PORTFOLIO OF ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

Nash Taylor
For the first ‘bridge’ studio at GSAPP for both Architecture and Real Estate Development, this studio was focused on how to design housing on a landmarked site with over 20 years of community opposition for development.

The studio worked in tandem of with design and finance as an iterative means to design and rationalize program.

The project was a team effort with myself and Josh Bransky.

Project Goals:

1. Provide a value to the community’s past labor and tenancy
2. Build a framework to stabilize and grow the existing community, while injecting new life into it
3. Address sustainability through reuse, material selection, and a passive envelope
4. To formally challenge, but enhance and improve the quality of the built environment
Development Context

Design

a process

Development

an expanded discipline

design questions

What is value?

For whom is it created?

Is it taken, and from whom?

How is it quantified?

Does an expanded definition of risk affect the quality and quantity of returns?
Timeline of Use and Ownership

1904
Construction begins

1906
Construction completed

1906-1977
School's auditorium functions as community hall and gathering place.

1977
P.S. 64 Closes

1998
Guilliani Admin. sells P.S. 64

1998
Gregg Singer purchases P.S. 64 for $3.15 M

1999
Activists release 10,000 crickets in protest of sale

2001
Court formally evicts CHARAS

2009
City downzones site, limiting development

2013
Owner files permit for dorm conversion

2015
City issues stop work order, citing "dorm rule"

2016
City landmarks site

2016
City issues stop work order, citing "dorm rule"

2017
Tenant breaks lease, jeopardizing project

2018
Madison Reality Capital moves to foreclose

2019
Tenant breaks lease, jeopardizing project

2022
Madison Reality Capital moves to foreclose

2023
City Community Capital
Target users:

Aging activists + community members

Artists across the socio-economic spectrum

The broader neighborhood

Intended Use:

[130] units of affordable housing - 60% AMI

Permanent home for CHARAS

Live / work lofts (market, and luxury)

Live / work lofts (affordable)

Maker space

A performance space / vertical gallery

A new rooftop garden and cafe

Architectural Expression:

A [19] story new tower


An adaptive reuse of the school + a new vertical gallery

Rooftop garden w/ all-day Cafe [The Forum]

Grocery Co-op

Live / work lofts (market, and luxury)

Live / work lofts (affordable)

Maker space

A performance space / vertical gallery

A new rooftop garden and cafe
Infrastructural Core
Prefab CLT Living Units
The New York State regional Muslim Community is concentrated among the urban centers. Islamberg, a small hamlet in the center of the state, is unique in its rurality. Islamberg consists of a Muslim community that left New York City several decades ago. The aim of this project was to research the Muslim community in New York and question ideas of sacredness and rurality.

I worked alongside Aya Abdullah and Sixuan Chen in this project, but specifically I was in charge of the housing phase of the project in which the following drawings correlate to.

The proposal uses soil as medium for architectural production. An existing Blue-stone quarry is filled with contaminated soil to be re-mediated. Once soil is stabilized, it is used for burial of Muslims for the regional religious community.

Excess re-mediated soil is then transported around the site and used as both form-work and fill. The housing is the beginning of a larger master-plan of interconnected structures around Islamberg. They provide housing and community kitchens for the visiting families of the deceased as well as new housing for the existing community.
1. Soil is transported from brown-fields to the Quarry
2. Soil is remediated
3. Bodies are buried in Cemetery, Remediation continues
4. A space for cleansing the bodies if built
5. A Mosque is constructed for prayer
6. Housing is built with agricultural terraces
1. Living Room
2. Bedroom
3. Bathroom
4. Gathering Space
5. Dining Room
6. Kitchen
1. storage
2. parking area
Academic: Spring 2020
Elementary School + Public Pool
Location: Lower East Side, NYC
GSAPP Core 2 Studio
Critic: Jose Araguez

The structure as space was the overarching concept of the school project located in the Lower East Side in New York City. The project was conceived as a "building" rather than a programmatic-centered "school." This distinction refers to the conceptual thread of the structure as a testing ground for a spatial infrastructure that is divorced from a specific program.

The spatial infrastructure which was the structure as space, could be arrayed infinitely. Instead, it is cropped by lot lines and zoning restrictions that leave parts of the "spatial structure" within the existing building's west wing facade that will be preserved and thus the structure organizes the vertical flows throughout the building.

Buildings serve many functions including schools, hospitals, housing. This is a building that can be used as a school where collaboration between the age groups within the school and the variation of each floor condition is conducive to multi age learning across each floor.

New York is a city where buildings are typically reappropriated and reprogrammed over time. The only constant is change, but the city often re-imagines the building stock rather than building new structures.
With COVID-19 and the shifting of domestic space as a comprehensive living/working/recreation space, children of all ages in the South Bronx are restricted in ability to go outside due to safety concerns. This project served as an investigation in how both public space and housing can be designed as an interlocking and mutually beneficial system. The challenge was in how to create an “eyes on the street” condition with the housing and public space without creating a modernist severity between the two or over surveillance in public realm.

A platonic formal language of circle to square was also explored. Using pure geometries as an equalizer and a means to create both order and variation.

The microunit is meant to be very efficient in space and cost. It would be rented in a short term increment allowing flexibility for tenants, growing or shrinking families, as well as allowing residents to have extra space for work/study/or childcare.

Studio Partner: Camille Newton
This proposal seeks to appropriate unused space for public use within a specific block near Broadway.

Within void space and unused airspace this proposal introduces a new plane for public use that otherwise would be inaccessible. Located within the NOHO Historic District, the project resides with a porous expression to easily distinguish the historic and the new through its formal language and materiality.

Beyond the park’s circulation spaces, other amenities include a basketball court, playground, and community garden to create a community hub within the congested neighborhood.
Alley Path 01
Walkway Materiality 02
Alley at Night 03
Materiality and Green Space 04
Basketball Court 05