

April 6, 2020

Dear GSAPP Family,

In her recent *New York Times* piece "[Who Will Win the Fight for a Post-Coronavirus America?](#)" Rebecca Solnit reflects on the slow-but seismic changes—social, political, and other—that often follow disaster and tragedy. Her brief words were a reminder of the power of hope as a practice; they opened up new possibilities for engagement as every other expert prediction seemed to already be closing those possibilities down.

Reflecting on our own disciplines and practices, where and how has Solnit's message of hope and possibility manifested historically? Out of the devastation of World War II arose the most inventive experiments in housing, which still inspire us today. Japanese Metabolism emerged as a post-war reframing of the relationship between the architectural and the urban, the built and the natural. Struggles for decolonization opened up possibilities for women as architects and engineers as they joined conversations at the newly-established Arab Engineering Conferences, held in Egypt and elsewhere, to shape young nations. In the United States, the Vietnam War crystallized a countercultural movement that gave architecture some of its most radical practices yet, such as Ant Farm.

While still too close in time to articulate fully, the 2008 recession significantly altered our field—not shutting it down but changing, hybridizing, and revitalizing its discourses, practices, and modes of engagement. Out of economic crisis a new field emerged, stitching itself back together across and through renewed global friendships and collaborations. Out of crisis came the post-starchitect Spanish sensibility, yielding some of the most exciting new practices today; the post-spectacular-yet-materially-sensual sobriety in Belgium and Italy; the re-engagement of the countryside in Asia; and the post-nostalgic reclaiming of regionalist practices in cities across Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East. We also saw the explosion of radical advocacy, of participatory practices and critical mappings, of new networks of architectural historians and curators, of engaged environmental practices across scales, and so on.

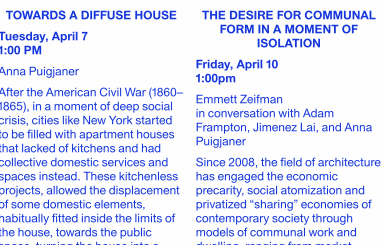
And so while we cannot know what the future holds—or how our current condition will invite new forms of making, thinking, writing, building, planning—just taking stock of the creative ways the disciplines of the built environment have assembled and reassembled out of and in response to crisis is hopeful. In the most immediate present, maker spaces across architecture schools are already chipping in, printing parts, and joining larger supply chains for shields while exploring what else they can urgently contribute. What new unforeseen doors they will open or re-open—what supportive infrastructures will we help lay out—in this moment of scarcity and precarity?

This week, we are sharing a selection of engaged practices that emerged in various forms over the past decade. The hope is that these practices inspire ways to think about what we can invite for the future.

Sincerely,

Amale

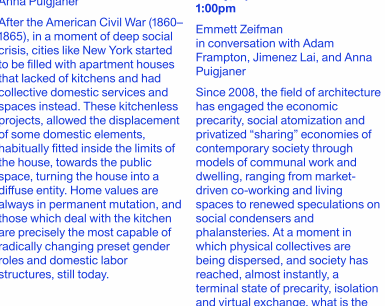
GSAPP MAKING STUDIO PRODUCES FACE SHIELDS



3D printers and laser cutters at the GSAPP Making Studio are currently being mobilized to produce face shields based on a design and guide produced by the [COVID Maker Response \(CMR\)](#), a coalition of makers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic founded by librarians at Columbia University Libraries and Tangible Creative. [Read more online.](#)

Image: Photo by CMR of New York-Presbyterian Hospital staff receiving masks produced by the coalition.

#GSAPPFAMILY2020



Please continue to share your experiences on social media using the hashtag [#gsappfamily2020](#), or send us photos or videos directly. Students and faculty are also invited to submit works-in-progress using this [google form](#).

Image Credit: Drawing by MARCH student Hazel Villena.

WEEKLY BROADCASTS

TOWARDS A DIFFUSE HOUSE

Tuesday, April 7

1:00 PM

Anna Puigianer

After the American Civil War (1860–1865), in a moment of deep social crisis, cities like New York started to be filled with apartment houses that lacked of kitchens and had collective domestic services and spaces instead. These kitchenless projects, allowed the displacement of some domestic elements, habitually fitted inside the limits of the house, turning the public space, turning the house into a diffuse entity. Home values are always in permanent mutation, and those which deal with the kitchen are precisely the most capable of radically changing preset gender roles and domestic labor structures, still today.

THE DESIRE FOR COMMUNAL FORM IN A MOMENT OF ISOLATION

Friday, April 10

1:00pm

Emmett Zeifman in conversation with Adam Frampton, Jimenez Lai, and Anna Puigianer

Since 2008, the field of architecture has engaged the economic precarity, social atomization and privatized "sharing" economies of contemporary society through models of communal work and dwelling, ranging from market-driven co-working and living spaces to renewed speculations on social condensers and phalansteries. At a moment in which physical collectives are being dispersed, and society has reached, almost instantly, a terminal state of precarity, isolation and virtual exchange, what is the status of this desire for architectural forms that contain whole communities and frame new commons?

PASSING THROUGH ARCHITECTURE: THE BIOLOGICAL ART OF GORDON MATTA-CLARK

Monday, April 13

1:00 PM

Mark Wigley

Gordon Matta-Clark graduated from the architecture school at Cornell in 1968 then spent the 10 years before his early death relentlessly challenging the limits of art and architecture—most famously in a series of vertiginous "building-cuts" that became cult works that continue to inspire artists and architects today. This talk will ZOOM into those transgressive surgical operations to show how they were actually biological works.

BULLETPROOFING AMERICAN HISTORY: RACE, REMEMBRANCE AND EMMETT TILL

Tuesday, April 14

12:30 PM

Mabel O. Wilson

Compelling architectural and urban designs like the recent Memorial to Peace and Justice by Mass Design have been erected to aid the public in remembering the historic and geographic scope of America's legacy of racial violence. As architects, planners, urbanists, and historians how do we commemorate America's fraught history when recent protests by the white nationalist group Unite the Right at historic sites like the University of Virginia or the need to bulletproof a historical marker at an important site of the Civil Rights struggle tells us that violence still simmers and erupts in the nation's public spaces?

CLIMATE SUMMIT

Wednesday, April 15

1:00 PM

Andrés Jaque

The Climate Summit convenes students across all GSAPP programs to present specific stories of CLIMATE and CLIMATE CRISIS, to trigger a collective discussion on the learnings that GSAPP, as a collectively inquiring milieu, can extract from the details of climate as it happens. The discussion will focus on rethinking what are the methodological and ontological evolutions design practices face, in entering and operating in a CLIMATE paradigm.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Thursday, April 16

5:30 PM

A Lecture by Steven Holl Hosted by David Benjamin

Steven Holl discusses the topic of ecology as it relates to work completed at his firm from 1992 to present.

OPEN CLASSES

RECOMBINANT URBANISM AND PUBLIC SPACE

Monday, April 6

11am

Grahame Shane

This seminar examines how cities grow and develop over time. It employs a theory of urban actors and conceptual models as tools for the analysis of the city, its urban systems and design ecologies. The course maps transformations in these actors and their models at various scales over time in a specific locations.

STRUCTURAL DARING AND THE SUBLIME

Wednesday, April 8

1pm

Rory O'Neill

This seminar invites students to explore the sublime effects of precarious architecture through visual and literary representations; students will use a structural simulation application to provide for a hands-on approach to exploring structural daring in real time.

MSRED CAPSTONE CLASS

Thursday, April 9 & 17

9:00am

Patrice Derrington

The course synthesizes the analytical, comparative, and critical processes involved in real estate development projects, transactions and investments. Students demonstrate their understanding of the dynamics of real estate development.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Thursday, April 9

11am

Moirá O'Neill-Hutson

This course explores the history, theory, and practice of community development. It requires students to question the assumptions underlying past programs and policies, identify opportunities, and think critically about the programs and policies that will be needed going forward.

PLANNING THE CULTURAL SPACE

Friday, April 10

9am

Douglas Woodward, Vin Cipolla, and Peter Flamm

The practicum provides a comprehensive assessment of the current trends and issues in planning for cultural spaces. As competing options and the increasing accessibility of personal digital platforms are changing the ways the arts are produced and consumed, cultural organizations are facing existential questions about the shape of their future.

CARIBBEAN RECONNECTIONS – A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PUERTO RICO

Monday, April 13

2pm

Richard Plunz and Douglas Woodward

This joint Urban Planning and Architecture studio focuses on three sites in Puerto Rico that share transportation problems and general developmental issues, and were heavily impacted by the presence of the U.S. military activities until 2004 by Hurricane Maria in September 2017. This studio engages the study of infrastructure, building, and livelihood futures, while expanding the scope of architectural design to include planning, policy and implementation.

PUBLIC SPACE: RHETORICS OF THE PEDESTRIAN

Tuesday, April 14

11:00 AM

David Smiley

"Public space" is among the most widely used tropes in the spatial disciplines and it shapes discussions about control, freedom, status, and identity in the spaces of the city, suburb, and elsewhere. To refine an examination of public space, this seminar focuses on the pedestrian, the walker in the city and the prime user of public space.

URBAN INFORMATICS II

Tuesday, April 14

5pm

Anthony Vanky

Students are challenged to think about how data can support agendas in spatial and environmental justice, as well as enumerating use of public space. The course asks in what ways sensing technologies can validate or challenge theories of public space and social interaction, and how they can intersect with aspects of environmental quality and justice, sustainability, equity and overall general well-being.

ON SPATIAL EXCLUSION AND PLANNING

Wednesday, April 15th

11am

Hiba Bou Akar

This course investigates the idea of geographies of exclusion through a multi-disciplinary inquiry which locates spatial production and planning practice at its center. The course cross-thinks issues of spatial exclusion and social justice across cities in the Global North and the Global South. This week's topic is "resistance and change: on current housing take-over movement."

ARCHITECT WRITERS

Friday, April 17

9:00 AM

Hilary Sample

Taking stock of the architecture profession today, this seminar brings together a select group of architects who have written about their design work as a means to better understand the built environment while reflecting on the field of architecture as a whole.

MINING THE ARCHIVE: ENGAGED PRACTICES



In the hope of inspiring ways to think about what we can invite for the future, we are sharing a selection of engaged practices that emerged in various forms over the past decade.

November 7, 2014

[Seesaw: Piedra, Papel, o Tijeras: Tatiana Bilbao and Frida Escobedo](#)

An exchange between Tatiana Bilbao and Frida Escobedo (in conversation with Galia Solomonoff) on what it means to transform the tectonic traditions of Mexico anew through their respective practices.

September 14, 2015

[OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen](#)

A lecture that puts forward a pared down architectural framework for registering and encouraging the complexity of daily life.

April 3, 2017

[Urban Rural Framework](#)

A talk that ruminates on working against urban upheaval, looking to the countryside, and designing new institutional collaborations for research.

April 9, 2018

[Andrés Jaque](#)

A lecture that resists the idea of architecture as an inert assembly of material and that proposes instead architecture as an interaction between multiple entities with different scales, temporalities, and agencies.

February 27, 2019

[Adrian Lahoud](#)

A lecture reflecting on exhibition-making as a cultural project in the context of the first Sharjah Architecture Triennial.

March 29, 2019

[Constructing Engaged Practice](#)

A daylong symposium on the political, social, and environmental commitments of "young" firms. We encourage, in particular, re-watching Mariam Kamara's presentation in "From Observation to Engagement."

Please feel free to send us your own favorites and recommendations: events@arch.columbia.edu.

AVERY SELECTS

This week: a hodgepodge of readings from the *Avery Review* to complement your Weekly Broadcasts and to offer critical positions on the possibilities of a political practice.

We suggest reading Craig L. Wilkin's piece "["Innervisions"](#) on the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice designed by MASS Design Group; Anna Puigianer and Guillermo López's fresh take on the fraught histories of Ricardo Bofill in their essay "[Revisiting Systems](#)"; Camila Reyes Ale's piece "[The Form of Dissent](#)" on dissident architectural practice; and Marcelo López - Dinardi's review of "[Folk Politics at the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale](#)."

We're also revisiting *Avery Shorts* that consider different architectural responses to crisis and share alternative professional, cultural, and political methodologies.

From Season 1, [Helene Kazan](#) looks at the spatialization of International Law and its affective qualities through the deployment of emergency shelters.

From Season 2, Mario Gooden shares his Instagram project, a cultural and artistic survey meant to engender action in times of political and social upheaval.

And from Season 3, Husos Architects lay out their proposal for an alternative, relational urbanism in the face of global species decline.

SUPER CRITS

ADVANCED IV ARCHITECTURE STUDIO EXCHANGE

Wednesday, April 8

2pm

Ziad Jama'eddine (Coordinator)

Ziad Jama'eddine and Nahyun Hwang

Bob Marino and Adam Frampton

Richard Plunz and Lindsey Wikstrom

Lindy Roy and Phu Hoang

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE DESIGN AND POLICY

Friday, April 10

3:30pm

Thaddeus Pawlowski will present current work of the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes in discussion with Urban Design faculty.

ADVANCED VI ARCHITECTURE STUDIO EXCHANGE

Friday, April 17

3pm

David Benjamin

MARCH and MSAAD students will present work completed during the Advanced VI studios.

ROSS GALLERY TURNS 30

Under the direction of Dean Bernard Tschumi, GSAPP launched its new Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery on April 4, 1990 with the exhibition [The Filter of Reason: Work of Paul Nelson](#), curated by Terence Riley, Joseph Abram, and Kenneth Frampton. Here's to 30 more years of spirited and innovative exhibition-making! Scroll through the recent exhibitions here.

Image Credit: Exhibition Opening, *The Imagined and Real Landscapes of Piranesi*, 1992.

TUESDAY TALKS WITH ALUMNI

Thank you to the GSAPP alumni who participated in last week's Tuesday Talks!

The next Tuesday Talk will be on April 7. Registration will open Monday, April 6 at 12pm EST. Preview the alumni participating this week before requesting your appointment! Please contact gsappalumni@columbia.edu with any questions.

A list of participating alumni can be found on [our website](#).

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