The Haunetic Vale of a Journey in Architectural Design
by Kerol Maskavici
# Table of Contents

**Heuristic Value - The potential to stimulate or encourage further thinking**

Rethinking Social Boundaries through Passive Design ................................................................. 3 - 16

The XR School of Food .................................................................................................................... 17 - 23

The Edge ........................................................................................................................................ 24 - 31

The UpGrid ..................................................................................................................................... 32 - 39

Crescer .......................................................................................................................................... 40 - 47

The Golden Lining of Mining ......................................................................................................... 48 - 57
Rethinking Social Boundaries through Passive design

Plan View of the proposed intervention at Amsterdam Housing.

The focus of the socio-economic disparity.

Recycling Plants near site that allow for material.

Demographic Research
- Affluent communities: communities of color and minorities
- High-income communities: > $100,000
- Offices
- Services, commercial
- Connectivity nodes
While researching the area of upper west side in New York City, I grew a particular interest in the division of wealth and races around the area of Amsterdam Housing. Through mapping high income, professional background and residencies of communities of color, the picture of disparity was clear. Race, inequality and opportunity, as concluded by the research comes as a result of the invisible boundaries that separate the two sides of Amsterdam Avenue. These living standards are mostly affected by the envelope of the building, in terms of accessibility to light and ventilation which affects not only the carbon footprint but also the energy costs.

This proposal aims to minimally intervene in the building with the opportunity to reconfigure the envelope of the building. This intervention is one that seeks to close the initial gap between communities of color and the professional background communities. By closing this gap, we will be able to change the living conditions of the residents. The exterior skin allows for better ventilation, better access to light and fresh air, while the operability of the interior skin allows for inhabitant to gain full control of the fresh air that comes in. The proposal consists in double skin façade which through its operability allows for air to flow vertically and through the apartments.

You can find the project featured on the Columbia University GSAPP Page.

For more in depth information, you can find the project on my website.
During the summer the fresh air penetrates the façade and flows vertically by allowing heated air to escape. Through opening the inner skin, inhabitants can allow their living environments to have fresh air and make that air ventilate through operating sliding surfaces closer to the stair shaft. The top of this shaft is also operable and meant to change depending on weather and temperature.

Similarly, the stair shaft’s operable surface is also closed to allow for the volume of air to heat the interior from its core. As a result, energy use reliance is expected to be significantly reduced.
Diagram Noting Facade operability and Passive Housing Strategies

This double skin volume is thought to also be occupiable, allowing for its inhabitants to have an extra space of social gathering or connection with the exterior as shown in this axonometric drawing. This axonometric drawing focuses on the changes made in a unit and the changes expected to occur be it light comfort or social gatherings. The operable façade in the southwestern side allows for a semi exterior space, aiming to better the living conditions of its inhabitants.

Following that study, the inner façade skin uses operable glass panels which contribute to a better light exposure, while the outer skin uses the brick removed from the existing façade and uses it to make operable units that give the inhabitants full control of their climatic and light conditions.
Daylight Studies

Unit Axonometric Render and Plan Drawing

Render Views of Facade Changes
In researching East Village in Manhattan, in relationship to the old P-64 school, I was particularly interested in understanding the cultural values of the adjacent areas. The old P-64 school was famous for its cultural diversity and vibrant community. Through this research, my focus was on understanding the cultural demographics and the upbringing of the residents, racial demographics, and the food in the area in relation to the culture they represent.

In addition, bike paths help tie the urban pattern together through connecting schools and community gardens. A necessity in a community with half of the schools in East Village enrolled in community garden programs.

Through this research, food culture, community gardens, and sustainability were leading factors in understanding not only the cultural values but also the community. The RX School of Veganism aims to help close the food gap in the area and serve as a leading educational program for rethinking sustainability through horticulture.

The Food Gap is defined as the number of meals needed in a year to overcome hunger, also ranked second on UN’s sustainable goals. East Village is characterized by a 5.3% food gap, which puts 3827 people at risk of experiencing food shortages. To close the gap, the RX School of Veganism seeks to use innovation and research through crops and sustainability at its core and relate it to its surrounding program. The core of the program, the Food Lab, will be planted with some of the crops serving as educational and research purposes, and the majority serving as the ingredients to the meals that will close the food gap. Different programmatic spaces include the lobby, outdoor planting, bike service, teaching kitchen, and classrooms.

The RX School of Veganism as a result seeks to reimagine the power of education in making an impact in the future by tackling the present through innovation, horticulture, and community engagement.
Diagrams on Program and Horticulture
The Edge

Kerol Kaskaviqi | Museum/Experimental | Individual Work | Critic: Robert Marino | GSAPP | Spring 2022 | Hudson Valley, NY

Located in Upstate New York, this project seeks to explore the existence and erasure of boundaries between the machine and the space. The Edge is a statement of how ephemeral structures and well designed landscapes can also be seen as the machine of the manmade.

In this statement the project explores how man-made structures representing the elements of air, land and water can be monumental or barely visible, while juxtaposed to nature. The interplay between hide and reveal and the effect of time in the Edge of...
Diagramatic Study of Relationship on Site for Air, Land and Water

Section Cut through Retention Wall

Site Location of Interventions

Diagramatic Study of Relationship on Site for Air, Land and Water
Section & Plan Drawings for Water, Land & Air
The UpGrid seeks to design for affordable housing relying on a pre-designed component system that can be assembled and deassembled, making it adaptable for future use. The system is made out of Mass Timber, promoting a recyclable and sustainable design. Closely working with developers, manufacturers, and designers allows for a fully predicted kit of parts which can be assembled on site and be deassembled at the end of the building lifecycle. The UpGrid is sensitive to contextual height, neighborhood requirements, and green space accessibility. Located in one of the economically vulnerable areas of the Bronx, this project seeks to introduce means which could enhance the wellness and health of its residents. The ground floor library seeks to nourish the mind, the gym the body, and the community kitchen the social and nutritional lives of the inhabitants. The green spaces feed into these programmatic ideas accessible to the whole neighborhood while the green terrace offers inhabitants a more private experience within the community which is also driven by wellness.
1. Interior Finish
2. CLT
3. Insulation
4. Terracotta Fastners
5. Terracotta Tiles
6. Window Frame
7. Double Pane Glass
8. Metallic Window
Situated in Sao Paulo, Brazil in the year 2180, this project seeks to design in a re-indigenized future, where climate change has been mitigated. The project is split into the Climate Device and the Research Center. The Climate Device is the element that has helped mitigate climate change through carbon capture and renewable energy sources. Through its green layers it also allows for the production of food and growth and community access.

In a future where tropical storms will be more severe and frequent, the Research Center serves as a shelter. Through its operable panels, which close shut and the vegetation growing in them, the spaces offers both physical and food security. Its renewable energy production ensures that electricity stays uninterrupted.

For a better understanding of this project please check out these videos:

1. [https://youtu.be/W1oK3S7ngh8](https://youtu.be/W1oK3S7ngh8)
This project is a combination of a curatorial work and visual art installations. The Golden Lining of Mining takes place in Blue Gallery in Midtown Manhattan, following the life thread of South African photographer Ernest Cole. Following a series of his photographs in the mining compounds, Ernest Cole moved to New York, where he received a grant from the Ford Foundation and stayed at the Pickwick Arms Hotel. These two locations are a 4 minute walk from the Blue Gallery. Both the Mining Compounds and The Blue Gallery are made out of brick and built around the late 1800s.

The exhibit aims to explore the hopeful aspects that keep spirits high in the life of miners while living in the compounds and showcases artists from South Africa, Europe and Ngalia People (Aboriginal in Australia). They include: Kemang Wa Lehulere, Merzedes Sturm-Lie, Kerol Kaskaviqi, Vivienne Robertson and Kado Muir. You can follow the links below for the Virtual Experience and the Audioguide of the exhibit.

2. https://youtu.be/UfNGDoA05hU

Kerol Kaskaviqi | Curatorial | Critic: Ilze Wolff & Tianyu Yang | Individual Work | GSAPP | Spring 2023 | New York
The Golden Lining of Mining

Kemang Wa Lehulere was born in 1984 in Gugulethu, Cape Town, and lives and works in Johannesburg. Working in performance, drawing, installation, and photography, he creates events and environments as an attempt to understand South Africa's past and present. His work engages with the history of apartheid. Wa Lehulere has had solo exhibitions at Lombard-Freid Gallery, New York (2013), Stevenson Gallery, Johannesburg (2012), Goethe-Institut, Johannesburg (2010), and the Association for Visual Arts, Cape Town (2009). He has participated in group shows at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013), the New Museum, New York (2013 and 2012), the 11th Biennale de Lyon, France (2011), and Kunsthalle Bern and Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland (2010). Wa Lehulere is a cofounder of the NON-NON Collective in 2010, which received a nomination for the Visible Award (IT) in 2011. Wa Lehulere is the inaugural winner of the Dresden State Art Collection's Tiberius International Art Prize in 2013.

In one of his interviews Robertson noted that the catalyst of this project was a meeting with the Ngalia Elders in Leonora, Australia where she asked:

"It was not until 2020 that the idea of weaving rugs came to life as meditative and calming experience of slow work that brings people together. It offers the space of reflection and reparation and with the pain that the mining holes have left, also acknowledge the healing. The practice of weaving is an ancient and continuous in the Gugulethu community. This piece was initially exhibited at Gaswork, UK for Lehulere's first solo exhibit in the UK. The artwork uses sculptures of golden German Sheperds, Golden sculptures, wooden table."

Vivienne Robertson and Kado Muir – Reclaiming the Void

Collage of exhibited art and the labels of each artwork

Ampersand Foundation residency in New York in 2012.
Explanatory Diagram on the genesis of The Golden Lining of Mining with timelines

Render Vignettes of the Art Work exhibited in their respective spaces
The Golden Lining of Mining

This exhibit is an exploration of the play between lightness and heaviness in mining. From everyday objects to carefully staged rooms, this exhibit questions the harsh conditions of life in the mines, but also celebrates the joyful and hopeful aspects through music.

The Curator took inspiration by Ernest Cole's photographs of men living in the mining compounds but also dancing and singing. In a complexity of this kind, where an entire collective socio-economic identity is built on the mining industry, the gloominess and the weight of the matter may seem crushing. Yet, the reality of people living and working on mining compounds find hope and their silver lining in music and conviviality.

About the Curator

Kerol Kaskaviqi is an artist, curator and architectural designer currently finishing her Masters Studies in Architecture at Columbia University. She holds a Bachelors of Design Degree from the University of Florida. In January 2023, she won the Sundance New Frontier Incubation Award for her project „Kerol Kaskaviqi Brazil 2180”, and made her debut as an artist in 2014, in Albania as the first acclaimed artist under the age of 17. Her projects have mainly been centered around architecture and curatorial art, including designing the curatorial experience of the Besa Museum in Shkodra.

Kerol Kaskaviqi - The Void
Blue Gallery, New York
An enclosed circle of charcoal signifying the void charcoal leaves behind

Kerol Kaskaviqi - Mining Compounds
Blue Gallery, New York
A staged room in accordance with Ernest Cole's picture of the interior of housing compounds

Kerol Kaskaviqi - Pressure
Blue Gallery, New York
A sculptural piece that suspends charcoal and drills from the ceiling in what creates a weighty pressure, similar to the order seeds leave from the ceiling in what creates a weighty pressure, similar to the order seeds leave behind.

Coal and golden drillbits installation