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Thesis Reviews

Winter 25

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Urban Design

Visual Studies

Post-Professional



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



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

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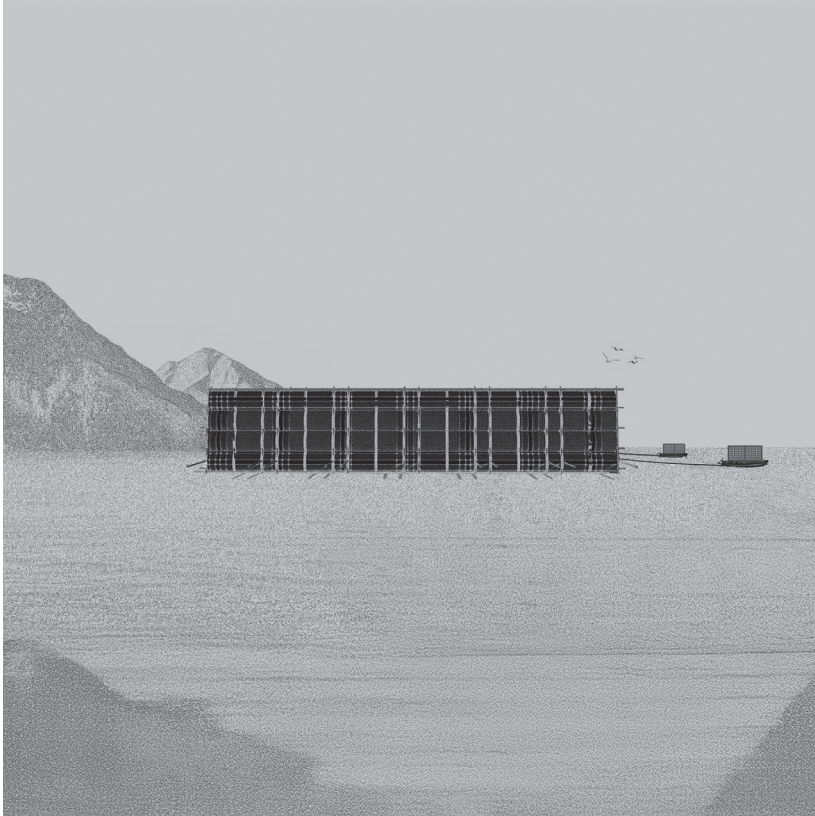
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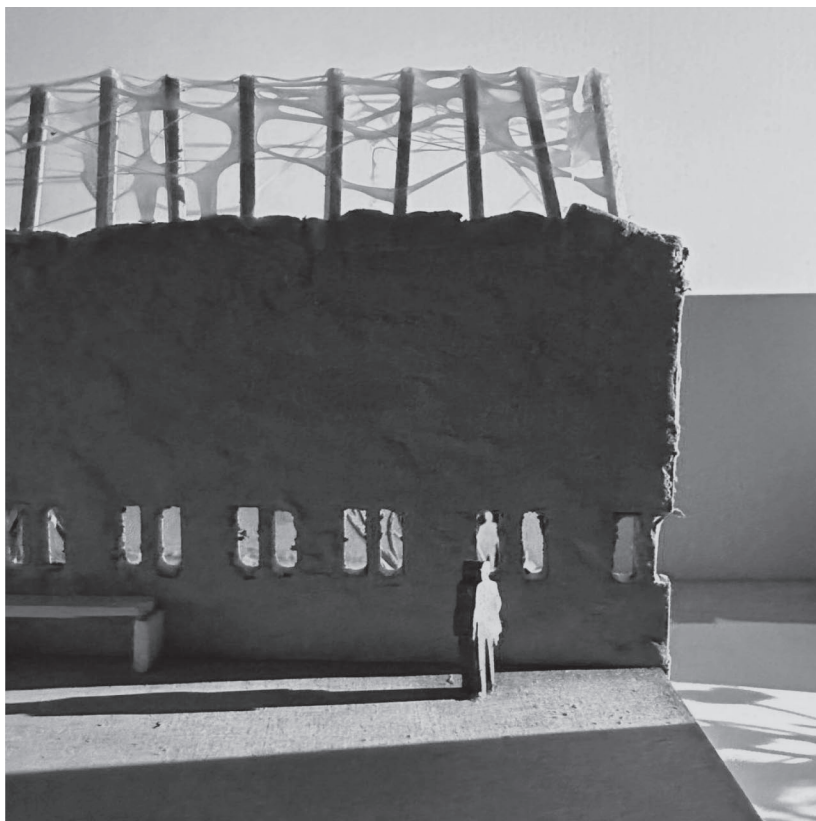
Nezar Alkujok

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Where Should the Birds Fly After the Last Sky?

After the Last Sky, an ode to Mahmoud Darwish's questions on exile, proposes a mobile archival infrastructure, a vessel that floats in air and on water in response to the forces that disrupt Palestinian movement. Conceived as a modular repository, it carries displaced cultural artifacts from architectural fragments to domestic furnishings. Each is housed in a crate that unfolds to construct a temporary site of gathering, a Sufra, where Palestinian culture is enacted through live ritual across diasporic geographies. While fleeing, these gatherings and their objects initiate a rehearsal of Awdah, the symbolic return, and until that return is possible, the archive must continue to move.



Leili Amirshahi

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Beyond the Walls: Reimagining Evin Prison for Rehabilitation and Connection

My research focuses on Evin Prison in Tehran, Iran, exploring how its design and location can be leveraged to enhance rehabilitation for inmates and strengthen connections with the surrounding community. Situated in the residential Evin neighborhood, the prison's outdoor spaces and landscapes have the potential to improve mental well-being and bridge cultural divides. This study investigates strategies to transform the prison walls and adjacent areas into interactive spaces that foster meaningful interactions between prisoners and society. By integrating purposeful activities, inmates can develop valuable skills, contribute their work, and achieve greater financial stability upon release. The research aims to redefine the prison environment, promoting rehabilitation through thoughtful landscape design and community engagement.



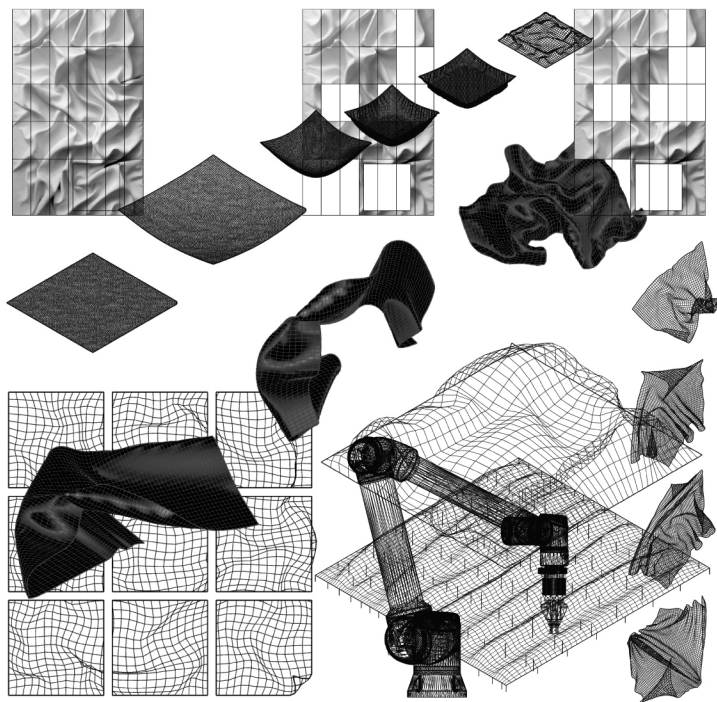
Mo Bayati

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Assemblies of Unloved Stones

The shift from stone to reinforced concrete in the early 1900s led to the loss of centuries of structural stone building knowledge, contributing to today's excessive stone processing and high material waste in the industry. This thesis attempts to rethink that waste by integrating it into structural stone assemblies. It explores archetypes—columns, beams, walls, arches, and vaults—by utilizing minimally processed and unloved stones. These include offcuts, irregular shapes, ugly patterns, and non-trendy colours. The project tests local limestone and granite to explore the notion of repeatable yet non-standard design.



Daniel Bishay

MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonina

Tensile/Non-Tensile: Robotic Actuated Mold Using Reconfigurable Pin Tooling

The project explores the form finding of non-tensile geometries by leveraging digital fabric simulations in Grasshopper and Kangaroo. This research captures the essence of draping and other fabric gestures found in fashion to inspire architectural features. Robotic-assisted reconfigurable tooling is employed to fabricate suggested forms, subverting geometric control and embracing indeterminacy in materials like fabric, clay and glass. This process moves beyond precise replication, allowing unique geometries to emerge from the inherent variability of materials. Highlighting its advantages over conventional methods, reconfigurable pin tooling supports more sustainable fabrication by negating the necessity for extensive casting processes to achieve complex geometries.



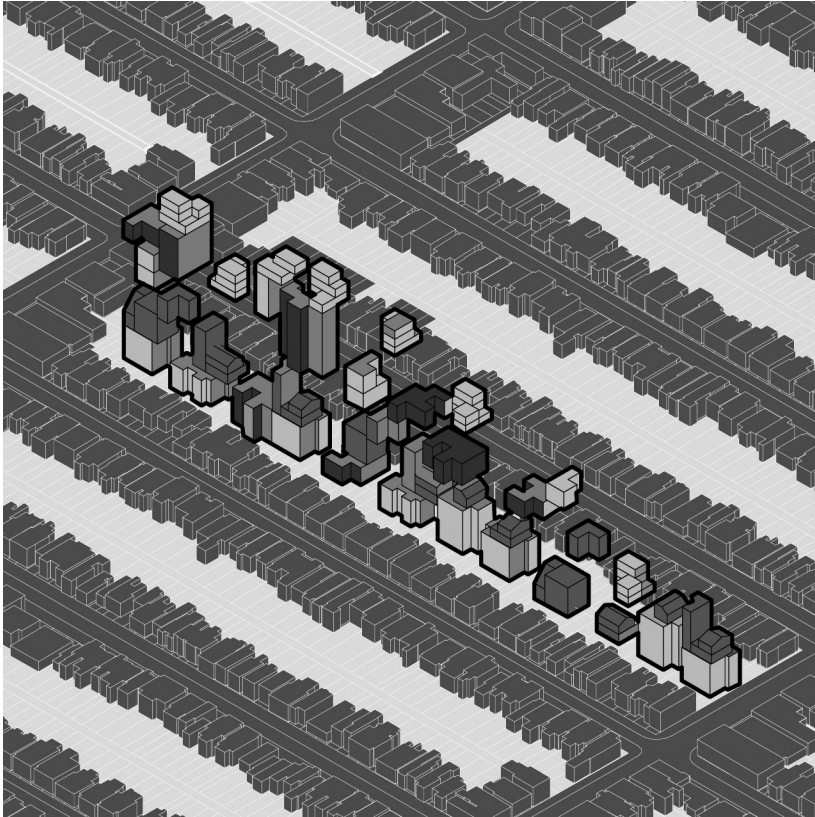
Julia Buli-e

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Balikbayan//Return Home

“Balikbayan” housing celebrates Filipino cultural identity and fosters community in Toronto’s Little Manila. Facing unaffordable housing and limited flexible spaces, Filipino immigrants have created a vibrant hub. This proposal reimagines balikbayan, Tagalog for “return home,” by adapting traditional Filipino residential typologies, like the “compound,” to a high-density Canadian setting. A mid-rise building incorporates familiar design elements to enhance belonging. Using a limited-equity cooperative model, Balikbayan promotes multigenerational living, stability, and inclusivity. The project balances cultural heritage with contemporary urban needs, offering affordable, accessible housing that strengthens community ties.



Alessandra Castellini

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

The Other Missing Middle: Repurposing The inner Block

Toronto's laneways, or inner block corridors, were originally conceived as essential components of residential neighborhoods. Over time, they evolved from utilitarian spaces for waste disposal and carriage access into garage-lined back lanes to the recent emergence of laneway houses. Yet, less attention has been given to the broader urban role of these inner block passages. This thesis explores the transformative potential of repurposing laneways—the other missing middle—reimagining them not as secondary spaces, but as integral, multifunctional entities within neighbourhoods. By unlocking the latent value of these zones, the project proposes a framework for density and community amenities.

DESIGN 112

architect: WILSON & NEWTON, TORONTO, ONT.



Harkirat Chabby

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Your Space To Grow

Over the years, life unfolds. Children grow, friends and family arrive, and hobbies change. Yet Toronto's Yellow Belt remains frozen in time, dominated by rigid single-family homes that refuse to adapt. This static condition forces residents into unsuitable living conditions or financial burdens. Homes cannot remain fixed. Housing must be a process, evolving with the shifts in the lives of residents. Your Space To Grow radically reimagines housing as an evolving framework, empowering residents with flexible, incremental extensions that transform homes to meet their changing needs.



Jessica Pui Yue Chan

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Idle Lots

Parking lots are among the most ubiquitous yet paradoxically underutilized infrastructures in the urban landscape; primarily serving car culture, they offer minimal social or ecological value beyond their asphalt footprint. In North American suburbs, their dominance fragments the urban fabric, reducing walkability and exacerbating environmental issues such as urban heat islands and coastal vulnerability to rising sea levels and flooding. This thesis explores the revitalization of parking lots through multimodal transit hubs, pedestrian-oriented networks, and adaptable architecture. By reimagining these spaces as a post-oil urban prototype promoting resilience, seasonal adaptability, and sustainability, parking lots can shift from idle lots to active urban assets.



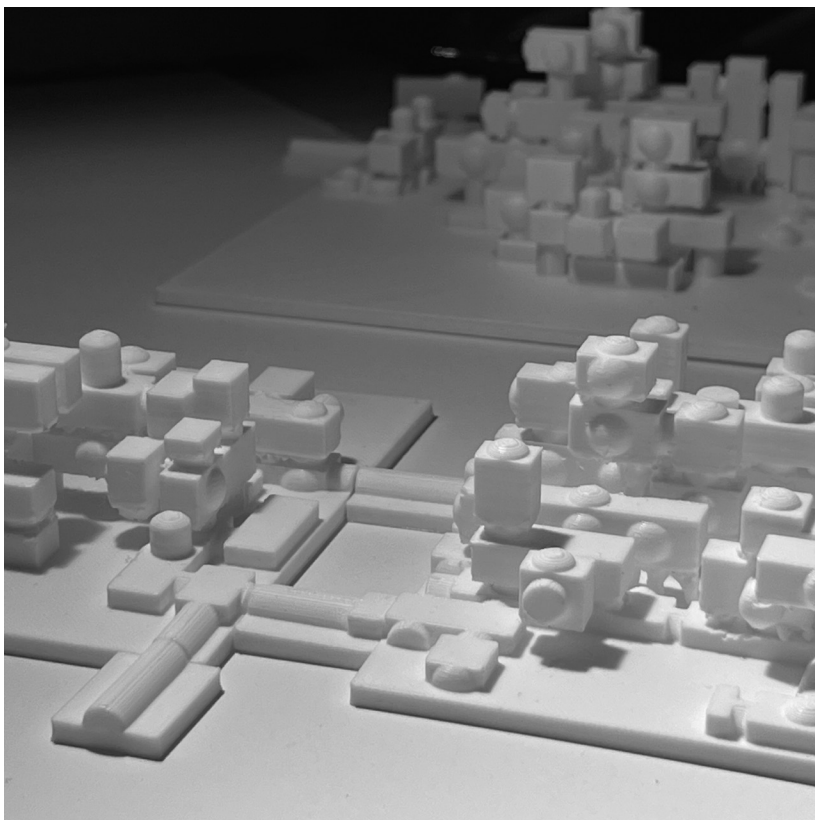
Erela Chan

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Designing for the “Co-” in Cooperative Housing

Cooperative housing offers an affordable alternative to market-based models. Instead of buying or renting a home, residents own shares in the co-op and collectively govern it. Without a strong sense of community, however; co-ops can struggle with neglect. Located across from Toronto’s Kennedy Station, a developing major transit hub, *Designing for the ‘Co-’ in Cooperative Housing* breaks down a high-rise co-op housing development into stacked cohousing communities of around 30 units, each centered around a shared amenity. Combining the best of the cohousing and co-op housing models, a sense of belonging is fostered that encourages long-term upkeep and preserves affordability and quality of life.



Ziyi Chen

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Lunar Village

This project reimagines lunar habitats through generative design, balancing efficiency with human-centered spatial experiences. By using computational algorithms, it explores how controlled randomness can create modular habitats that adapt to diverse needs. A standardized connection system allows units to be easily assembled, reconfigured, or expanded, balancing order and flexibility. The method produces varied interior environments—ranging from private quarters to collaborative workspaces and communal hubs—while maintaining coherence through embedded design rules. By challenging conventional approaches to extraterrestrial architecture, the research proposes a scalable, uncertainty-driven model that prioritizes adaptability, redefining how habitats might evolve in extreme environments.



Michelle Choi

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Rewriting Chinatown(s)

Chinatowns worldwide have become simulacra—copies without an original—replete with stereotyped elements like gateways, pagoda roofs, and lanterns that have been abstracted into hollow symbols, often fetishized, stripped of their histories, and deployed to serve hollow forms of nostalgia and tourism. Yet, beyond commodification and gentrification, Chinatowns are also shaped by resilience, adaptation, and self-determination. This project explores how these forces coexist, overlap, or contradict each other, asking whether Chinatown is a fixed identity or an evolving construct. Through an ethnofuturist lens, *Rewriting Chinatown(s)* proposes a speculative framework for existing and future Chinatowns, imagining alternative futures that blur the boundary between fantasy and reality.



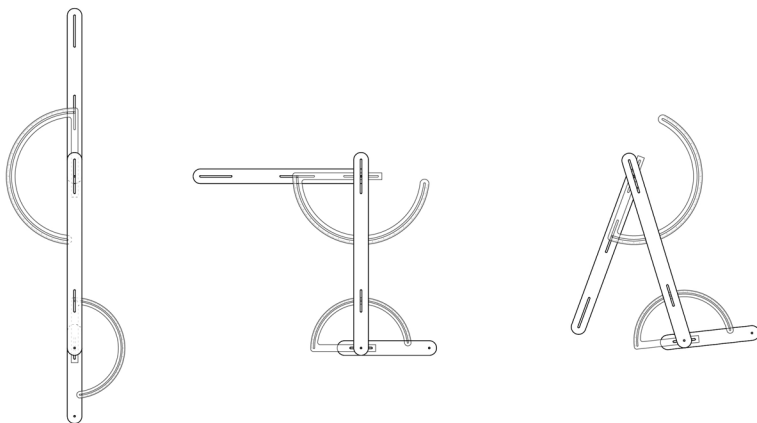
Thaddeus Chu

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Earth Year 2100: Lava Tube City

Unlike Earth, the lack of atmosphere and negligible magnetic field of the Moon leaves its surface vulnerable to constant micrometeorite bombardment, intense radiation, temperature fluctuations, and solar storms. These harsh conditions make extraterrestrial habitation challenging. However, recent research suggests that lunar lava tubes offer natural protection and a stable thermal environment for potential settlements. This project envisions a lunar city within a lava tube, built on elevated platforms that adapt to the rugged cave terrain. Pressurized domes will create expansive, habitable spaces while allowing greater visual connectivity with the unique surroundings through transparent enclosures, benefiting from the lava tube's natural shielding.



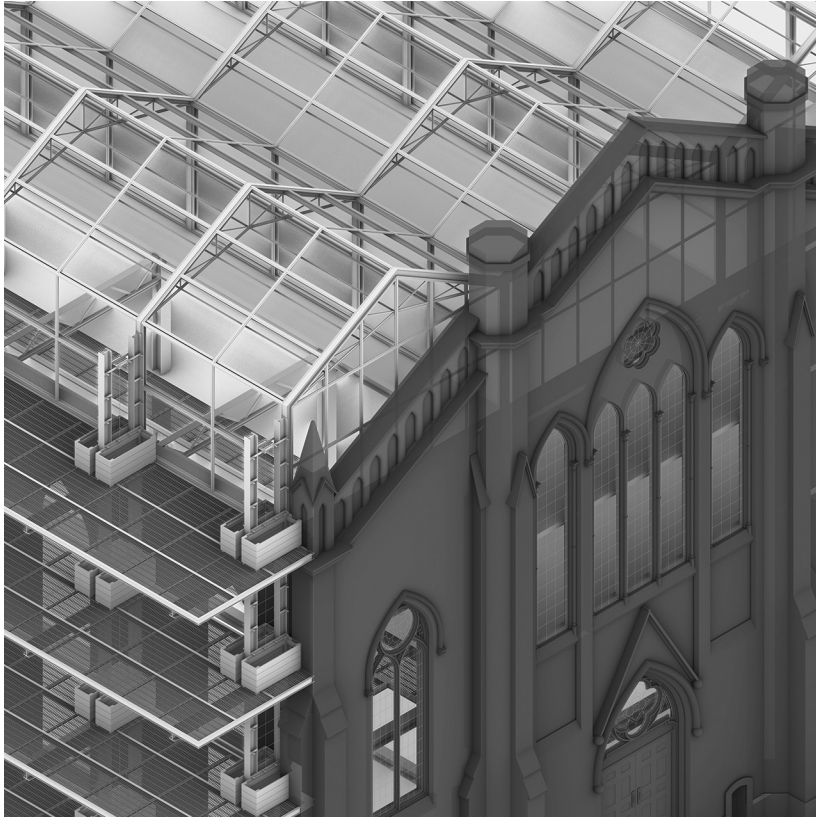
Rubin de Jonge

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Non-Standard rulers, and the (un)measuring of Architecture

WHAT we measure is as important as HOW we measure. Commerce and communication require a universal system that is simple in its configuration, un-changing (or fixed) across space and time, and precise to disseminate. However, such a system is not necessarily useful in all modes of craft. For example, in printing, a typesetter uses points and picas, not millimeters. This thesis questions the use of conventional systems of measurement as applied to architecture and offers the idea of (un)measurement, where 'how' is directly connected to 'what' is being measured. It proposes a non-standard ruler able to intuitively transcribe the body into 1:1 spatial objects.



Connor DeJonge

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Food Foundations: Repurposing Toronto churches as community food spaces

Food is and always has been essential to our culture and community. Many Toronto communities disproportionately experience food insecurity and related adverse health outcomes. This thesis focuses on re-integrating food production and expanding communal spaces in Toronto through methods of urban agriculture and food-centric social programming. Food Foundations considers Toronto's urban infrastructure as sites for cultivation and communal food spaces. As religious attendance declines in Canada and churches continue to close, the vacant buildings offer a unique opportunity for revitalization. By repurposing churches as food spaces, we can supplement the food supply system, provide social infrastructure, and preserve existing community spaces in the city.



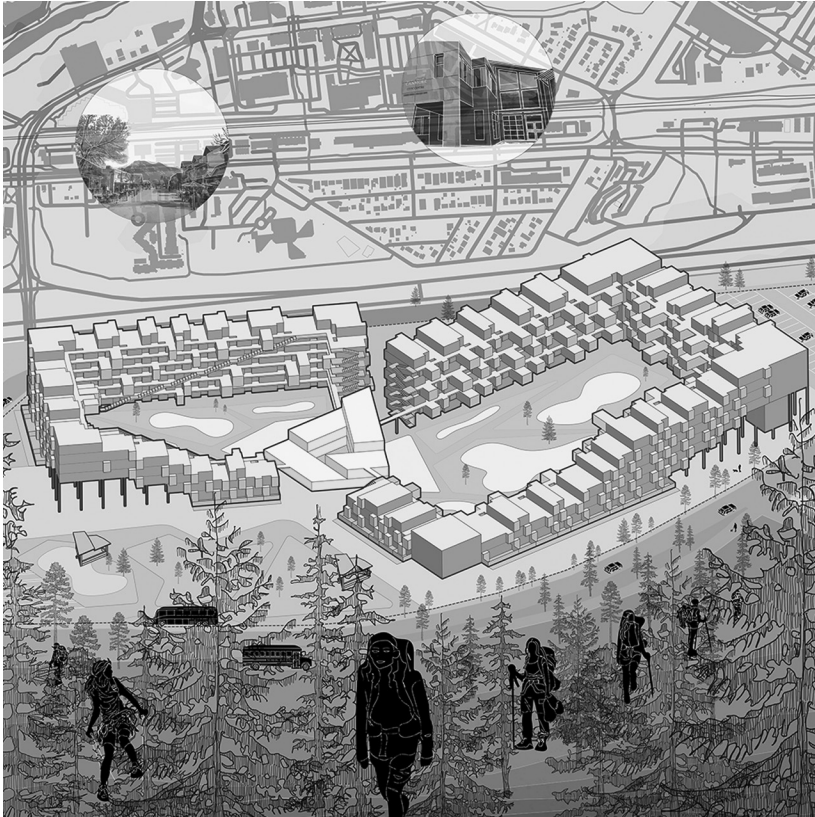
Daniel Dempsey

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

Pushing The Envelope: Renovating Toronto's High-Rise Condominiums

High-rise condominium units account for around 10% of Toronto's housing stock. And the envelopes of these buildings are aging; fast. Emerging climate concerns could mean greater risks of water infiltration and overheating, which can be addressed if condominium boards plan for building envelope upgrades. However, shifting these buildings from climate liabilities to climate assets is not as easy as it might seem, but if the alternative is demolition, it's worth trying. This research seeks to unpack the socio-political, financial, technical, and legal constraints related to high-rise condominium renovations, and provide guidance for condominium boards to plan for the future.



Yanli Dong

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Interlocking Dwellings - An Affordable Rental Housing

Interlocking Dwellings provides publicly subsidized homes for seasonal workers and permanent residents in Canmore Town, Alberta, through two linked courtyard buildings. Adjacent to the forest, the project addresses Canmore's shortage of long-term rental housing for tourism workers. Offering affordability and livability, 248 units are spread across two buildings with seven storeys. One building is designed for seasonal workers, most of whom come to Canmore alone and stay for 3-6 months. The other structure is for long-term employees who relocate in Canmore with families and will create a comparatively more stable relationship with their neighbors.



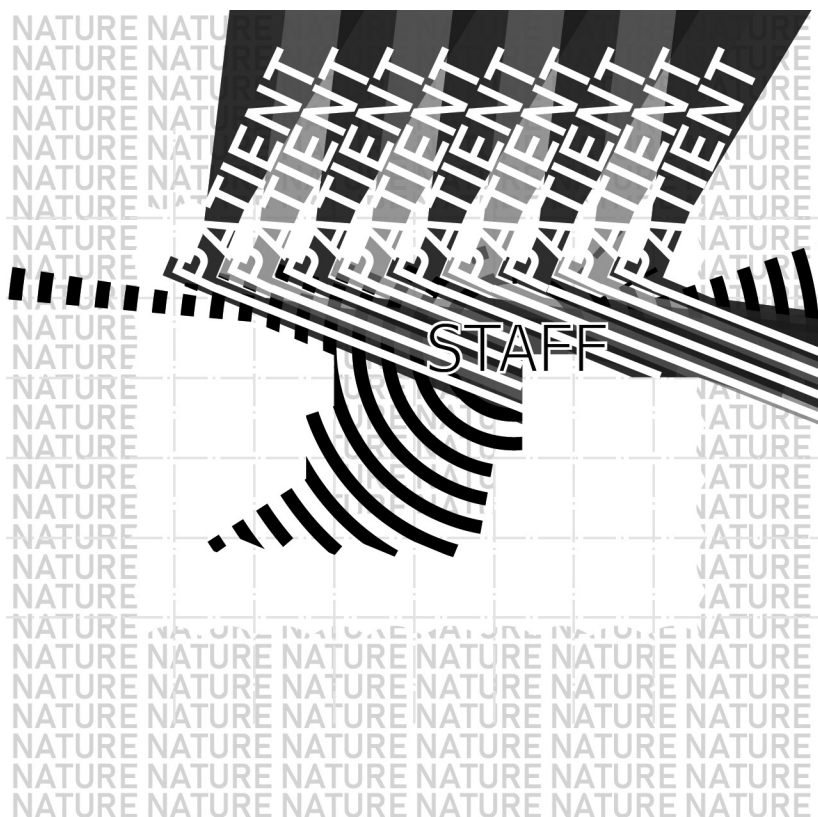
Julia Dronsejko

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Bioscape: Biophilia and Theoretical Hybridity in Architecture for Health

Bioscape is a principle of thoughtful design that fosters a symbiotic relationship between architecture, landscape, and community. Through this integration of biophilic and sociopetal design, Long-Term Care is redefined; creating an environment where nature, wellness, and connection coexist. By weaving residents into the fabric of their environment and empowering them to share their talents, this space celebrates self-worth, dignity, and the endless potential of intergenerational engagement. Bioscape promotes mutual growth, ensuring seniors remain active participants in their communities. Here, aging is not about retreating but about continuing to contribute, learn, and grow.



Jiachen Du

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Empowering Transparency: Reframing Power Dynamics in Hospital Architecture

This thesis explores how transparency—physical, spatial, and operational—can reshape power dynamics in hospitals. Traditional hospital designs often reinforce hierarchies, limiting patient autonomy and communication. By analyzing stakeholder perspectives in key hospital spaces, this research develops a taxonomy of transparency strategies to mitigate power imbalances. The proposed 100-bed cardiovascular hospital integrates these strategies to enhance trust, patient empowerment, and patient-centered care. Through rethinking boundaries between patients, staff, and nature, this thesis aims to create a hospital model that not only improves healthcare outcomes but also serves as a prototype for more inclusive and equitable medical spaces in the future.



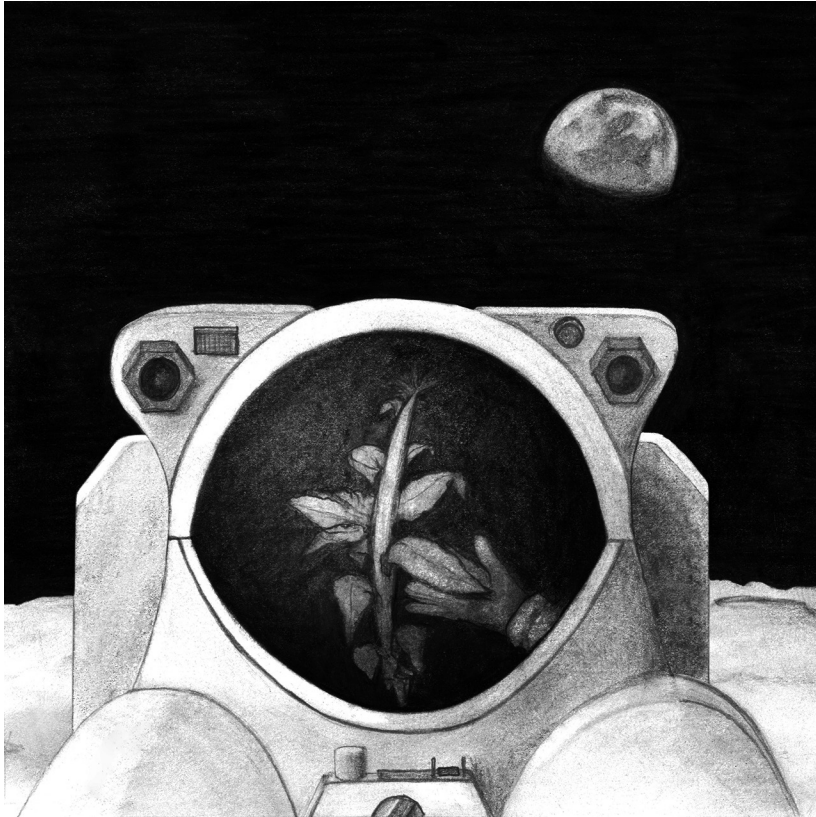
Ghazal Elmizadeh

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Perch, Nest, Play: Reshaping Urban Facades into Playgrounds for Avian Life

The relationship between building facades and birds is an often-overlooked aspect of architectural design. Birds have long interacted with facades, using them as habitats, perching spots, and even playgrounds. However, conventional architecture treats facades primarily as aesthetic or functional barriers, neglecting their potential as ecological interfaces. This oversight contributes to the decline of urban biodiversity and limits opportunities for meaningful human-bird interactions.



Nathanial Fair

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Lunar Seed Pods: Nature-integrated architecture for germinating lunar life

“Before architecture, humanity lived in Earth’s nature. Architecture moderates our interactions with the biosphere, protecting us from nature’s dangers and selectively constraining nature into spaces of life-sustaining agriculture and life-enriching recreation. Out of Earth, humanity will need nature to live. As we begin to build outside of Earth’s biosphere, nature must accompany us for sustainment and enrichment—a microcosm that must be enabled, and protected, by a new extraterrestrial architecture. Lunar Seed Pods is one such architecture: parametric and biophilic design strategies create nature-integrated modules for initial lunar habitation and aggregation, ensuring that lunar development germinates from symbiotic human-nature cohabitation.”



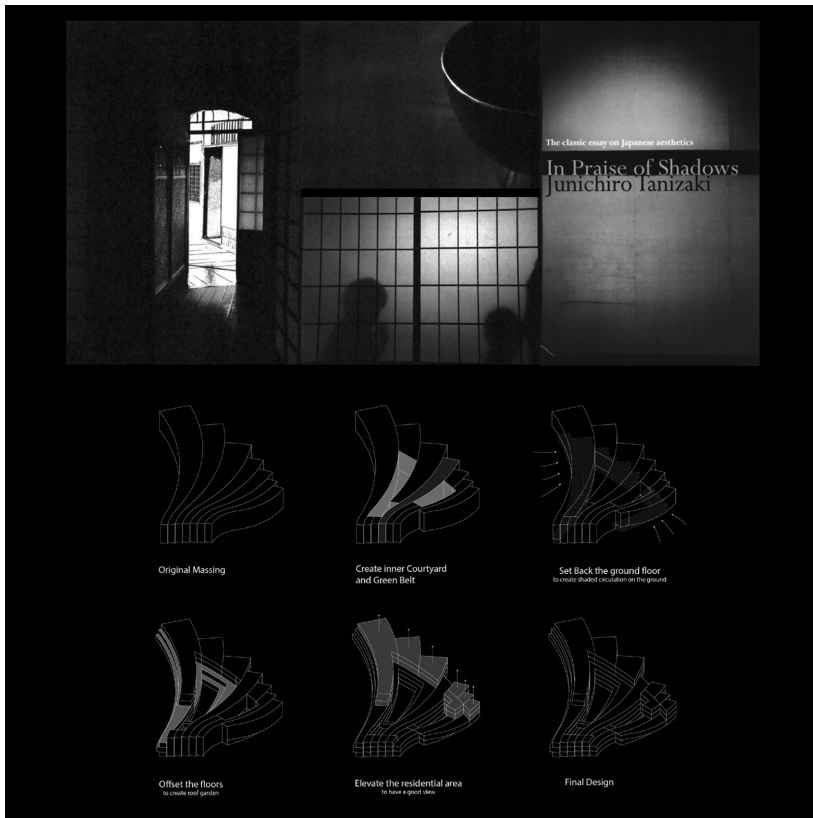
Ariana Fernandez Chesquin

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Space into Place

Culture is inseparable from human existence; without humans, there is no culture, and without culture, life loses the expressions that shape our experiences. As humans aim to establish a presence on the Moon, we face a unique challenge: imagining life in a place devoid of cultural heritage. Unlike Earth, the Moon offers no sensory or material cues to shape cultural frameworks, making it a blank slate that demands more than technical ingenuity. From vernacular architecture to the International Space Station, cultural practices—shared meals, personal artifacts, rituals—have remained essential to psychological resilience and social cohesion. This thesis investigates how culture might evolve (or non-evolve) on the Moon, and explores the architectural elements that transform a functional space into a meaningful place.



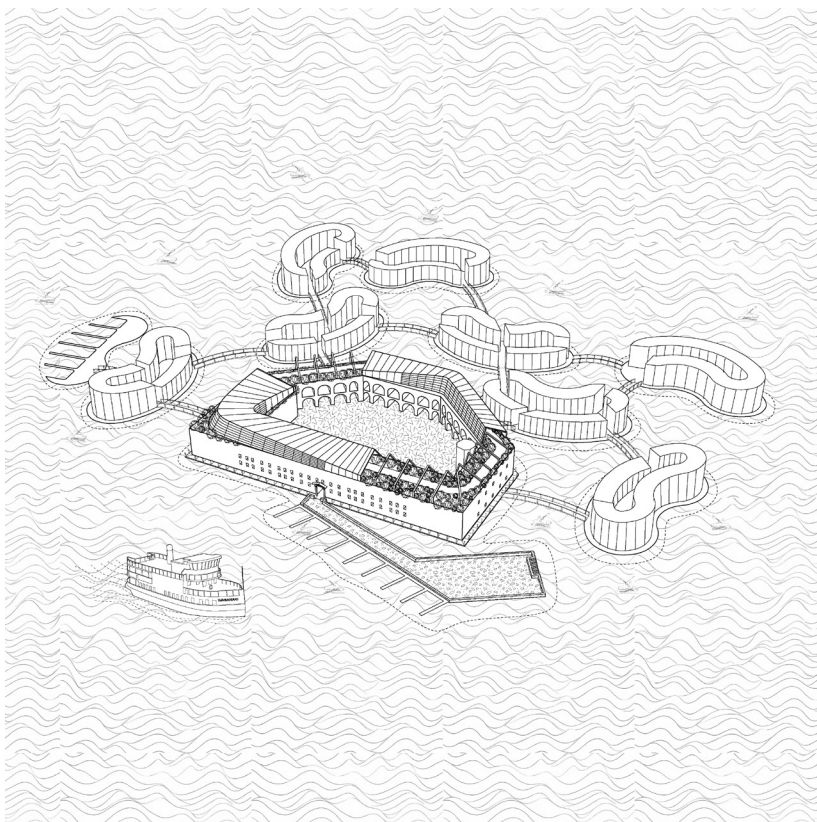
Yutian Gong

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Shade, shadow and their poetic expression in architecture for health

This thesis aims to explore the unique beauty of shadow in architecture. Shadows can serve as a refuge in architecture, provide a sense of privacy and shelter in both physical and psychological terms, and provide respite for people from the stresses of everyday life, thus providing sustained therapeutic support for its occupants.



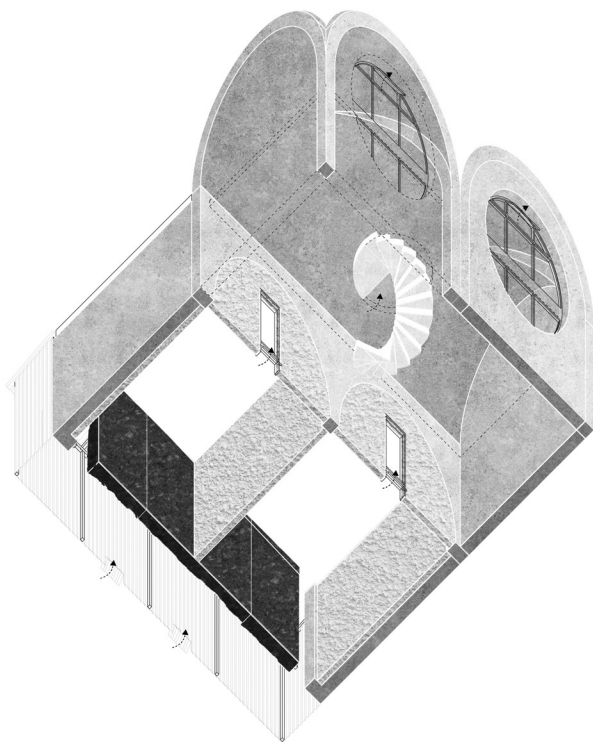
Harir Goodarznia

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Sink or Swim: Floating Solutions for Coastal Resilience

Water-based development is important for adapting to rising sea levels and can provide a framework for alternative dwelling structures and resilience in coastal cities. Portland, Maine, with its vulnerability to a projected 3-metre sea-level rise by 2100, along with low elevation and dense coastal population, is particularly at risk. The proposed project envisions a floating community off Fort Gorges on Hog Island Ledge, transforming the idea of Utopia into Heterotopia. By creating adaptable, water-based dwellings, this project positions Portland at a critical crossroads in the wake of the climate crisis—one where the city must decide whether to sink or swim.



Lhanzi Gyaltsan

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Stone in Flux

Before complex mechanical systems homogenized indoor climates, ancient builders staggered spaces along thermal gradients, allowing spaces to gather, store, and release energy in rhythm with the seasons. Yet today, the revival of structural stone often overlooks this essential quality: stone's ability to mediate climate. This thesis positions climate control as a material phenomenon, exploring stone as a medium of energy transfer. Through a series of "spatial fragments," it examines how thermal mass strategies can establish spatial hierarchy, naturally distributing heating, cooling, and ventilation. These speculations reimagine architectural elements as stone vessels for energy exchange and recovery, reshaping how we inhabit and adapt to seasonal flux.



Valerie Hope Haddad

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Health-Promoting Architecture for a Marginalized Population

As societies grapple with an aging population and rising housing instability, traditional long-term care models fail to provide dignity and support for unhoused elderly individuals. This thesis proposes a 100-bed facility in Toronto, integrating biophilic agriculture, advocacy-based architecture, and carbon-neutral materials to foster resilience, social inclusion, and well-being. By blending therapeutic green spaces, sustainable design, and multigenerational living, the project redefines aging-in-place while challenging institutional norms. More than a shelter, it is a model for inclusive, regenerative architecture bridging housing, healthcare, and environmental sustainability to create a future where marginalized populations can thrive.



Sahar Hakimpour

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Let it be late

This thesis engages stone within its long history of affiliation with both structure and somatic experience. The project aims to heighten banal mundane objects through an exploration of stone's material, symbolic, and performative attributes, thereby restoring a sense of emotional engagement and presence in the urban environment. Taking one of Toronto's busiest bus routes as its site, the project advocates for the enhancement of civic experiences and the reintroduction of ambiance within the public realm. The focus is directed toward everyday serial infrastructures, elements that are frequently overlooked as they are primarily designed with an emphasis on efficiency.



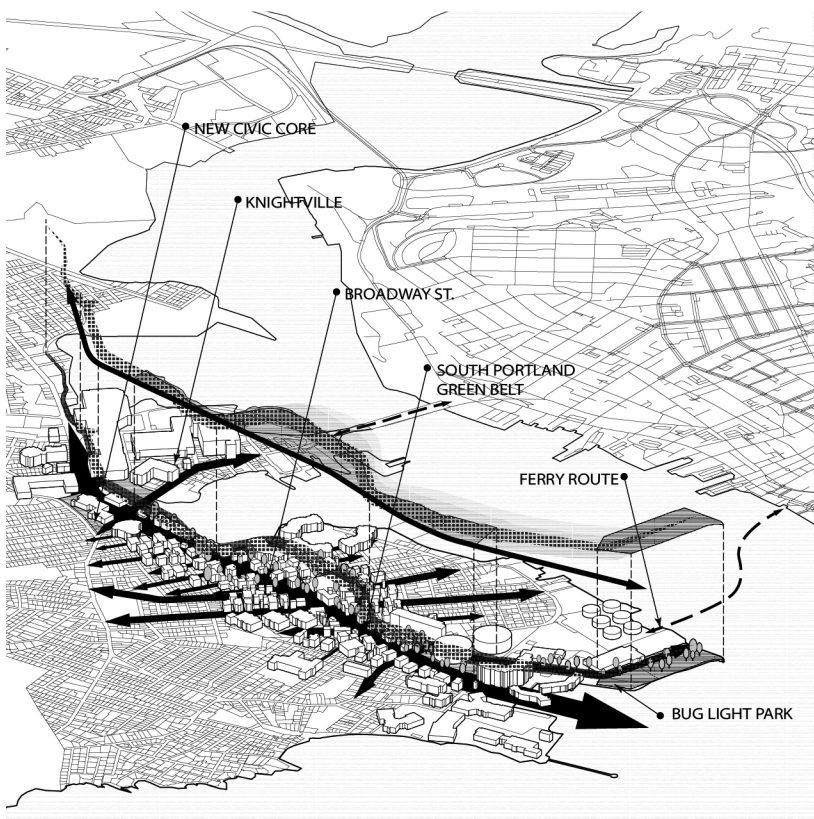
Haoran He

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

Making Room: From Rooming Houses to Co-Living

Affordability often demands the sacrifice of space and the quiet dignity of living well. Once, life unfolded beside fields and forests, in homes rooted in land and light. The memory of that wholeness lingers. Yet even now, when only a single room is within reach, it need not be less of a home. Architecture holds the power to restore what was lost—to shape spaces with care, with beauty, with humanity. A room can be enough, if it is made for living, for belonging. A room can hold the feeling of home. And that is everything.



Yang Hu

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Broadway & Greenbelt—South Portland Linear City

Where the land meets the sea and history is obscured, what role can a strategic urban vision play? Can South Portland's oldest areas survive in the face of rising tides, shifting commerce, and uncoordinated development? What are the means to address a shifting waterfront in ways that reimagine the spaces of home, work, and leisure in a resilient way? Taking South Portland's Broadway corridor between Knightsville and former industrial boatyards at Yard South, this project gives shape to a former rail line and nascent greenway, creating an inner coast to rehouse residents displaced by flooding, diversify the stock of buildings and landscapes, and improve citizens accessibility to the city.



Yipeng Huang

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

TO CIRCULATE THE HISTORICAL HEART

Portland faces the dual pressures of growing tourism and climate change. Portland has to redefine the role tourism will play in its future, and this will require changing the way people move through its urban core. By transforming its car-centric infrastructure and intensifying its historical corridors, this proposal envisions a pedestrian-first city center supported by technologies, limited-access traffic zones, and multimodal transit. The goal is to realize a more sustainable future while preserving Portland's historical identity, thereby creating a more inclusive, resilient environment.



Rafia Jabeen

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Neuroarchitecture for Healing: A Youth Rehabilitation Center

Neuroarchitecture offers a thoughtful approach to designing healthcare environments, applying neuroscientific insights to create spaces that support cognitive and emotional well-being. How might architectural elements, such as spatial configuration, natural light, and materiality, shape psychological recovery? This thesis argues for the integration of neuroarchitecture principles in rehabilitation design for Indigenous youth in Coquitlam, British Columbia, emphasizing the connection between built environments and mental health. By considering the therapeutic potential of spatial design, this study suggests that interior environments can do more than serve functional needs, as they can also contribute to well-being, providing spaces that support healing and personal growth.



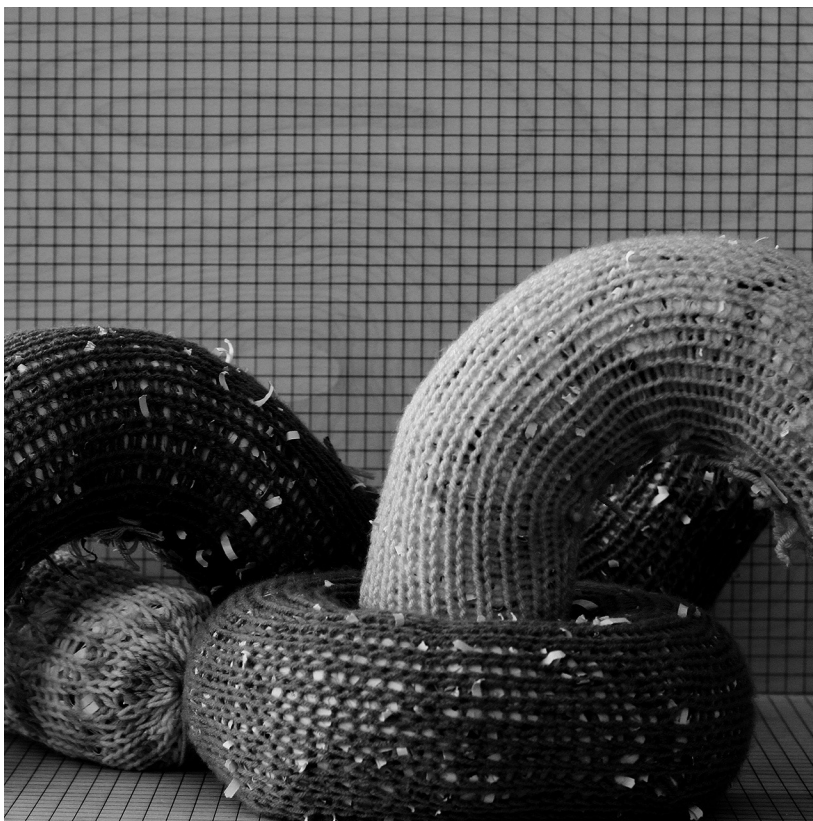
Fatima Jalalian

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

After Industry - Landscapes of Memory

This thesis investigates the transformation of abandoned industrial sites into cultural spaces, emphasizing their role in shaping and storing collective memory. Cheltenham Brickworks serves as a case study, illustrating how industrial activity has influenced the land over time and how design can help people observe these changes. The research explores how materiality and form can facilitate an experiential understanding of these transformations, encouraging engagement with the evolving site. By integrating adaptive reuse strategies, the project seeks to create a dialogue between past, present and future, allowing visitors to explore and reflect on the site's layered history through spatial experience.



Elham Khataei

MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonina

Soft Assemblies: Programming Textile Modules for Architecture

Soft Assemblies investigates the potential of soft, flexible materials to create lightweight, self-supporting structures. By engaging with textiles and recycled matter, it explores the transformation of ephemeral elements into stable forms. Rooted in material adaptability and sustainable construction, the research challenges conventional notions of permanence and rigidity. Through stitching and shaping new interplays of form, this thesis reconsiders the role of textiles in temporary interior architectural assembly. It blurs the boundaries between softness and strength, highlighting how simple interventions can create complex spatial and material relationships.



Yegor Konechnyy

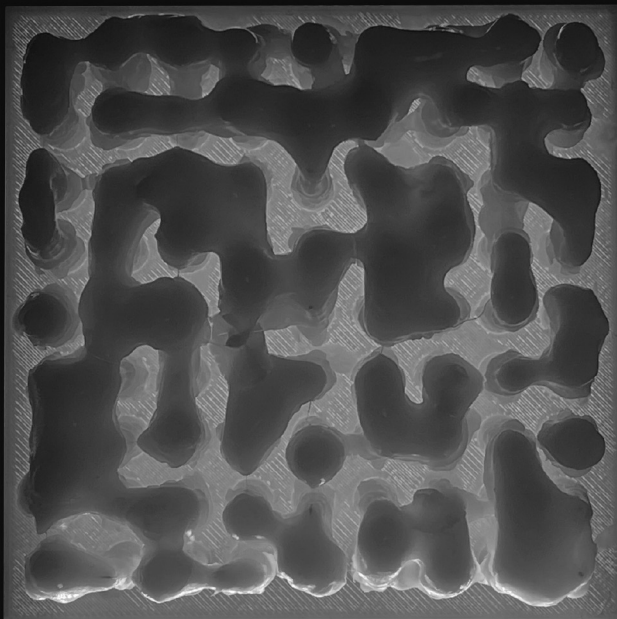
MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonina

Laborious Interface: So-Called “Collaboration”

“[a] collaboration is a purposeful relationship in which all parties strategically choose to cooperate in order to accomplish a shared outcome.”

Human-robot collaboration is a semantic error. The actions, decisions, and calculations undertaken by a machine are not its own; a hidden top-down power dynamic situates machines between users and the entities that design/program/manufacture them. Inspired by interfaces found in alternative-control video games & augmented reality experiences, this project reflects on these power dynamics through a collaborative spatial experiment where a UR10e cobot’s experience of space is driven by the bodily contortions of a human.”



Luka Koumari

MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonica

Molten Constructs: Controlled Wax Growth Through Robotic Fabrication

Wax is a stochastic material; it has a random probability that may be analyzed empirically but its behavior cannot be predicted precisely. Its material indeterminacy provides a set of parameters that are open to be systematically altered. This research aims to utilize a controlled wax dripping process through robotic fabrication by manipulating the parameters at which skeletal frameworks are dipped into molten wax and cold water. Serving as a foundation for lost-wax casting, this work bridges the gap between material stochasticity and controlled fabrication, pushing the boundaries of wax as a constructive medium.



Daniel Lam

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

Just a Little Bit of Faith

The pews are gone,
but the room is full.

A meal is served
where the altar once stood.

In the corner, someone rests
where others once prayed.

Needs shift,
but the space stays the same.

The church has changed.
Now the space must follow.



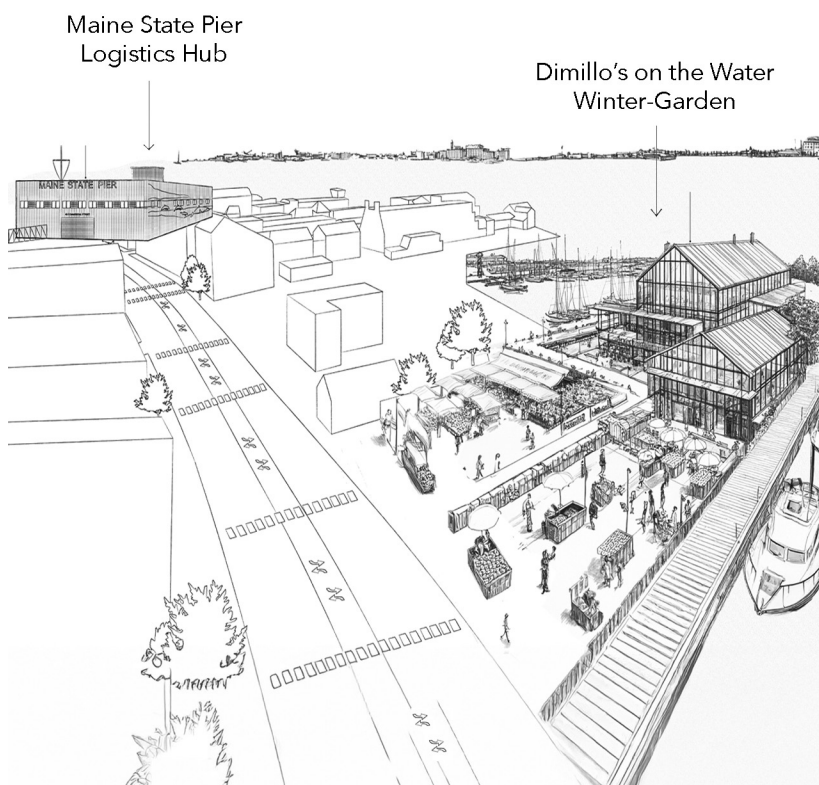
Gladys Lee

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Burn after building.

As structures surrender to the flames of ritual, its ashes nourish the earth, fertile soil births forests, and timber returns as architecture. Each ending seeds new beginnings, of a cyclical nature. In this project, architecture and silviculture collaborate to address the ecologically detrimental homogeneity of Sugi plantations in Japan, leveraging the country's tradition of fire rituals to reignite reverence for forestry. Here, the ritual functions as an economic trade—where making and unmaking sustains craft, tradition, and the forest itself. In this exchange, labor inverts to be ceremonial, destruction fuels renewal, and the practice of building, inseparable from languages of the ritual, continues its legacy through cycles of rebirth.



Jared Leslie

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

From Hinterlands to Harbour

This proposal envisions a transformative transect that reconnects Portland to its roots through traditional agriculture and modern aquaculture, centered on kelp production. As the lobster industry declines—a façade of coastal identity soon to be exposed—Portland must confront the fragility of an economy led by tourism. The transect anchors at two key sites: the Maine State Pier as a logistics hub for food innovation, and Dimillo's on the Water as a winter-garden, year-round market, and culinary institute. Together, they offer a new model of resilience—where land, sea, and community converge to shape a more authentic, self-sustaining future rooted in food, culture, and ecological adaptation.



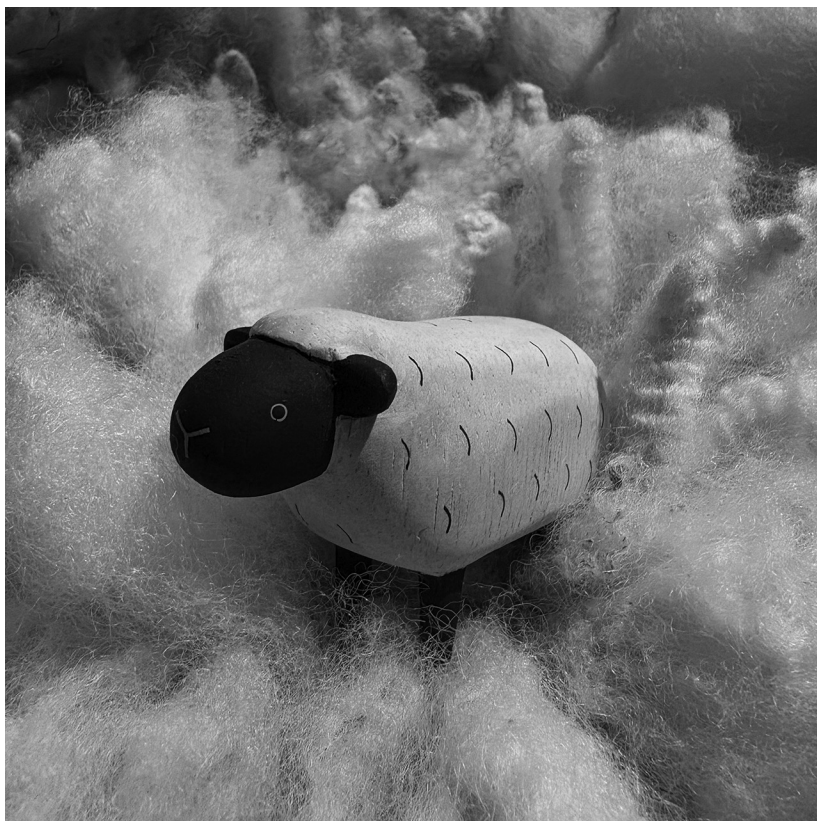
Zhelun Li

MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonina

Flexi-gon: Adaptive Molding for Polygonal Voussoirs

Flexi-gon introduces an innovative fabrication process for irregular, tapered polygons by integrating robotic assistance with traditional casting techniques. A robotic arm precisely places reconfigurable jigs at preprogrammed angles to cast custom polygonal voussoirs for masonry vault systems. This method reduces reliance on disposable moulds and minimizes material waste. The project employs computational design to optimize structural geometry while preserving the flexibility of analog craft. By combining robotic precision with traditional casting, the research enhances efficiency in vault construction, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional processes.



Michelle Liu

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Unraveling Waste, Weaving Space

Despite its rich history and versatility, wool has become a largely discarded material—once essential to everyday life, it is now an overlooked byproduct of the textile and meat industries. This thesis explores how waste wool can be transformed into architectural materials, bridging historical craft traditions with modern production techniques. Drawing from Gottfried Semper's theory of architecture, which links textiles to the origins of enclosure, the project examines how material processes shape design beyond the hearth, roof, mound, and fence. Through hands-on experimentation, it positions wool as a sustainable interior material, engaging broader conversations on waste, production, and bio-based building futures.



Yi Liu

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Resilient Lunar Habitats: Human-Centered Design via Adaptive Systems

This research establishes a human-centered framework for lunar habitat design that prioritizes occupant well-being over mere structural efficiency. By incorporating flexible modular panels, dynamic circulation pathways, and adaptable spatial configurations, the project seeks to mitigate isolation, monotony, and confinement while stimulating exploratory behaviors. The design empowers occupants to personalize their living environments, thereby enhancing psychological resilience and promoting balanced lifestyles. Focusing on innovative architectural strategies that integrate technical adaptability with human-centric requirements, this work delivers practical solutions for creating sustainable and psychologically enriching extraterrestrial habitats.



Olivia Loncar Bartolini

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

The Architecture of Staying: Seasonal Dwelling in Post-Tourism Rural Italy

Have you ever wondered what happens in the small rural villages of Central Italy? Rooted in annual cycles of festivals, food, and shifting populations, my thesis takes an ethnographic approach to designing four small interventions, re-purposing unused or abandoned structures in response to the rhythms and histories of Limano for both permanent residents and seasonal visitors. By exploring how architecture can shape the experience of living in—and staying in—rural areas affected by depopulation, I aim to create spaces that are both functional and reflective of their communities.



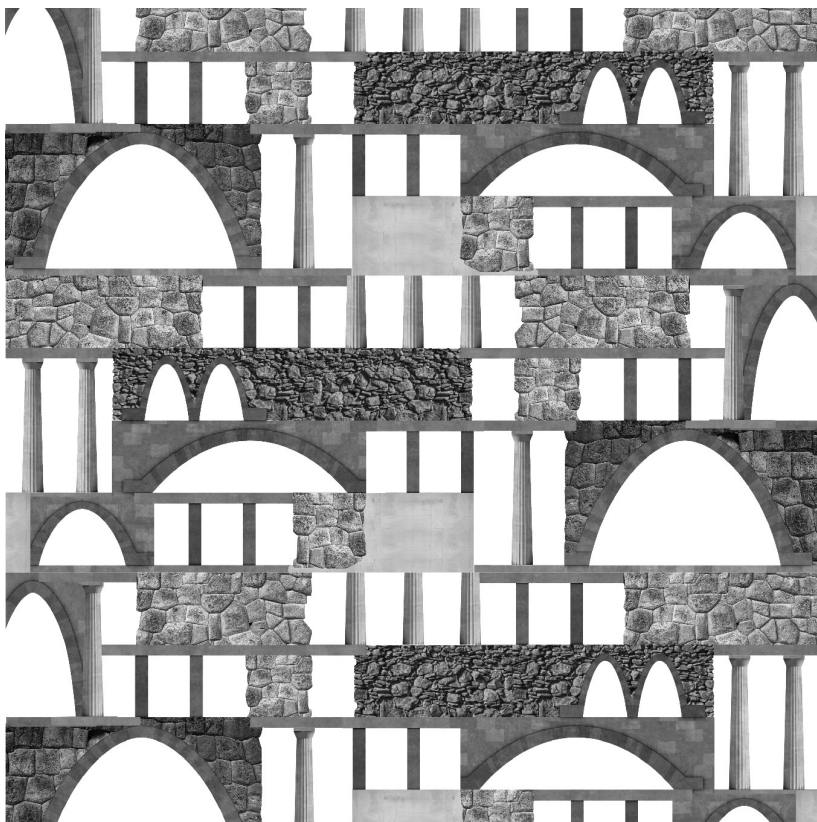
Lily Lu

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

Chinatown (re)Centre

Chinatown Centre isn't physically crumbling - yet - but its socioeconomic fabric is unraveling. Set against the vibrant streets of Toronto's Chinatown, the iconic mall stands in stark contrast - introverted and underutilized. Yet, it remains a haven for small businesses and community groups, drawn by low rent and a prime location. Amid mounting development pressures in Chinatown, this project envisions retrofitting the building as a dynamic community anchor. Central to this thesis is the exploration of the everyday urbanism that permeates the mall, coupled with a sensitivity to the diverse actors who shape and inhabit its spaces.



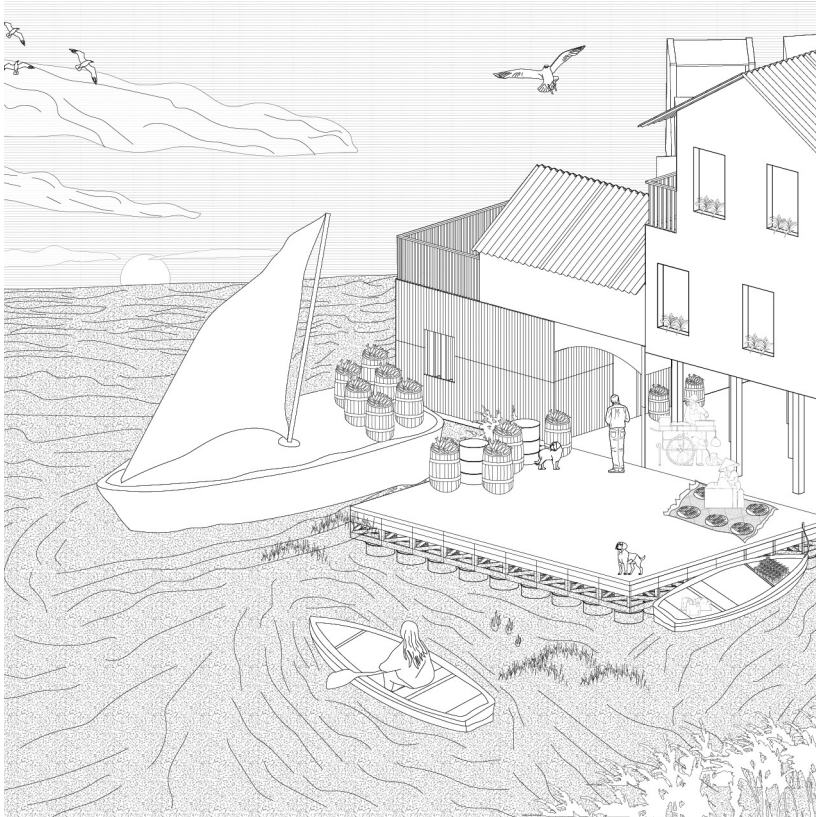
Caleigh MacDonald

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Not Set In Stone: Anticipating Obsolescence

Design specificity relative to program leads to obsolescence. The ideology that function drives form assumes a fixed relationship between spatial design and programmatic use, disregarding the unpredictability of how spaces will be occupied over a building's lifespan. Focusing on the role of durability in architecture, this thesis proposes stone as a low-carbon material for long-lasting buildings. It will challenge the notion that adaptable buildings must be generic by taking the mixed-use building—a typology that is underwhelming in its ability to mix uses—to demonstrate how structural stone can enable dynamic and diverse spaces, generating an architectural expression that is far from being set in stone in allowing various programming.



Taryn Magee

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Aquatecture: Resiliency in a Climate-Threatened World

Coastal cities, specifically in the Global South are most at risk for intense storm surges, erosion and salt-water encroachment as a result of climate change. The Concepción Bay in Chile marks an intersection between the glacier melt of the Andes, rising sea levels, and forces people who reside there to evacuate and move. This thesis proposes floating developments as a viable solution to respond to current displacement from climate change, and will be manufactured off-site by the inhabitants. My proposal will create an adaptable, sustainable, regionally informed and self-sustaining floating community for the rural poor in low-elevation coastal zones.



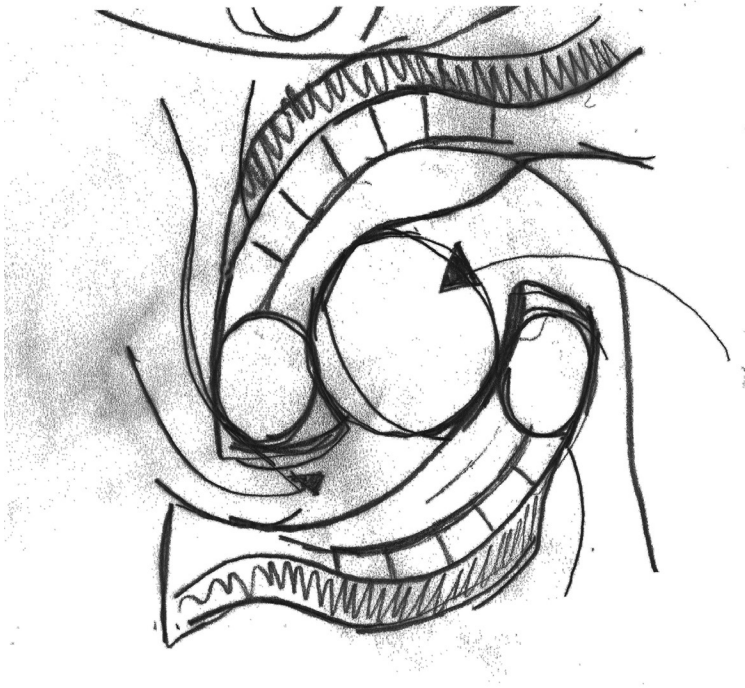
Sonia Mataj

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Stone by Stone

What if sites of extraction were designed with deep time in mind? Centered on an active quarry in Wiarton, Ontario, this thesis reimagines quarries as dynamic landscapes where excavation is a generative act, creating new spatial opportunities over time. The project anticipates the transformation of the quarry from an un(human)touched geological formation to an industrial site and, ultimately, to future ruins gradually returning to the land. The built form emerges from the very material extracted, embedding the site's geological history into its architecture. Engaging with geological temporality, the project challenges the notion of quarries as endpoints, instead proposing them as enduring, transformative sites embedded within deep time.



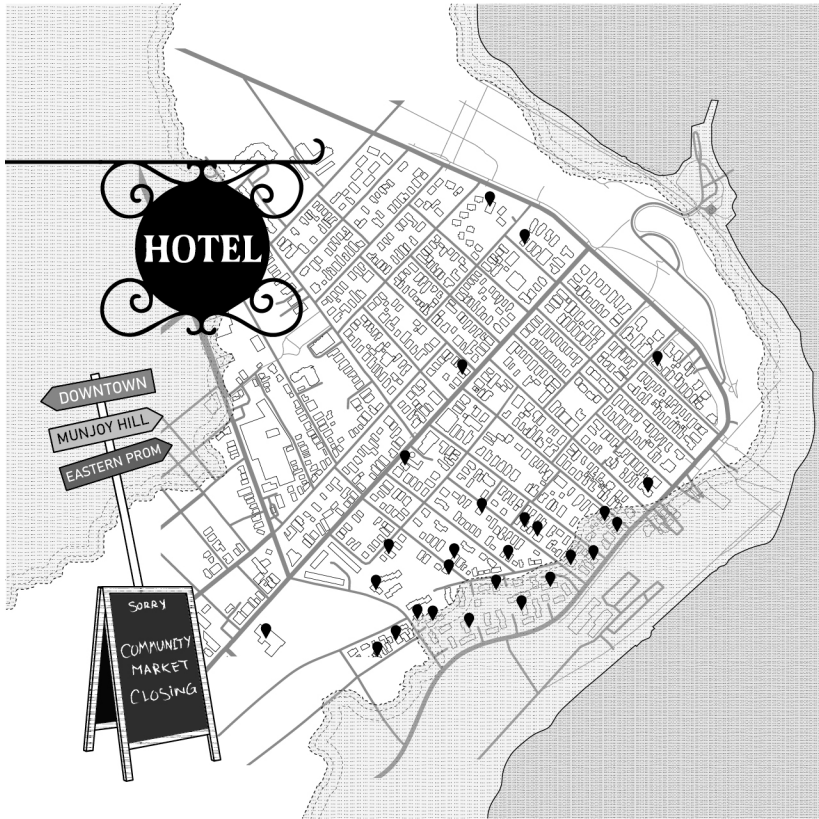
Jordan Mckay

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

The Journey Towards Home

Winnipeg, Manitoba, is home to the highest population of Indigenous people in Canada. Unfortunately, Indigenous youth make up 84% of all Winnipeg youth experiencing homelessness. Utilizing an Indigenous-led approach, The Journey Towards Home creates an intentional and purposeful housing space that challenges the colonialist definition of homelessness and alleviates its impact on our youth. The space fosters an environment for reconnection to land, culture, community, ceremony, and growth within the urban fabric. Emulating the path of the Red River, this multi-use mid-riseresidentialprojectpromotesgrowthandhealingbycreatingculturally adequate spaces for learning, connecting, and ceremony within the built form and the landscape.



Julia Miclaus

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Do (Not) Disturb

How might hospitality architecture address tensions between tourism-driven growth and community resilience in coastal cities? Portland, a small city in Maine that receives millions of visitors on a seasonal basis, is seeing rapid development beyond its downtown core, especially towards Munjoy Hill, a picturesque neighbourhood safe from the rising sea levels of the city's coast. As a result, community spaces are being replaced by tourist accommodations. From summer overcrowding to winter vacancy—tourism is straining existing infrastructure and deepening the disconnect between visitors and locals. This thesis develops a toolkit of infill variations on the 'hotel,' each incorporating shared spaces to foster social interaction and encourage changing seasonal uses.



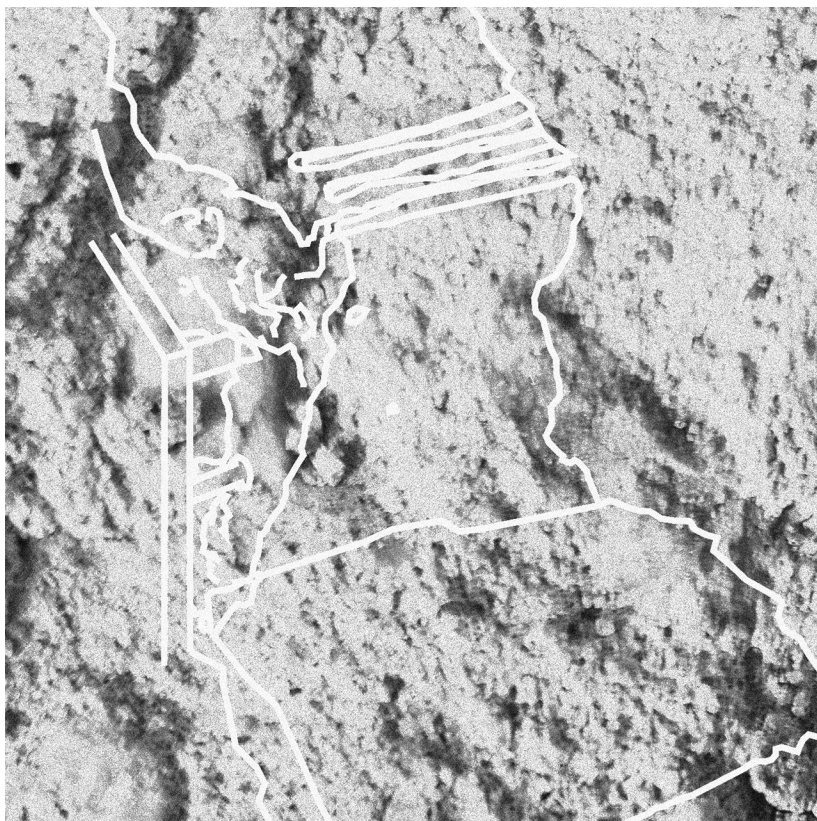
Ho Yeung Miu (Owen)

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Co-Care Lodge

Co-Care Lodge responds to the urgent need for tailored, affordable housing solutions for Toronto's aging population. Since COVID-19, many city-operated elderly care facilities have become under-maintained, with some facing demolition. It offers a new intergenerational, care-based co-housing model that reimagines the relationship between older adults, caregivers, and their families. Through unlocking in-fill opportunities in established neighborhoods and integrating shared indoor and outdoor spaces, The Lodge integrates new care residences without extensive land acquisition and reduces costs while fostering stronger community ties across roles and generations. It embraces a sustainable and replicable building approach that prioritizes economical, durable dwellings that promote long-term community integration while challenging the outdated "warehousing" of seniors.



Sofia Munera Mora

MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonina

A bag full of broken things - Tools for architectural care

Using technologies familiar to architects, A Bag Full of Broken Things develops tools for observation and remediation. Starting with the Daniels Building, a place deeply familiar to me, I set out to carefully collect breakages: pavement cracks, peeling paint, missing tiles. In doing so, I spend time in proximity to the imperfections of our built environment, returning to them again and again in physical and digital spaces. In this repetition, I build understanding and empathy that I hope to share with my audience. I believe that the complexity of the built environment can not be solved with quick technical fixes. Instead, I suggest that care, close attention, and repair, offer a more meaningful approach to design.



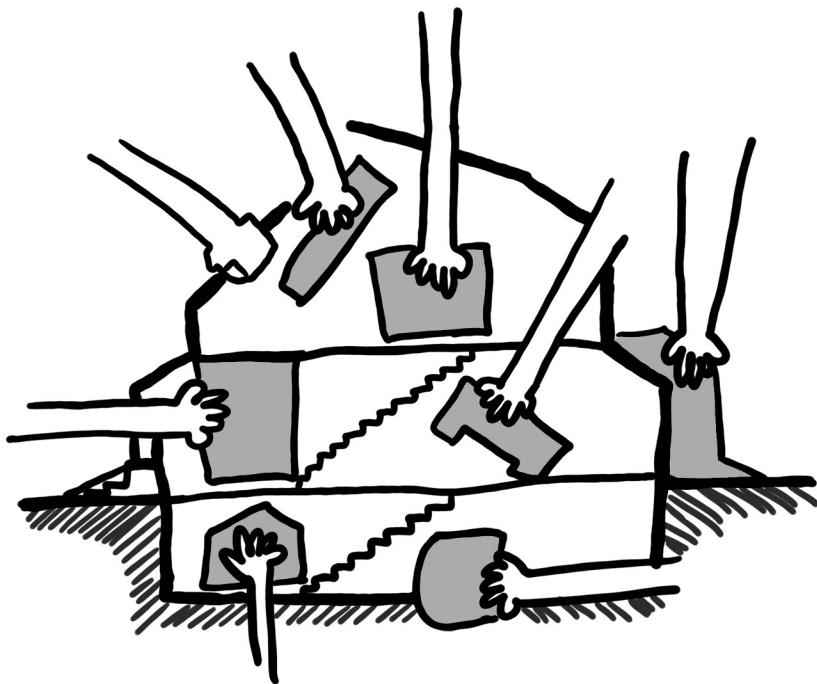
Elizabeth Nadeau

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Lasting Legacy

In this age of climate change, rising sea levels are becoming more of a threat to the cities and towns that lie below them. Despite solutions to adapt new constructions to this reality, few consider how to protect the embedded architectural history that is at the heart of the community. Thus, this thesis investigates how future developments can be integrated in East Bayside, Maine, to both conserve and enhance its architectural and social heritage. Simultaneously, it aims at improving its resilience to climate change – particularly in terms of infrastructure, community, and sustainability.



Jennifer Nguyen

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Home in flux

The single-family home is dying; but the single detached home is ready to be reborn. Home in Flux reclaims Toronto's detached homes as adaptable spaces for intergenerational, multigenerational, and collective living, supporting contemporary and future ways of life. Where Toronto's housing stock once met resident needs, it is now financially unattainable and spatially inadequate. Housing is a human right, and homes must evolve with their households. Disrupting conventional spatial patterns, the project inserts flexible spaces into existing housing stock to adapt to shifting families, cultures, and needs. Home in Flux provides residents with agency and belonging.



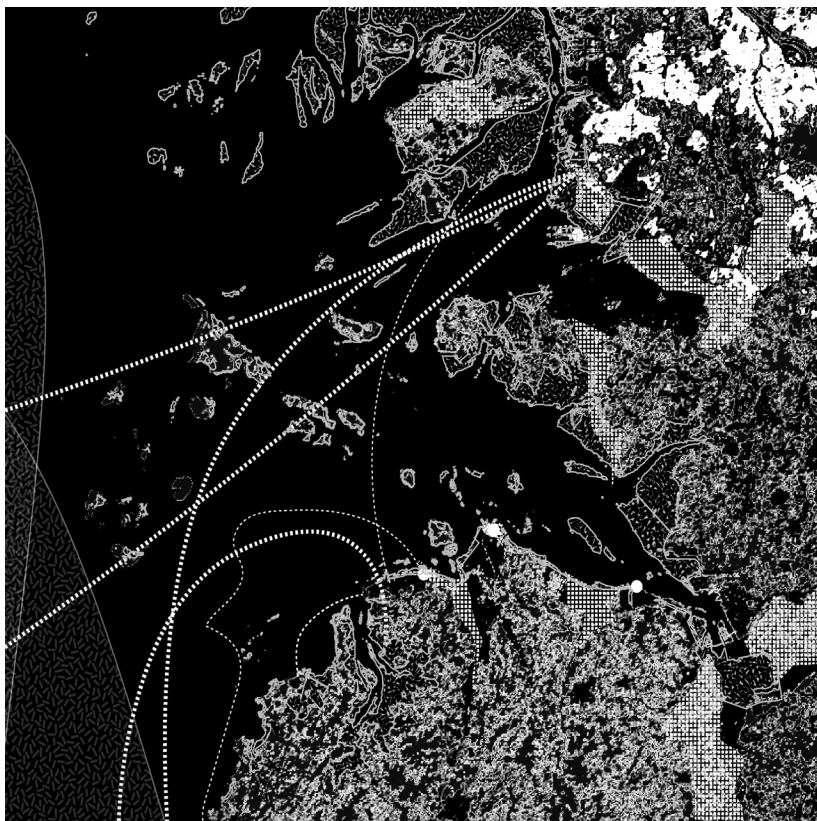
Avondale Nixon

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

The Faults of Asphalt

Can the pervasive, impermeable asphalt surfaces of coastal cities be ground zero for creating spaces of social and ecological resilience? Speculative yet site-specifically grounded in archetypical paved lots across downtown Portland, Maine, this research and design work culminates in a toolkit of scaled interventions—furniture, architecture, and urban elements—that could be strategically applied within other coastal contexts to support flood mitigation, habitat preservation, and community engagement. Referencing Portland's maritime heritage and natural resources, all elements are constructed from "oystercrete," a sustainable concrete alternative made from discarded oyster shells—offering a localized, regenerative material strategy.



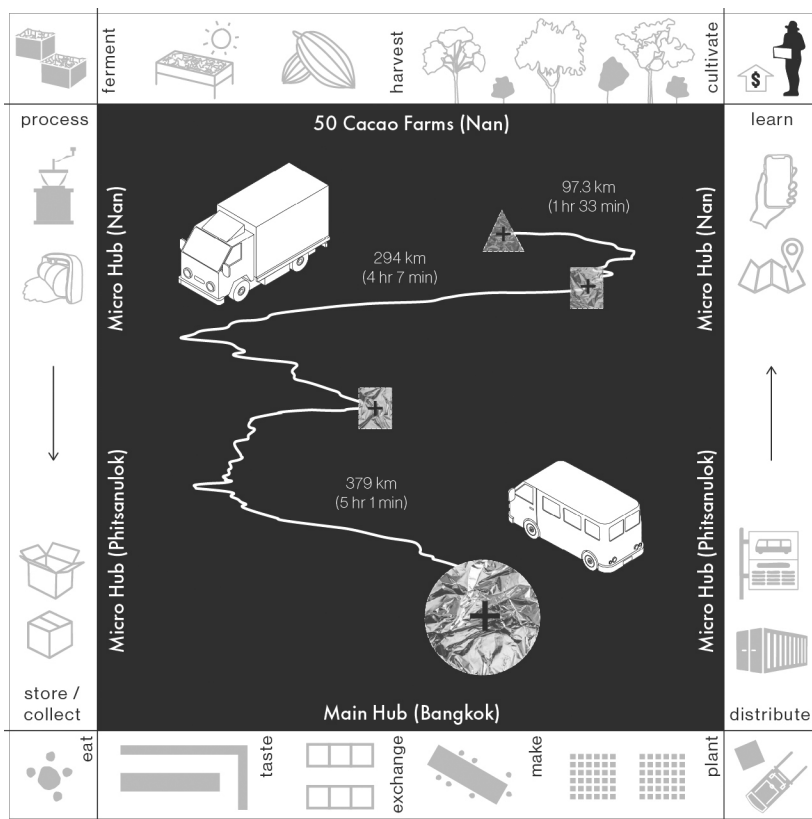
Yunjung Park

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Softening hard edges: unbuilding artificial edges for coastal resilience

Korea's coastal regions urgently need to build resilience against climate change and rising sea levels while maximizing carbon sequestration. The peninsula holds vast potential for blue carbon—carbon absorbed by coastal ecosystems—but industrialization has replaced natural shores with hardened, artificial edges and reclaimed land for agriculture, ports, and power plants. This has led to the loss of resilient, carbon-sequestering ecosystems like mudflats. This project reimagines the decommissioned coal power plant into a resilient, blue carbon power plant: a landscape and adaptive re-use strategy to restore coastal sequestration potential and enhance adaptability to future climatic changes in Taean coastal region.



Pimravee Phoncharoen

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Cacao Circles (Connecting Farmers and Cities Through Cacao)

Cacao in Thailand is more than a commodity—it is a contested economy wherein corporate monopolies produce monoculture and dictate pricing. Cacao Circles disrupts this system through a cooperative, ethical supply chain. This thesis presents a regional strategy that links agroforestry farms with on-site drying and fermenting stations, micro hubs for processing and local ingredient integration, and a Bangkok hub for public engagement, including a restaurant, café, bar, workshop, and distribution center. This architecture of resilience cultivates farmer autonomy, strengthens local value chains, and repositions cacao as a new ecosystem for more sustainable cultivation and a step toward equitable trade.



Renée Powell-Hines

MARC

Advisor: Maria Yablonina

faBRICK: Fabric-Formed Clay Modules aided by Robotic Manipulation

This project aims to create a robotically-aided fabrication process that produces modules formed by flexible materials; this developmental study is positioned within the manufacturing of “fluid architecture,” or architecture that takes on an undulating and complex physical form. In contemporary construction practices, these forms are often derived from carbon-intensive materials as form or formwork, or the heavy use of natural materials as formwork, leading to the depletion of that resource. faBRICK is a proof of concept for the fabrication of modules that utilize minimal formwork in their creation and leverages the inherent characteristics of flexible materials to strengthen their performance as a system.



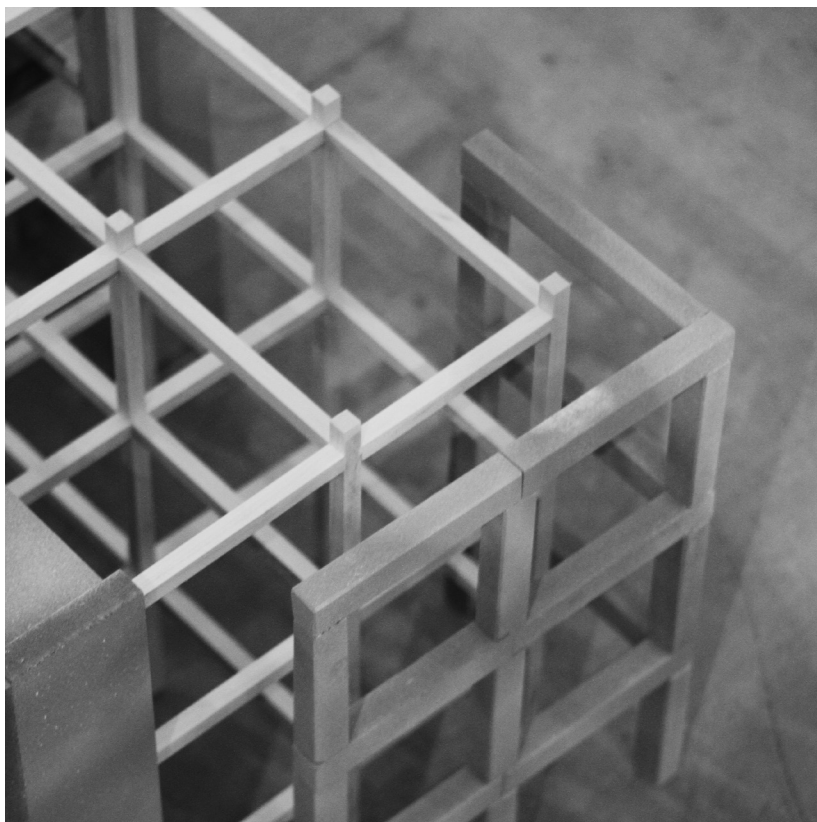
Hao Ran Qiu

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

A system for infill housing on public parking

Toronto needs new housing, but currently relies on dated models of large scale development that moves too slow during uncertain times. What if we took advantage of smaller infill development to increase housing supply while leveraging existing community structures? This thesis looks at Green P parking lots across Toronto and sees if a kit of parts can be deployed to systematically design multiple parcels with the same efficiency as large block developments. Eight lots across St. Clair West are taken to test the possibility of using this strategy to design a co-operative housing network, establishing communal amenities that complement the existing community.



Declan Roberts

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

(New) Vernacular: a prototype for Toronto's residential future

Toronto is situated on the precipice of change. With recent policy shifts permitting multi-family housing across the city's vast single-family "yellowbelt," a new vernacular housing typology is emerging—the multiplex. However, while policy has opened the door, its architectural potential remains unexplored. This project seizes the multiplex as an opportunity to rethink how we construct housing in Toronto, adapting a life-cycle approach which embraces durability and longevity as the key to sustainability. By designing adaptable, repairable structures, this thesis challenges the cycle of demolition and waste, advocating for a resilient architectural system built to endure an uncertain future.



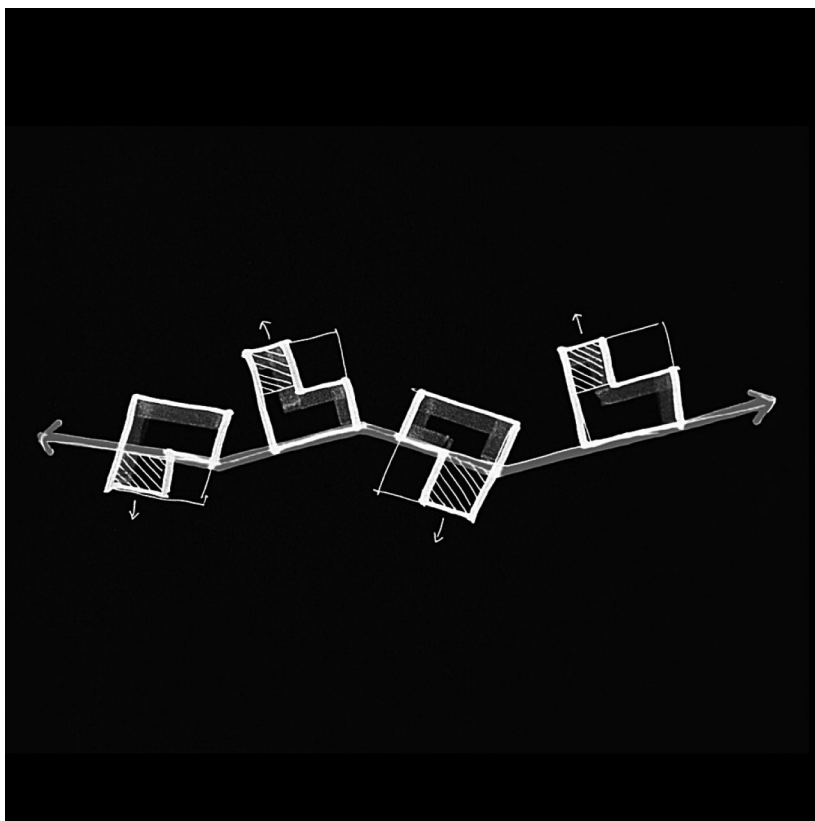
Zeynep Sahin

MARC

Advisor: Karen Kubey

Will You Be My Roomie?

In Toronto, shared living often takes the form of rooming houses adapted from single-family homes. Though affordable, these often compromise resident dignity, autonomy, and community connection. Will You Be My Roomie? proposes a new model of purpose-built shared housing, stewarded by the Parkdale Community Land Trust. Designed to support chosen families and evolving household structures, the project includes adaptable units with varying degrees of privacy, shared kitchens, living spaces and integrated “refuge spaces.” By reimagining rooming housing through the lens of collective ownership and social infrastructure, the project envisions a dignified, flexible, and deeply rooted future for shared urban living in Toronto.



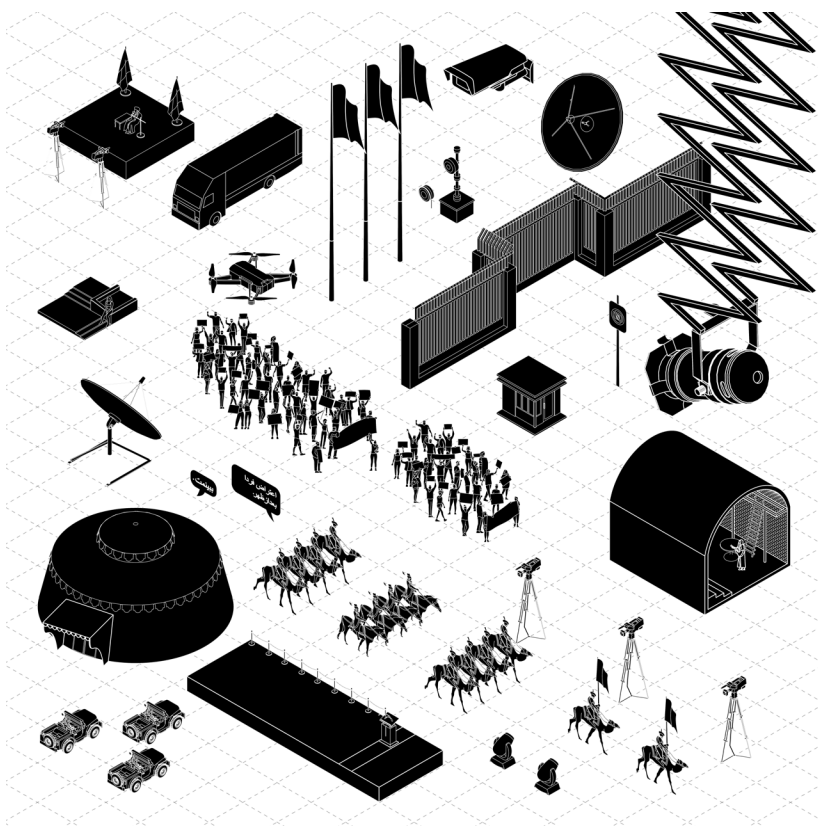
Aastha Saihgal

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Architectural Navigation: An Elderly Care Residence

This thesis explores how architectural strategies can enhance spatial navigation, particularly for individuals with dementia. It examines the crucial role of circulation spaces in wayfinding and user experience. To implement effective architectural navigation in a memory care facility, special attention is given to the relationship between cognitive mapping and biophilic design for intuitive and restorative spaces. The design presents residences organized along a continuous path, creating varied spatial experiences while maintaining a strong, intuitive flow. By integrating cognitive and design frameworks, the thesis aims to improve spatial legibility, demonstrating how thoughtful architecture can foster familiarity, and therapeutic engagement.



Raha Sayeh

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Proxy Spaces

How can a scattered community remain connected across borders? For Iranians in exile, resistance is often fragmented, voices dispersed across distant cities. A decentralized network of alternative consulates forms a web of solidarity, linking activists and artists through physical and symbolic gestures. These nodes operate as both diplomatic spaces and artist centers, using the legitimacy of consular functions to support cultural and political expression. Scenographic tactics shape these spaces, turning them into stages where presence itself is an act of defiance. More than just places, they create a living network of protest and diaspora, sustaining a connection that no border can erase.



Richard Schutte

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Corktown Eldercare Village

For the first time in history, there are now more Torontonians over the age of 65 than children aged 15 and under. There is a pressing need for affordable, active, walkable, transit-oriented senior housing across a variety of levels of care. This thesis proposes a modular prefab 192-bed long term care village adjacent to Corktown Commons. This site represents an opportunity to provide multigenerational mixed use long term care in a dense, well-connected urban site while providing residents with salutogenic design and agrotherapy through a wealth of indoor and outdoor gardens and agricultural amenities.



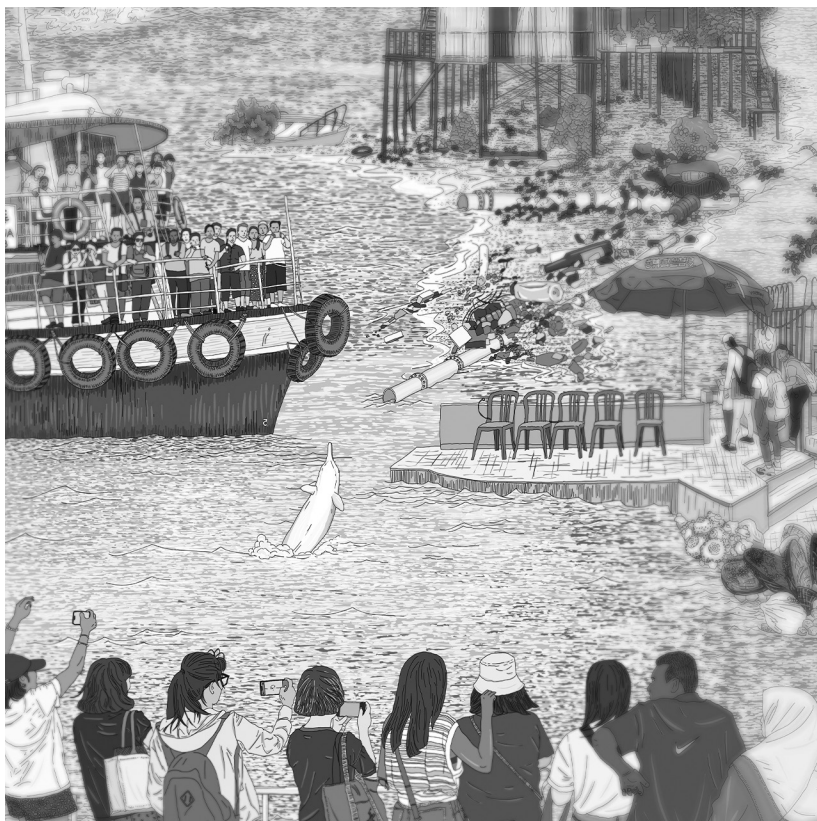
Kate Sherrin

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

A Grape to Save the World

This project proposes an alternative winery model—functioning as both a climatic archive + sensory catalyst. Wine grapes are unique in their ability to record the complex interplay of environmental factors in which they are grown. Through fermentation, this data becomes tangible sensory profiles—creating a consumable record of landscapes and climatic events. Subtle environmental changes, often imperceptible in daily life, become discernible through the tasting + comparing of vintages. In this model, the winery becomes a climate-educational facility, hosting tastings where visitors engage directly with archival materials. These multi-sensory experiences reconnect participants to their embodied existence + foster ecological consciousness.



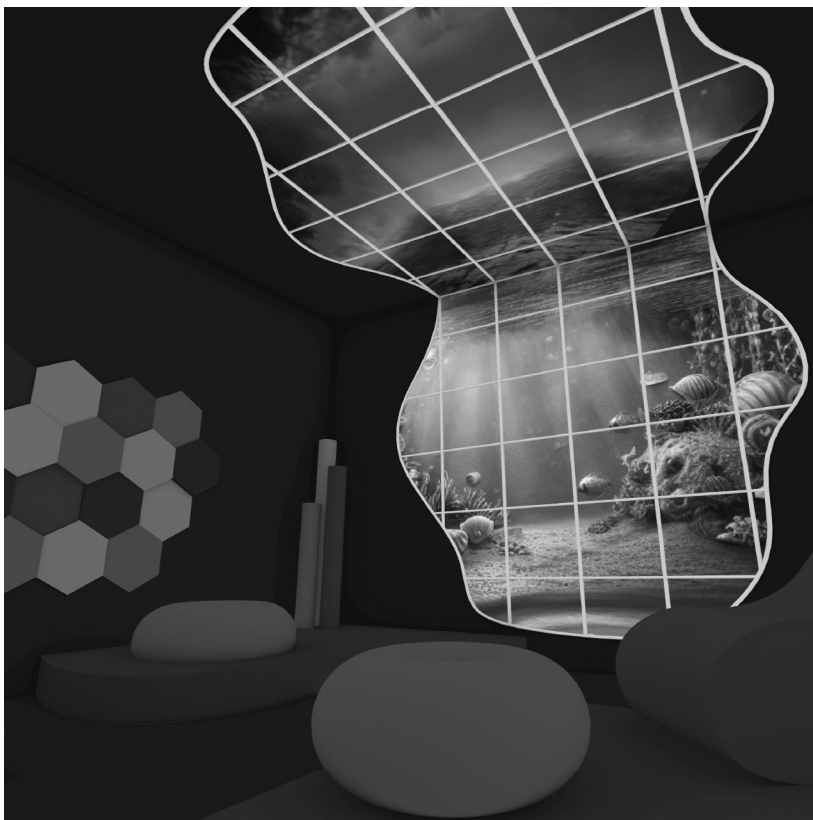
Xiaoyu Shi

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

New Territories

The airport artificial island emerges and expands. As the fishing grounds are threatened, a nearby fisherman collaborates with a pink dolphin to run a tourist program. Their risky business starts to flourish in the increasingly narrow waterways, churning with rising temperatures and intermingled nature-infrastructure, but the illegal detainment of wild animals also gives reason to the city tourism board to take away the dolphin for their own reasons... If the sound of pouring sand into the sea is not merely an empty mocking of the species, if artificial islands are New Territories that still suggest an implicit openness, can the last of us make our way through the waves, can dolphins dive as deeply as they have in their dreams?



Kimberly Soong

MARC

Advisor: Stephen Verderber

Multisensory Architecture as Therapeutic Intervention

This thesis explores the role of multisensory environments in rehabilitation architecture, integrating spaces that simulate familiar settings for physical and cognitive healing. By tailoring environments to individualized needs, the project illustrates how architecture can therapeutically fuse multimedia with spatial and experiential apertures, enhancing autonomy and accelerating recovery. Through interactive digital elements, biophilic design, and customizable sensory experiences, the design emphasizes surrogate environments that offer both real and virtual connections for personalized engagement. This approach underscores the potential of architecture to act as an active agent in the healing process, seamlessly integrating digital and natural elements to enhance rehabilitation environments.



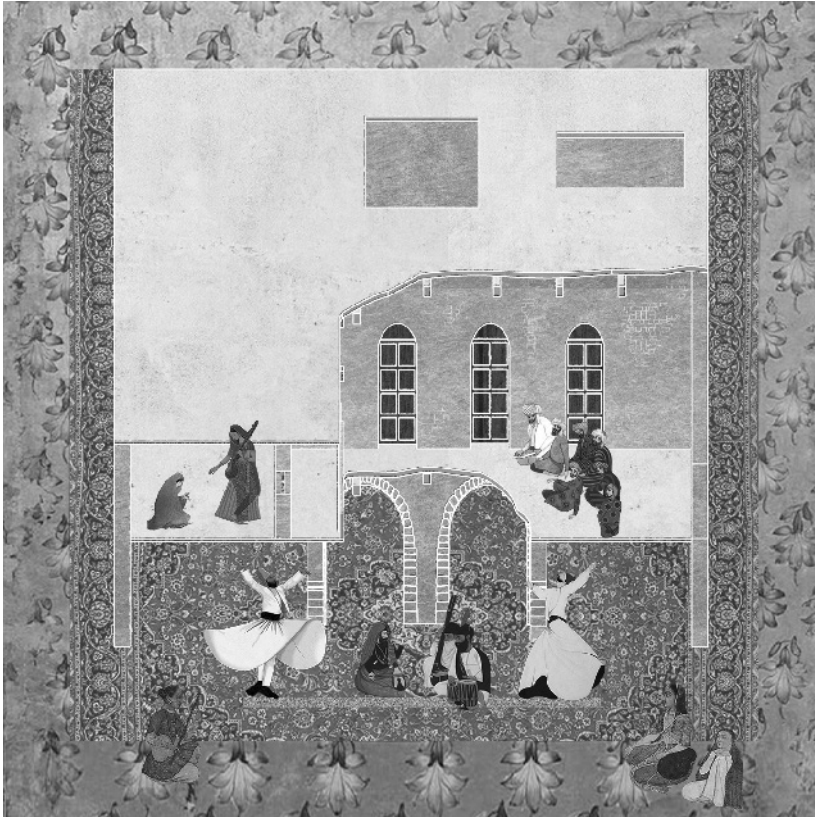
Laura Tobin

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Island AquaCamps

Off Maine's coast, the Casco Bay Islands are linked to Portland through commuting, tourism, and governance while striving for autonomy. Yet, rising sea levels, population decline, and limited infrastructure threaten their future. Thus, how can cultural and economic regeneration thrive while preserving independence? This proposal reimagines the summer camp as a catalyst for community-building and environmental stewardship. Built around decommissioned military structures, the camp repurposes them for climate monitoring and protection, offering programs for both adolescent campers and year-round residents. The camps aim to revitalize island life, fostering long-term investment in its cultural and ecological resilience.



Khadija Waheed

MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Living in the In-Between

Karachi, Pakistan, holds historical memories embedded within its urban fabric, yet these remain unrecognized at a heritage scale. Adopting a dynamic conservation strategy, this thesis proposal overlays pre-colonial building methods onto Karachi's post-colonial context, enabling structures to surpass their intended lifespans. The project focuses on an urban block embodying diverse architectural traces and varying states of decay. The approach actively acknowledges tangible and intangible heritage by encouraging ongoing habitation, regular maintenance, and adaptable preservation. Blending traditional techniques with contemporary practices ensures the continuity of the urban fabric, sustaining collective memory and keeping Karachi's architectural heritage culturally relevant.



Eric Wang

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Around the Lazy Susan / Banquet

Grounded in Toronto's Chinatown West, this thesis explores how the tools of a designer can support place-keeping and agency, building on the very strategies that sustain the community's presence. Set in a neighbourhood shaped by displacement—through destruction and now gentrification—it examines Chinatown's resilience, strengthened by informal networks, non-conforming spatial practices, and mutual aid. Working in tandem with the Toronto Chinatown Land Trust, it engages in co-design to establish their first physical space in Chinatown Centre—which serves as a critical entry point to examine how grassroots organizing and design intersect. This research reveals both the potential and limitations of co-design, highlighting its non-linear nature and role in strengthening Chinatown West's evolving identity, on its own terms.



Huaqiu Wang

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Frontier of Ownership: Borderlands of IP and Memes

In a near-future where corporations monopolize intellectual property (IP), cities establish IP Exclusion Zones—experimental districts where grassroots creativity evades federal control. Triggered by a federal social media ban that forced memes into the streets, these zones deploy hybrid borders in forms of adaptive billboards. Corporate ads face outward, while inward-facing graffiti and peer-to-peer networks enable uncensored cultural production. Municipal governments frame the zones as “economic innovation,” attracting artists and startups with tax exemptions. Inside, ‘Shanzhai’ markets parody corporate brands, while rules protect small creators from licensing fees. The Zone operates as a red-light district of sanctioned rebellion—simultaneously resisting and reinforcing the IP regime it critiques.



Tomasz Weinberger

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

DEADSTOCK

A set of locked doors opens to a room far larger than the showroom, its vastness hidden from view. The stockroom, a lung of retail, breathes in shipments and exhales products, thermal printers humming quiet receipts. Plastic hangers cascade, display fixtures rest in corners. The residue of commerce, overlooked. What if these backstage mechanisms became the spectacle? What if the unseen infrastructure emerged as the focal point? These provocations transform deadstock real estate into surrealist storefronts, where fixtures become sculptural oddities, inventory systems turn into performance art, value hierarchies collapse, and retail's functional organs are dissected, exposing the branded theatre of transactions.



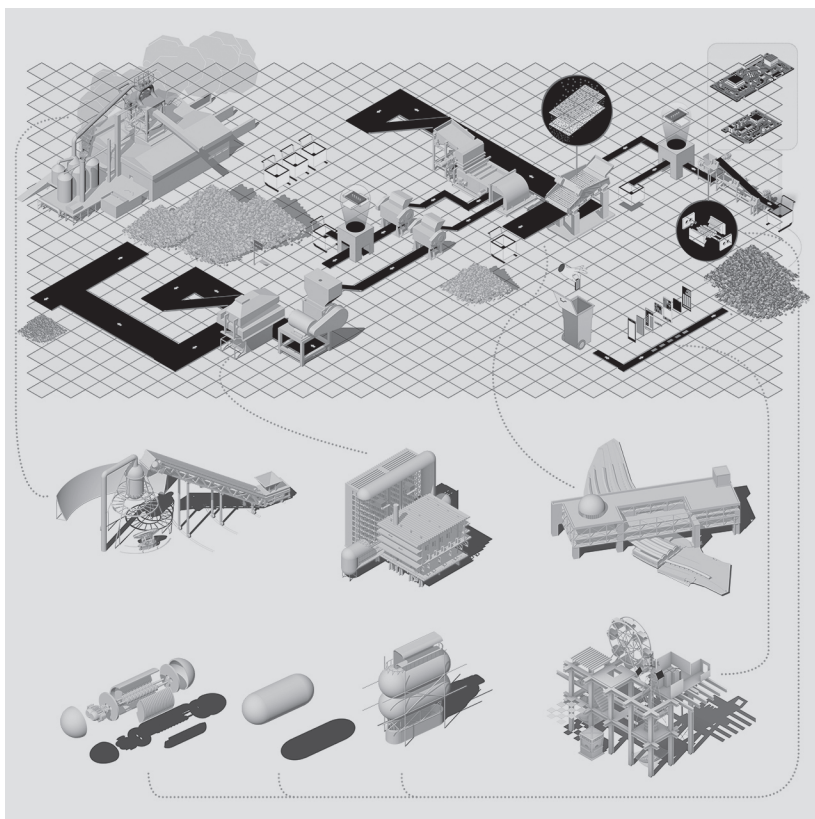
Nicole Wong

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

City Playbook: Games for Placekeeping and Public Engagement

City Playbook offers a dynamic toolkit for gamifying urban placekeeping, designed to foster inclusive public engagement and co-creation. Participants step into the roles of different stakeholders to collaboratively navigate their neighborhoods to uncover and advocate for key community assets through interactive gameplay. This playful yet profound approach challenges participants to transcend tokenism and ascend Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation. City Playbook is designed for widespread application in public planning projects, adaptable to various sites. It educates, engages, and empowers, using a game-based methodology to simplify complex urban policies and encourage active civic participation.



Tianze Xin

MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

The Parade of E-Waste: Catalyzing New Urban Spaces

This project transforms electronic waste recycling into both fixed and mobile public urban infrastructure. By integrating processional strategies, it reimagines e-waste disposal as a visible and engaging part of daily life, like a parade moving through the city. The project focuses on turning the various phases of e-waste recycling—collection, disassembly, crushing, separation, and smelting—into architectural interventions that positively contribute to the urban landscape. Additionally, it explores how by-products, such as excess heat from smelting, can be repurposed for community use, creating public amenities like heated spaces or urban hot springs.



Lixia Xu

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Live Among the Stars: Integrated Envelope For Sustained Lunar Living

This project reimagines the lunar habitat envelope as an active life-support system, merging thermal regulation, air revitalization, and resource recycling into one multifunctional shell. The design features a modular water wall that regulates internal temperature by leveraging water's high thermal mass. Integrated algae-based photobioreactors eliminate CO₂ and produce O₂ through photosynthesis, ensuring crew health and comfort. The resulting algae biomass becomes biofertilizer, supporting crop cultivation and closing the life-support loop. By unifying shielding, climate control, and air revitalization in a regenerative envelope, this project presents a sustainable, resilient habitat model for long-duration lunar missions and future off-Earth settlements.



Justina Yang

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Meanwhile...In the DMZ

The Korean DMZ is a landscape of contradictions—visually porous yet physically opaque, a site that oscillates between war tourism spectacle and ecological sanctuary while absorbing the ebb and flow of possible reunification. Situated within this context, this thesis engages with the DMZ in its present, ‘meanwhile’ state, asking, how can we design for the now while leaving room for an uncertain tomorrow? It begins by documenting what is often overlooked in favour of speculative futures, then responds to existing sites through interventions that evolve and reframe rather than monumentalize. The resulting counter-museum does not seek to complete the DMZ’s story but to hold space for all its contradictions—fluid, layered, and still unfolding.



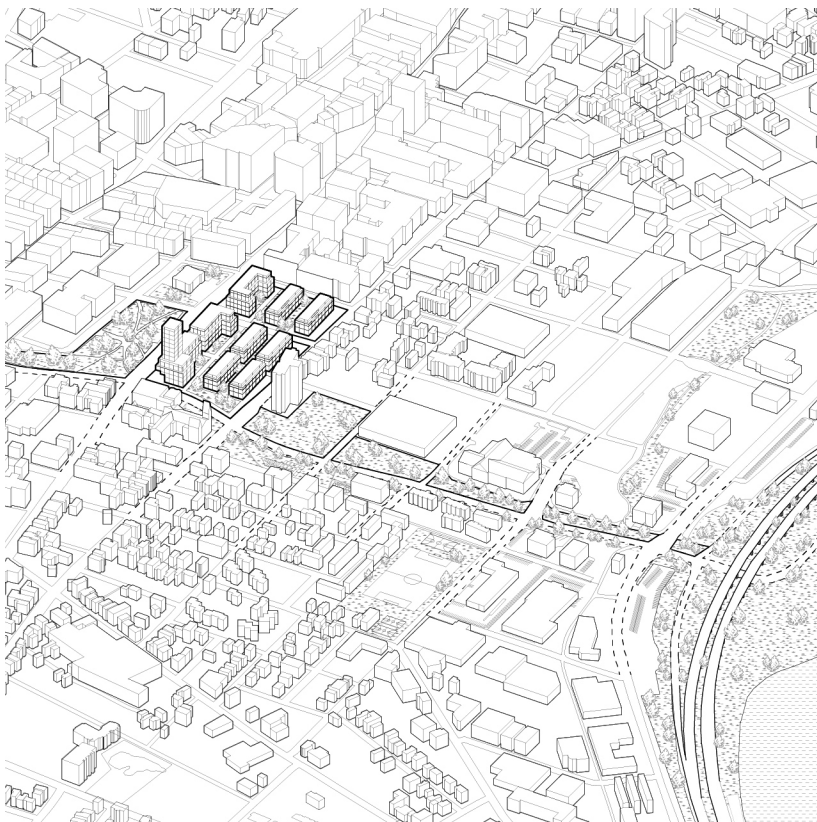
Jeffrey Yau

MARC

Advisor: Michael Piper

Fine Grain in Coarse Lots

The widespread adoption of personal vehicles in post-war Toronto brought alongside it new approaches to city-building. Unlike the contiguous fine-grain development found downtown, new buildings in Toronto's urban fringes are large and distant, secluding themselves from the street and one another with strips of grass and tarmac. As narratives regarding urban planning evolve, municipal guidelines have emerged to promote the reconstruction of these coarse-grain landscapes. Along suburban Highway 7, what appears on first glance as unexceptional coarse-grain buildings are in fact hundreds of independent shops, restaurants, and offices vital to Toronto's Chinese-Canadian community. Through exploration along one strip of Highway 7, a new model of suburban retrofitting is theorised, one that views suburban buildings as worth keeping.



Xin Ling Ye

MARC

Advisor: Richard Sommer

Repair the Tear

Urban renewal in the 1960s and subsequent zoning policies have fragmented Portland, Maine, creating a car-centric landscape segregated by use and economic strata. This thesis proposes repairing Portland's car-centric landscape by focusing on the effects of Interstate 295 and the Franklin Street corridor. The goal is to reweave Franklin Street and Interstate 295 to enable a more inclusive third district between the gentrifying areas to the west and the affordable housing and historic industrial fabric to the east, while reintroducing walkability and providing parks and other community amenities.



Tony Yu

MARC

Advisor: Brady Peters

Dreamscape: Lunar Hotel for Space Tourism

The Lunar Hotel is a visionary project exploring how humans might live, sleep, and relax on the Moon. As space tourism becomes a reality, this hotel aims to offer visitors a safe, comfortable, and unforgettable experience amid the Moon's unique environment. The design considers challenges like radiation, extreme temperatures, and low gravity, using the Moon's natural landscape for protection and sustainability. By combining innovative architecture with new technologies, the Lunar Hotel imagines a future where people can enjoy Earth-like comfort while experiencing the wonders of outer space.



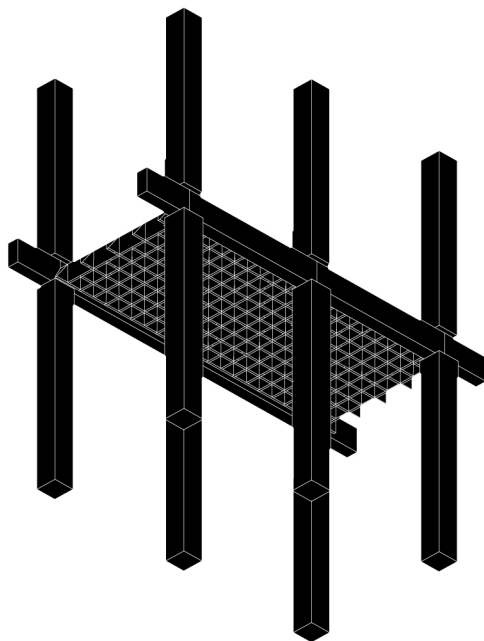
Joanna Zhong

MARC

Advisor: Jeannie Kim

Shared Grounds: A Feminist City for All

This thesis aims to address systemic deficits in public infrastructure and to reinforce community interactions through a feminist perspective on the city. By reimagining the urban fabric to propose a replicable framework, public spaces are reframed to support vulnerable women and children in the Parkdale neighbourhood, to increase safety, build social connections, and support daily needs. The aim is to make public spaces that provide platforms and new connections between existing pathways and nodes to fill spatial and social gaps in the urban fabric. While providing a network of support for women and children in need, the project also makes a safer and more inclusive urban environment for everyone.



Zhiyuan Zhu

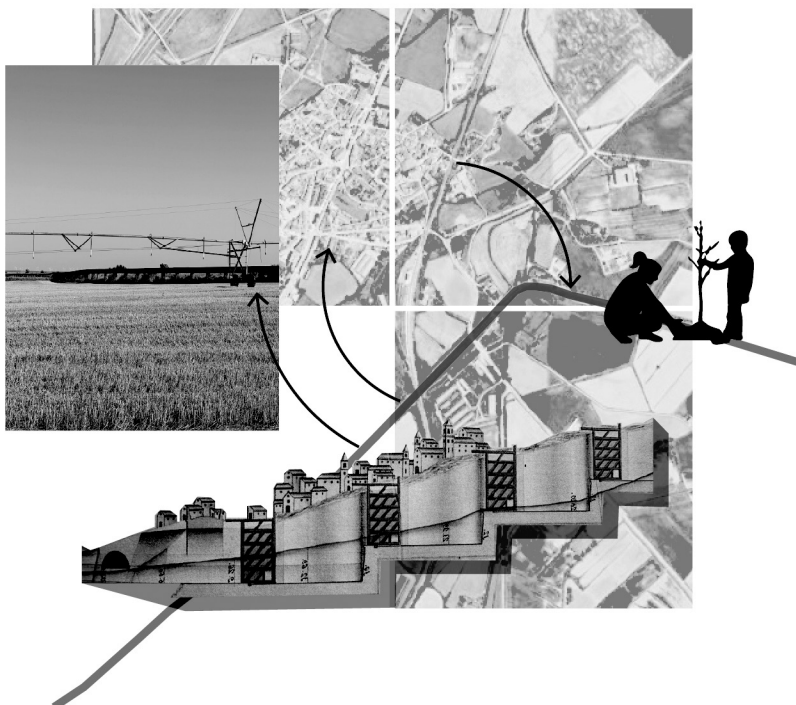
MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber

Rock the Midrise

Using the increasingly popular midrise typology within Toronto, this project seeks to investigate stone assemblies that can be adapted as alternatives to contemporary modes of construction. Stone's durability is particularly well-suited for the structural integrity of foundations, walls, and columns, suggesting a building where stone is both structure and skin. Exploring stacked and post and pre-tensioned stone blocks, this thesis aims to study the implications and opportunities presented by rocking the midrise.





María Alonso Novo

MLA

Advisor: Robert Wright

Canal de Castilla: Remnants of the Illustrated Dream

This thesis examines the Canal de Castilla as a historically significant water infrastructure network, critical to the region's agricultural irrigation and potable water supply. Exploring the Canal's potential in climate adaptation through an integrated approach to water management. Frómista serves as a case study, where the quadruple lock stands as a rare example of water infrastructure recognized as a monument. Additionally, the Canal's passage through Frómista connects to three ecologically significant wetland systems. Design interventions aim to reduce water demand within existing crops, protect the water flowing through the hydraulic network, and increase water supply through a wastewater treatment plant.



Hashem Al-Zubiedi

MLA

Advisor: Liat Margolis

A Kit of Parts Approach to Cultural Belonging in Diaspora

North American cities are shaped by car-centric commercial development, including strip malls, originally designed for retail rather than social gathering. Yet, diasporic communities have informally adapted these spaces into cultural hubs. Ridgeway Plaza in Mississauga, Canada, is one such site where immigrant-owned businesses and gathering spaces thrive despite lacking pedestrian infrastructure and public amenities. As an Iraqi in diaspora, I've experienced firsthand how these spaces foster belonging. Growing up, I found home in their familiar foods, sounds, and culture. This project seeks to enhance these informal networks, preserving how diasporic communities create meaningful spaces in suburban environments.



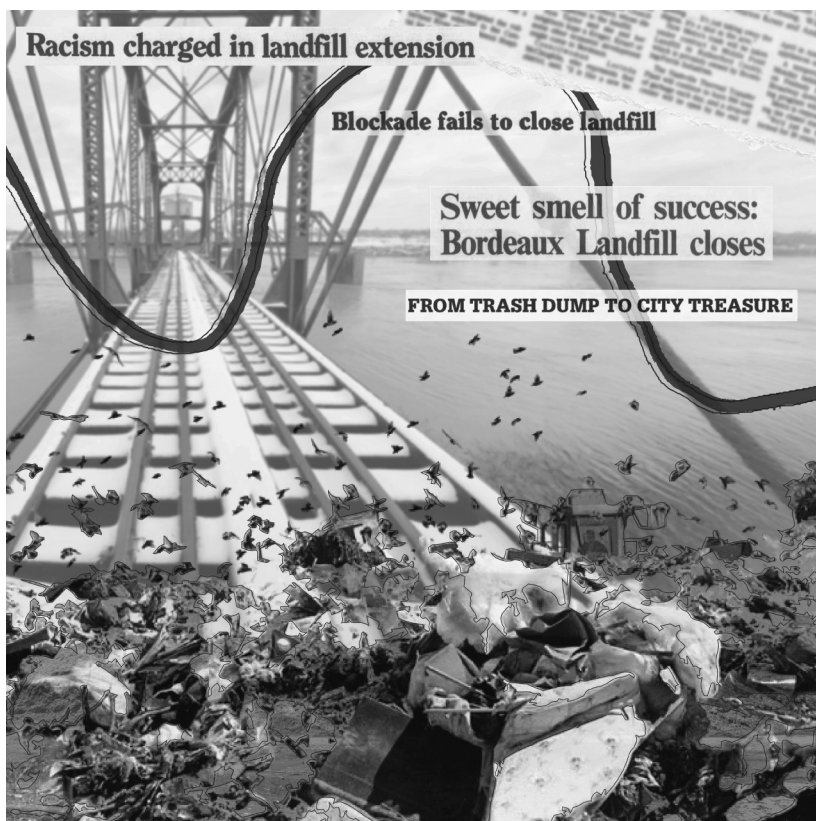
Matt Arnott

MLA

Advisor: Peter North

Aftercare: burnt lands response hub.

The 2023 Canadian wildfire season saw unprecedented burnage across the country's billions of acres of managed forests. What was unseen was the aftermath of these burns—forests decimated by wildfires made unnaturally intense due to climate change. This work engages gaps within the existing chain of response to wildfires that considers the ecological regeneration of burnt forests as an integral component of regional well-being. In foregrounding care in response to burnt lands, alternative modes of forestry practice are rendered visible—expanding the scope of vested stakeholders and considering how acts of ecological reciprocity warrant widespread benefits in the long term.



Kejie Chen

MLA

Advisor: Fadi Masoud

Building Bordeaux's Landfill Futures

The closed Bordeaux Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, in the neighborhood of Bordeaux Hills, is analyzed as a microcosm of greater inequalities in Nashville's city planning and developmental policy. This project explores the post-closure possibilities of the Bordeaux Landfill as a regional park that celebrates the citizenry leading to its closure, reconnects urban fragmentation isolating the area, protects the community against increasingly devastating floods, and gives back to a region that has for too long, been Nashville's "dump".



LinJuan Dai

MLA

Advisor: Fadi Masoud

The Other Miami: Combating Climate Gentrification in Overtown

Overtown is a historically significant Black community in Miami situated on high ground that faces urgent pressure from climate gentrification as the surrounding area floods. To prevent further identity erasure, we propose amplifying and supporting cultural assets (such as the Zion Church and local urban farms) through the use of blue-green/grey infrastructure that promotes community identity and environmental resilience. Specific actions to protect these cultural assets include integrating rainwater harvesting, soil remediation, and air filtration in streetscapes. Instead of bulldozing cultural significance for profit, we advocate for cultural activation as the foundation for community growth.



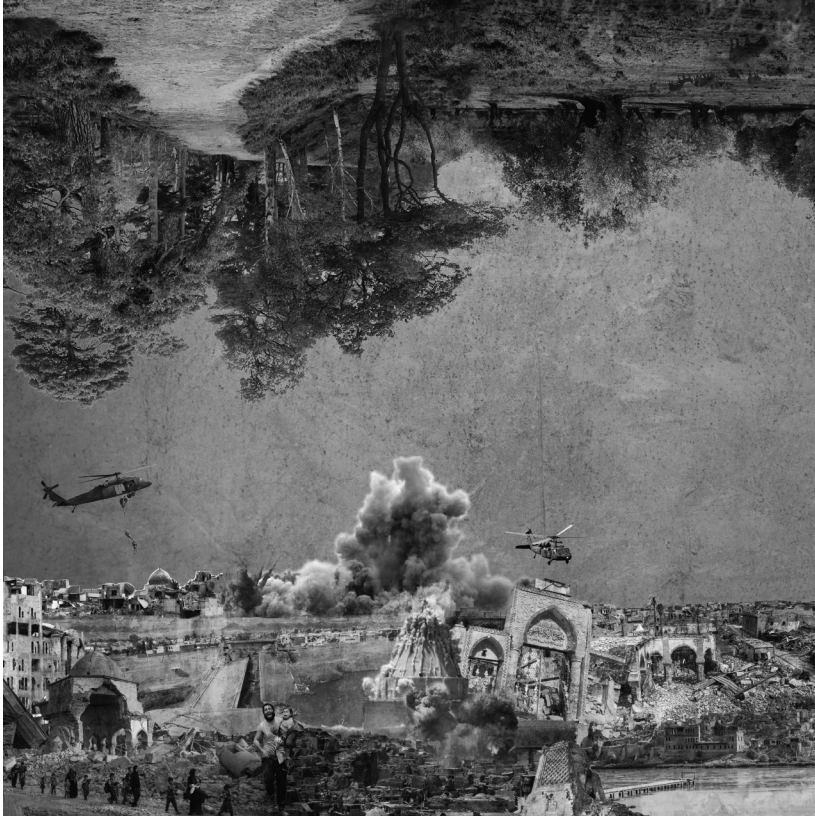
Eric Chase Duan

MLA

Advisor: Peter Noth

Lake Wilcox Restoration

Located in an intense suburban environment, the toxic chemical levels in Lake Wilcox are far above normal due to runoff, leading to eutrophication and algal blooms that disrupt the ecosystem's balance. Furthermore, these toxic substances accumulate in the food chain, affecting organisms at every level. How can landscape architecture regenerate the ecological health of a lake degraded by domestic and recreational activities? With the proposed wetland design, runoff will be reduced, purified and cleaned, allowing the ecosystem to thrive and ensuring humans safely engage in water activities.



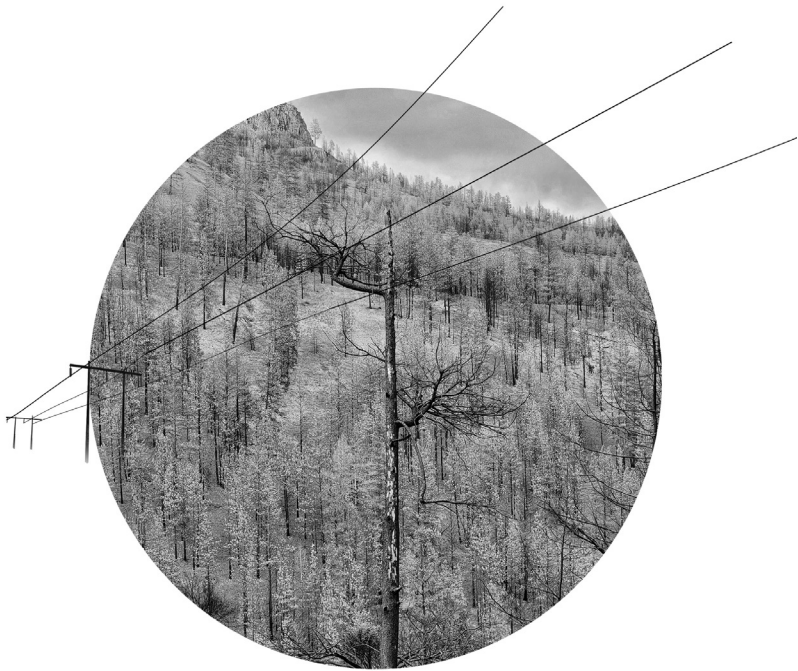
Mena Hameed

MLA

Advisor: Fadi Masoud

Out of the Fog of War: Forging Resilience Through the Mosul Forest

What is the role of landscape architecture in post-war recovery? This thesis seeks to answer this question using the city of Mosul, Iraq, as a case study to develop a framework that is rooted in spatial justice. Amid trauma ridden geographies, restoration efforts are often fraught with controversies and conflicting views in relation to the built environment and equitable distribution of resources. The Mosul Forest and the community's connection to the Tigris River will be used to investigate how leading with ecological restoration in post-war recovery can better address socio-economic strains, communal trauma, cultural restoration, environmental degradation, as well as reduce the reliance on foreign NGOs.



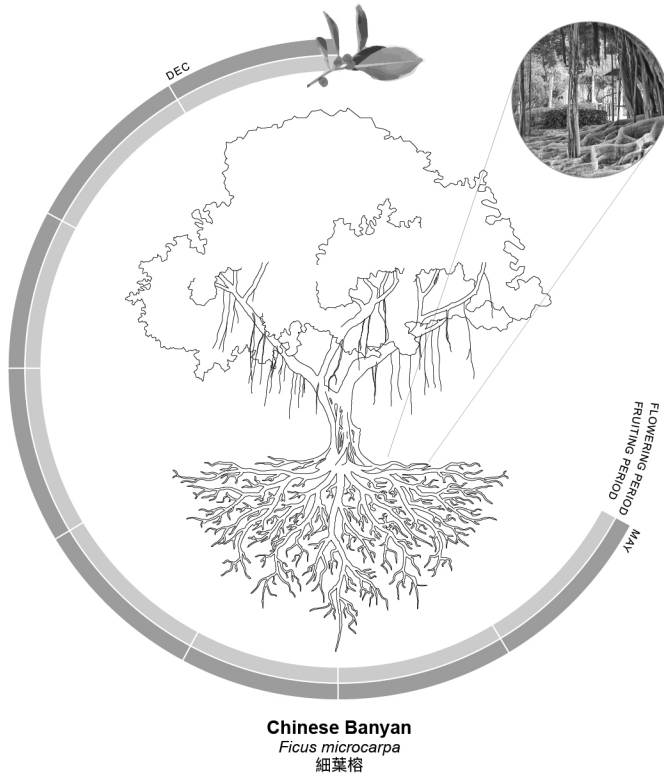
Nicole Hekl

MLA

Advisor: Francesco Martire

Hea[]tbreak: Re-envisioning fire mitigation in West Kelowna

Forest fires have seen a rapid acceleration in the past 20 years due to climate change and improper forest practices, with the province of British Columbia experiencing larger, intense fires more frequently. From 2020 to 2023 alone, the occurrence of fires has increased from 670 to 2,293. Forest fires, however, have been occurring on the land for over a millennium, both naturally and through cultural burns by Indigenous communities and their fire knowledge keepers. With the loss of these practices, our forests and communities are more vulnerable to larger crown fires more often. This project investigates a hybridized approach of Western fire management methods alongside Indigenous cultural burning traditions, by rethinking the design of fire breaks to protect the community of West Kelowna.



Natalie Ko

MLA

Advisor: Elise Shelley

The Banyan Tree Head

In the ever-changing and highly dense urban area of Hong Kong, everyday natural heritage is overshadowed by a focus on architectural heritage. The significance of historic trees, both culturally and socially, is undervalued—particularly the Chinese Banyan, or *Ficus microcarpa*. The banyan tree's distinct form has influenced spatial experiences for centuries, shaping the unique “Yung Shue Tau” or “Banyan Tree Head” culture. However, urban development and socio-political changes have gradually eroded this cultural connection. This thesis brings back the “Banyan Tree Head” as fundamental. Reimagining the space beneath the banyan canopy respects the cultural importance of the tree and returns it to its essential role within the community.



Fion Kong

MLA

Advisor: Alissa North

Retreat Forward: Alternative Future for Westham Island

Tidal estuaries are dynamic, abundant, and bound to water. Currently and in contrast at Westham Island, the landscape is being occupied in a rigid, extractive, and defined manner, with clear lines that separate land from water. Facing sea level rise and aging infrastructure, this project proposes an alternative future of planned retreat. By maintaining agriculture and conservation programs as the fundamental identity of this place, the design explores the process of returning water to the landscape, and memorializing what remains.



Thi Ngoc Anh Luu (Anh Luu)

MLA

Advisor: Elise Shelley

The Living Edge: Reimagining Van Thanh Canal

Ho Chi Minh City was born out of water, with rivers and canals embodying a vibrant cultural landscape. However, rapid urbanization and Western influence have degraded the waterways. Urban beautification projects sever this bond further, displacing the canal communities without improving water quality. At Van Thanh Canal, the traditional relationships persist, though precariously. Water provides a space to live, and the vernacular way of living allows water and its ecology to thrive. The thesis explores these grassroots, vernacular strategies to develop resilient and inclusive design, restoring ecological balance while preserving the canal-side livelihoods. By reimagining the canal's edge, the project envisions a future where water is again loved instead of feared.



Rebecca Martin

MLA

Advisor: Alissa North

Opaque Ground: Human-Soil Relations in the Lower Don Sub-watershed

Urban soils reflect cities. Though often considered opaque, obscure, or degraded beyond value, they record our lives and keep the residual memory of those who were here before us. This project asks: How can landscape architects work with urban soils as unique cultural landscapes whose character can be made legible through plant life? This question will be addressed through a series of experimental gardens that reflect different soils conditions in the Lower Don River Sub-watershed, foregrounding plants as intermediaries between above and below ground worlds.



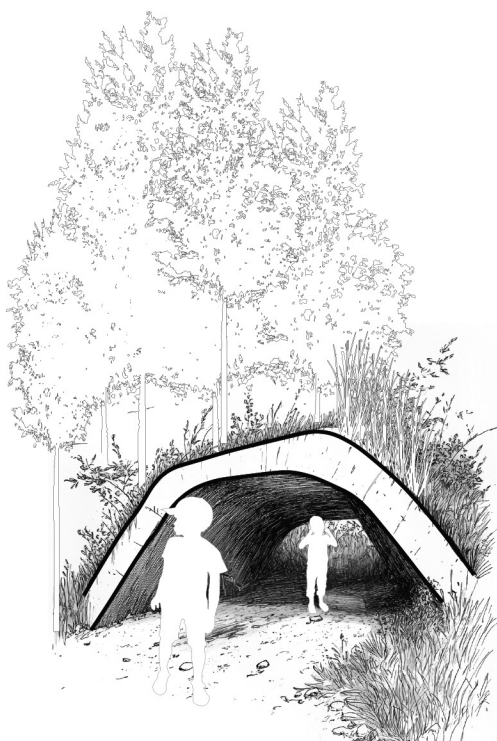
Tracy Ngan

MLA

Advisor: Robert Wright

Beyond Order: Designing with Chaotic Informality in Sham Shui Po

Across many Asian cities, chaotic informality plays a vital role in fostering resilience and continuously shaping the unique character of dense urban landscapes through spontaneous adaptations and informal economies. Sham Shui Po District in Hong Kong exemplifies this dynamic through its street vendors, markets, back alley economies, and waste picker community. While this informality is often romanticized, its underlying hardships are frequently overlooked. This thesis seeks to reimagine Sham Shui Po as a vibrant creative district that embraces this chaotic informality while addressing the challenges faced by senior waste pickers through surgical interventions.



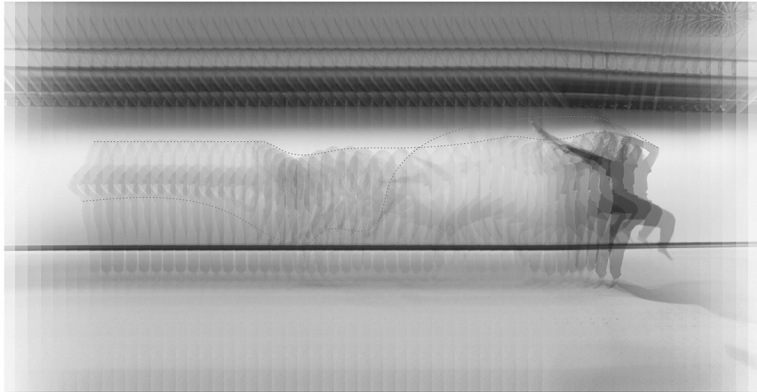
Seth Ramesra

MLA

Advisor: Peter North

Toronto's Learning Landscapes

Schools are often centers of community and growth in Toronto's neighbourhoods and are frequently close to parts of the ravine systems which define Toronto's geography and ecology. The design, use, and curriculum within these schools reveal past, present, and aspirational community values. However, the landscapes associated with schools fail to impart meaningful values or lend to healthy development often ignoring significant site and social context. This thesis aims to harness landscape as a tool for enhancing experiential learning, growth, and community as part of a strategy that strengthens Toronto's Urban and Ravine communities.



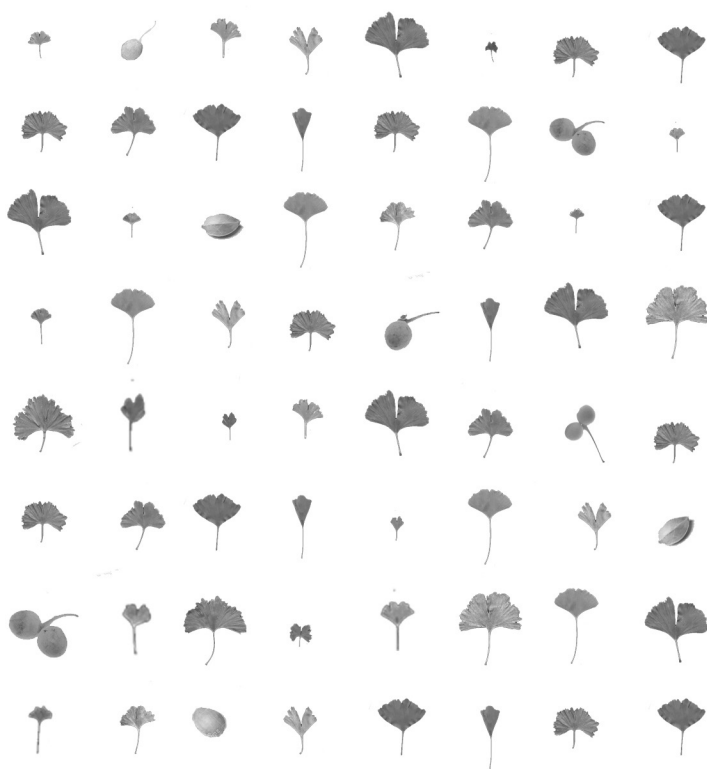
Sakshi Riar

MLA

Advisor: Elise Shelley

Echoes of Panjab

Panjab, the land of five rivers, thrives on its fertile soil, nurtured by the Indus and its tributaries. Agriculture shapes its identity, deeply woven into cultural traditions like dance, which mimics nature and farming practices. In 1947, partition severed the land, displacing millions and fracturing identities. As Panjabis migrated, they carried their traditions with them. Once regionally distinct, their dance forms merged under the name Bhangra, becoming a global symbol of resilience and belonging. This thesis poses Bhangra as a design generator that unites the past, present and future—by commemorating the millions who lost their lives and were displaced, celebrating Sanjha Panjab's heritage and history and ultimately reviving these cultural practices for the next generations. After all, dance is a uniquely grounding act—the feet leave but are always returned to the earth.



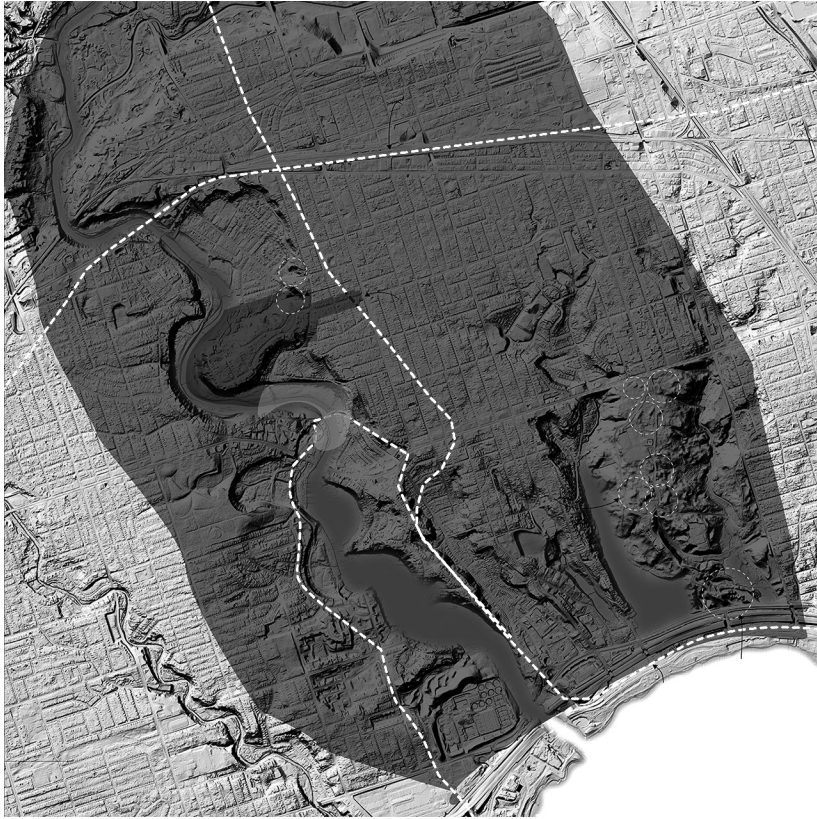
Georgia Sa

MLA

Advisor: Francesco Martire

Naturalizing Belonging: The Migration of Plants, People, and Place

Centering on Chinese diasporic communities, this thesis explores landscape architecture as a means to foster cultural belonging by examining human migration alongside plant movement. It investigates how displacement, adaptation, and resilience shapes urban landscapes. The Ginkgo biloba serves as a lens to challenge rigid notions of nativeness, as its migration parallels that of Chinese Canadians. Once native to North America, the Ginkgo's return through human cultivation raises questions of ecological and cultural belonging. By studying migration, urban ecology, and identity, this research positions landscape architecture as a tool for reinterpreting heritage, embracing hybridity, and designing significant spaces that support cross-cultural relationships between people, plants, and place.



Bracha Stettin

MLA

Advisor: Liat Margolis

Stewarding Indigenous Living Heritage at Teiaiaagon-Baby Point

This project seeks to decolonize the approach to heritage conservation districts taken by the City of Toronto, using the site of Teiaiaagon-Baby Point Heritage Conservation District (HCD) as the testing ground. As the newest HCD designated by the City of Toronto, and the only one honoured specifically for its significance to Indigenous people, this site presents an opportunity for exploration of how Indigenous frameworks for heritage may be applied on-site. Using principles outlined by the Indigenous Heritage Circle (2022) and informed by the stewardship strategies of Indigenous Guardians and other groups, this proposal anchors heritage practice into a living relationship to the land.



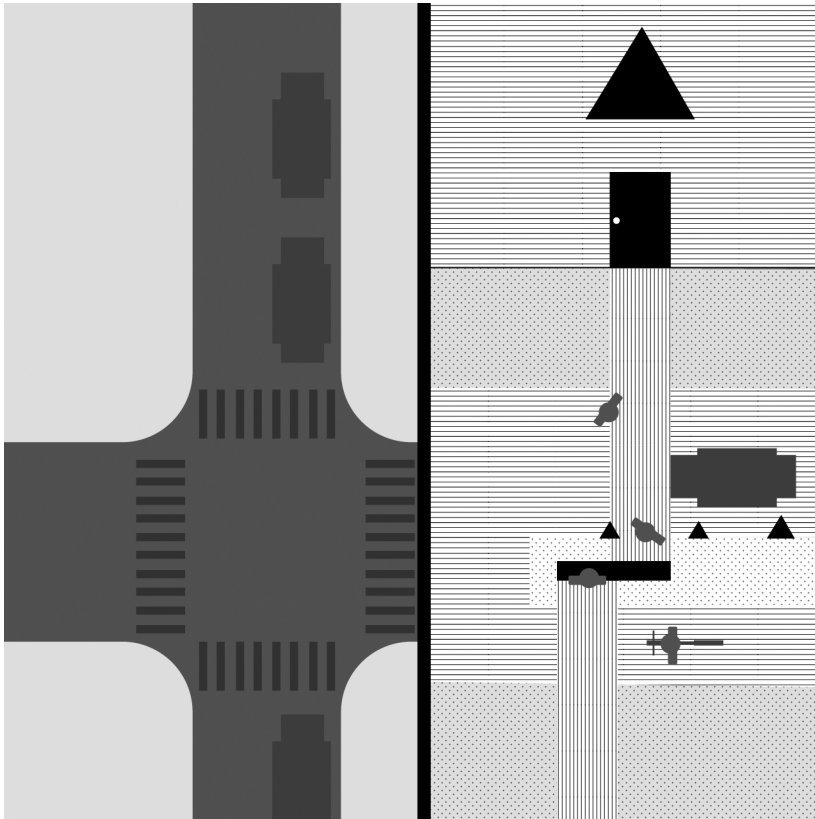
Evlyn Sun

MLA

Advisor: Robert Wright

Challenging the Highway Landscape: A Necessary Evil?

Most people living in the Greater Toronto Area are familiar with the highway network, massive infrastructural projects that shape our urban environment and day-to-day lives. They are also major sources of pollution, posing health risks, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, and contaminating waterways. These impacts are often accepted as necessary trade-offs to meet transportation demands. This project aims to challenge the status quo, questioning whether highways can offer more to cities, people, and the environment. By reimagining the leftover roadside verges and their unique ecologies, this thesis explores how highway landscapes can transform from polluted corridors into regenerative systems.



Bai Xi

MLA

Advisor: Liat Margolis

Curb to City

The residential neighborhood of Harbord Village was developed in the late 19th century, featuring traditional bay-and-gable Victorian houses that reflect Toronto's typical neighborhood character. This thesis focuses on Harbord Village, integrating the infrastructural vision for its streets while addressing their value through a landscape architecture design lens. What is the role of neighbourhood streets under this vision? The thesis analyzes an integrated model that realizes the potential of designated neighborhood streets of ecological and public realm benefits as the next step for TOCore, where they not only work as an asset space that connects park space outside of the neighborhood but as part of the public realm themselves.



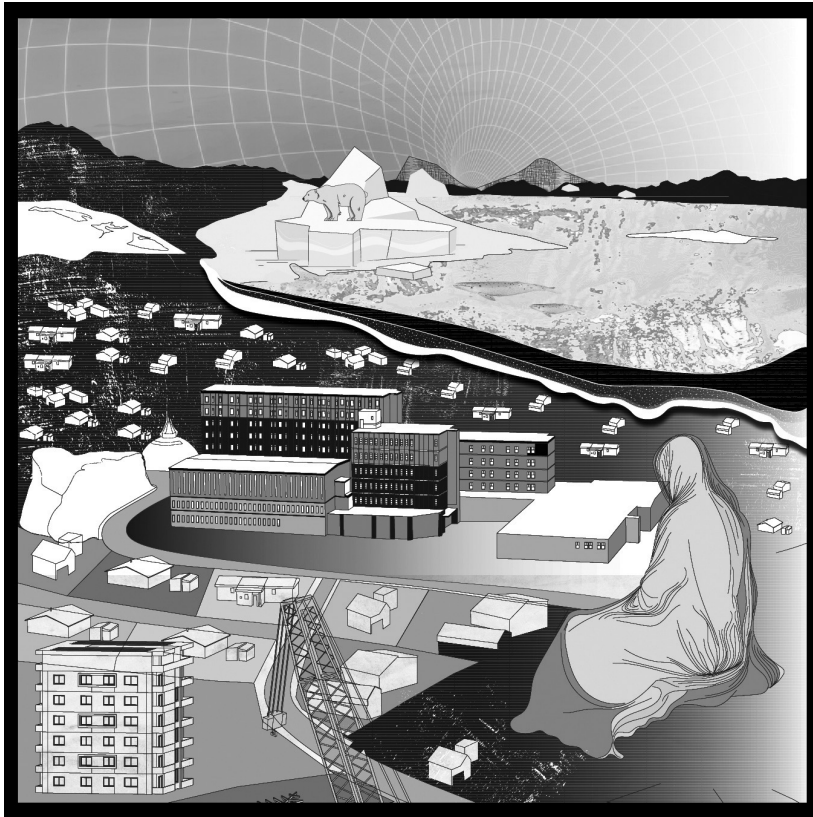
Boxu Zeng

MLA

Advisor: Francesco Martire

How to renovate an urban park to better accommodate threatened bird species

This thesis project focuses on a future renovation of Olympic Forest Park in Beijing to provide more natural habitats for threatened bird species. The goals of the project are to renovate an urban park based on a successful landscape project and to balance programs designed for both humans and animals.



Shivangi Chauhan

MUD

Advisor: Mason White

What if home is just a memory?

This thesis examines storytelling as a critical lens to explore the relationship between water in its various forms, climate change, and cultural erosion. Anchored in three distinct climatic contexts—Arctic (Iqaluit), Temperate (Toronto), and Tropical (Mumbai)—the research employs a speculative, nonlinear, and magic-realist narrative to interweave myths, nostalgia, and solastalgia. Through a mixed-media approach, it investigates how spatial dimensions function as repositories of memory, identity, and cultural landscapes at risk of disappearance. By reframing home as an ephemeral construct shaped by shifting waters, this study interrogates notions of belonging and highlights the precarity of place amid accelerating climate uncertainty.



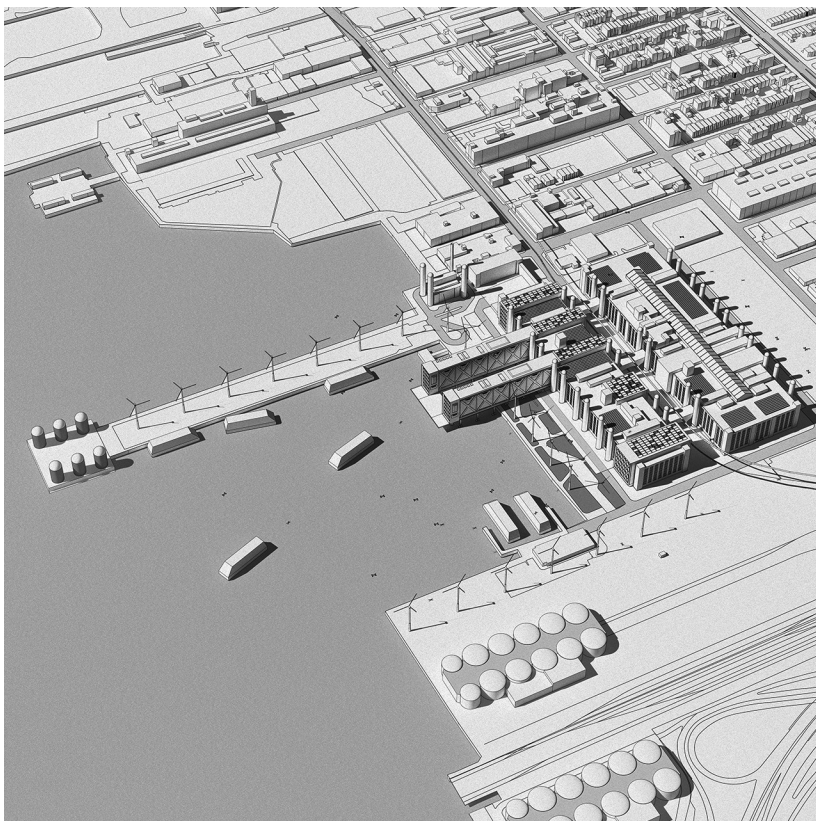
William Feng

MUD

Advisor: Zahra Ebrahim

Everyday Food culture urbanism at suburb

This story about food culture aims to bring a more diverse food culture experience to residents of the GTA suburbs, aligning with the latest Toronto cultural action plan by introducing multicultural experiences into communities and neighbourhoods. By leveraging the public transportation network and aligning it with residents' daily routines, the initiative seeks to identify potential third places for developing informal dining options, primarily snacks and beverages, thereby creating more casual meeting spots. Additionally, this project will focus on low-income families as a starting point, using this effort to explore more suitable livelihood opportunities for them.



Wenqian Han

MUD

Advisor: Mason White

Technique Park - Future Urban Renovation Strategy from Mainboard

Technical Urban Renovation is inspired by the evolution of the computer motherboard—through new materials, interfaces, and technologies, it continuously improves in stability and efficiency. I apply this logic to urban renewal, using Brooklyn Army Terminal as a testing ground. Once a military base, it now becomes a developing program for future technologies by New York Government. By integrating renewable energy, seawater purification, smart systems, and vertical farming, the project transforms the site into an open, adaptive urban space—where technology no longer lags behind but actively shapes the city's form and function.



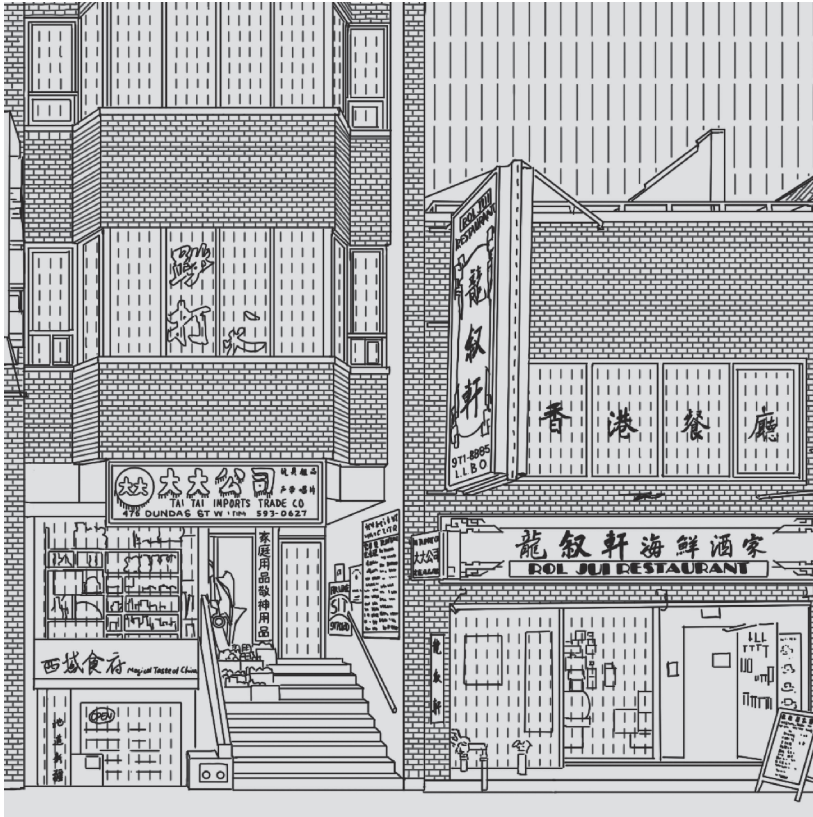
Doehyun (Diane) Kim

MUD

Advisor: Zahra Ebrahim

Imagining a Nocturnal Commons

This research challenges the dominant narratives of the night and advocates for a more inclusive city after dark. It uses autoethnographic research methods to explore how social identity, lighting, and the built environment can shape various perceptions of the night. It supports the right to the city for those engaged in the invisible labour of the night. The thesis imagines the potential of Green P parkades as a nocturnal commons that resists the typical rhythms of the day, ensuring the night is not commodified while addressing the nuanced needs of night workers.



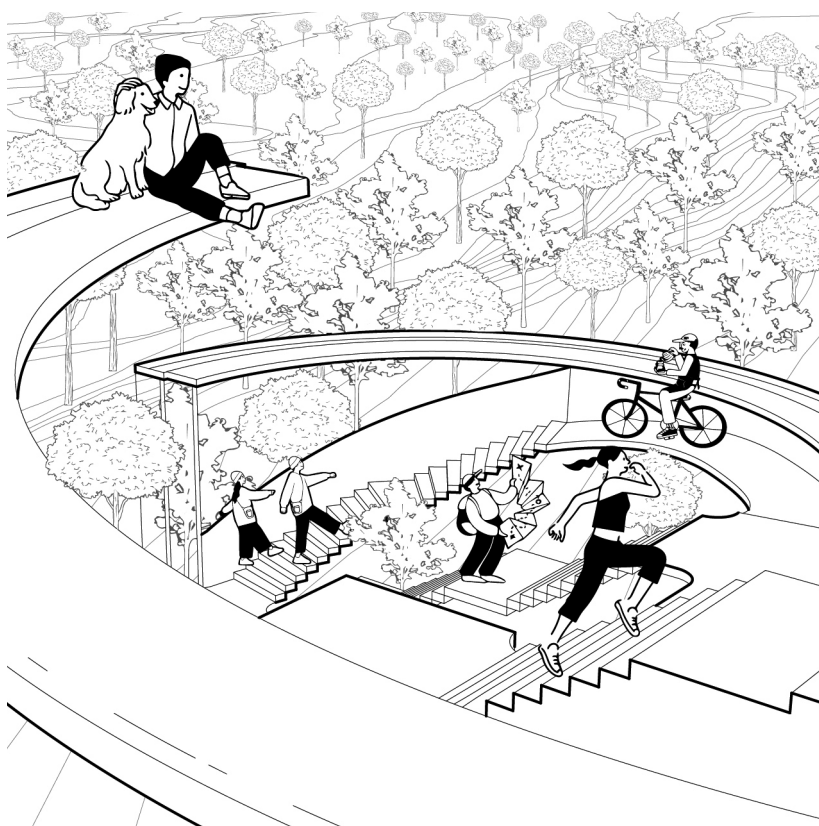
Nan Liang

MUD

Advisor: Michael Piper

Anti-gentrification in Chinatown

Gentrification forces residents to leave areas they cannot afford, leading to the rise of “anti-gentrification” efforts to counter its negative impacts. However, these movements can sometimes narrowly focus on opposing new developments instead of addressing the displacement of low- and middle-income individuals. For Downtown Chinatown in Toronto, inadequate planning and the push for increased density threaten to drive up land values and alter the local character. The proposed thesis focuses on exploring the research-design question: how can a better public realm be provided to accommodate social interaction and enhance community values to resist the shift of social gathering spaces along the path of urban renewal?



Rajvi Modi

MUD

Advisor: Mason White

Elevated Echoes

A scar in the middle of the city not only creates a topographical divide but also socially disconnects the community. The infrastructure on Hamilton's challenging terrain, with an elevation of 100 meters, holds great potential to transform the grueling journey into a mesmerizing experience, telling different stories of what the city has to offer through its natural beauty and scenic views. This project proposes modular concepts that can be implemented across diverse topographic conditions, much like its users. Here, the definition of a staircase is reimagined—not just as a means to “just climb,” but as an interactive space that invites people to “pause, play, and go.”



Anurag Panda

MUD

Advisor: Mason White

Step Forward: Delhi Walks Again

Step Forward: Delhi Walks Again is a thesis that creatively sews together Delhi's rich street culture with innovative urban design to reduce car dependence and give a compelling reason for people to step out of their cars. The study explores how reimagining formal and informal public spaces can transform the city's vibrant street life into pedestrian-friendly environments. The strategy emphasizes enhancing the intramodal transit switching experience and developing urban rooms to enrich connectivity and community engagement. These interventions aim to revive Delhi's cultural tapestry by prioritizing walking while naturally enhancing air quality and encouraging a more sustainable, people-centric urban landscape.



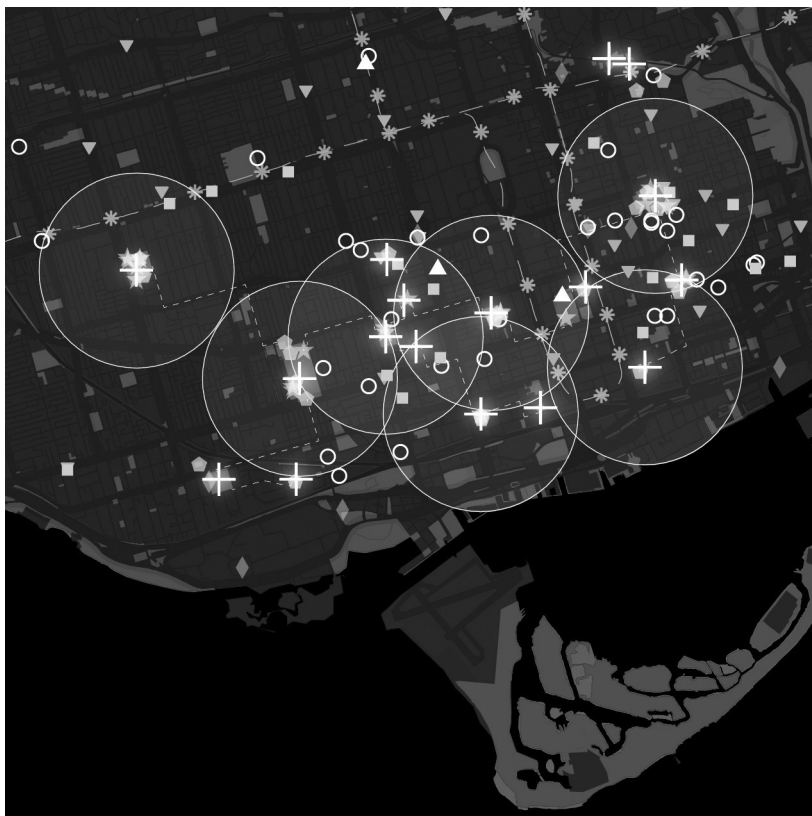
Pallavi Patil

MUD

Advisor: Mason White

Urban Lunchbox - Mumbai's Dabbawala Network

Every afternoon in Mumbai, thousands of Dabbawalas weave through the city, delivering home-cooked meals with unmatched precision. More than just a delivery system, they carry a sense of home, love, and routine. But as the city evolves, they face growing challenges like shrinking spaces, changing food habits and shifting work patterns. This thesis explores how thoughtful design can support their daily journeys by creating spaces to rest, sort, eat, park, cook and store. By integrating their needs into Mumbai's urban fabric, the goal is to sustain this essential system while preserving the human connections that make the city feel like home.



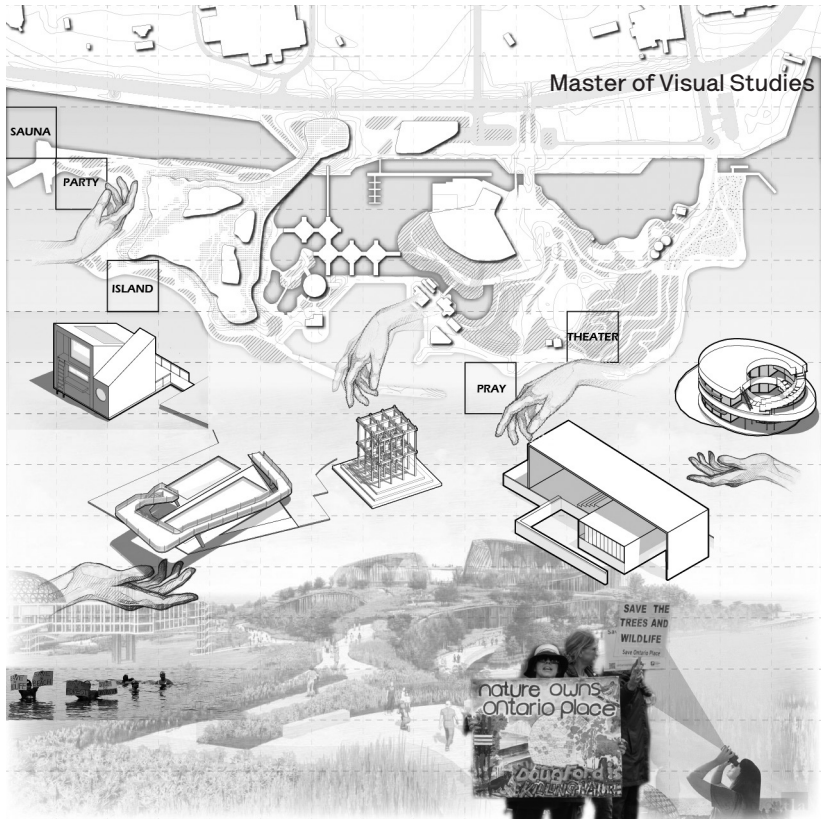
Sakshi Vivek Thorat

MUD

Advisor: Zahra Ebrahim

Urbanism of Empathy

Creating support systems for encampments in parks is essential to fostering coexistence with neighborhoods while preserving the dignity of those living in tents. Instead of treating these camps as problems to be erased, they should be recognized as part of the urban fabric. Parks, with their tree cover and access to basic amenities, often become natural gathering spaces. Rather than pushing encampments out of sight, cities should recognize their inevitability and provide infrastructure and promote safer conditions. With thoughtful support, these spaces help in offering people a chance to rest, rebuild, and be seen as neighbors rather than outsiders.



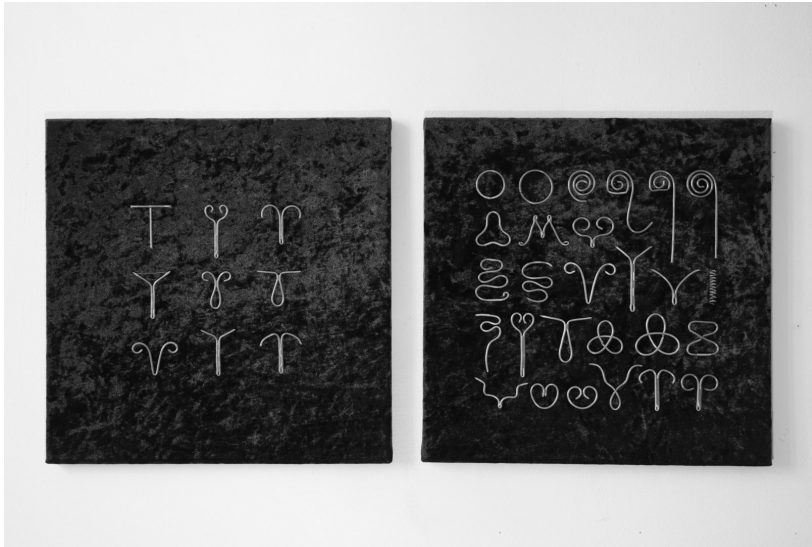
Peizi Yu

MUD

Advisor: Michael Piper

This Island is Public

In the context of privatizing urban land, this thesis explores a possibility for public space—open, and accessible to all. A private spa is being developed on public land on the island of Ontario Place, limiting public access and diverse use. To address this, the project relocates and reduces the spa while introducing free urban bath pavilions to restore lost public functions. Informed by historical and contemporary urban baths from both Western and Eastern contexts, the design reimagines their role in modern cities. By integrating communal bathing into the urban fabric, this proposal enhances accessibility, social interaction, and collective well-being, redefining democratic urban space.



Sibe Du

MVS (Curatorial Studies)

Advisor: Barbara Fischer

Whispers of Resistance

“Whispers of Resistance” unveils the complex realities of womanhood and motherhood in contemporary China through the works of artists Liu Xi, Anny Peng, Zhou Wenjing, and Cai Yaling. Exploring themes of memory, intimacy, and intergenerational relationships, their deeply personal narratives and diverse artistic expressions reveal how women navigate societal expectations while pursuing identity and autonomy. By exposing the multifaceted experiences of those bound by family life and patriarchal structures, the exhibition illuminates both the resilience embedded in daily resistance and the courageous reclamation of selfhood.



Sophie Dubeau Chicoine

MVS (Curatorial Studies)

Advisor: Barbara Fischer

In the Interstices of Our Palms

The exhibition explores ways to build, hold and share community in times of disruption. Navigating the personal and collective challenges of communal efforts, three artists mobilize processes of (re)assembly. They create space for hope, insisting on the possibilities of healing and renewal while simultaneously reckoning with ongoing grievances. Featuring work by Rihab Essayh, Anouk Verviers and Tanya Lukin Linklater, “In the Interstices of Our Palms” puts forward reflective modes of collectivity fostered by sustained, careful gestures.



Justyna Janik

MVS (Studio Art)

Advisor: Katie Lyle

An Anthology of Senses

Drawing on personal narratives spanning three generations of displacement, this painting exhibition examines the sensory rapture of migration. Where change was once perceived against the backdrop of the familiar, displacement brings an influx of chaotic information. The senses are overwhelmed, and the body adapts in strange and unpredictable ways. The paintings draw the viewer into this experience bodily. Paint on canvas becomes a multi-sensory experience, relying on the viewer's capacity for sensory crossings between vision and other modalities to construct meaning. In this way, the paintings, akin to the experience of displacement, embody a state of perpetual becoming.



Abisola Oni

MVS (Curatorial Studies)

Advisor: Barbara Fischer, Karina Griffith, Marieme Lo

Careful Crossings

Foregrounding the poetics of landscape, “Careful Crossings” brings together artists whose experiences of travel inspire ethical relations in human geography. Complementary to the artists’ movements, the exhibition invites reflection on the meaning of travel as three satellite sites take visitors through the city. Works by Kapwani Kiwanga, Isabel Okoro, Oluseye, and Emma Wolukau-Wanambwa are on view in the University of Toronto Art Centre. A rare showing of Chetna Vora’s *OYOYO* (1980) will be held in the courtyard of University College, and a program of films in the CineCycle underground will feature works by international filmmakers Collectif Faire-Part and Annabelle Aventurin.



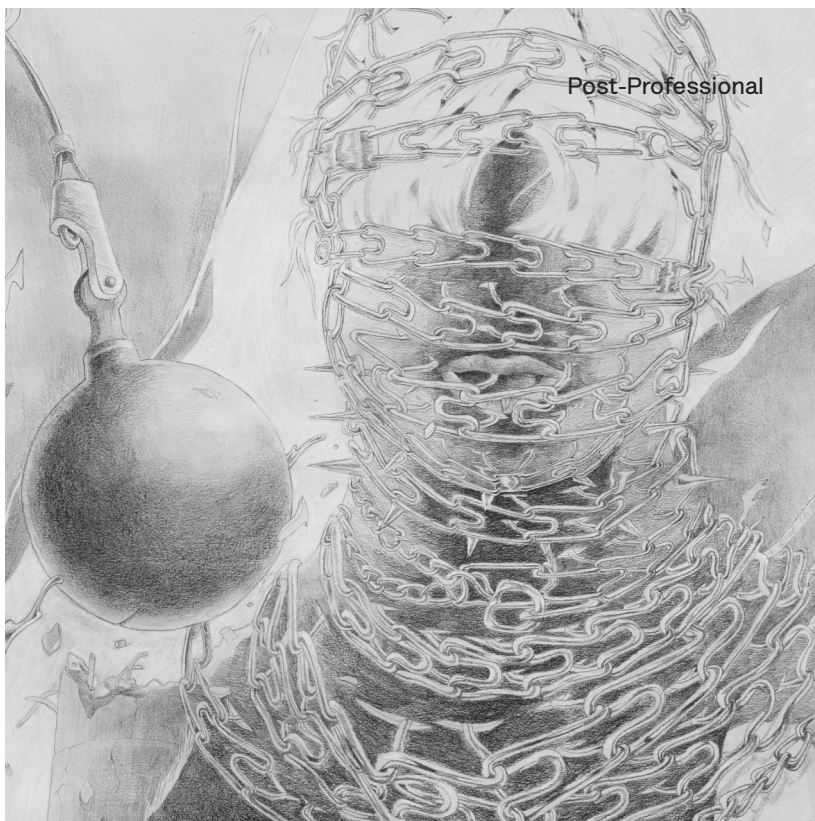
Lauren Warrington

MVS (Studio Art)

Advisor: Karen Kraven

On Tracing Memory

“On Tracing Memory” is an attempt to remember, re-remember, and locate an always-shifting origin. Working across digital and physical space, I consider inherited memories of the matriarchs in my family who remained in Guangdong during the Chinese head tax and the Chinese Exclusion Act, histories of women largely unaccounted for in formal archives. Reckoning with the sparse information that remains, I turn to accounts from my family and look to embodied knowledge as a form of archive, re-materializing ephemera from a space of speculative memory. As this act of replication resists erasure, it intervenes in traditional modes of historical documentation, challenging notions of authenticity and the value of the original.



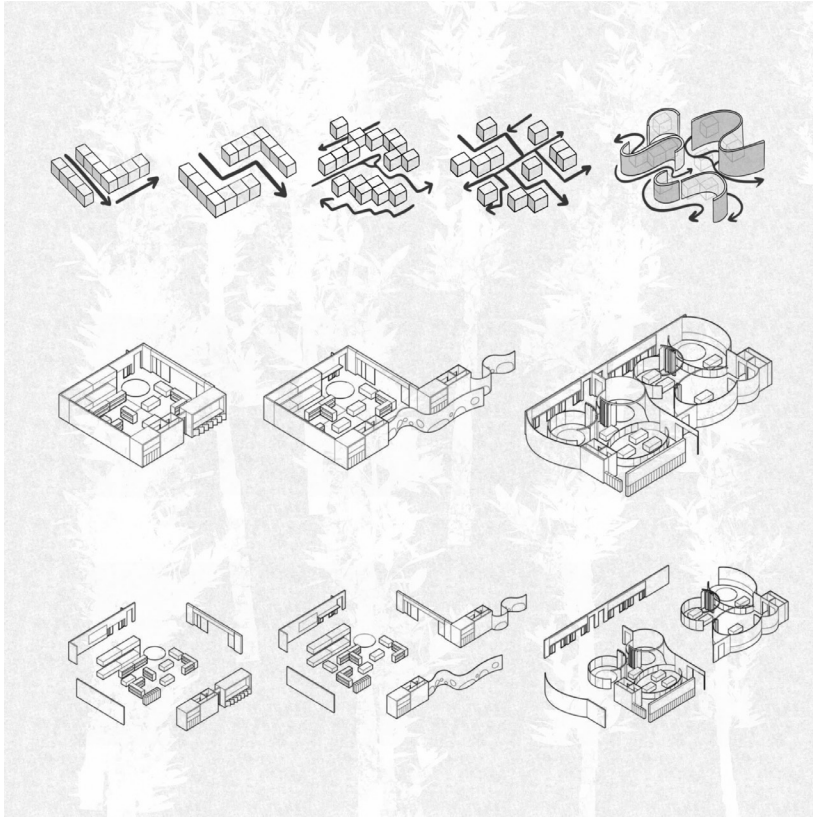
Lina Wu

MVS (Studio Art)

Advisor: Luis Jacob

A Sheathed Abyss

"A Sheathed Abyss" uses practices of world-building and feminist myth-making to produce avatars animated by an internal force. This hidden abyss unravels them from the inside out, manifesting as a self-destructive sexuality that destabilizes everything it touches. The avatars are constantly collapsing, melting, and dissolving, often putting themselves in dangerous and masochistic positions, torn apart by an alien desire. The abyss paradoxically consumes and constitutes their being.



Corrine Guo

Post-Prof MARC

Advisor: Miles Gertler

Learning on the Go: The Spatial & Child Psychology of School Designs

My project rethinks traditional school design for kindergarten age children by integrating principles from psychogeography and spatial psychology to create learning environments that encourage exploration, adaptability, and emotional well-being. Traditional classrooms typically prioritize uniformity over creativity and structure over exploration. Yet, modern education has turned to emphasize hands-on learning, collaboration, and emotional well-being. This disconnect between old classroom design and contemporary education is the problem my thesis aims to explore. In response, this project proposes child-centered spatial solutions that encourage curiosity, autonomy, and dynamic interaction by incorporating elements such as movable partitions and free flowing classrooms to create an explorative learning space.



'16



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'22

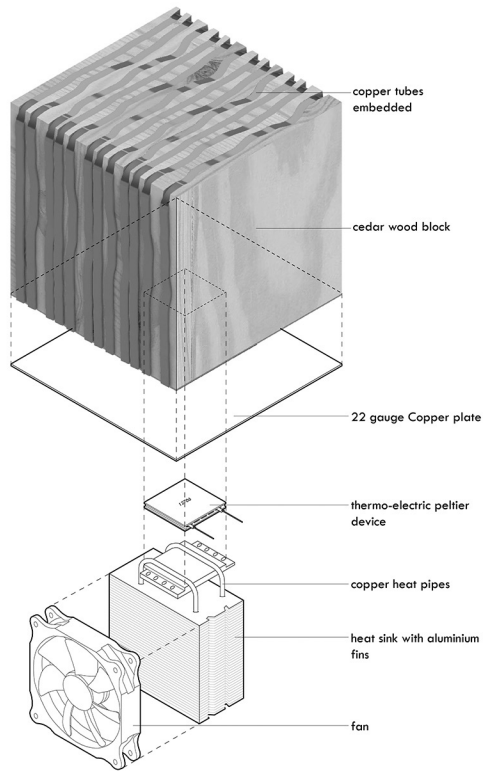
Maiara Martinello

Post-Prof MARC

Advisor: Noheir Elgendy

Architecture without Architects: understanding self-built dwellings

A significant portion of the Global South is shaped by self-built architecture, created by a diverse range of people. Architecture Without Architects (AWA) works as a collaborative website that extends Rudofsky's concept to a new context: informal settlements. AWA serves as a guide to understanding the design and construction processes behind self-built homes in these areas, beginning with six case studies in Fortaleza, Brazil. The goal is to explore what motivates people to adapt, renovate, or expand their homes and identify common factors across different settlements, such as drivers and actions that influence the final appearance of self-built dwellings.



Ridhi Shah

Post-Prof MARC

Advisor: Carol Moukheiber, Christos Marcopoulos

Invisible Architecture: Micro-climate of Material Energies

The thesis explores how materials—wood, stone, and Himalayan salt—can be conditioned with heat, air and moisture to create sensory microclimates. Instead of viewing materials as static, the thesis investigates their thermal performance and how they shape atmospheres through energy exchange. Using experiments with specific devices, the research examines how materials generate temperature gradients, air currents and sensory effects. The thesis challenges conventional architecture by proposing material-driven climate modulation, redefining space as an active, sensory environment where energy, rather than form alone shapes human perception and experience.

