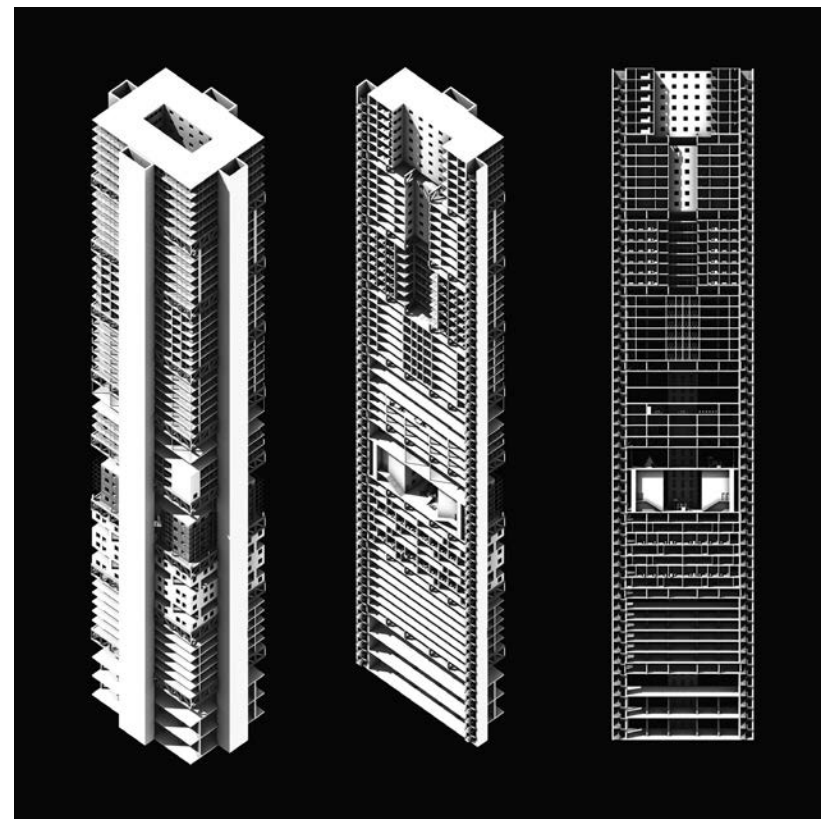


Alice Dong
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Aging-inTO-Care

During the post-war era, Toronto witnessed a proliferation of school construction to meet the needs of the Baby Boomer generation. Today, as demographic trends change and the demand for these educational facilities diminishes, the city faces a dual challenge: insufficient care infrastructure to support its aging population coupled with a surplus of underutilized school sites. This thesis navigates Toronto's shifting demographic landscape by leveraging these sites and exploring their transformative potential to support successful 'aging-in-place'. Embracing adaptive design strategies for a city in constant flux, this proposal blurs generational boundaries and delineates a dynamic interplay between the old and new.

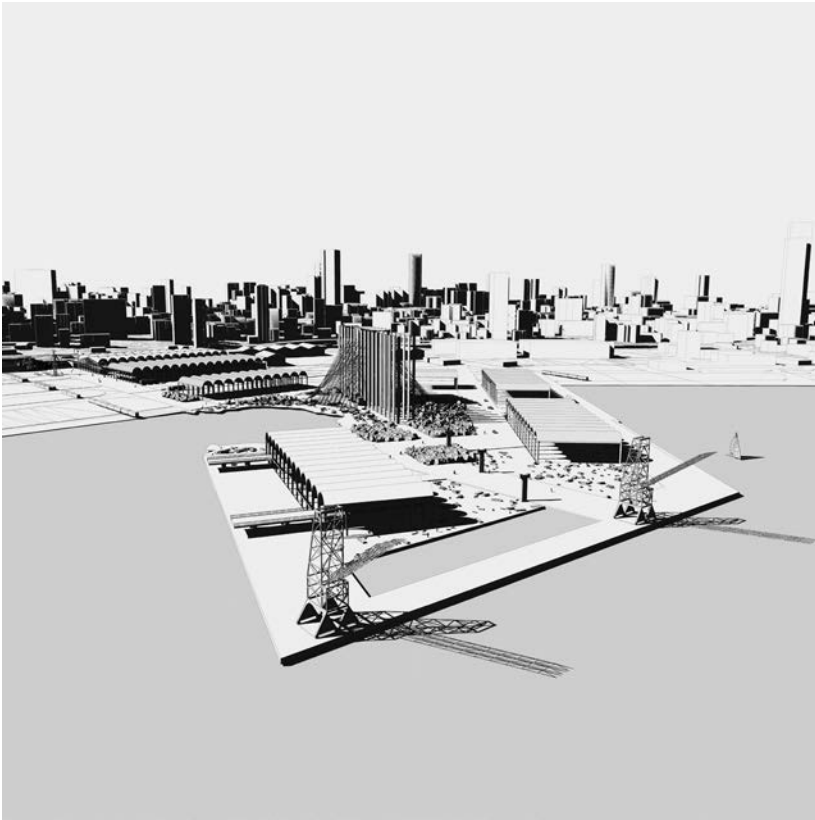


Lu Du
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Mixed-Use Re-mix

The most enabling and limiting factor that affects the longevity of a building is structure. When programs inevitably become outdated over time, the structure can serve as a cornerstone for the building's propensity to evolve beyond its original purpose. Critiquing the current generic structural approaches in mixed-use buildings, the research proposes a new typology—the uncertain typology, where typologies are specific in their ability to accommodate change. The remix of the mixed-use type becomes the vehicle where the potential of a more radical mixing of programs can emerge over time—envisioning a building that can endure for a thousand years.

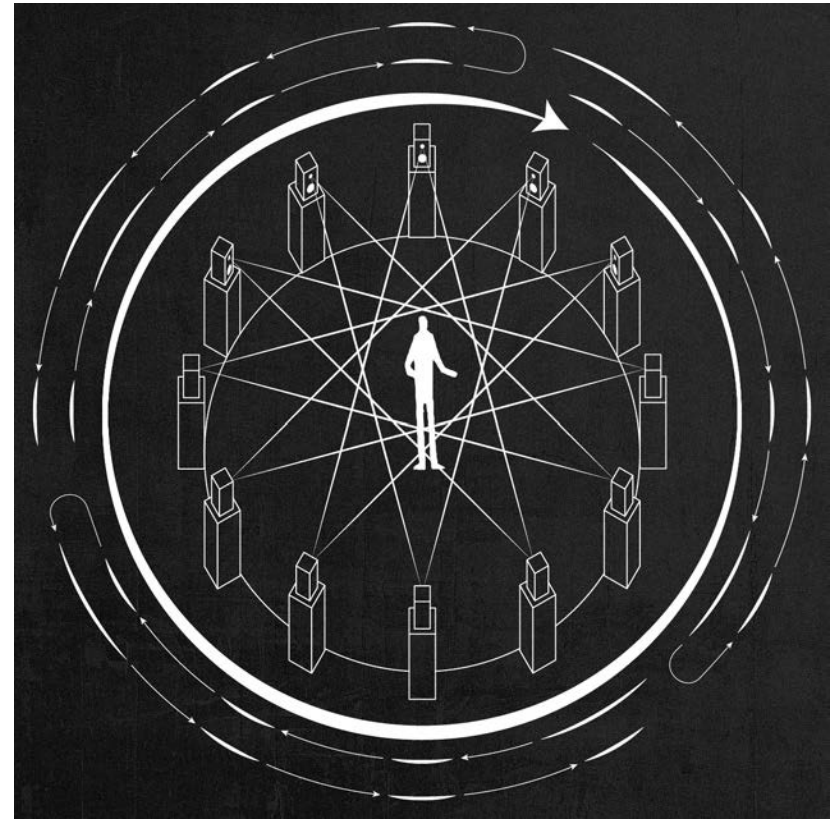


Samer El Richani
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Memorial as Urbanism : The Port of Beirut

Following a blast that occurred in the port of Beirut in 2020, many have called for a memorial to be constructed on the site, however officials view this as in opposition to how ports function. The proposal seeks to bridge this divergence between port and city and uses the memorial as an opportunity to occupy sections of the port while still allowing it to function. The strategy consists of planting the seeds of change that anticipate an urbanism clustered around memory and utility. The design acts as a catalyst for new connections across the city, country and the region.

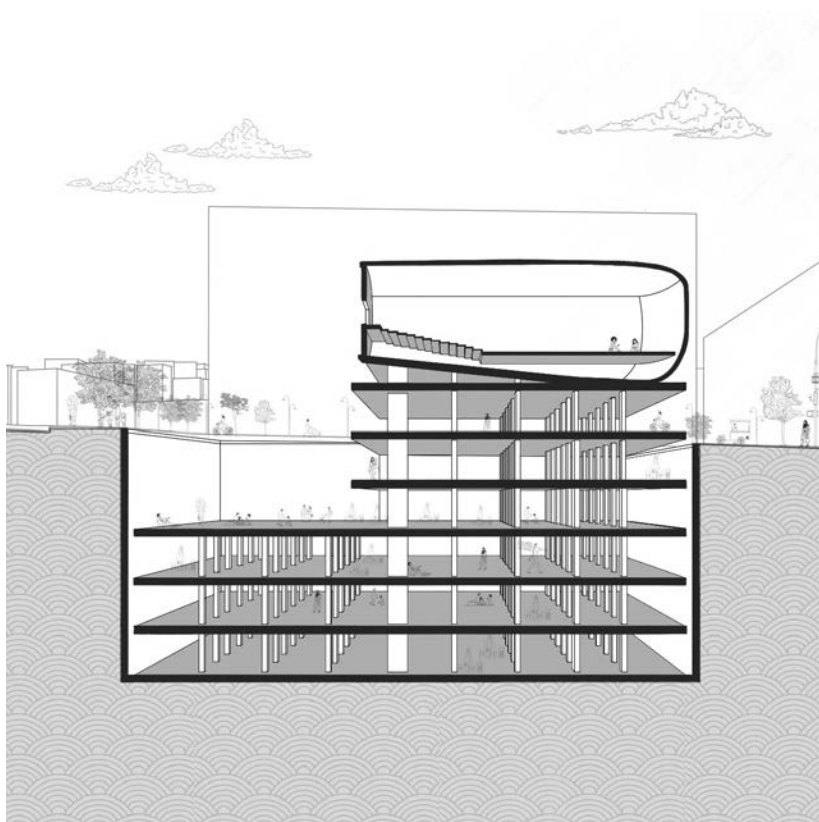


Toby Evans
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Sonic Atmospheres

Architecture is a spatial art centred on sensory experience - yet there is a heavy reliance on the visual. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you. Sound is spatial. Sound allows us to inhabit a space even in the absence of other sensory input, implying that auditory stimuli can be composed in such a way as to **create** space, not just fill it. Through a series of experiments, this thesis explores the use of sound as a building material to compose space, sometimes incorporating physical structures and other times relying purely on psychoacoustic perception.

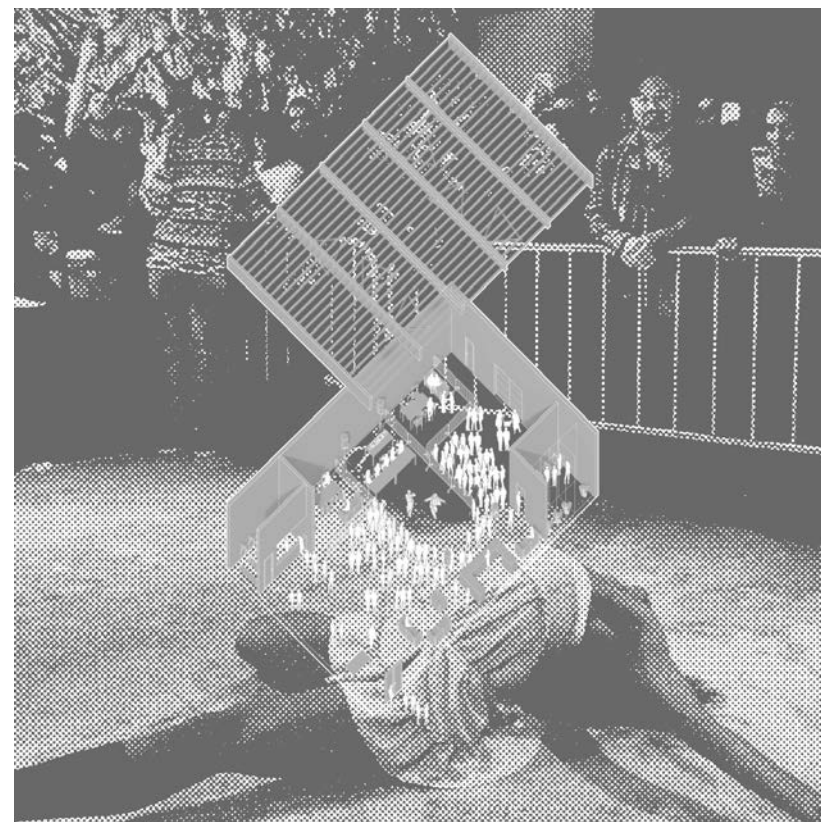


Ramzi Fakhoury
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Canopy Culture

This thesis aims to explore the intricacies of Lebanon and its culturally and politically significant sites that have served as a backdrop of personal expression and public assembly. Utilizing the 'Grand Theatre de Beirut', known more affectionately as 'The Egg' as a case study on public space reclamation, this research-intensive direction examines the potential of adaptive reuse of an existing site with minimal, yet meaningful intervention in attempts to revitalize derelict spaces into public opportunities. Aspects of re-use and preservation coupled with flexible, multi-use spaces should serve the community's diverse needs in an ever-changing culturally and politically-charged landscape.



Ashish Gangwar
MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

A Home for many Houses, an Architecture of Queer Kinship

The LGBTQ2S+ community has long been marginalized in their ability to access safe and equitable housing. There is an incredible need for a new approach to housing queer folk, in relation to the everyday lives and experiences that influence one's identity. How might systems of support and care that exist in queer communities reimagine and inform the architectural discourse of collective housing? Based around the needs of unsupported and vulnerable queer and trans youth, a new model for queer domesticity can be produced, that which blurs boundaries and centers itself around relation-making.



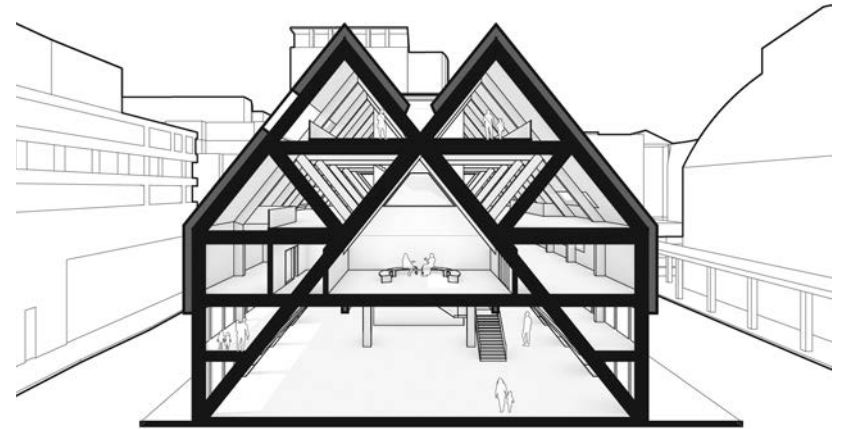
Kemeng Gao

MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

In Sight, In Mind?

The public struggles to grasp ramifications of their material consumption and its consequences, leading to frustrated or indifferent questioning: “*Will my small actions (recycling, reuse, composting, reducing consumption, etc.) make any real difference?*” Solid waste management (SWM) measures exist in our daily lives in a fragmented and often invisible manner: waste effectively “disappears” from public sight. Only it does not simply disappear. This thesis explores the visual rhetoric of architecture in creating a public presence for SWM facilities in Vancouver, normalizing the presence and processing of waste in our daily lives and encouraging upstream change, away from environmentally exploitative consumption.



Michelle Gao

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

The Community Exchange

The library is a typology that has seen dramatic evolution from an archive for books, to one of the last truly free public spaces in the city. In a period of rapid technological change and urban crisis, this vital social infrastructure has had to adapt rapidly to its many urban users. This thesis is about designing a public library that returns to the oral traditions of knowledge sharing and one-on-one community exchange, and how structure can create a flexible and experiential space that supports the library’s evolving role towards community building while celebrating the library’s civic presence.



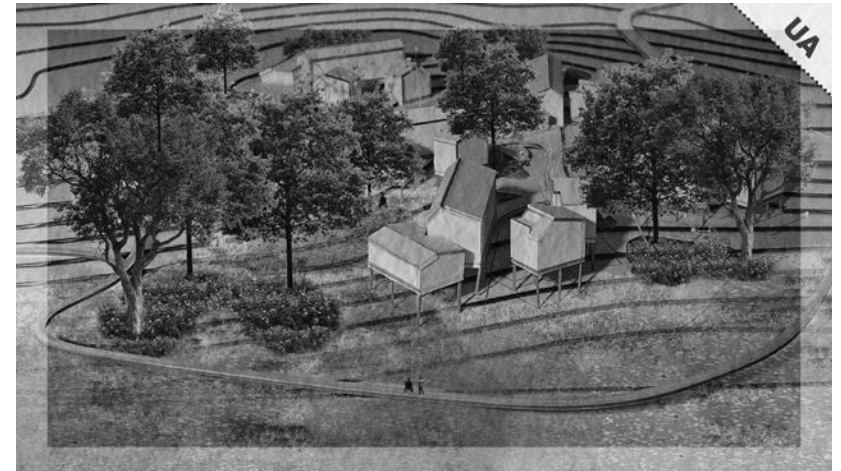
Yucheng (Erin) Gao
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

A pavilion for wind

Through CFD simulations and design's delicate art, This wind pavilion emerges, playing its part. Not merely a shelter from nature's fierce plight, But a space to shape breezes, to bring delight. Where humans and winds harmoniously blend, Creating a haven where solace meets the wind's gentle bend.

Amidst the pavilion's embrace, stories unfold, An elder couple, hands intertwined, memories retold. Parents with children, laughter echoing through, A child's wonder at a lone goose's view. Young souls, coffee in hand, by the lake's grand sight, Whispering words of admiration in the pavilion's soft light.



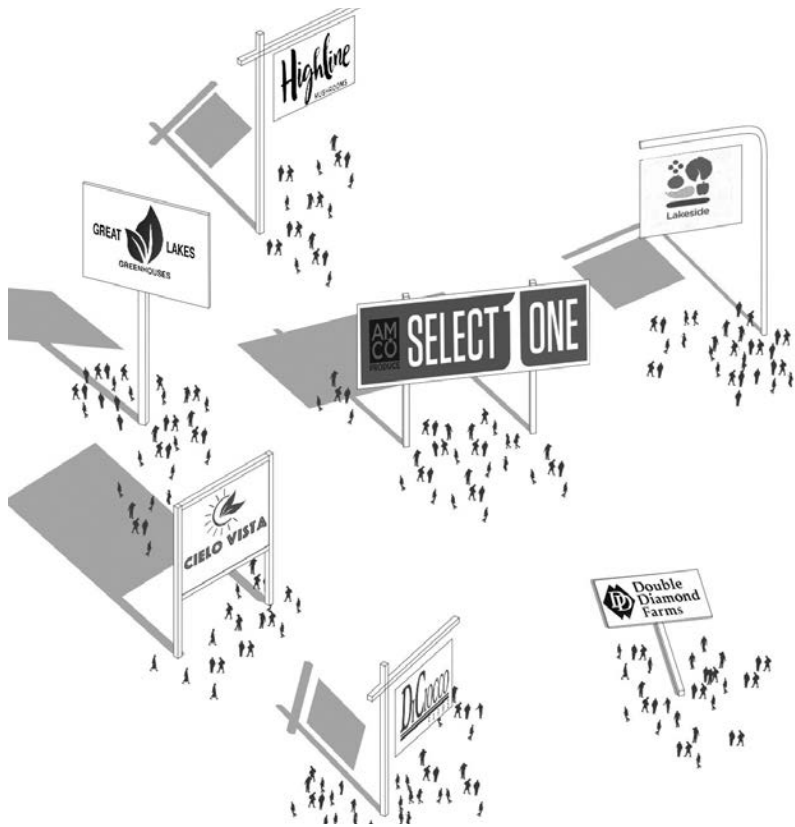
Kateryna Gerasymova
MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

THE INTEGRAL ROLE OF RECLAIMED LANDSCAPES IN THE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION PROCESS

With the rise of global conflicts and wars as well as natural disasters, casualties are growing and will only continue to do grow in the nearest years. As such, we need to prepare for the upcoming years filled with people impacted by wars, crisis, natural disasters, and destruction.

This research attempts at creating a design optimal for PTSD and amputee patients impacted by the war in Ukraine. Located in Lviv, the complex emphasizes on connection to nature/horticultural therapy and the juxtaposition between controlled vs non-controlled spaces. Aimed at empowering patients, the design allows reclaimed landscapes and the process of decay to take active part in their recovery journeys.



Dimah Ghazal
MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

The Price of Progress:

Advocating for Equity in Leamington's Greenhouse Industry

The municipality of Leamington is a Southern Ontarian agricultural landscape transformed by the USMCA (fka NAFTA) trade agreement. Each year, its population increases by half as 15,000 migrant workers, predominantly from Mexico, come to work in the greenhouse industry and endure limited rights and suboptimal living conditions. This project documents the predominantly Mexican ethnic enclave in Leamington through investigative journalism and visual-material research techniques to record and expose the hidden practices around foreign labor and the realities around local consumption. Ultimately, the project speculates upon the possibility of a potential migrant labor policy and diplomacy institute affiliated with the local Mexican consulate.

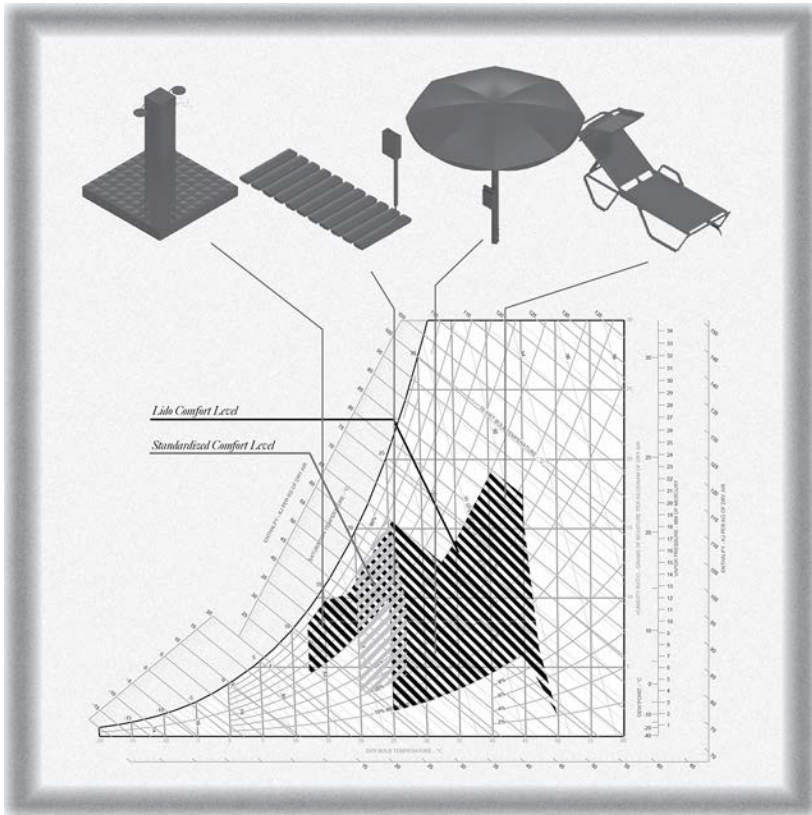


Maggie Ghobrial
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Thresholds to the Invisible City

In the post-revolutionary conditions of an anonymous city, fragments of protest residue once embedded in the urban fabric are methodically eradicated by the state. Amidst the orchestrated facade of urban renewal, a surveillance city lurks, veiled by deceptive architectural facelifts. Despite its ever-increasing censorship, tangible and intangible archives of the Intifada remain hidden yet deeply ingrained in the self-built public spaces of the city, preserving an otherwise decaying culture of civic spatial reclamation. By way of witnessing, the project seeks to commemorate this immaterial culture, crossing thresholds into the Invisible City through a multimedia exhibition, designing a route within the city that archives evanescent memories.

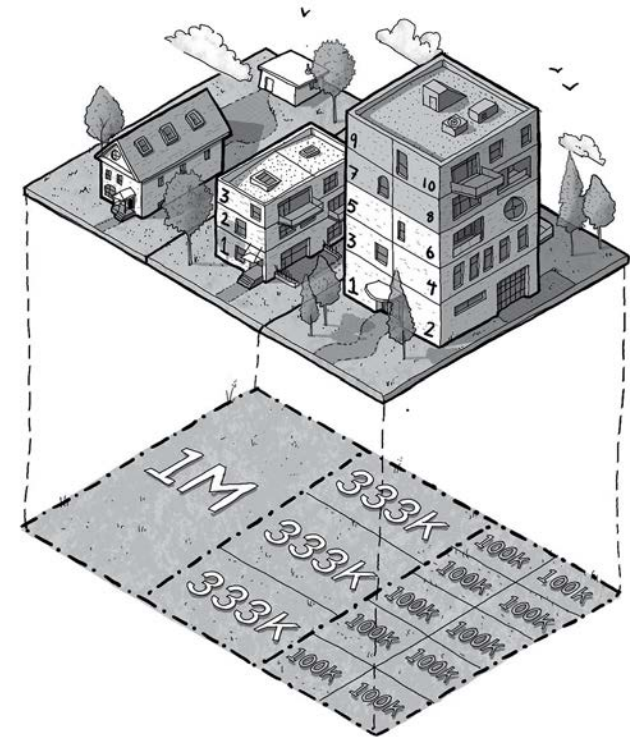


Gian Lorenzo Giannone
MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Thermal Mythologies

This thesis seeks to design an intervention that is instrumental to the re-inhabitation of the Italian Piazza as a collective, open space for festivals, protest, and leisure, in a time of rapidly increasing climate change. Currently these spaces are too hot to be occupied from June to August each year, and it is projected that this timeframe may be expanded from May to September. Instead of re-deploying fascist and capitalist ideals for cooling found in Italian Lidos, a new *Thermal Mythology* is developed. One that is cognisant of existing cultural dynamics and natural methods of cooling found on the peninsula.

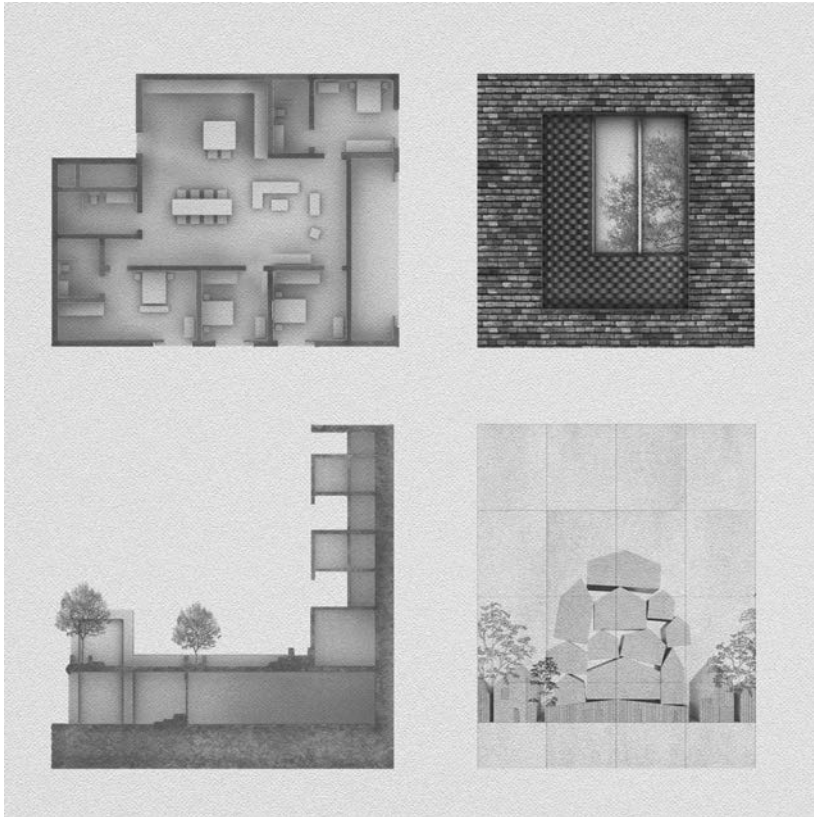


Joshua Giovinazzo
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Leveraging Density

This project proposes density bonusing as an architectural strategy to create affordable 'missing middle' housing. Recent and proposed zoning by-law reforms across Canada seek to increase housing supply with new multi-family housing typologies, yet fail to define clear affordability targets. Learning from precedent policies in Seattle, Texas and Vancouver, increased density permissions are leveraged by requiring a portion of the development as affordable housing. By increasing density as a bonus, land prices can be leveraged, translating to reduced housing prices. The design studies the architectural implications of pre-defined additional development permissions in exchange for affordable housing within the context of our changing neighbourhoods.



Muskan Goel
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

PIECING A MOSAIC: Designing for a Multicultural City

How can culturally appropriate design respond to the growing needs for multi-generational living amongst the South Asian community in Brampton? A mix-use, mid-rise solution that would densify around a transportation hub and integrate immediate support services for a better identity and livability. The thesis aims to re-think a housing typology within the suburban fabric that directly responds to its cultural demographic, accommodate live-work models around a commuter's construct. The design evolves from core relationships between cultural practices and its representation. The large unit sizes interconnected with social corridors, communal and public outdoor spaces address privacy, flexibility, and intergenerational transition.



Haoran (Harry) Gong
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

Lingering in the Present

The thesis project a non-linear time space world view, where our reality is described as a tesseract with all our past and future. This multi-universe world populated as fragments of all time and form rush in to fill the vacuum. These elements expand and collapse simultaneously, inevitably conflating into the evidence of all-time, the collapse of, past and future, in the present. If we prolong the present, we are in an ideal position, poised, to linger and experience within an interconnected moment that celebrates simultaneity.

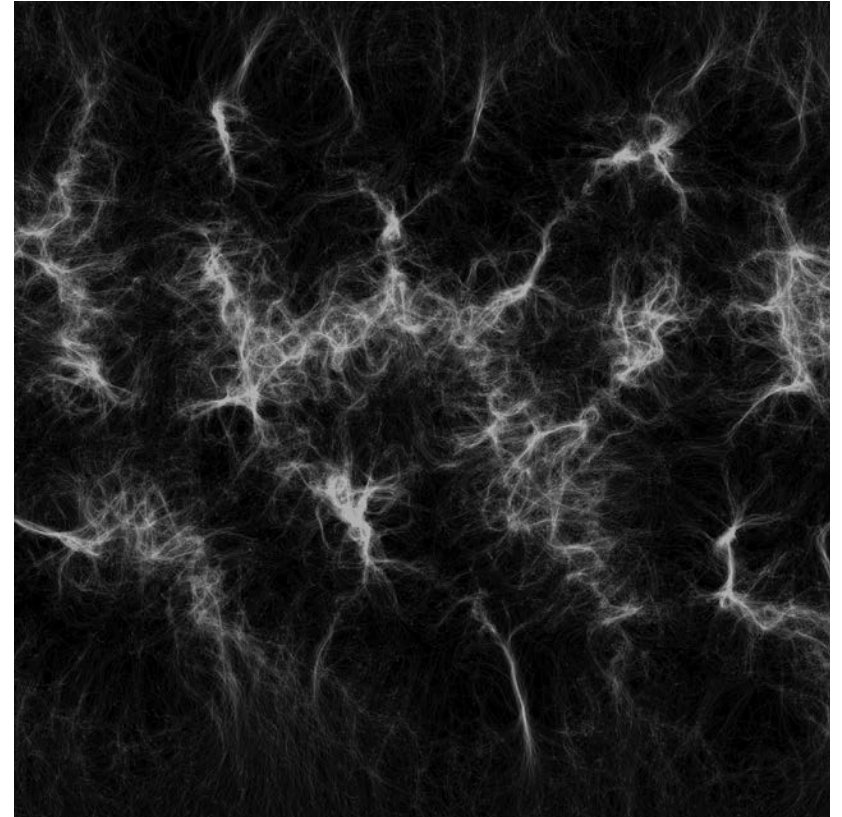


Sina Hashemi
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Resilient Urban Form: Bazaar Vakil

Historically, bazaars have played a pivotal role in shaping numerous cities, serving not only as centers for economic activity but also social and cultural exchange. Originating from the tenth century, these complexes incorporated religious buildings, educational institutions, bathhouses, caravanserais, and manufacturing. Moving beyond the Orientalist perspective, this research examines bazaars as urban spines that precipitated the development of cities along the Silk Road, including Shiraz, Isfahan, and Tabriz. Sited specifically at the Bazaar Vakil in Shiraz, the thesis posits that the adaptable and resilient architecture of the bazaar has allowed this locally specific typology to adjust to various shifts in geopolitics and ideology while maintaining its indispensable role in urban life.



Robin Yu Bin He
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Architecture of emergence:

Can emergence behavior translate into architecture?

A flock of birds dances in the sky, the flock swings to the left then swoop down to the right in perfect unison. There are no singular conducting bird. The birds only react to their immediate surroundings. Yet, the culmination of these simple interaction transforms into complex forms. The flock (agents) generates complexity, yet individual (agents) have yet to be utilized for design. This thesis aims to uncover the possibilities of using agents as a bottom-up approach to architecture by taking multiple approaches in creating architecture using agents. Can agents' complexity be translated to architecture or are agents bound to the farsse of complexity?



Larissa Ho
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

On Inhabiting the Inversion of Land

To inhabit the inversion of land is to subvert fundamental notions of architecture. This project posits a world in which civilizations form on the sea, where the ground is perpetually drifting and immeasurable. Every monument erected on this ephemeral waterscape is a “counter-monument” which undermines, questions, and challenges the way we look at architectural history, particularly the basic assumption of foundations, cartography, material, and constructions. Removed from stable ground, these monuments exist in a state of constant disappearance and reemergence. The structure of this world lies in an allegorical narrative - a civilization that might have existed parallel to ours, where stories of humanity are continuously being recreated and reinterpreted in relation to the social-political circumstances of the past, present, and future.

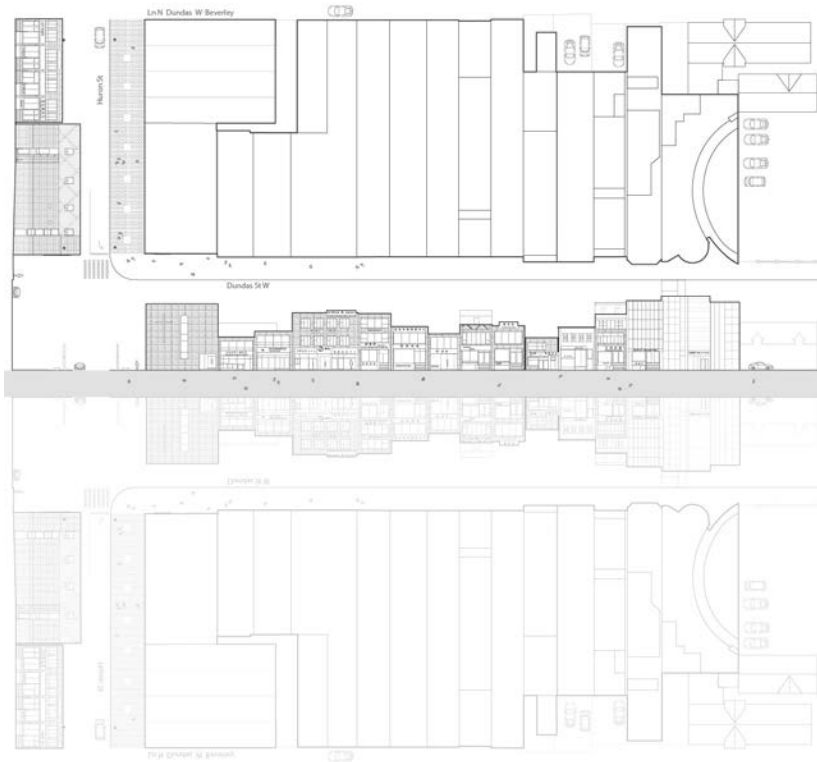


Jimmy Hung
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Food Making as Place Making

Recent vulnerabilities in Toronto have highlighted the city’s reliance on global food systems, and the consideration of removing ‘best-before dates’ in Canada underscores a significant gap in food knowledge. Amidst a global food knowledge crisis, this thesis aims to investigate how food making methods can bridge global values with local contexts, nurturing a shared sense of belonging, alleviating alienation. At its core, this study seeks to establish a Public Food Trust in Toronto, dedicated to supporting low-energy food preservation techniques and enhancing intercultural exchange. Through organizational partnerships, this initiative suggests a method to celebrate and safeguard the world’s food heritage while addressing contemporary challenges such as food insecurity and waste.



Yanchen Huo
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Through the Atrium: New Pathway in Toronto's West Chinatown

Toronto's Urban Chinatown is quietly transforming due to escalating housing prices and a shift in Chinese Canadians' settlement patterns to the suburbs, leading to gradual homogenization and gentrification tendency. There are two community perspectives: Some support gentrification as a sign of city prosperity, while others, mainly local residents and low-income groups, advocate preserving affordable and heritage space here. Combined with research on a distinctive architectural typology in Chinatown, I propose a compromise plan. This involves remodeling existing buildings and infilling new public spaces and residential units to maintain the neighborhood's traditional charm while bringing new urban vitality and economic benefits.



Jessica Iozzo
MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

Industrial Detritus and Deep Time

At the mouth of the Rouge River draining into the Detroit River sits Zug Island – a toxic remnant of 120 years of intense industrial production and port activities along these waterways. This thesis rejects the hubristic fiction that landscapes of contamination can be returned to a state of pristine 'Nature.' Instead, a window within which to witness, and advocate for, ecological grief is opened. Rethinking the act of "cleaning-up" invites a new form of didactic leisure: remediation in real-time as a public spectacle, consisting of soil monitoring stations, observation points, navigational markers, and the gradual re-emergence of a lost marshland.



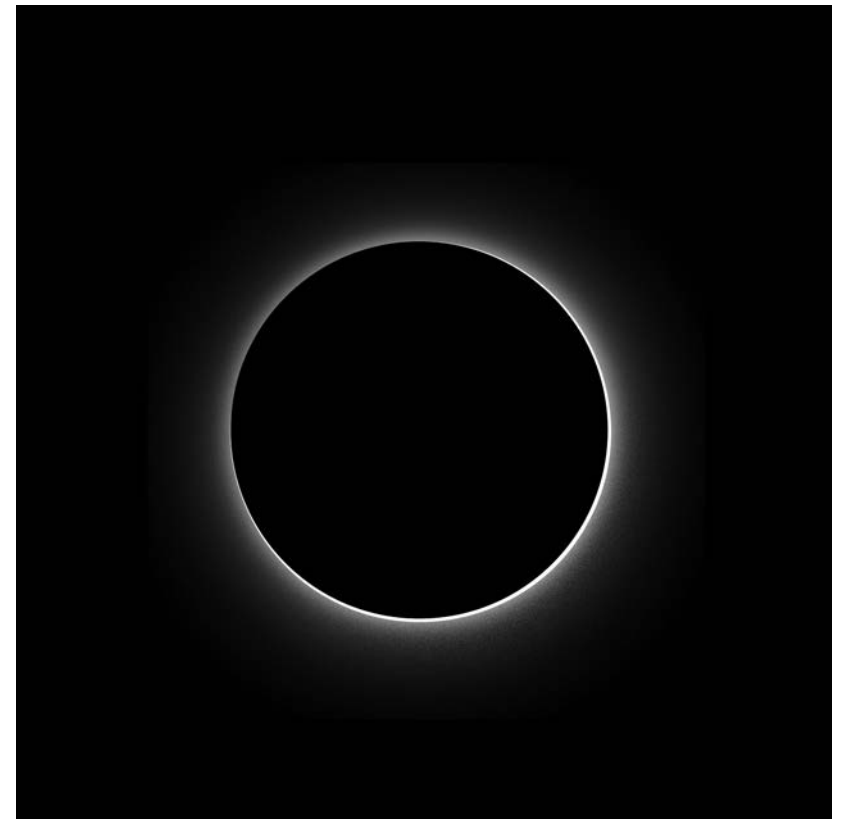
Min-Hee Jung
MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

Made in Hong Kong:

Searching for the Lion Rock in a Space of Disappearance

Despite its 1997 transfer to Chinese sovereignty, the Sino-British 'no-change agreement' allowed Hong Kong to have a high level of autonomy until 2047. Yet, the Chinese Mainland government continues to erode its autonomous status, which has caused a cultural identity crisis. It still maintains its own representative diplomatic missions abroad; 'HKETOs'. It also still bears its own 'Made in Hong Kong' labels, but in the face of this sovereignty erosion, everything is at risk of losing this status. Everyday objects bearing the label have become markers of resilience in preserving this identity. Seeking to challenge the notion of identity confined by borders, this project imagines a future in which a HKETO is converted into a permanent museum of identity markers in exile.

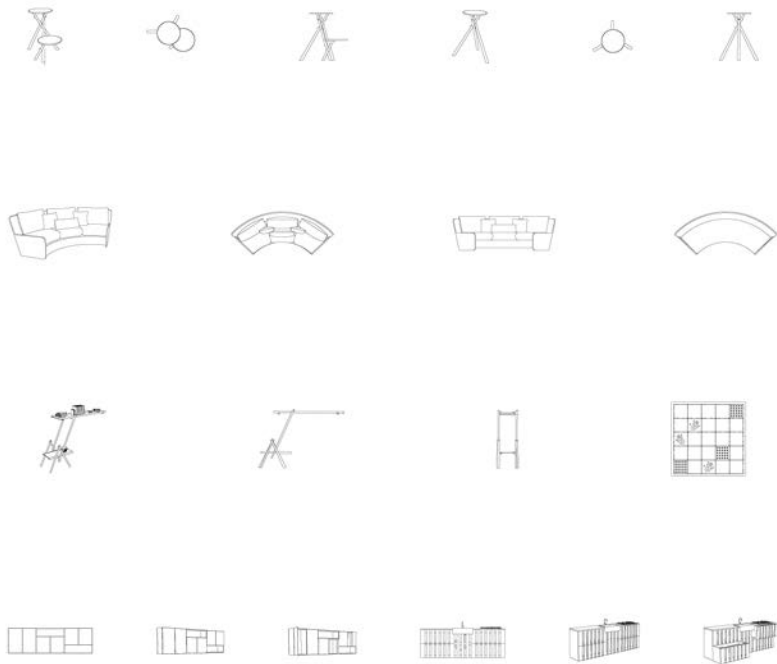


Charlotte Keskinen-Keith
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Building from Air.

There is an exciting new possibility that we might be able to source polymer production from our atmospheric carbon. Opening a future in which we might be able to design and build architecture entirely with polymer sourced from excess atmospheric carbon. But how will we make architectural assemblies with polymer? What will these new architectures look like? How will we design with them? And what will these new hyper-industries of decarbonization look like? These are the questions I attempt to answer, through developing novel algorithms of self-assembly, theorizing new design workflows, and examining the precedence of existing hyper industry. Offering a future in which we can build our way out of climate crises, offering a future worth hoping for, a future worth working towards.



Emma Gwen Kimmett

MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

POST: A Furniture Design Brand to Defend Land at Ada'itsx

Following the expansion of Canadian government-backed Teal-Jones logging company onto the traditional land of the Pacheedaht people at Ada'itsx ('Fairy Creek'), a series of checkpoints and defensive works were constructed to defend their sovereignty. In response, this project introduces POST, a furniture design brand that repurposes decommissioned objects from former Pacheedaht defensive works in the production of bespoke furniture pieces. It aims not only to generate revenue through their sale on the global art market to buy back traditional land, but also to bring the dispute into people's homes, to raise awareness in the land presently known as Canada.



Chloe Lam

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Mushroom Healing Centre for Cancer Healthcare

This thesis introduces the concept of establishing the first Maggie center in Toronto, which is a healthcare facility center designed to provide practical, emotional, and social support to those with cancer.

My thesis endeavors to ignite inspiration among cancer patients from the mysterious relationship of mushroom with nature, spreading the liveliness and energy of nature to motivate them to fight against cancer. It therefore delves into the therapeutic capacities of fungi, creating an interactive mushroom environment for patients. How could mushrooms serve as a more fitting companion for cancer patients than conventional options like dogs and cats?



Alexander Lamarche
MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

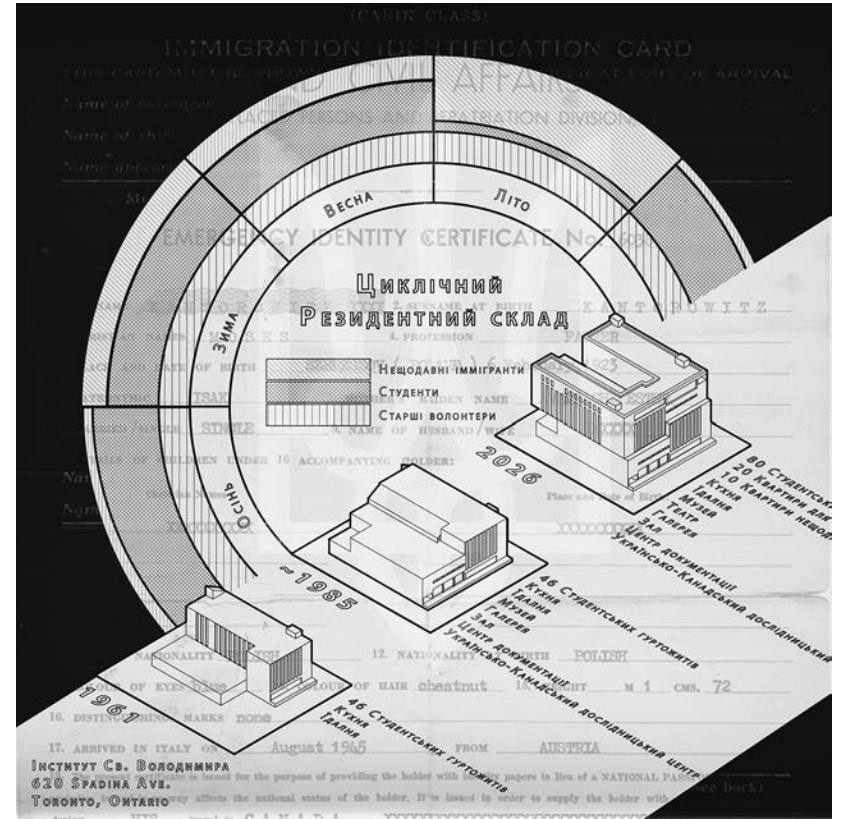
Title to be determined at a later date

A party can bring people together.

A party can foment desire.

A party can disguise alternative agendas.

This party will expedite the repatriation of occupied land.



Daniel S. Lewycky
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

With(in) Living Memory

Canada's Ukrainian population has a long memory. The story of the diaspora is preserved through the work of the Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre, and by the living volunteers who process its records. Largely retirement-age and young-old, they represent an increasingly housing-precarious demographic. The same is true for the university-age students who reside at St. Volodymyr's Institute, where UCRDC is located. By expanding SVI to house culturally active young-old seniors in close proximity to students, alongside newly arrived immigrant families during summer months, an evolving, living memory can flourish through a community of the very individuals responsible for it.



Kosame Li-Han
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Materials Duet

The project aims to combine two sustainable materials - clay and wood - and thus investigate how such hybrid systems can improve multiple aspects of building performance. The wooden unit is made with the pieces connected at the ends, creating a structural set that later connects and affords the clay brick. In this research, this proposed novel hybrid material system is filled by robotic fabricated clay blocks. With proper pressure, this hybrid material system is anticipated to bear the compression force shared with timber elements and compensate for the tension played by wooden materials. At the same time, the clay is expected to improve the life of wooden structures, plus potential thermal, acoustic, and firing ratio performance.



Juanyan Liu (Daniel)
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Unfinished Business

Goldin Finance 117, the tallest unfinished building in China, is a product of blindly excessive real estate development and a literal reflection of an era of unchecked economic prosperity. This period of frenetic development produced a mess in its wake. The break in the capital chain has left behind a significant legacy of unfinished buildings. This project aims to project a speculative future for Goldin Finance 117 by proposing a corporate vertical city. Through a production of a new machine for capital, the thesis investigates how the natural emergence of a class system within this tower will impact the redistribution of its resources and socio-spatial organization.



Ka Weng (Athena) Loi
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

新手村: 不穩定村落 Villages of Migration : Homes (for Now)

As Canadian society adapts to an evolving economic and political climate, the legacy of residential building stock built for traditional nuclear families is being challenged. The influx of immigrants – whether by choice or necessity – escalates the sense of precarity and social mobility in this inherited domestic landscape. Amid the need for neighbourhood intensification in Toronto, how can this imperative combined with the changing lifestyles of newcomers and drive the development of new communal living models? Focusing on the Yellowbelt area, this thesis envisions adaptable and inclusive housing strategies, while constructively building upon ongoing reforms to accommodate the complexities of contemporary urban living.



Alison Mair
MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

A Remediation Debt

“[A] symbol of the Canadian future—the pioneer spirit of the opening up of the North,” resource towns were planned and built as whole communities housing workers, families, and businesses. Yet at best, most mines are operational for only a few decades. Predictably, industry left, followed by the workforce. Towns declined. Today, mining companies deploy temporary barracks housing thousands, providing baseline services without a pretense of community. My thesis argues for greater corporate responsibility in remediating the long-term damages mining settlements – whether permanent or temporary – incur: environmental destruction, omnipresent contamination, and the erasure of community and a possible future.

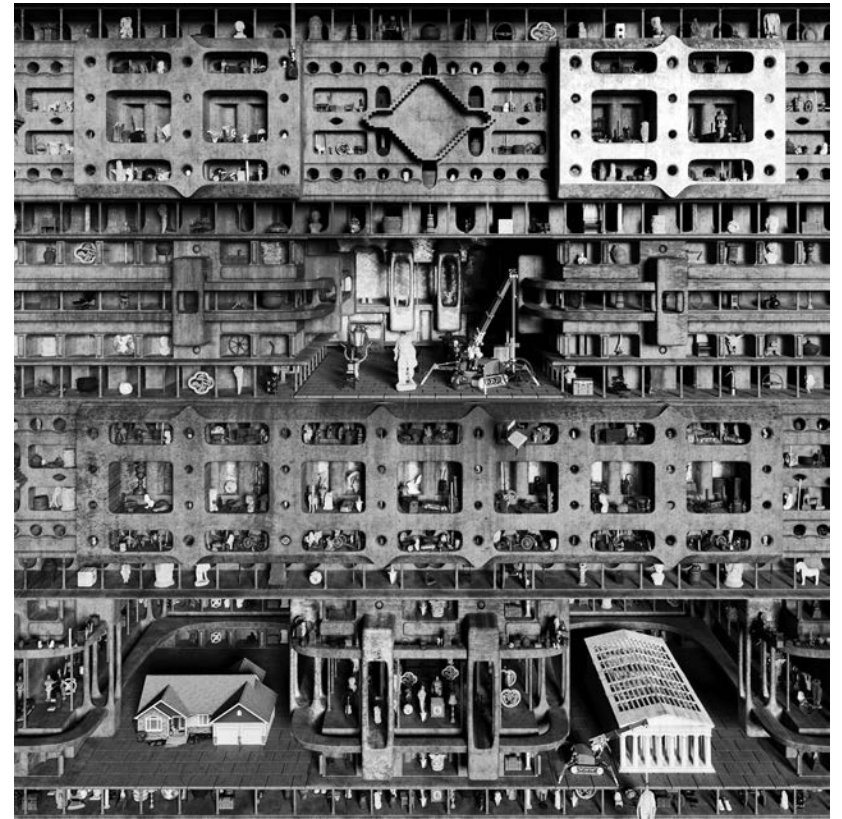


Jia Chen Mi
MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

From the Mouth of a Salmon

Pack a change of clothes; you are invited on a road trip to Eastern Québec. Driving up the Mitis River, following the tracks of a run of spawning salmon, you will encounter a cast of eccentric characters and unearth unusual archival materials. You will be fed improbable stories of interspecies kinship spanning a hundred years. From the many tales entangled within this river, you will begin to piece together traces of an architecture that mediates encounters between human and non-human beings and leads to the flourishing of a multispecies community facing increasing ecosystemic pressures.



Sergej Mileski
MARC

Advisor: John Shnier

Keep of Everything

This thesis investigates how drawing and architecture serve as instruments for introspective self-portraiture. The departure point for this body of work is the 'Keep of Everything,' a study into the 'perpetual zoom.' It delves into the perpetual act of collecting and archiving as a form of predictive archaeology. By reframing the understanding of these activities, it highlights the continuous construction of the past in the present, underscored by the perpetual anticipation of the future, ultimately revealing how collecting acts as a form of self-preservation.

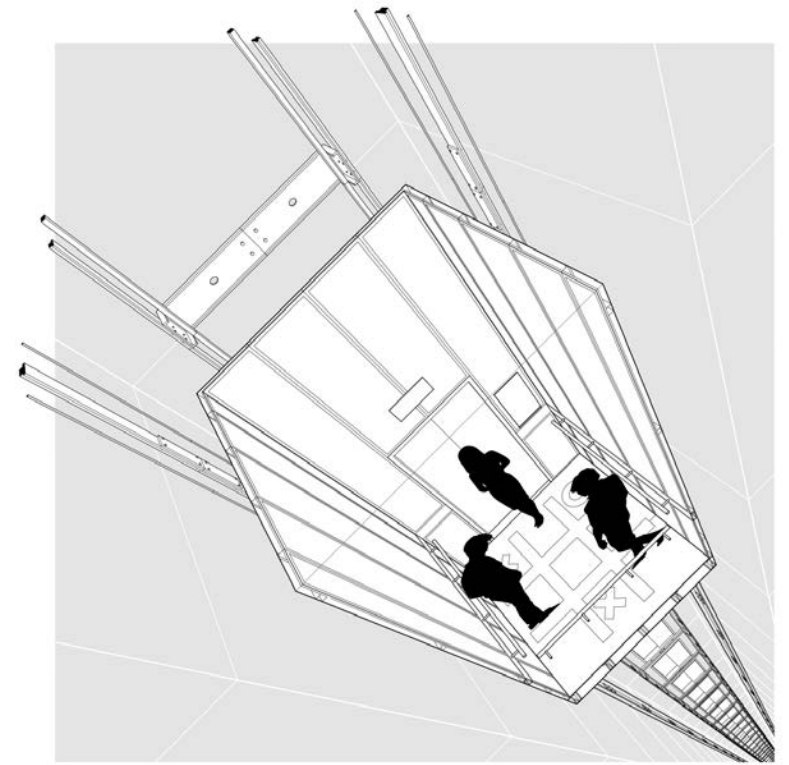


Jordan Nisenbaum
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Plaza as Public Utility

The emergence of the automobile in the North American city marked a reframing of urban infrastructure's role from a facilitator of human connection to an optimization of transport. The gas station represents an infrastructural artifact of the post-industrial city — a utility that has informally taken on the role of public space in North American cities that have prioritized the car. Its ubiquity has generated a network of this typology of space. The adaptive reuse of this car-based urban plaza presents opportunities to infuse public space programming and tip the scales back towards the pedestrian as the beneficiary of the city.



Jose Power
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Ascending Worlds

The social landscape of the residential high-rise has precipitated a disinterested and isolated vertical microcosm. The elevator, facilitator of this smooth vertical metropolitan condition, emerges as a pivotal yet neglected architectural space. Despite the expected brevity of our occupation of this instrument of density, the elevator also serves as a momentary junction where the anonymous lives of residents converge. This thesis delves into the elevator's history and spatial conditions – including its velocity, scale, and temporality – to unveil a space rich in social potential. It aims to redefine the elevator as an instrument of architectural invention capable of reshaping the communal dynamics within residential high-rises.



Myriam Rostom
MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

Stories of Land and Place: A Field Guide to ‘Chemical Valley’

“Chemical Valley” is a petrochemical site encroaching on traditional lands of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Government policies and industry monitoring efforts legitimize pollutants and shape the future of the site, allowing continued sovereignty over air, water, land.

This project seeks to complement Aamjiwnaang’s practice of conducting “Toxic Tours,” a protest that defends Anishinabek sovereignty and raises awareness on the site’s ongoing imperial-colonial expansion.

By means of a field guide, this project visualizes and expands on community member’s stories, to rethink relationships with the Land that have been severed by the industry and invite conversations surrounding the future of Aamjiwnaang’s territory.



Silya Sarieddine
MARC

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Resurgence By the River | Reclaiming Unity Along Nahr Abou Ali

In Tripoli, Lebanon, Abou Ali River, spanning 85km, divided its city, through neglect and war-induced poverty. The basin’s terrain worsened poverty with overcrowding, and development has harmed its coastal areas. The sacred river symbolized unity but was redirected during the Civil War, emphasizing this division. Post-war efforts aimed to restore its significance yet faced neglect and decay of heritage buildings. Reconnecting the river to the city through cutting, removing, and shifting elements of its current state, creates forms of access that reframe urban-nature relations. The river’s flow can spark conversations within Tripoli, potentially incorporating new life and forms of access.

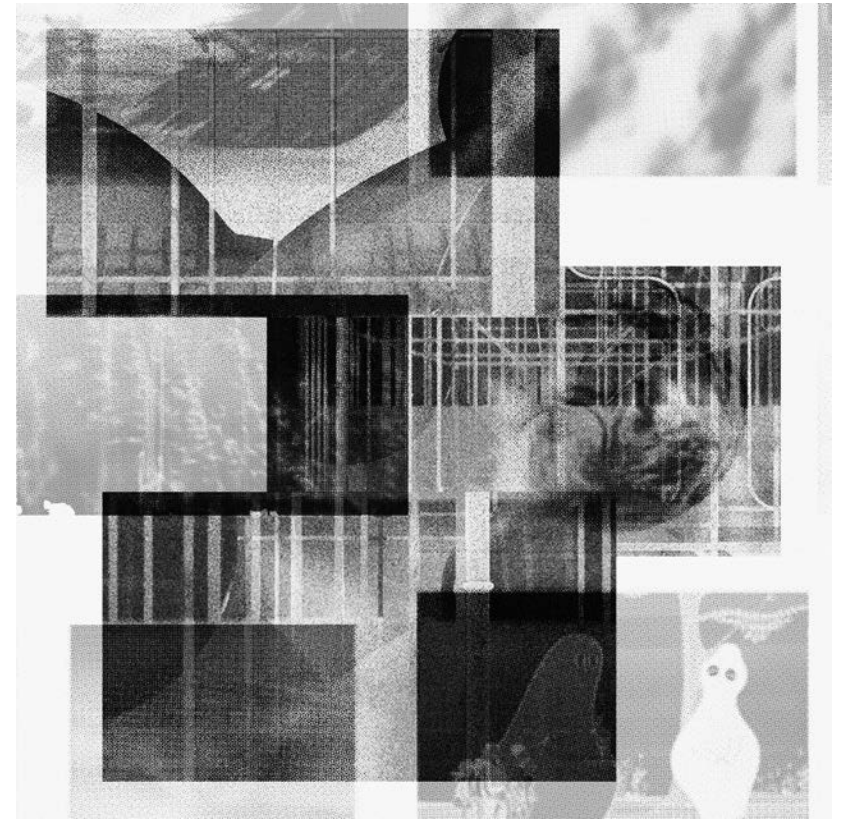


Rachel Sau
MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

Tiêu Chuẩn Việt Nam: Raising Toilet Quality Worldwide

Throughout history, the imperial-colonial remains of Euro-Western toilet facilities have promoted racial and social hierarchies: Western ‘sitting’ and Asian ‘squatting’, ‘rich’ and ‘poor’, ‘civilized’ and ‘primitive’. The speculative project challenges this by envisioning a reversed society set in New York City in which Vietnamese toilet facilities have become the dominant social norm, whilst US American toilet facilities are considered ‘primitive’. It introduces Vietnamese Standard, a toilet brand through which toilet design and sanitation standards have globalized. Only by seeing Euro-Western toilets differently can one recognize their imperial-colonial impact and reimagine toilets as a celebration of cultural differences instead of divisions.

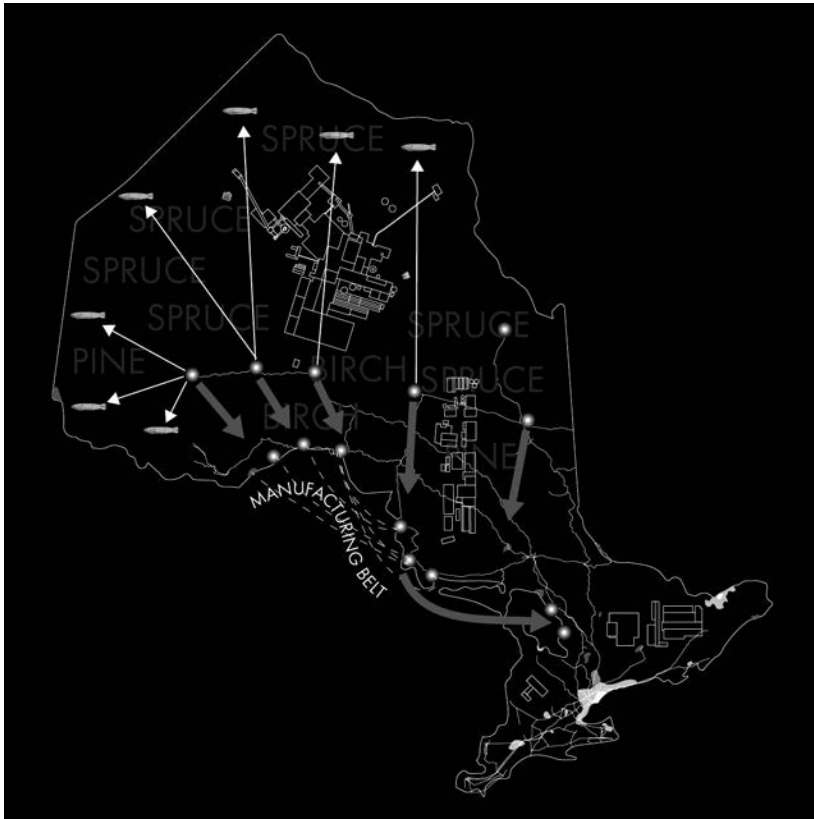


Lara Şedele
MARC

Advisor: Zachary Mollica

TBD –

Constant exposure can desensitize individuals, rendering well-known facts invisible, leaving us blind to glaring realities such as the climate crisis. My work unravels in this space by both concealing and revealing meaning. Engaging with language, visuals, and environments, the project challenges perceptions and prompts reflections on human nature, absurdity, and the surreal. This exploration culminates in an installation featuring two experimental films and a booklet, which provoke a reconsideration of our roles amidst chaos, urging new interpretations of ongoing issues.



John Zi Xiao Shen
MARC

Advisor: Zachary Mollica

Build Ontario Better: Using Local Forest Value

This thesis investigates the disconnect between wood supply and consumption in Southern Ontario's forestry and building sectors. It interrogates where wood products are grown and transported to, and how they are eventually worked with. It observes that growing wood products is a high-volume, low-profit margin model, with more substantial environmental impacts than are commonly recognized. Using Haliburton Forest as a case study, the project considers how integrated manufacturing utilizing local materials and employment can be expanded at a provincial scale, with local production aiding self-sustaining communities near forest resources.



Yuri Shin
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Park Commons

The American Dream—once a vibrant image of suburban life—has faded over the decades, revealing a landscape of isolation in vehicular dependency. Older Canadians desiring to age-in-place confront this reality, finding their surroundings increasingly unsupportive of their changing social and physical needs. The unhealthy nature of the suburbs is evidenced by higher rates of chronic illness and depression amongst seniors. Park Commons proposes an architectural intervention at the heart of these bedroom communities. As a park pavilion, it serves as a neighbourhood hub for diverse intergenerational activities envisioning the growth of genuine community amid the sprawling suburban landscape, challenging prevailing isolation and fostering social cohesion.



Jasmine Sykes
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

The Making of Mas': Archiving Toronto's Caribana

Toronto's Caribbean Carnival, originally known as Caribana, is an event that transforms architecture and urban experience through communication, performance, and social exchange. Originally a one-off parade for Expo '67, Caribana has become North America's largest cultural festival. Caribana's impact extends beyond Toronto, with a geographic, economic, and spatial impact that is global in scale. The festival's growth has prompted a shift in its traditions, raising concerns about its distancing from Caribbean roots. These concerns are reflected in the lack of an archive documenting Caribana's history. This thesis advocates for the preservation and understanding of Caribana's cultural and spatial legacy in Toronto.



Emilie Tamtik
MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

datum

Our reality is testified by data. If information is meaning; then data is the raw material, the basis of reasoning. Set in the Goderich, Ontario salt mine, I reimagine the mine as a crypt archiving the data of a palliating climate. A ritual allows the pilgrim to retrieve from the data-mine a retro-scope—a climatic vignette narrativized on the basis of raw climate data. Operating within the heterochronic space-time of the crypt, data is enshrined across the nanosecond ritual to the millennium ritual—from the storage of fleeting system data to the echoes of a message across deep time.



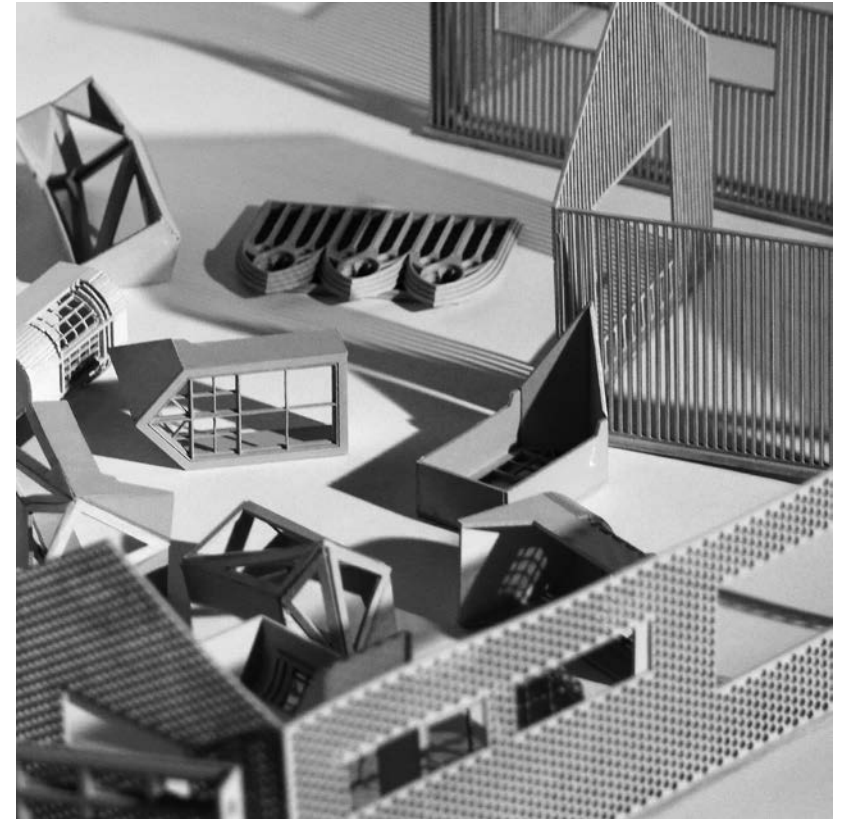
Rui Tang

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Experiencing Light

This project began with an interest in the transformative potential inherent in art installations and architectural spaces. Specifically, their ability to elicit emotional responses and shape individual perceptions. These instinctive emotional reactions triggered by spatial encounter, termed “affect” in philosophy, stand at the core of the research. Drawing inspiration from architects, philosophers and artists, this research seeks to uncover the craftsmanship involved in creating emotional resonance within spatial environments. This thesis sets out to explore the question of how to create “affect” within a space utilizing light and shadow as architectural mediums.



Thomas Tencer

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Reducing Architecture

Reducing Architecture is a system-based design approach that strives to make the expression of architectural identity more accessible. It is a response to the present state of architectural practice, which commonly produces expressions that are inaccessible, unfordable, and excessive. Reducing Architecture proposes the disconnection of a building’s architectural expression from its more permanent skin and structure. Once disconnected, the building’s skin and structure can be primed like a canvas, a long-lasting, affordable, and efficient backdrop, onto which distilled and articulated architectural interventions can be applied. The distillation of architecture increases its expression’s potency while reducing the expressive elements’ overall size. The result is a novel method for the expression of architectural identity, which is accessible, affordable, and efficient; and can be applied systematically to both existing buildings and new developments.

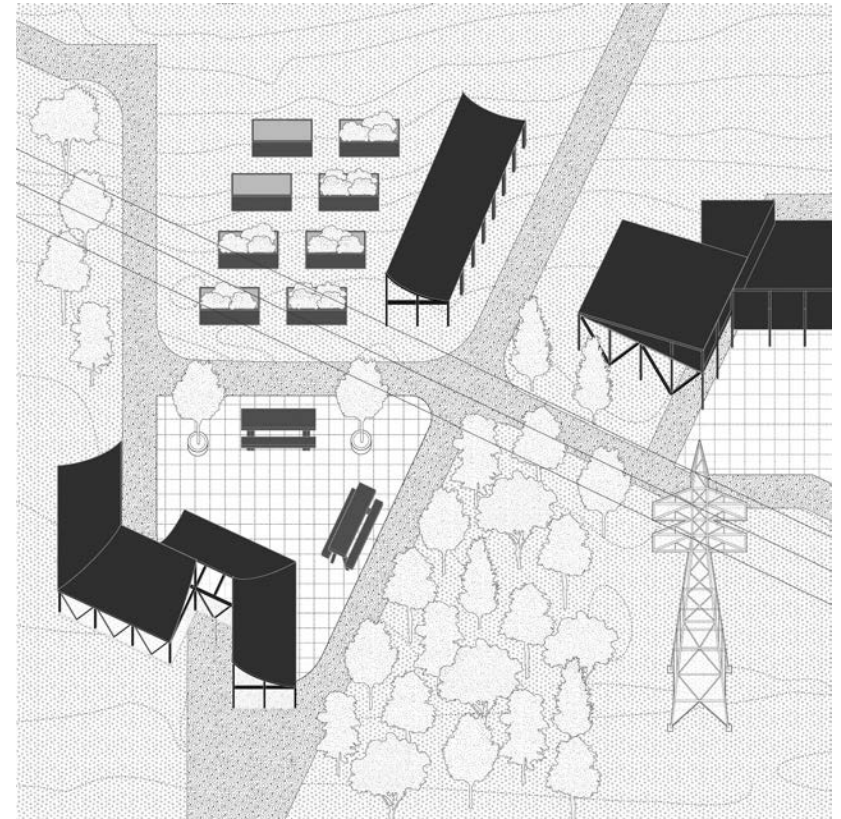


Jacob Tersigni
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Transforming Tradition: Adapting Social Fitness

Architecture's potential for adaptive reuse extends far beyond its original function and demographic. Through the evolving conditions of Toronto's Rustic neighbourhood, Amesbury Middle School will be the principal location for a fitness facility that is explicitly geared towards the baby boomer generation. The reality is that this demographic needs a space where social interaction, physical activity, and mental well-being can be attained. This thesis will address the benefits of socialization within fitness facilities and how circulation typologies can promote these connections. By leveraging circulation typologies- diverse interactions, community cohesion, and physical well-being a 'social fitness' centre will be cultivated.

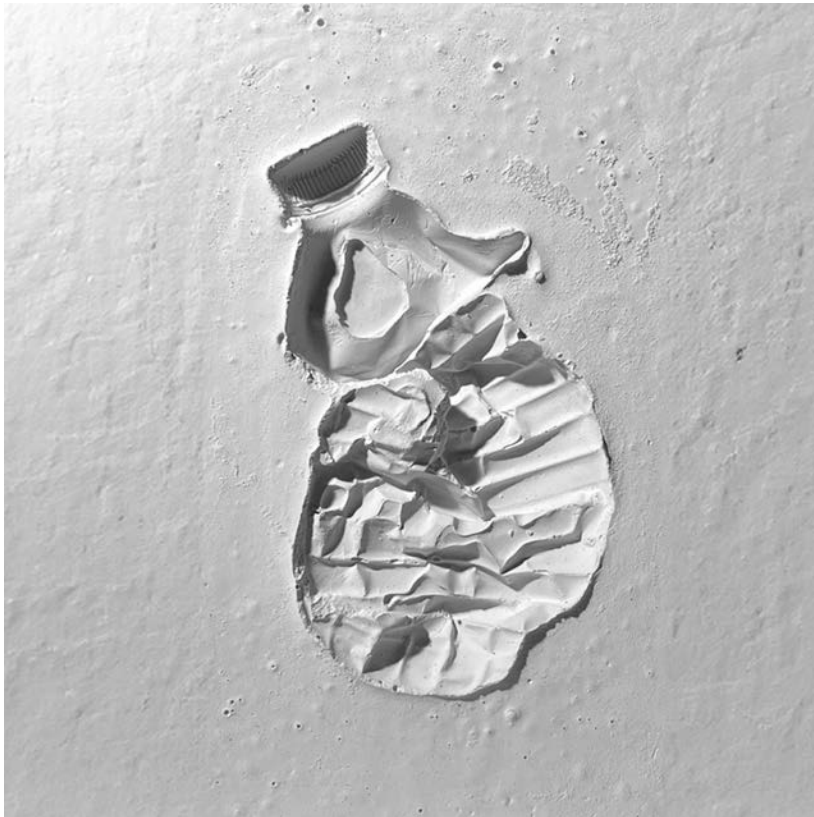


Nour Touma
MARC

Advisor: Shane Williamson

Reimagining the Residual

Within Toronto's aging population, seniors desiring to age in place are faced with environments that are ill-suited to their changing physical and social needs. The current landscape, marked by inaccessibility and an absence of localized community spaces, exacerbates social isolation. This thesis proposes a reinvestment in Third spaces at the neighborhood scale as a way of facilitating community building and physical activity among not just seniors but all residents. Due to their proximity to existing residential contexts, underutilised infrastructural spaces such as hydro corridors can be leveraged to create networks of community spaces in the heart of neighborhoods.



Jessie Valenti
MARC

Advisor: Laura Miller

FUTURE BLUE

We have entered a historically new form of life, altered by capitalism's and colonialism's chemical violence: as Michelle Murphy puts it, an 'alterlife.' This thesis examines our un-natural state of nature, examining the slow violence of 'forever chemicals' – PFAs – deployed at military bases and airports throughout Canada. Chemical violence has been directly linked to harmful outcomes (cancer, birth defects, hormonal imbalances) for organic life and our environment. North Bay, ON - the 'Gateway to the North' is conceived as a hub for a regionally scaled independent monitoring infrastructure ensuring public confidence in environmental quality through testing, remediation, education, and public outreach.

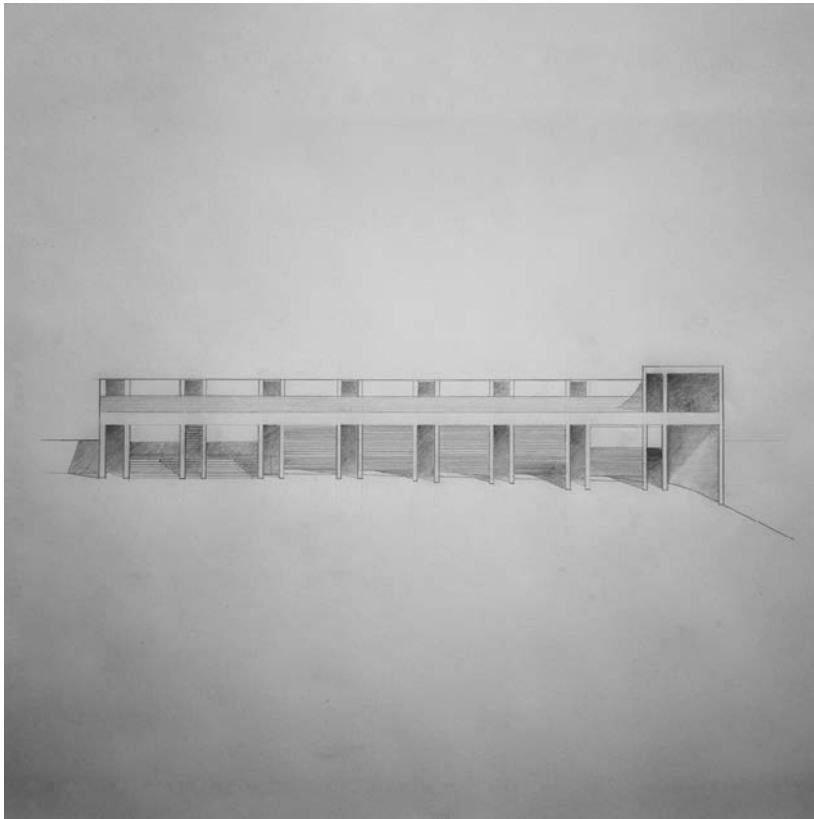


Gal Volosky Fridman
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

The City [Re:]members

Isolation, social stigma, loneliness, disorientation, and memory problems are but a small portion of the daily struggle of people with Alzheimer's and their care partners. Globally, by 2050, about 153 million people will have dementia. People who deal with Alzheimer's are part of our city, but because of social stigma and knowledge gaps, they are removed from our daily lived experience. This project is about the interweaving, connection, and relationship between people with the early stages of dementia and the other members of the city. Through various scales of design, awareness campaigns, and the gathering of narratives, the thesis posits an inclusive future for people with Alzheimer's and, by extension, all of us.

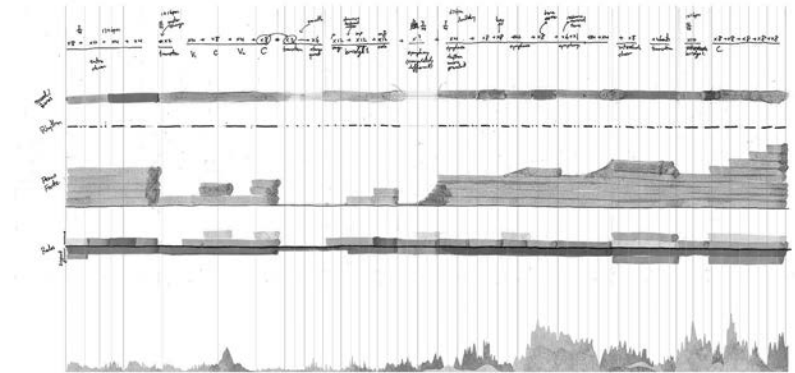


Reilly Walker
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Facilitating Extrastructure

Amidst a megadrought, Arizona has announced water saving plans that include direct potable reuse: upgrading municipal wastewater treatment facilities to produce effluent suitable for processing into drinking water. In this high-risk decision, how can these new additions create spaces that are interwoven with the communities they serve? This thesis focuses upon the fence line as the experiential threshold of these typically off-limits facilities: interlacing fence and building to provide new vantage points; manipulating border and landscape to provide new visual access; and transforming the boundary into an infrastructure of maintenance and care.

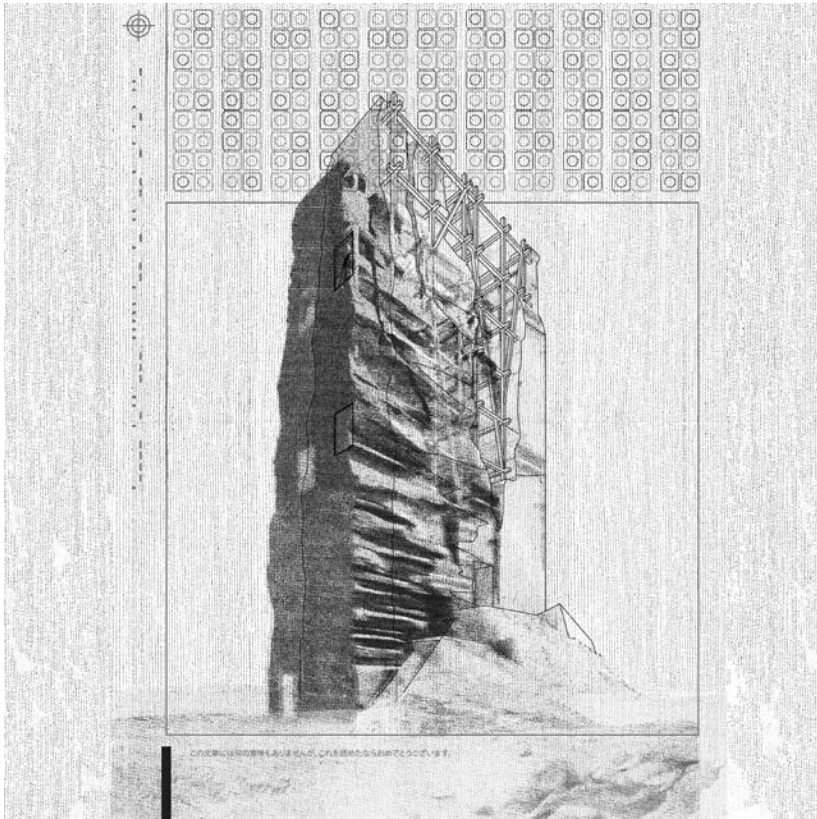


Theresa Watson
MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Transcription Between Music and Architecture

If music is considered as a single path on an absolute timeline, then architecture is the intertwining of multiple paths experienced on a relative timeline. This thesis transcends the conventional concepts such as the rhythm of the facade or the tension and release of spaces as means of linking music and architecture. It delves into the fundamental structure and essence of music – analyzing and reinterpreting the compositional logic, embracing the parallels and distinctions between music and architecture, extrapolating a new language for design to further empower architects to choreograph spaces with greater intentionality, fostering more holistic designs.



Daniel Wong
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

{In}Visible Maintenance

{In}Visible maintenance poses the question: What if the breakdown of a building could be chronographed as a fundamental element of everyday design? Imagine a shift where we prioritize celebrating the natural process of decay, favouring maintenance, cleaning, and repair over the current economic model of superficial environmental posturing.

Drawing provides an alternative vision between the speculative, the surreal, and the plausible—a resistance to our valuation of existing buildings. These drawings aim to reframe, shift, and provoke a new paradigm and aesthetic that celebrates and accepts what exists. Finding pleasure and discovery through the dilapidated, the strange, and the ordinary.

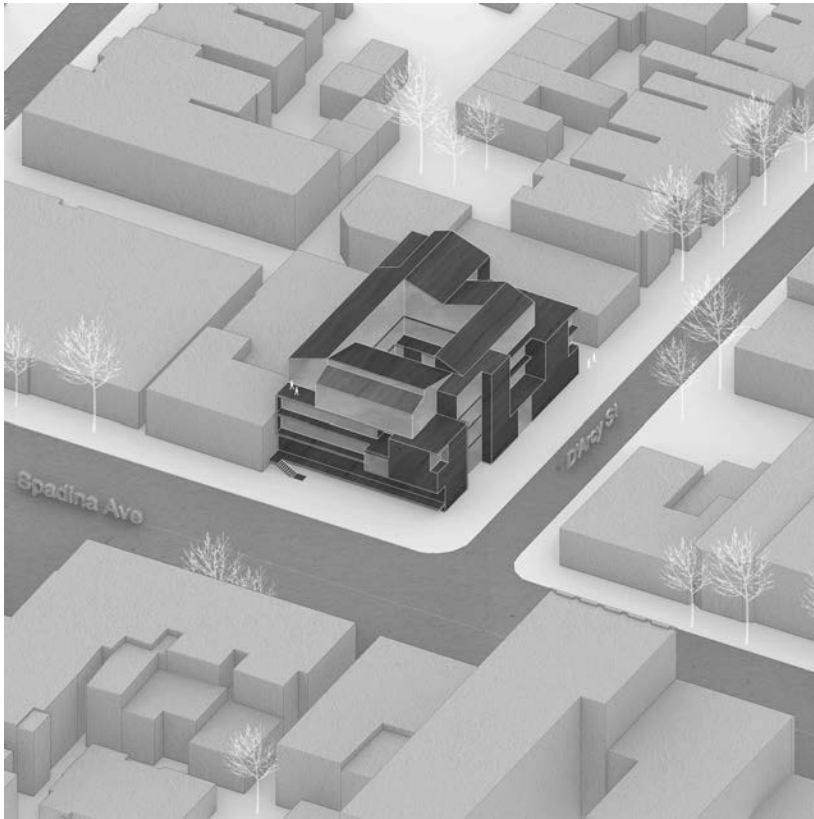


Grace Wong
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

POP back to Schoolyards!

Within the densifying neighbourhoods of Downtown Toronto, Privately-Owned Publicly Accessible Spaces (POPS) and Strata Parks are constructed under Section 42 of the Ontario Planning Act, a strategy to acquire a portion of land from private development to be allocated for public open space. While these underutilized and often not truly “public” spaces are being constructed in piecemeal fashion, 5,000 acres of land owned by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) remain largely underutilized outside of school hours. Already situated within Toronto’s neighborhoods, school properties present an opportunity to address the spatial needs of the communities they serve. Using Jarvis Collegiate Institute as a site of exploration, how can existing TDSB properties help to conjoin and reopen Toronto’s network of privately-owned public spaces?



Heidi (Xiaoyi) Wu
MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Unlocking Solace: Alleviating Loneliness among Older Adults Nearing the End of Life through Palliative Architecture

Loneliness, prevalent among those with terminal illnesses, is a significant issue globally. Older Chinese Canadians, often secluded due to cultural and language barriers, face heightened loneliness, exacerbated by cultural taboos around death and distant family ties. Architecture, particularly through well-designed hospices, can mitigate loneliness. The thesis proposes integrating animal-assisted therapy and biophilic elements, like traditional Chinese gardens and Feng Shui, to create a hospice that feels like home, fostering social connections and emotional support for older Chinese Canadians. Such environments prioritize social connection and belonging, crucial for enhancing the well-being and quality of life of terminally ill patients.

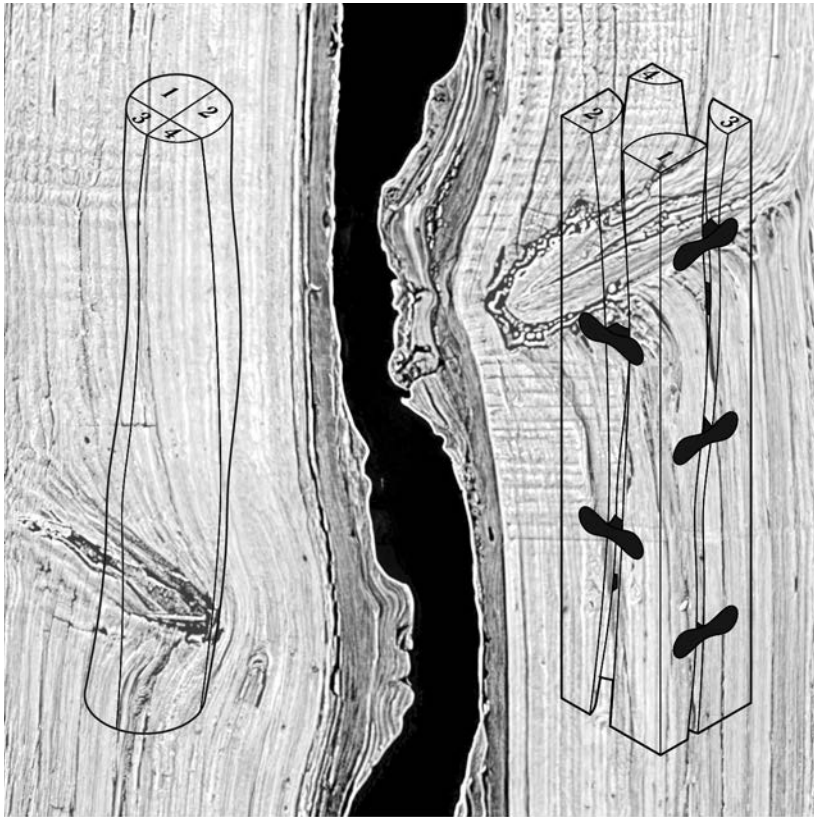


Ran Yan
MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Adaptive Architecture Generation through Discrete Aggregation Strategies

The main concept of discrete aggregation is to break a form into generative modules which are generic, recombinable, and versatile building block. Discrete aggregation emphasizes the use of modular units that can be combined and arranged in various configurations rather than create continuous, uninterrupted forms. This thesis seeks to experiment with digital generative architecture through discrete aggregation strategies, specifically exploring design approaches within the context of urban renewal and revitalization. The existing conditions of the city serve as the foundation for the aggregation of discrete modules, with the aim of achieving the adaptability, flexibility, and efficiency of the designs.

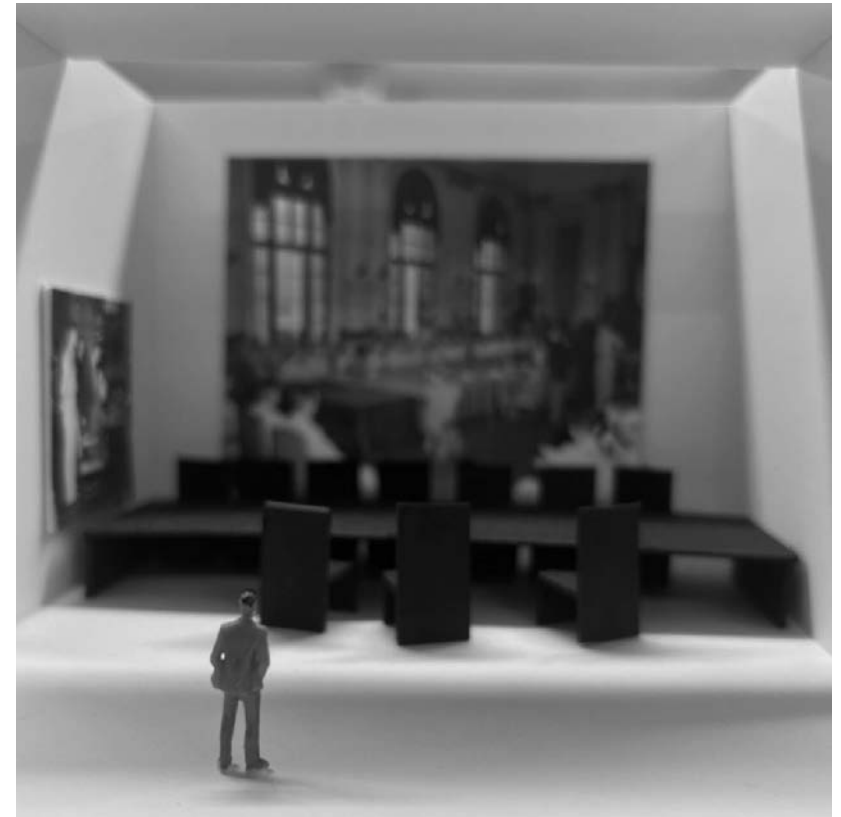


Zhen X. Yang
MARC

Advisor: Zachary Mollica

Inverting the Unwanted

Inverting the Unwanted presents a fabrication and building method for using under-utilized, small-dimension trees. Through the act of quartering, inverting, and joining of a log, a standardized, yet unique column is formed. This simple rearrangement aims to take advantage of low value stands that are constantly cut down as part of forestry thinning practices. Which leads to the capture of carbon otherwise released, and the improvement of forestry practices and forest ecology.



Seungbin Yoo
MARC

Advisor: Lukas Pauer

Building as Immersive Teaching Aid: Reimagining the Pieces of the Governor General Building of Korea

This project delves into the Japanese Empire's annexation of Korea, centering on the Governor General Building in Seoul, and critiques the omission of colonial narratives from Korean secondary education affecting the general knowledge among Koreans. It advocates for revisiting this history not through demolition but through a speculative architectural competition, aiming to preserve and explore the building's historical significance as an immersive learning tool. By proposing an educational model incorporating the building's history into immersive exhibition spaces, this study seeks to stimulate a more extensive understanding of Korea's colonial past and architectural image, challenging the erasure of such pivotal historical moments from collective memory.

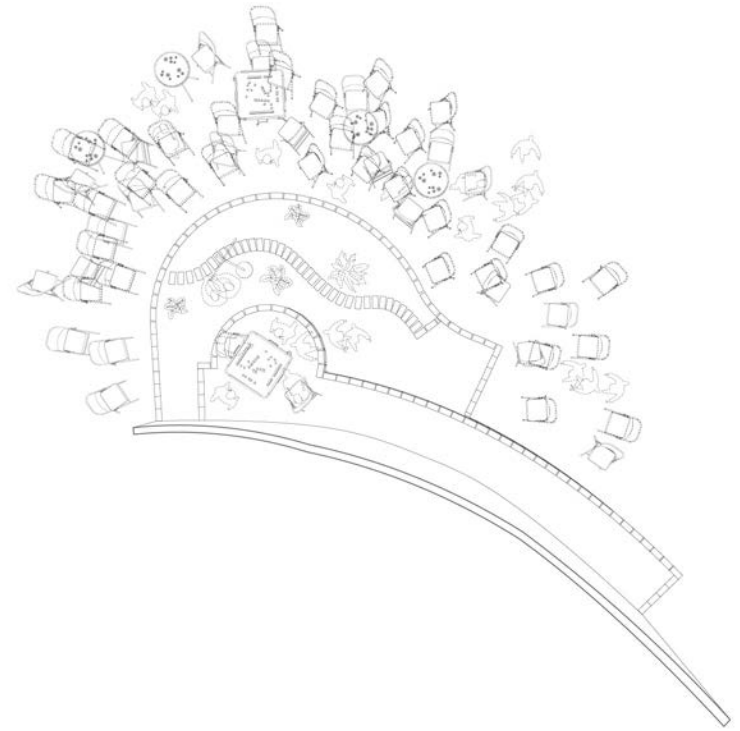


Anni Zhang
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Dominion Reboot, (A) Typical Conversion of a Miesian Space

This thesis derives from the reality that no building is immune to obsolescence. The vacancies of office buildings present multifaceted challenges driven by technological advancements, evolving workplace preferences, and environmental concerns. Adaptive reuse has emerged as a vital strategy, for the transformation of structures from office to housing. The proposal takes on Mies van der Rohe's Toronto-Dominion Center—as a seminal modernist project—and investigates its potential for integrating a range of programs including, residential, commercial, and recreational spaces. The project calls for a redefinition of architecture as a flexible framework capable of accommodating mixed-use functions, addressing the uncertainties of the future and advocating for a more resilient and adaptable urban fabric.



Gloria Zhou
MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Common Ground

Following the Sino-British Joint Declaration, Canada opened its borders to an influx of Hong Kong Chinese migrants through the creation of the Canada Immigration Investor Program. Condominium malls acted as a conduit for citizenship while remaining discernable sites of ethnicity, consumption, and recreation. Despite the recent demise of mall space, everyday spatial practices have transcended early conceptions of formal ownership and commerce, rendering such spaces as sites of social and cultural exchange. In recognizing that the ethnic mall is a valuable third space for diaspora communities, *Common Ground* begins to reclaim the future of Toronto's *Chinatown Centre* through a series of small-scale interventions informed by stories from those served by the mall.



Ana Katrina Aclan
MLA

Advisor: Alissa North

Rebuilding From Ash

In the danger zone of Taal Volcano, approximately a million Filipinos live in fear of volcanic ashfall, pyroclastic flows, lahars (forceful mudflows), deadly gases, and potential tsunamis. These unpredictable natural occurrences disrupt livelihood, transportation, and infrastructure, as well as causing property damage, injuries, and even deaths. This thesis proposes to implement innovative and sustainable design strategies to promote community engagement, resiliency, and regeneration within the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL), a government sanctioned preservation effort over the area's scenery, animals, and plants. With the use of volcanic ash for regeneration, this project seeks to revitalize affected communities while respecting cultural heritage and promote long-term resilience against future volcanic threats.

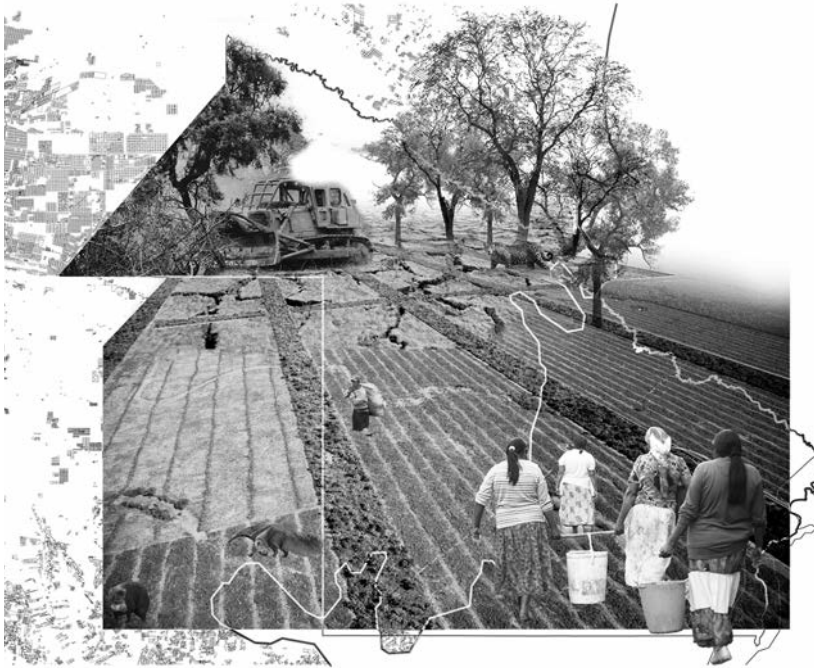


Atousa Blair
MLA

Advisor: Francesco Martire

ON THE SUNNYSIDE OF THE EXPRESSWAY

No Toronto neighbourhood felt the impact of the Gardiner Expressway quite like Parkdale. Once defined by its proximity to Lake Ontario, the construction of the Gardiner Expressway in 1955 catalyzed disinvestment and decline in Parkdale, severing the neighborhood's relationship to the waterfront and destroying much of the recreational character of Sunnyside. Sunnyside's cultural legacy of Toronto's "playground by the lake", has begun to fade in civic imagination. This thesis seeks to address the fragmentation between the waterfront district of Sunnyside and the community of South Parkdale and repair the connection and sense of place Sunnyside once had within the collective consciousness of Toronto.



Giuliana Costanzo
MLA

Advisor: Matthew Perotto

Weaving Mosaics: Mending Chaco’s Impenetrable Forest

The Gran Chaco, South America’s second-largest biome after the Amazon, is facing rapid deforestation due to the expansion of large-scale agriculture, logging, and cattle ranching. Despite numerous call-for-action plans from the Federal and Provincial government as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Chaco, one of Argentina’s poorest provinces, has struggled to implement these large-scale solutions effectively. This thesis explores an alternative approach to environmental land protection from a landscape architect’s multi-layered perspective. The objective is to address deforestation while questioning conventional forest conservation, and land-use management strategies to protect one of the last large continuous non-tropical forests in South America.



Fernanda de Carvalho Nunes
MLA

Advisor: Elise Shelley

Mangrove Resurgence

In Florianopolis, an island grappling with the tension between development and environmental conservation, mangroves often fall victim to private interests. This trend mirrors a global decline; between 1990 and 2020, mangrove areas shrank by 1.04 million hectares. In Brazil, where real estate dominates, mangroves are deemed expendable despite their immense cultural and ecological value, enduring continued degradation amidst urbanization. Focused on a specific infill site spontaneously colonized by mangrove species in Florianopolis, this thesis advocates for a paradigm shift: placing mangroves at the forefront of urban planning and prioritizing environmental preservation over profit-driven development agendas.

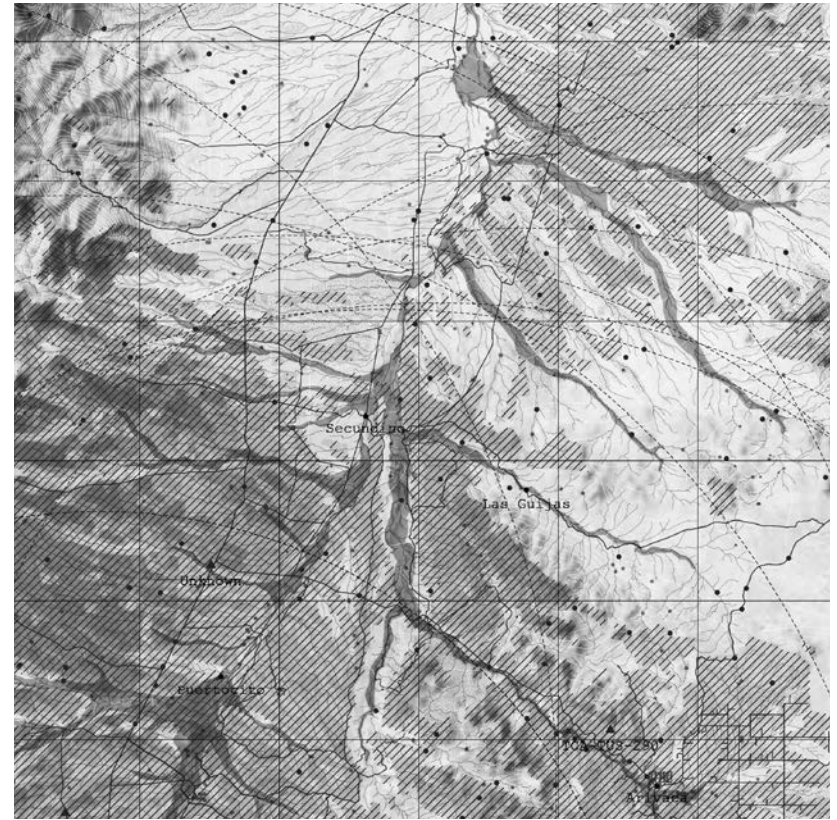


Negar Ferdosi
MLA

Advisor: Liat Margolis

Regenerating Isfahan's River's Oasis

For centuries, Isfahan city had been an oasis settlement thanks to the permanent flow of the Zayandeh Rud, translating to a fertile or life-giver river. The construction of the dam in the 1970s compounded by decades of water misuse led to the loss of its permanent flow in 2001. Isfahan's iconic bridges, heritage gardens, and promenades across the historic city are facing prolonged drought and precipitous decline. This thesis seeks to redefine Isfahan's oasis heritage through a contemporary design approach to integrated water management. Regenerative design principles, parametric modeling tools, and constructed wetland technologies were explored to merge centuries-old hydro-ecologic infrastructure with heritage building materials and sacred geometry.



Qizhi Gao
MLA

Advisor: Liat Margolis

Counter-mapping the U.S.-Mexico Border Landscape

Southern Arizona has become one of the most perilous zones for illegal border crossings in the United States with staggering accounts of migrant arrest, injury, and death. This thesis explores a counter-mapping methodology to understand the landscape of the border crisis from the lens of the migrants. The counter-mapping overlays a multitude of open-source data – ranging from online government sites, ranching and conservation groups, academic publications from the field of anthropology, works by artists and activists, migrant testimonials, and photographic documentations – in a manner that reveals a new reading of the landscape.



Molly Lalonde
MLA

Advisor: Alissa North

Close to Home: using design-as-methodology to explore Kensington Market's place-based identity

Approaching the study of place from a deeply personal perspective, I attempt to illuminate how the tools of the designer can be used for place-keeping advocacy. This methodology supports an exploration of the benefits and limitations of conventional design strategies and planning policy, in a site whose strength of identity is undeniably linked to unregulated change and noncompliant planning. Revealing the tension inherent within my position as both design researcher and Market resident, my project offers an intimate insight into nuanced struggles surrounding value, regulation, stake, and community power.



Zifan Li
MLA

Advisor: Behnaz Assadi

Healing the Spirit of Shaxi

Shaxi is a sanctuary for spiritual solace amid life's trials. It has faced challenges that jeopardize its historic legacy and natural landscape. UNESCO-recognized heritage buildings are at risk from severe flooding, while the Heihui River's waters threaten the scenery and farmland. Despite efforts like the Shaxi Rehabilitation Project, rapid tourism and agricultural changes have led to environmental concerns. This thesis aims to mitigate flood risks and enhance water quality through river restoration strategies. By integrating traditional cultural practices, we strive to sustain Shaxi's heritage amidst contemporary pressures, ensuring a resilient future.



Xushan Liu
MLA

Advisor: Peter North

Cycles of Resilience

Ecological imbalances caused by intensive logging during the 1950s have led to widespread desertification in Northern China. In response, the Three North Shelter Forest Program (TNSF) aimed to combat desertification by stabilizing soil through the mass planting of *Artemisia* but inadvertently triggered a crisis of allergic rhinitis caused by the plant's pollen. My thesis proposes a new approach: designing interventions that could simulate natural succession. By implementing productive sand barriers and urban green infrastructure, pollen dispersal can be reduced while reviving traditional activities and enhancing urban greenery. The goal is to achieve environmental equilibrium while mitigating allergies and desertification.



Adrienne Mariano
MLA

Advisor: Francesco Martire

Mangrove Systemic Reclamation of Manila Bay

Within the last century, over-exploitation of resources, urbanization, population growth, aquaculture, and tourism have led to a gradual coastal degradation in the Philippines that pushed local ecosystems into endangerment and extinction. This thesis focuses on the coastal region of Manila Bay, which has lost the majority of its mangrove coverage, with a design solution of reclaiming the lost mangrove forests from abandoned, undeveloped and underutilized aquaculture development in the municipality of Orani, Bataan. Amid climate change and pressures from urban growth along Manila Bay, we investigate the complex relations amongst the local economy of fishery, mangroves, and tourism, emphasizing the attention it desperately needs for conservation and restoration efforts.



Izzy Mink
MLA

Advisor: Francesco Martire

Building A Common Ground

Reviewing the history of Dufferin Grove Park's ad-hoc community builds and programming, this thesis project makes a case for a rebalancing of urban park governance through more sensitive engagement with the strengths of existing communities: While more funding for public parks is needed, at the same time, local agency, knowledge, materials, labour, and (most importantly) relationships can be leveraged in the building and stewardship of the urban commons. Could governance models that have historically been positioned as oppositional be rethought, reworked, or retrofitted to complement each other, allowing for more flexibility in how people engage with their local parks?



Jessica Palmer
MLA

Advisor: Peter North

Pillar: Resurrecting Value in Mine Waste Landscapes on Bell Island, Newfoundland

Connections between labour, community, and prosperity on Bell Island are all intimately tied to the land. Through examining waste from 87 years of extensive iron ore mining, this project questions how a neglected post-industrial landscape can be reframed as a unique and powerful reflection of the complicated histories between people and industry in southern Newfoundland. By placing piles of waste rock and other mining artefacts in the spotlight, this project views the changed landscape as a model for regeneration that can extend to community, economic and social well being.



Kazia Rodrigo
MLA

Advisor: Behnaz Assadi

Kwentuhan: Storytelling As Acts Of Resistance

“Story is at the heart of history. Like myths and laws, landscape narratives organize reality, justify actions, instruct, persuade, [and] even compel people to perform in certain ways”.

— Anne Whiston Spirn

Colonization of the Philippine archipelago brought centuries of dominion, disruption, and a violent transformation of land and our relationship to it. While these stories have been scattered over time and lost through generations, *Kwentuhan* explores these stories as tools for contesting colonial narratives of both landscape and the Philippines, creating both an exploration of local ecological knowledge and a reframing of our relationship with nature.



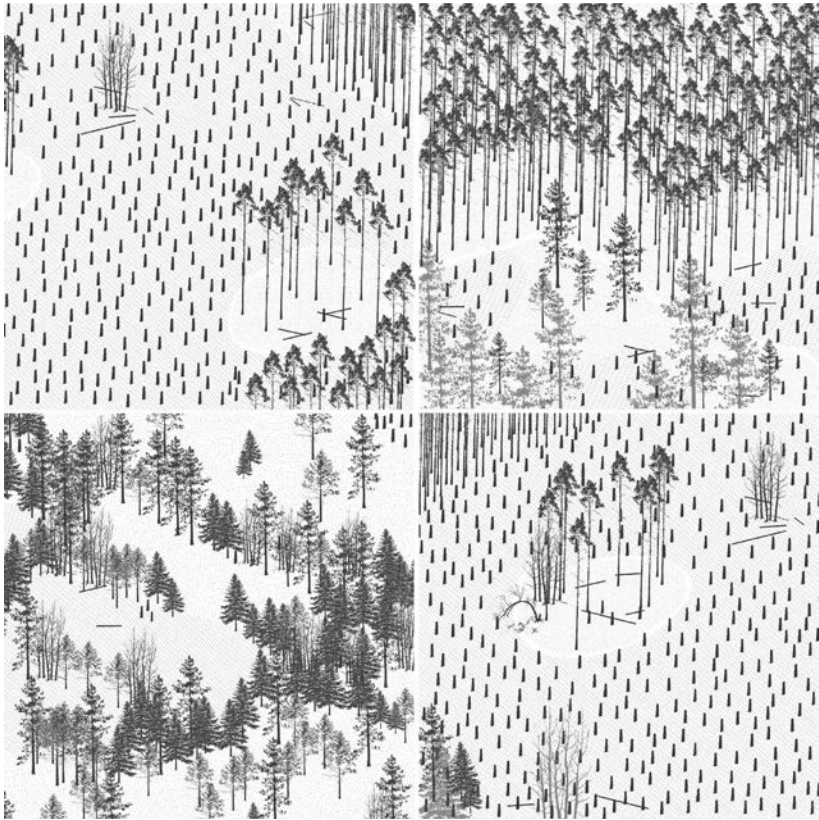
Bhavika Sharma
MLA

Advisor: Elise Shelley

Anatomy of a Fluid Landscape: Land-based Resistance at Dal Lake

Amid political unrest, the region of Srinagar continues to be knitted into a labyrinth of razor wires, checkpoints, and steel barriers. Simultaneously, the constructed landforms and waterways of the nearby Dal Lake operate inconspicuously—lake dwellers and labourers, known as *Hanzi*, have developed a complex system of land-based practices that enables everyday resistance.

This project investigates, catalogs, and visualizes the overlooked Indigenous technologies and practices of Dal Lake’s *Hanzi* community. By highlighting the local ecological knowledge Kashmiris hold regarding their environs, this work intends to scramble regional boundaries, subvert existing “paradisical” representations, and explores the relationship between landscape construction and autonomy in the Kashmir Valley.



Sophie Smith
MLA

Advisor: Alissa North

Linking Landscape to Woodlot: A field guide to community-led forest restoration at Abercrombie Point

Covering 75% of the province, forests define the Nova Scotian landscape. Its diverse Acadian Forests made possible some of Canada’s earliest colonization by European settlers, and today supplies a key industry. As a result, it is a changed forest—simpler, younger, and less economically valuable. Explored through centering the needs of the forest, this project asks: *How can we mend relationships among communities, forest-based industries, and the forest?* Abercrombie Point, the site of a shuttered pulp mill, conforms to the national colonial trajectory of extractive rural landscapes. However, the recent closure of the mill, coupled with its notorious legacy of environmental pollution, presents an opportunity and a need, to reimagine the potential futures of Abercrombie Point as a site for forest and community to collectively restore and reconnect.

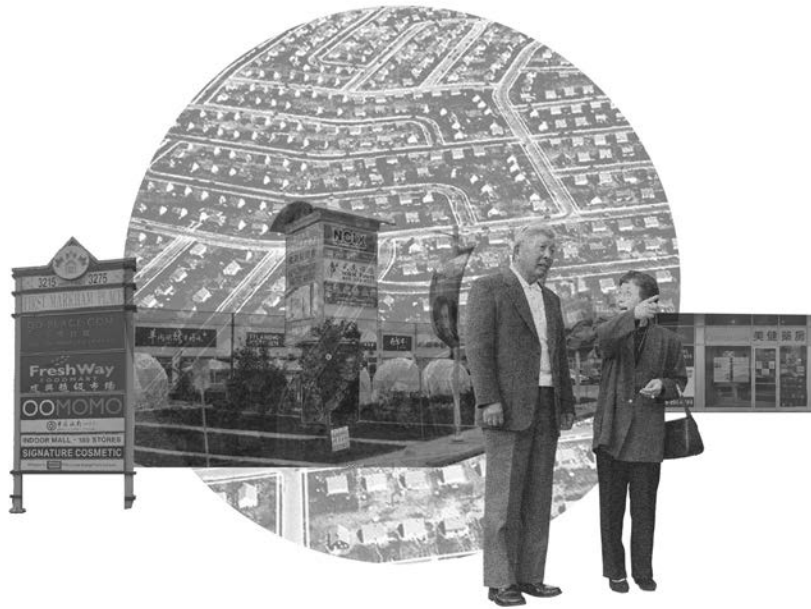


Sarah Turkenicz
MLA

Advisor: Liat Margolis

“In the Forest, Don’t Touch Anything”

This thesis is about the transient history of Jews who sought refuge in the forests across Eastern Europe during the Holocaust. Unlike urban post-Holocaust sites, this history lacks enduring, tangible infrastructure and artifacts. In the forest, concealment was paramount, and any disruption of the natural environment posed an existential threat. The remnants that do exist today are undocumented and understudied. Embedded within an evolving landscape, today these remnants are disappearing. Through weaving together primary findings of physical remnants and oral testimonial, this thesis marks the transiency of Holocaust sites, reshaping our perception of them not as mere collections of features, but recognizing them as landscapes.

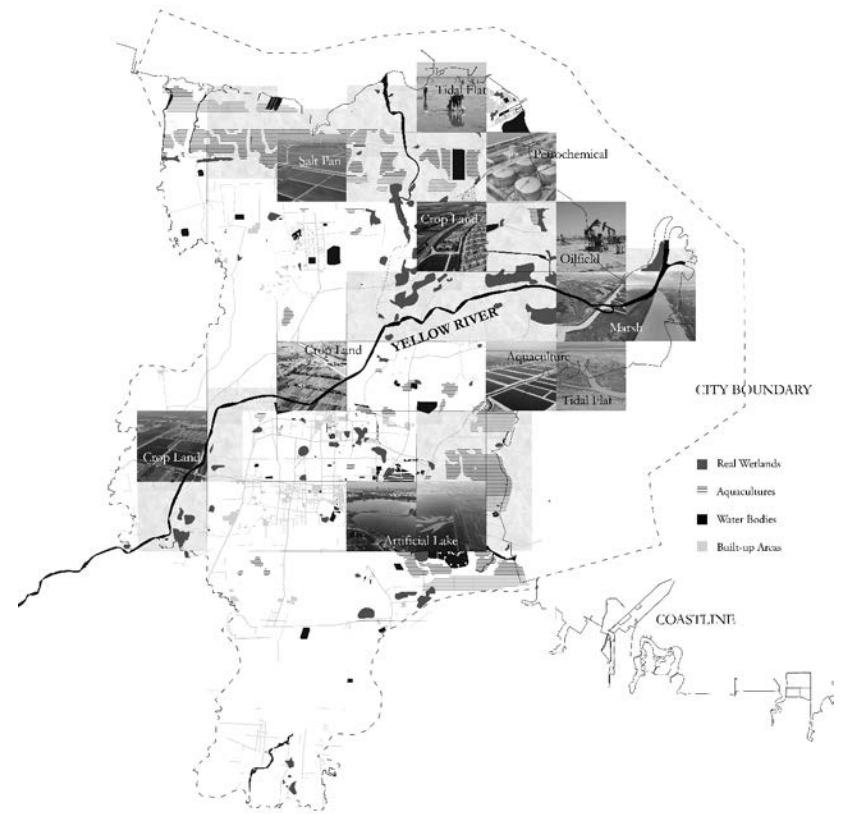


Coco Wang
MLA

Advisor: Elise Shelley

Navigating Suburbia: A Tool Kit for Landscape Identity

In car-dependent suburbs like Markham, pedestrian access is limited, posing challenges for an aging, immigrant-majority population. Accessing a 30-minute walk radius around their homes is vital for physical and mental well-being but is impossible due to inadequate pedestrian infrastructure. Seniors, facing increasing cognitive and physical limitations, require better-designed environments for health. This thesis proposes retrofitting suburban pedestrian connectivity to foster community landscape identity and enable healthy, active aging in place. Interventions aim to enhance wayfinding and engage memory in spaces designed for pedestrians, specifically seniors and immigrants, addressing social isolation and promoting community well-being in suburban settings.

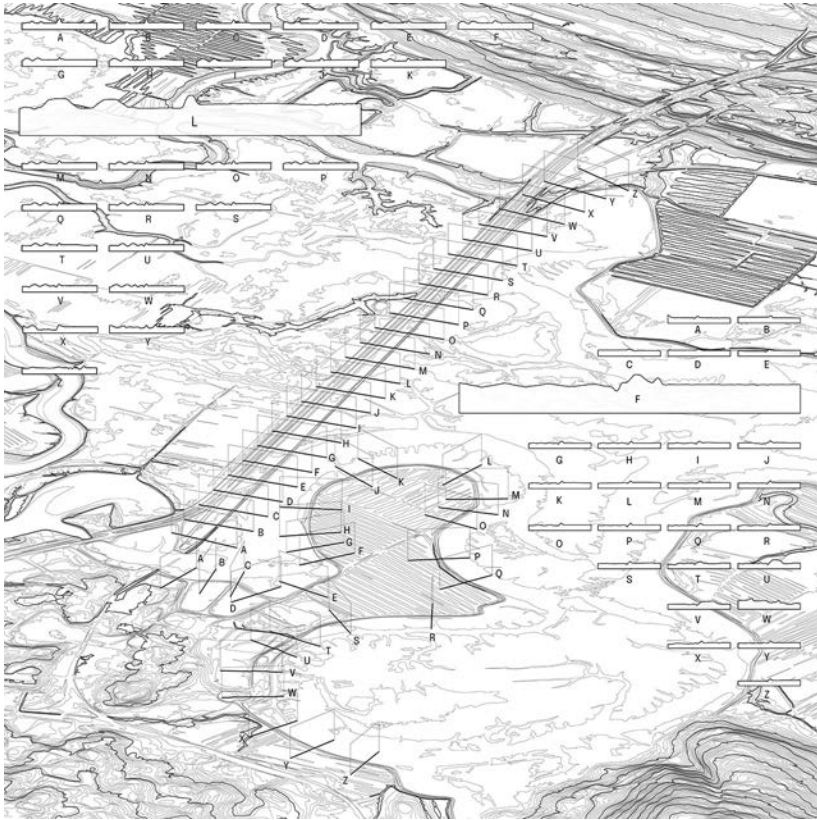


Yangpengpai Wang
MLA

Advisor: Matthew Perotto

From Salt to Oil to Wetland: A New Cultural Identity for Dongying at the Yellow River Delta

Nestled at the confluence of the Yellow River and the Bohai Sea, Dongying City has flourished through centuries, from salt trade to more recent oil production. However, rapid urban expansion has created increased flood risks and significant habitat degradation. Dongying now stands at a crossroads. The proliferation of its wetlands is vital for hydrological resilience, and ecological sustainability, and holds the potential for a renaissance in cultural identity. Yet, Dongying's current approach to wetland restoration seems to have a lack of genuine impact. This thesis looks to redefine the hydrological and ecological significance of wetlands to create a new cultural identity for Dongying's future.

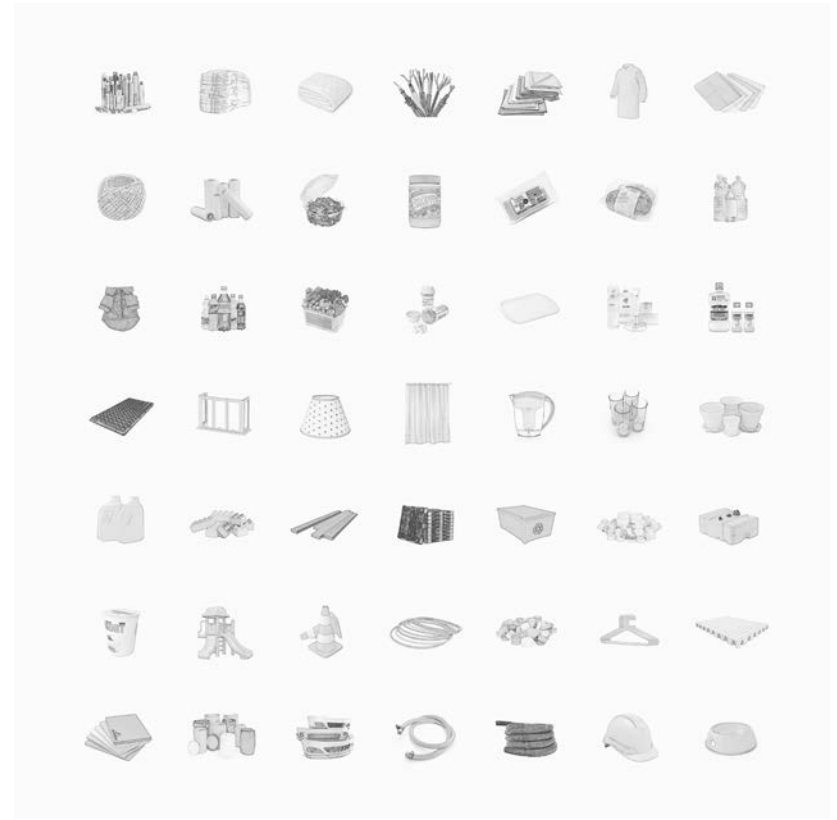


Dustin Wilson
MLA

Advisor: Peter North

Welcoming The Tide

Because of decisions made by Acadian farmers in the 1600s, a regionally and nationally vital transportation corridor was constructed through an area of lowland on the New Brunswick, Nova Scotia border: the Chignecto Isthmus. Because of the region's vulnerability to climate-driven storms, sea rise, and associated flooding, a series of maladaptive hard infrastructure solutions have been proposed for the region with the narrow mandate of preserving the corridor. Welcoming the Tide asks when a flood is not a flood, proposing specific nature-based interventions to protect the corridor while creating habitat, capturing carbon, and supporting local communities through new economies.



Jingzhe Zhao
MLA

Advisor: Behnaz Assadi

25 Years and 256 Days

This project focuses on the North Pacific Garbage Patch as a site for exploring bio-degradation as a potential method to accelerate the speed of the plastic degradation process. The global plastic crisis is a pressing environmental issue driven by extensive production, consumption, and inadequate disposal of these materials. According to a report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, if we continue to dump plastic into the ocean, within 25 years and 256 days, the weight of plastic will surpass that of fish.

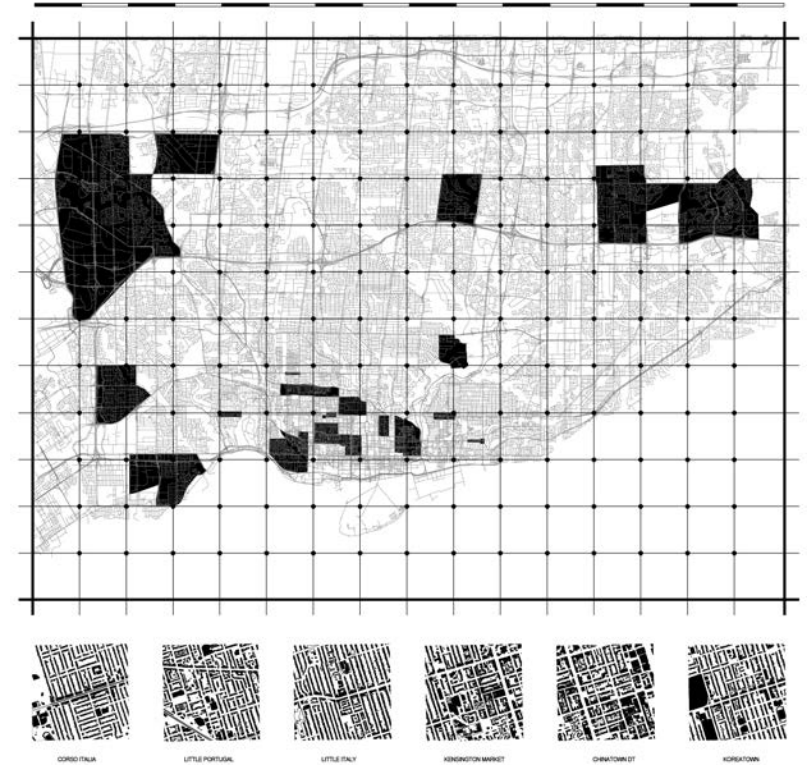


Aditya Hemant Bhole
MUD

Advisor: Maya Mahgoub Desai

Flowing Culture: Exploring Aspirational Event Spaces in Pune

In Pune, the vision is to leverage cultural heritage to foster harmony. The aim is to revitalize cultural spaces, knitting neighborhoods together and bridging divisions. Through nuanced interventions, the idea is to honor Pune's identity while enhancing connectivity. The goal is to cultivate a sense of belonging and pride among residents, drawing visitors to the dynamic city. Ultimately, envision a cohesive district where cultural spaces and communities coexist in a shared narrative, celebrating diversity and heritage. By embracing our cultural richness, we strive to create an inclusive urban fabric that reflects Pune's vibrant spirit and promotes unity among its inhabitants.



Batoul Chahine
MUD

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Diasporic Tapestry: Mapping Toronto's Ethnic Retail Landscape

This thesis delves into the intricate tapestry of ethnic retail areas in Toronto, illuminating their role as vibrant symbols of Canada's cultural diversity and pivotal hubs for social and economic activity, sculpting the urban fabric. It investigates the processes behind creating these spaces and the impact of ethnic entrepreneurs through evaluation and observations. By analyzing districts serving Chinese and Italian communities in Toronto's inner city, the study reveals notable differences between them, emphasizing the vital role of ethnic entrepreneurs in moulding their neighbourhoods. The findings underscore disparities between groups and highlight the essential contribution of ethnic entrepreneurs to neighbourhood transformation.



Duru Kaman MUD

Advisor: Maya Mahgoub Desai

Networks to Resilience, Resilience to “Earthquake”

This study serves as a critique, aiming to demonstrate that if the networks in Turkish cities were responsive to the earthquake, the results could have been different while also offering a new perspective on what an earthquake-resistant city looks like. In the aftermath of Turkey’s devastating earthquakes on February 6, 2023, claiming over 50,000 lives, this research navigates the unpreparedness of Turkish Cities. It delves into seeking earthquake-proof strategies aiming for innovative, implementable solutions. Through analytical mapping and simulation, the study explores how strategically enhanced networks could mitigate such disasters, offering hope for earthquake resilient urban landscapes and greater awareness.



Ashna Modi MUD

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

River Ilissos: Unveiling Urban Palimpsest in Athens

This thesis delves into the historical evolution of the Ilissos River, once considered to be a person in the city of Athens, Greece. However, as urban power changed, so did the river. The river, outside the city, became a part of it, and as the city grew, it was integrated into the urban infrastructure, becoming an avenue. The river is frequent to catastrophic flooding. By using the image of a palimpsest, it seeks to reveal these stories in a sequence of detailed illustrations and drawings, providing a comprehensive analysis of a series of primary landmarks and historical sites along the river.

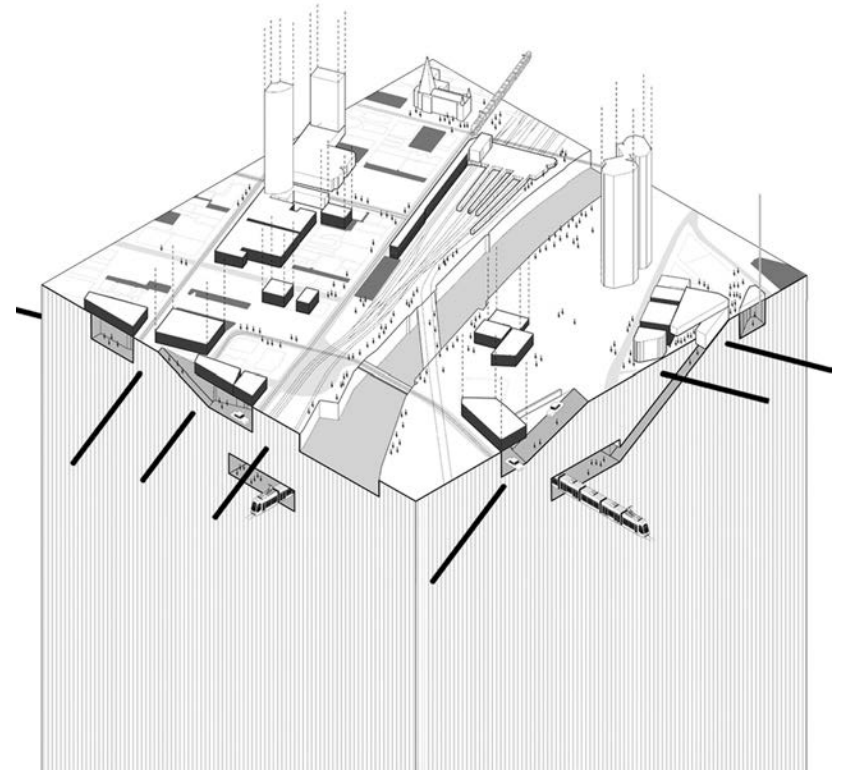


Anahita Nahoomi
MUD

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Interconnected Playscapes of Tomorrow

Exploring the potential for Interconnected playscapes, this thesis transforms the Toronto suburb of Thornhill to prioritize play and promote independent mobility for children. Departing from conventional isolated playgrounds, the project integrates play into the suburban fabric, unlocking the vital role of the built environment in shaping children’s learning experiences and health outcomes. The thesis provides specific design interventions in Thornhill, as well as an adaptable Play-Conductive Environment Framework, building on academic research on play and embodied cognition, a survey of local parents, and a design workshop with local children.



Mahima Patel
MUD

Advisor: Mason White

Where will the water go?

The thesis is a design and research exploration on the ongoing flooding crisis in coastal cities, due to climate change. It explores a multi-faceted idea of “resiliency” that expands beyond flood control to influence social, economic and environmental change for the city and its residents. This concept is explored in hyper-dense built environments like Melbourne, that face the challenge of high flood risk coupled with an absolute lack of space for water to go. The project aims to retrofit redundant public infrastructure to create a multi-functional network strategy responding to different flooding scenarios. Promoting citizen-water interaction aims to cultivate informed, socially and environmentally sustainable cities, harmonizing with water for the future.

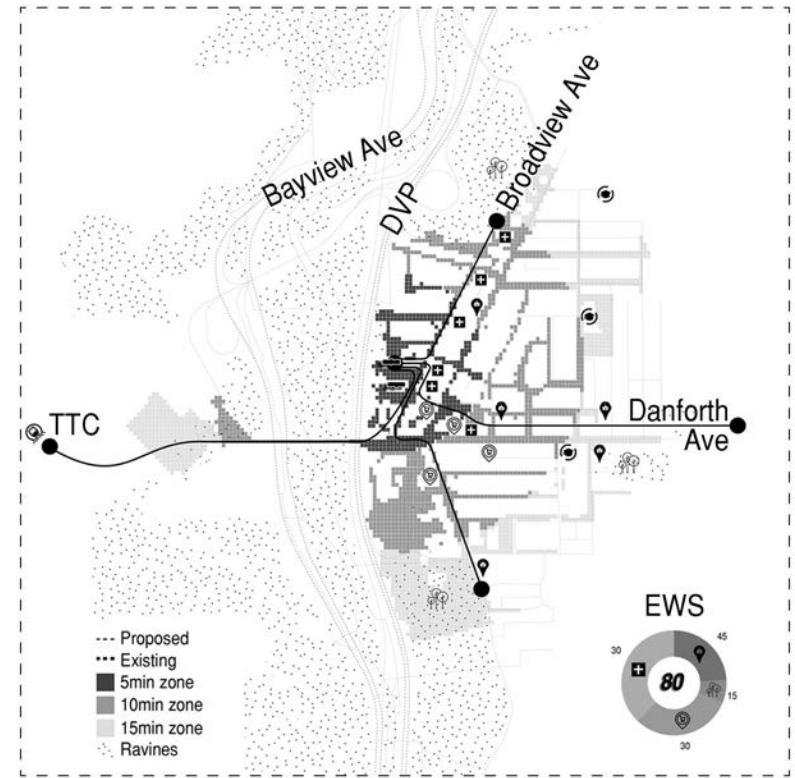


Zhaohuan (Joseph) Qiu
MUD

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Decentralized center in metropolis Suburban Area

Decentralization is a strategic response to counteract the over-concentration of urban growth, applicable at national, urban, and regional levels. It encompasses ex-urbanization, anti-urbanization, and displaced urbanization, aiming to redistribute urban core activities to peripheral or new urban centres. This approach seeks to bridge the urban-suburban access divide and lessen regional disparities. Despite potential drawbacks like infrastructure costs and environmental impacts, decentralization offers a novel framework for addressing urban challenges by leveraging risk aversion strategies. This thesis study focuses on Downtown Markham in Great Toronto Area to assess and refine its masterplan against a suburban downtown matrix.

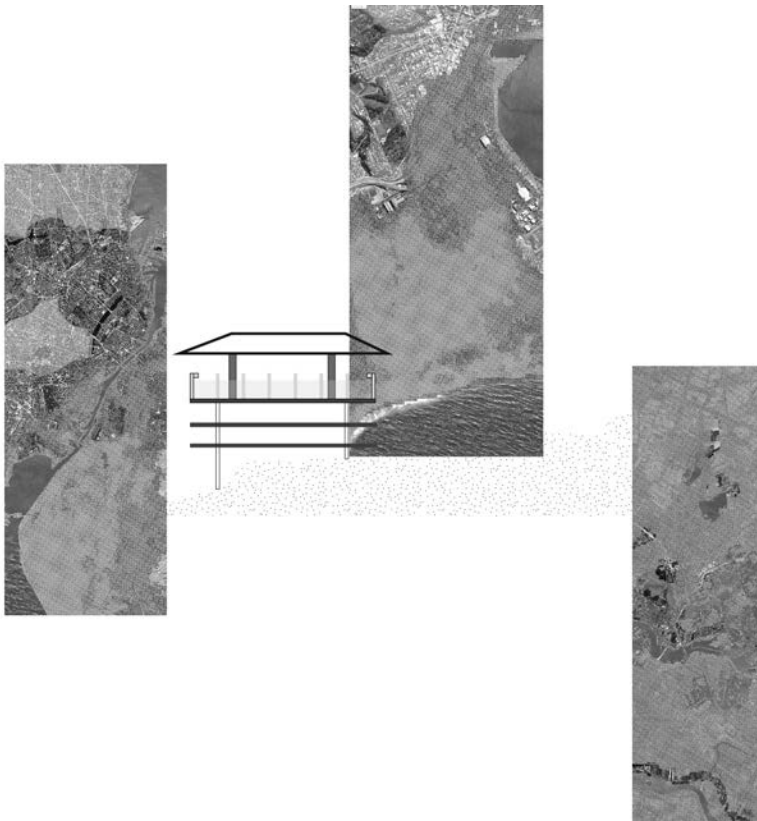


Mahek Mukeshbhai Rohra
MUD

Advisor: Mason White

Walkability Odyssey

Venturing into Urban Mobility: The Essential Walkable Score (EWS) in Post-War GTA Neighborhoods. Departing from conventional metrics, EWS prioritizes destinations like grocery stores and health networks. Categorizing areas by density, it conducts walking tours to assess barriers and sidewalks. EWS calculates walking times, considering tree cover and traffic lights, assigning scores based on proximity: 15 for 5 minutes, 10 for 10 minutes, and so on. The goal is to pinpoint gaps in essential services and propose strategies for improvement. This innovative approach offers a nuanced understanding of walkability, paving the way for a more pedestrian-friendly environment.



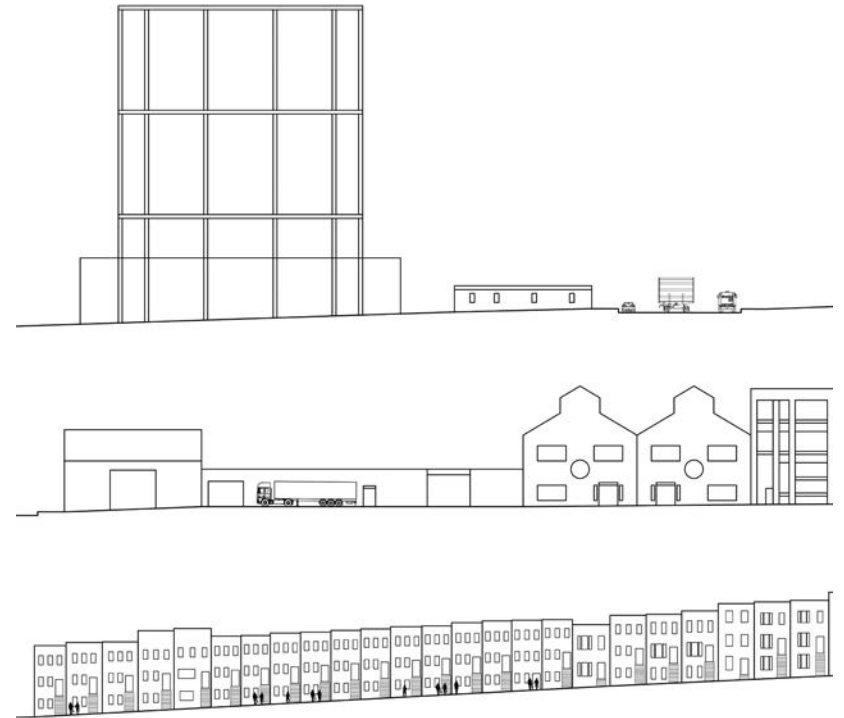
Akshaya Sankar
MUD

Advisor: Maya Mahgoub Desai

TIDES OF CHANGE

Coastal Cities and Communities' Adaptation Strategies

This thesis delves into the urgent task of developing resilient cities and communities in response to sea level rise and climate change. It explores adaptation practices worldwide, from small coastal communities to urban metropolises, considering factors like population size and geographic conditions. Strategies range from resilient infrastructure design to small-scale interventions. Targeting urban design and design students, this research offers insights for tackling climate challenges. By analyzing diverse case studies, it empowers students and professionals with knowledge and tools to create innovative solutions. Practical guidance aids in navigating climate complexities, fostering cities and communities prepared to thrive in environmental uncertainty.

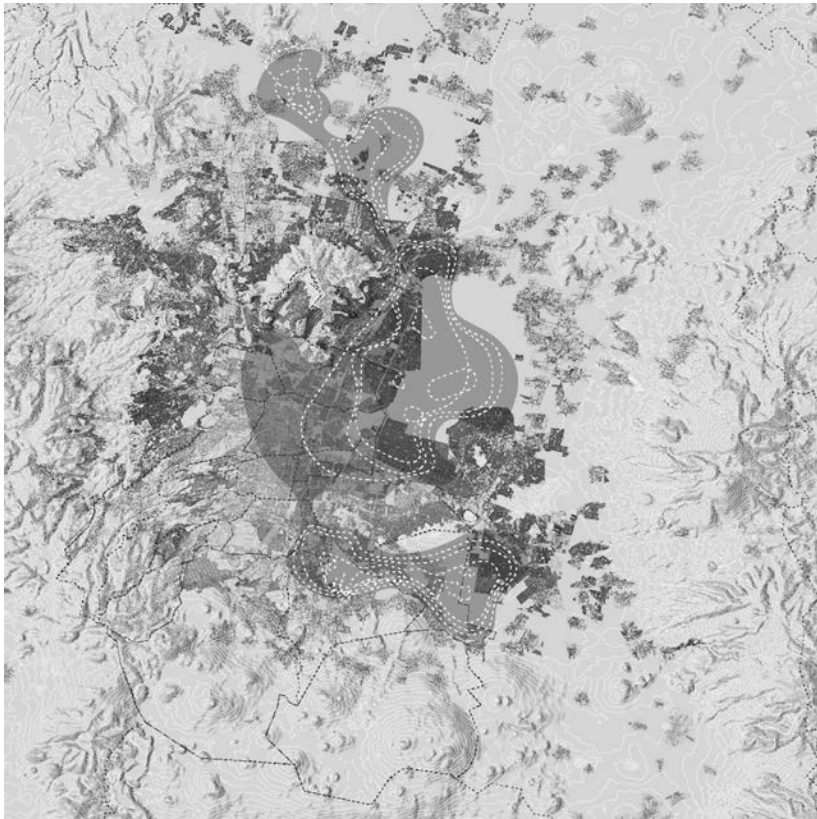


Tong Shu
MUD

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Urban Integration of Industrial Space

The thesis explores the integration of urban industrial space with residential and commercial uses, to achieve a truly mixed-use neighborhood. Through the study of Sunset Park, Brooklyn, a gentrifying, diverse, industrial neighborhood facing the upper New York Bay, the thesis asks, how might different constituents co-exist peacefully in a complicated urban and social environment? The proposal mediates competing economic and environmental justice priorities, resolving the needs of industry, transportation and logistics, and introducing green urban design strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of the industrial operations. Strategies include moving the expressway underground, creating new public waterfront access, providing new housing and designing massing to mitigate pollution.

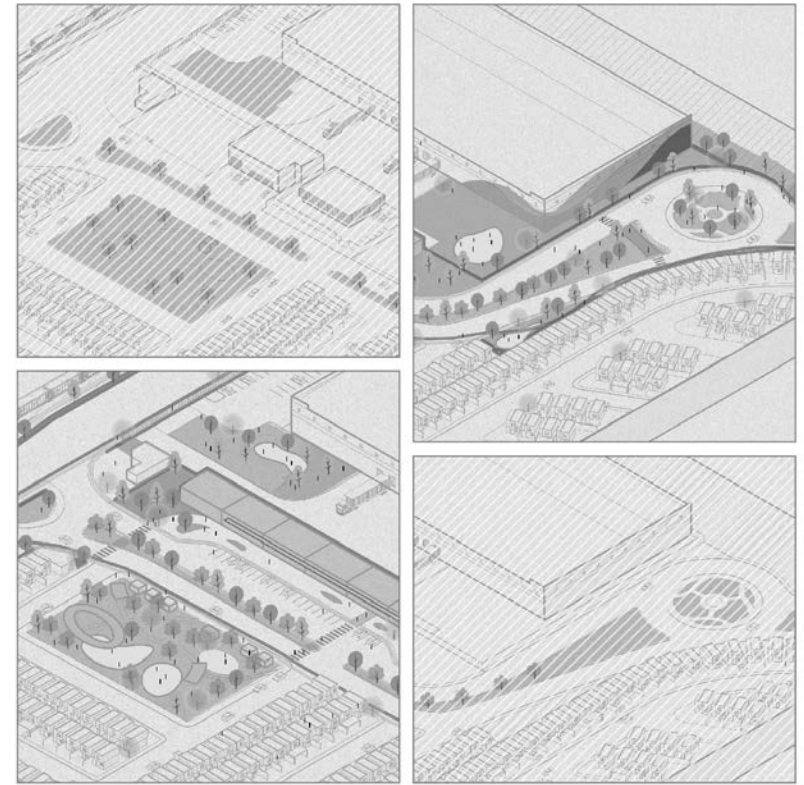


Erendira Tranquilino
MUD

Advisor: Petros Babasikas

Water and Mexico City

This thesis is an educational Atlas that seeks to advocate for the water crisis in Mexico City. Mexico City is the most populous city in North America and one of the most important cultural centers in the world. Few people know that the area where around 25 million people live was once a lake. Today, this territory faces one of the worst water crises in history. However, its citizens are unaware that this vital liquid is running out, their responsibility and how its hydraulic system works. I believe that education leads to awareness, and this leads to change.



Melisa Villegas Espinoza
MUD

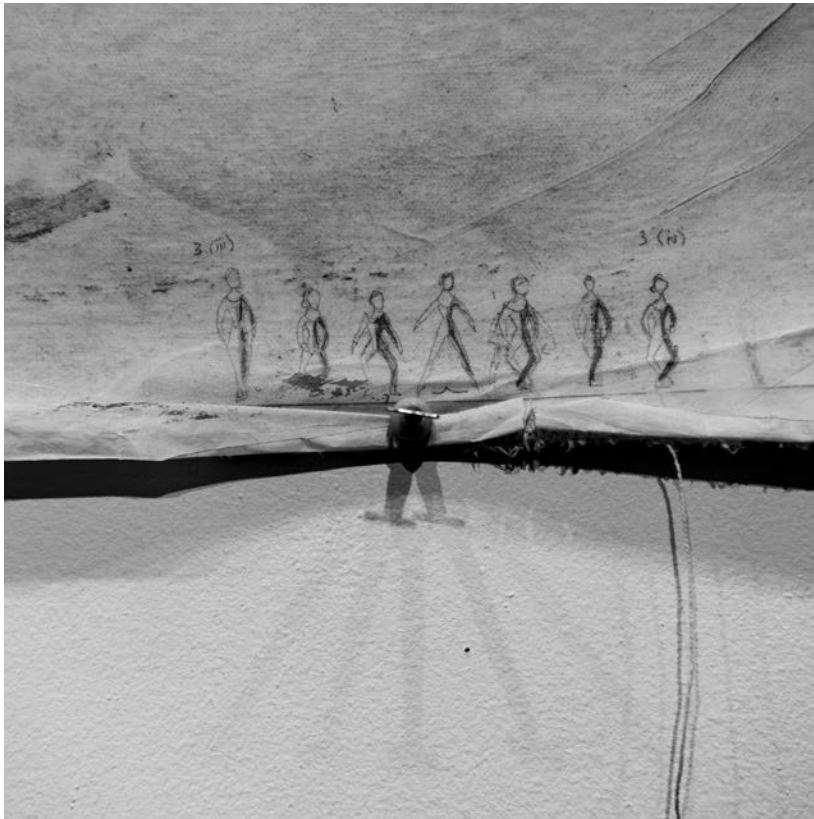
Advisor: Mason White

BRINGING DOWN THE FENCE

As the industrial city of the country, Monterrey, has been the manufacturing hub for foreign investment in Mexico. The city receives a lot of demand for industrial infrastructure, but in recent years the need has grown significantly due to the nearshoring phenomenon.

The city is home to fenceline communities, groups that have been segregated for decades in the peripheries, where they lack basic needs, accessibility, and infrastructure.

Without the proper instrument to support the planning and design of these workplaces, the expectation of developing a human-centered community, generating a better quality of life for the workers and residents surrounding the industry is almost unfeasible.



a. portia ehrhardt
MVS (Studio Art)

Advisor: Zach Blas

The World-Building of Dance-Making

Imagine a three-circled venn diagram. In each circle are the words *Animals*, *Dance*, and *Science Fiction*. Within the overlaps we have the words *hard to see*, *world building*, and *transformation*. And then in the center is what this project is chasing: an articulation of the inarticulable, of opacity, of unintelligibility. This body of mixed-media work on found technical drawings and canvas attempts a visualization of thought. They seek a translation of my life's work as a dancer into the still and two-dimensional, creating a poetics of understanding and a flattened stage on which I, and others, can dance.



Dallas Fellini
MVS (Curatorial Studies)

Advisor: Barbara Fischer

Indiscernible thresholds, escaped veillances

Indiscernible thresholds, escaped veillances explores opacity, illegibility, and invisibility as productive alternatives to contemporary trans hyper-visibility, a circumstance wherein the realm of the representational risks becoming all that is offered to trans people. Featuring artworks by Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, Lucas LaRochelle, Joshua Schwebel, Chelsea Thompto, and Lan "Florence" Yee, this exhibition tests the potentials of opacity to subvert the extractive dimensions of knowing the other. Rather than approaching visibility as an issue to be resolved, these artists consider the potentials of retreating from view, framing opacity as a protective act and archival illegibility as an escape.

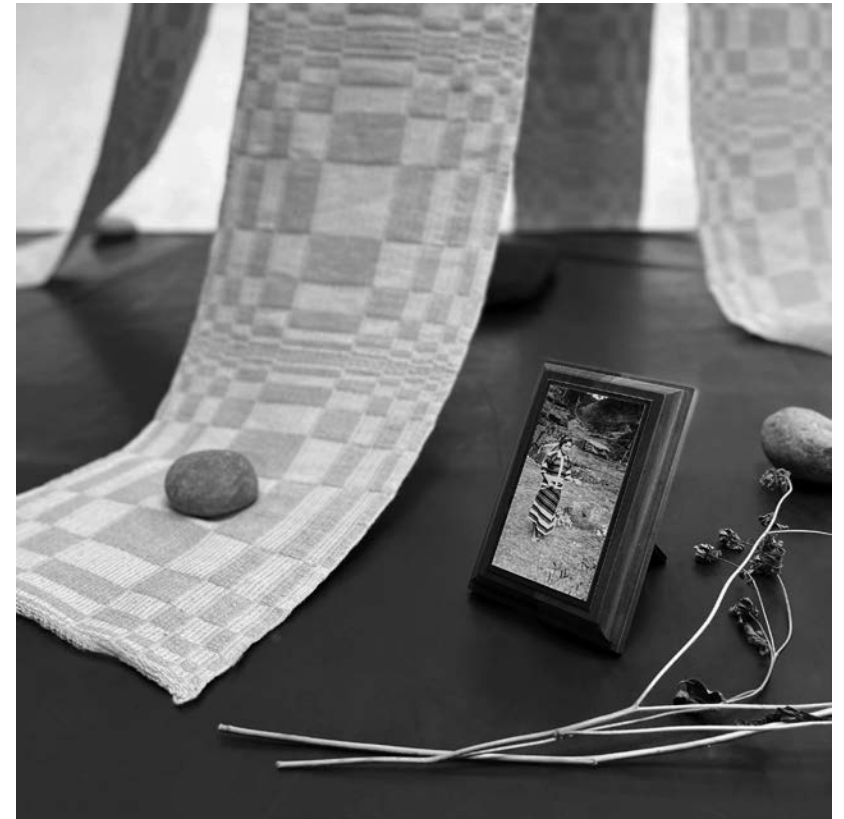


Ingrid Jones
MVS (Curatorial Studies)

*Advisors: Barbara Fischer, Jean-Paul Kelly,
Zach Blas, Bonaventure Soh Bejeng Ndikung*

Liberation in Four Movements

Centring Black scholarship, artistry, and embodied practices, *Liberation in Four Movements* traverses non-linear paths, inviting spillage and contemplation as we navigate narratives of dehumanization and ultimately arrive at meditations on states of humanity and freedom. This journey flows through the provocative lens of Fred Moten's query in "Blackness and Nothingness: Mysticism of the Flesh" of what it would mean for the enslaved to remain in the ship's hold. Within Moten's moment in the hold, this exhibition offers a hypothetical mix of shifting outcomes and potentialities yet to come, illuminating how to resist dehumanization through the power of action.



Samantha Lance
MVS (Curatorial Studies)

Advisor: Barbara Fischer

The Love that Remains

The Love that Remains brings together three Toronto-based artists whose contemporary textile practices recover matrilineal histories of displacement and belonging. Par Nair, Julie Gladstone and Carol Ann Apilado revitalize ancestral practices to bring attention to the female labour and creative expressions of their ancestors who endured displacement and/or exile across generations and in different geographical contexts. They seek to reconcile with the loss, trauma, and grief tied to their histories in the South Indian, Sephardic, and Filipino diasporic communities respectively. The artists' acts of weaving, embroidery and knitting evoke how fabric has served as a material for survival, protection and resilience.



Cason Sharpe
MVS (Studio Art)

Advisor: Luis Jacob

North Wishcourt After Relocation

Composed of an installation at the Art Museum along with an accompanying publication, *North Wishcourt After Relocation* imagines the redevelopment of a fictional public housing project loosely based on Toronto's Alexandra Park. Broad-ranging and multi-pronged in scope, the project aims to tease connections between memory, grief, displacement, urban development, autofiction, fantasy, and the relationship between the psyche and the city.

