

## **Collecting Architecture Territories**

ARCH A4106

Advanced Studio VI

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TA: Eduardo Tazon Maigre

This studio is a continuation of the evolving research project, *Collecting Architecture Territories*. At the heart of the project is a hypothesis that collecting is a term, practice, or condition that allows us to glimpse something of the emerging cultural logic of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The project targets one of the most significant developments reshaping the intersection of art and architectural practice over the last three decades: the veritable explosion of institutions and foundations that have emerged out of private art collections. *Collecting Architecture Territories* proposes that the historical institution of the museum is undergoing a transformation that requires new forms of spatial, cultural examination and design interrogation.

The studio expands the problem posed by the transformation of the museum to ask what new conditions of collection and organization beyond its walls the mutation of the contemporary museum signals. The studio relies on the notion of territory to help understand how collection, and its sister terms asset and value, circulate among new cultural institutions as well as the zones, cities, nations and regions in which they are lodged. It suggests that collecting processes draw together cultural artifacts, finances, resources, bodies, military controls, and new technologies within active spaces of accumulation and exchange, which we describe as territories of collection.

The studio considers architecture both as an agent that organizes, supports, and informs a range of contemporary collecting practices, but also increasingly as an object of collection in its own right. With this double role in mind, the studio will probe various collecting systems to speculate on architecture's relationship to the infrastructures of movement, the networks of investment, the technologies of protection, as well as the strategies of viewership, exposure and circulation implicated in the territories of collection. Recent versions of the studio have examined collection as a critical operation for cities, regions, and zones of conflict, from Greece to Lebanon. This year the studio will focus on Cambodia and Vietnam, will examine their current collecting economies, and will consider how collecting registers spatially, architecturally, and through various media effects, traces of these nations' histories of conflict.

Students will have the option of working alone or in pairs. Wasiuta and Tazon Maigre will be in studio all days. A full syllabus will be posted on Canvas prior to the studio lottery.