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Bronx Borough Hall

The Bronx is the only borough without a designated building as it is currently a tenant within the Bronx County Courthouse. With Bronx County Court being reallocated to a neighboring system, the park begins to intersect the building, stitching the networks of park and Borough Hall. The new building is imagined to be an extension of the park in its program and governance within the community. The concept of courtyard is questioned as the previously dark light shaft is expanded with an organic and dynamic central cut-out. The existing facade is penetrated, creating a new outdoor commons within the building. Through the redefinition of what was previously court and courtyard, more open public space now exists within those locations, intersecting where Borough Hall meets the community. It is through this that Bronx Borough Hall is re-imagined to become a new civic center that takes on the function of the park itself.
Through exploring the relationship between park and building entanglements are uncovered of how the city operates within these governing bodies. Passive and active functions of the existing parks enter the building, stitching Borough Hall with the park through this programmatic structure.
The emphasized interior cores run throughout each floor of the building as shifting ellipses. Within these spaces functions of Borough Hall and the community intersect.
The (Un)natural History Museum

The American Museum of Natural History manifests the Plantation Logic by dehumanizing and demarcating the ‘other’ through the Euro-centric lens. Utilizing tools of exhibition and display, the museum constructs an image that emphasizes the ‘other’ while isolating and freezing cultures in time. The (Un)natural History Museum rethinks natural history to de-territorialize the museum’s portrayal of colonization and conquest to reveal the unnaturalness of natural history. Through rethinking the diorama, a tool of power that arrests moments in time, the immersive image is disrupted to undo this theatrical staging. A new set of architectural tools intercept, reflect, and reveal a narrative to animate and re-contextualize the complex histories that were previously hidden. The (Un)natural History Museum deconstructs and pulls apart the constructed image to reveal how history is not isolated, but interconnected and ever-changing.

In Collaboration with Maxine Gao
Post-Plantation Museum(s)
Faculty: Mabel O. Wilson & Jordan Carver
American Museum of Natural History, NYC
Fall 2022
The American Natural History Museum constructs a narrative of America, masculinity, and whiteness through a sequence of imagery. The Asian and African mammal and people halls surround the Millstein hall of Ocean Life. Proposing to intervene in this main space and pop the constructed bubbles on a building scale to connect the previously isolated rooms across the museum.
The model investigates the enclosure system within the museum and how we can challenge and deconstruct the museum’s legacies of colonial settlement, territorial domination and extraction through the slides that emphasize, reveal and reflect the image.
Decomposition through Deep Time

The Catskills have served the wealthy escaping the city in search of sanctuary-ness for many decades. It has famously and historically been a space of hospitality, flooded with resorts, short term rentals, casinos, and yoga retreats. The amenity spaces in the Catskills emphasize the over-commercialized sense of sanctuary and wilderness as well as the exploitation of the workers and nature. The new Resorts World Casino stands on the site of the old Concord Hotel which was formerly a resort that was part of the Borscht Belt. The site has resulted in the Casino and Resort which is disconnected from the already manufactured nature. This moment in time challenges the Vegas style casino and how the Catskills are depicted by the Hudson River School and the notion of wilderness. Furthermore this is a speculative approach of how after an abrupt closure of the Casino and Resort, a deep time decomposition can be an alternative to the typical notion of demolition. Challenging the previous notion of the Catskills and how it may be depicted, will bring opportunity for human intervention that can trigger non-human species to co-habitat the building to create a new sense of sublime.
Introduction of fungi and bacteria that would penetrate the asphalt, decomposing it into a new ground.

A re-imagined ground emerges from the decomposition of the asphalt.

The previous casino and hotel is transformed into a lab and testing center for the new re-imagined landscape, while the introduction of native species would facilitate the decomposition.

Introduction of fungi and bacteria that would penetrate the asphalt, decomposing it into a new ground.
Analyzing the possibility of decomposing the harsh asphalt and dangerous reflective glass facade through introducing a re-imagined ground and a facade that would host previously harmed bird species.
Collective Domesticity

Through an analysis of domestic objects and infrastructure in the streetscape, associations begin to form between domesticity and ownership. Bronx residents of the Melrose area were using the streetscape as an extension of their homes; using the fire escapes to hang laundry and gather on the stoop and under overhangs. These domestic activities are happening between lines of infrastructure, from the many visible fences and scaffolding to the invisible lines of zoning and ownership structure. Collective Domesticity proposes an infrastructure that would bring the collective environment of the street into the domestic sphere. The studio and one-bedroom units are in clusters of four around a lightwell to bring residents into this central core. The units are able to expand to allow for the growth of multi-generational housing. This infrastructure is an exaggerated scaffolding, stoop and fire escape that bleeds between the units to promote and facilitate community and use to put the domestic space on display.
Exaggerated stoop and fire escape put onto the facade.

Introduce a screen that allows for pockets of domestic activity to be seen from and to the streetscape.

The use of brick masonry is conscious of the surrounding Bronx neighborhood.

Create a brick pattern screen method to account for privacy of programs taken place on the circulation facade.
Sponge

Situated on the lot of a vacant CBJ Snyder school, PS 64, located at 605 East 9th Street in the East Village, this project is an expanded space where play and learning co-exist. Sponge introduces a heavy wall which plays a key role in shaping the experience from moving to differently programmed areas. It connects students to either side through their senses while also upholding the systems and foundations upon which a school must run. The intervention works within the legs of the original H-plan of the school to thicken the wall. It is a threshold between static, quiet, and private programs to more active and collective spaces. It acts as both a security and privacy barrier, but also a sponge which contains and reveals program within its mass. Connecting the two legs up above are the collective spaces such as the library, dining hall, auditorium, and gymnasium. The building circulation is set up so that students cross back and forth between bridges which move them through the walls. These bridges may move you upward, shedding energy along the way before arriving to a static type of learning space. There are also moments within the cavern like wall where spaces become plush, bouncy, or fuzzy, activating your senses for a creative and active lesson.
Liminal Learning

Columbia University’s presence dominates the northern portion of Broadway. Its strained history with Black and Hispanic communities of Harlem and Morningside Heights is rooted in a competition for space. Situated within Morningside Park is a site loaded with a history of contention between the university and the BIPOC community. Liminal Learning is an invention of new and inclusive formulations for public space. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, this park is faced with a large topographical shift on its Western edge and large rock outcrops. Due to this, most of the park was left unprogrammed while leaving a domineering wall along Columbia’s Campus. Liminal Learning works with schools with predominantly Black and Hispanic students, such as Margaret Douglas Public School, to be a play space for young explorers to utilize before, during and after school hours.

Manhattan Stories
Faculty: Lindy Roy
Morningside Park, NYC
Fall 2020
The sidewalk tile material is thought of as looking into stone on a molecular level. As you investigate the space below, you see shadows moving beyond. From afar the tiles aren’t noticeable from any other sidewalk, but once directly above it, you are introduced to a new world below.
The Renaissance of Cheese

The Renaissance of Cheese is an editorial of the eroticism and seductive nature that cheese is portrayed. Artist Mike Geno has painted over four hundred cheese portraits, each accompanied by an in-depth description of his experiences painting and eating the cheese. Paired with text describing Renaissance nude painting, the book emphasizes the simple act of intensely viewing a subject to the point of sexualizing it, such as that of a Renaissance nude painting.
Sign and Sidewalk City

A study of the city from the scale of the block to the scale of the object to consider the power of the smallest artifact as evidence of a larger, intangible network. Looking at two sites in the city, Utica Avenue South, a predominantly Caribbean neighborhood in Crown Heights Brooklyn, and Pell Street in Chinatown, Manhattan, we can begin to read the city and investigate spatial practices of the streetscape and storefront.

In Collaboration with Cecile Kim & Joyce Zhou
Power Tools
Faculty: Lexi Tsien & Jelisa Blumberg
Spring 2021
Analysis of Appetite

In a time where collective eating is nearly obsolete due to a world-wide pandemic, we felt strongly about analyzing the spatial system of eating and how collective eating is experienced among different cultures. In a series of moving images, we collected data of many ways of collective eating, dim sum, a seafood boil, an American potluck, and Korean barbecue. Through the moving images, we gathered observations on timing, pace, seating, number of people etc. We then analyzed how the affects of the COVID-19 dining laws have affected the nature of collective eating.
Chinatown Restaurant Advocacy

Extending the research from Collective Eating to an urban scale, China Town Restaurant Advocacy analyzes the restaurant closures in China Town due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The drawing demonstrates the history of each closure’s relationship to the events in politics and how detrimental this year as been on the AAPI community.
Twist

Combing a simple tiling system through the triangle, a simple form can become complex. The manipulation of an equilateral triangle through combining multiples to creating new shapes and the slight rotation of the top and base become the form of the twist. This transitional geometry stacks together creating a wall with complex openings, edges and vertices.
Twïst

1. Silicone Part ACasting Wax
2. Rockite Cement
3. Mixing Cups
4. Silicone Part B
5. Mold Release Spray

Eleanor Birle & Kim Langat
Transitional Geometries
Fall 2022

Images: Bora & Jimin Jeong
International Graduate School
Vertical Transportation

A study of dissection through, key components, interrelationships and construction sequencing of vertical transportation systems.
Avery Spot

The Avery SPOT is an illuminated pavilion that hovers between Fayerweather, Schermerhorn, and Avery halls. The canopy is made of PVC coated nylon, steel anchor beams, and is embedded with LED lights. Below the cloud shaped canopy, cedar benches are built into a wood platform, which is organized into color-coded social distancing circles to facilitate Covid-safe seating for various programming. The canopy uses a student-designed rain chain to divert water and prevent additional weight from rain build up. The design envisions spaces for relaxing, gathering, and learning in a post-COVID era.
1 Plaza plan at inflatable level - with safety notes

AV1 anchor point
5" schedule 40 pipe @ 12'-9" in length

AV2 anchor point
5" schedule 40 pipe @ 12'-9" in length

FA1 anchor point
4" schedule 40 pipe @ 7'-11" in length

FA2 anchor point
4" schedule 40 pipe @ 8'-4" in length

planter anchor eyelets
stationary tethers only
not to preform structurally

occupyable plaza zone
safety clearance height
7'-0" minimum from ovh anchor cables

single elec wire to lead to inflatable.
no other elec wires ovh
temp. elec. box w/ cable from inflatable

Architect
Laurie Hawkinson
Galia Solomonoff
Alex Mann

Structural Engineer
Silman

Sustainability Engineer
Buro Happold

Director of Operations
Mark Taylor