

Kitchenless Stories
v.1 JAPAN



Japan, as a territory, appears to harbour a close relationship between change and tragedy. Unprecedented cycles of destruction have traditionally allowed radical political and social reform. Which have resulted in changes to the rituals of the home. If after Second World War, the western-influenced modern housing types emerged -raising new sensibilities towards the concept of privacy and family roles-; the last two big earthquakes -1995 and 2011- have boosted the emergence and the speculation of unfamiliar domesticities. The visibility of both disasters propogated an alertness toward the progressive individualism and social fabric loss. Which, consequently reinforced the emerging trend to reestablish neighborhood relations and local communities.

In the eighties when projects such as the well-known Tokyo Nomad Girl emerged there was already an awareness of a Japanese society based on the individual. The project designed by Toyo Ito and Kazuyo Sejima in 1985 imagined a mobile domestic infrastructure, composed

of just a bed for sleeping, dressing and displaying taste in consumer choices. The project envisioned a new type of living where the whole city was the space of the house itself, a type of domesticity based on mobility and mutation through the urban territory. In this mutable living, private kitchens were left behind in favor of restaurants and consumerism.

This project could be considered a moment of transition after Metabolist attempts, which emerged in the 1960s seeking of a promising future after the war. Metabolist architects envisioned a prospective territory where buildings, supposedly, could be easily adapted to changes by means of standardization, capsules and other technological biased devices and solutions. But instead, what really happened after the 1960s, is that the surface of the city was occupied by very tiny, two- or three-story high houses promoted by individual initiatives. The imagined huge Metabolist infrastructures could just be tackled with public initiative; however the

Government didn't have sufficient budget to promote them. Instead, incentives were given to people, allowing them to build their own houses, thus promoting individual private investments. So as Momoyo Kaijima and Yoshi Tsukamoto claim, the reconstruction of the city was not achieved through a concentration of capital and power, as Metabolist architects would believe, but instead, it was achieved by the dispersed nature of capital and power based on individuality.

Nowadays, we know that Tokyo daily life is far from how it was imagined, but surprisingly as an answer to the progressive social fabric loss, a set of new domestic proposals have emerged that claimed again the elimination of private food production in favor of a collective one, such as the Tokyo Nomad Girl project did. From real estate companies that promote kitchenless living to the popular Kodomo Kitchens -community kitchens for the children-, the kitchen is understood again as an urban infrastructure able to define new social structures and systems of governance, as well as new values of capital and labor. Despite having different natures, these community kitchens go beyond the publicity of restaurants, shaping bonds and expanding families while maintaining their urban character.

This studio will look at the contemporary reality of the city of Tokyo as a radical trial-and-error urban and architectural experiment. Studying the current community kitchens as a starting point for an architectural speculation, we will research and understand how these recent urban infrastructures operate in order to imagine their impact in the existing house. As a response, the students will be asked to speculate and design a contemporary domestic landscape.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Week 1 January 21 st – 27 th TH. Introduction	Week 9 March 18 th – 24 th SPRING BREAK
Week 2 January 28 th – February 3 rd M+TH. Tutorials	Week 10 March 25 th – 31 st M+TH. Tutorials
Week 3 February 4 th – 10 th M+TH. Tutorials	Week 11 April 1 st – 7 th M+TH. Tutorials
Week 4 February 11 th – 17 th M+TH. Tutorials	Week 12 April 8 th – 14 th M+TH. Tutorials
Week 5 February 18 th – 24 th M+TH. Tutorials	Week 13 April 15 th – 21 st M+TH. Tutorials
Week 6 February 25 th – March 3 rd M. Tutorials F. MID REVIEW	Week 14 April 22 nd – 28 th M+TH. Tutorials
Week 7 March 4 th – 10 th M+TH. Tutorials	Week 15 April 29 th – May 5 th M. Tutorials F. FINAL REVIEW
Week 8 March 11 th – 17 th TRIP TO JAPAN	

GENERAL READINGS

- Aureli, P. V. 'The Common and the Production of Architecture: Early Hypotheses', *Common Ground: A Critical Reader*. La Biennale di Venezia, 2012.
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- Federici, S. *Revolution at Point Zero. Housework, Reproduction and Feminist Struggle*. PM Press, 2012.
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- Habermas, J. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. The MIT Press, 1989. (Translation from the German original version, published 1962).
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- Heynen, H.; Baydar, G. (eds.) *Negotiating Domesticity: Spatial Productions of Gender in Modern Architecture*. Routledge, 2005.
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- Marazzi, C. *Capital and Affects*. Semiotext(e), 2011.
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- Puigjaner, A. 'The Sink', *MacGuffin*, n.4, 2017.
- Schmitt, C. 'Appropriation/Distribution/Production: Towards a Proper Formulation of Basic Questions of any Social and Economic Order', *Telos*, n. 95, March 1993, pp.52-64.
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