

Instructor: **Gregory Neudorf**



Title: **Confronting Carbon Form**

“To perceive matter that casts no shadow, you must search not for its presence but for its consequence.”
– Robert Macfarlane, *Underland*

We are living through a time of acute awareness of our impact on the earth and the scale of human influence on climate and geology. Humans are a geological force and architecture is human-activated geology. The artificial ontological gap between nature and humankind has been closed, and architecture is only beginning to grapple with the immense responsibility of realigning our profession’s thinking within the new epoch of the Anthropocene.

Designed with a wealth of energy in mind, our current built environment has created spatial conditions that trap all aspects of life within an energy-intensive network of space and form; social, cultural, political, and economic. We cannot think of the built environment as simply a passive receiver of energy, but rather as actively giving form to energy-intensive ways of life. Architecture reliant on this fossil fuel economy is condemned to give shape to it. But by confronting and ultimately rejecting carbon form for reducing architecture to a by-product, new areas of agency can emerge. Architecture has the power to give form, with new conditions, desires, and frameworks, reimagining relationships to resources, economy, exchange, and equity. While we are inculcated in climate change, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to reconnect with nature and our future to sculpt a new Earth.

Our studio section will reconsider architecture’s place not *in* but *of* the natural world and through this lens investigate how to move beyond carbon form with new frameworks, fields of relations, and future states. Students will research a fundamental element of nature and its implication on architecture within the Anthropocene, create objects/drawings/images influenced by this research, to inform the *Climatorium*, drawing upon this inspiration through nature, natural processes, geology, thermodynamics, and technology. The goal will be to grow an urban architectural intervention to create a new environment that is truly a part of its physical context but one that also belongs to the broader social and cultural topography. We will uncover how to develop an intuition for architecture that can give creative form to the building, frameworks, and infrastructures – creating new affects that in turn allow for new possibilities for perception and experience.