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collective of repair
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# verbal agreements studio advanced VI | civic futures studio 

 spring 2023
critics: Gary Bates

collaboration: Maclane Regan, Chi Chi Wakabayashi

This exploration began as a probe into the civic reality of Ghana, utilizing news, books, food, podcast, music, and poetry as a collection of sources in which we viewed, or mapped, the city of Accra. This project began as a rejection of a traditional cartographic approach to urban understanding, and instead deployed a series of readings over research, response over representation. Our understanding of Accra was accelerated by our first hand experience in the Country during a week long trip where we engaged with local artists, and submerged in a gradient of local experiences. How do we approach an architectural project in a country in which we are geographically and culturally detached from the civic reality? Where do we get agency, and how do we give agency? The conclusion of this semester is framed as a first edition, of publication, of approach, of project. The ideas presented in this work are meant to be appropriated, iterated, and adopted to living space as civic space. How can we mine the civic from the conditions of familial tenancy that has framed a way of living in the neighborhood of La, in Accra, oriented around collective matintence, and obligatory care of neighbor, and neighborhood. How does this care shift into
the new paradigm of tenant living in La, and in the global discussion of co-living when the scope of civic desire leans towards increased privatization? We have designed conditions, ranging from architectural, spatial, relational, and conceptual, that instigate the interaction of co-living, co-laboring, and collective maintenance, where the familial relationship of living has given way to intimate adjacency with strangers. These conditions, or moments, are structured through the lenses of ownership, maintenance, infrastructure, material, and space. Do you care for some-
thing because you own it? Or do you feel ownership over space once you care for something that was never explicitly yours? How can we extend our spheres of privatization and ownership to form blurred boundaries of what you maintain, and what you become a beneficiary of? This project is a series of hypotheses, test beds, claims, and counter-claims that interrogate how we live with each other, and how the civic negotiation infiltrates the intimate corners of daily life,
imagining new forms of living.

we all experience different civic spaces differently but how would they affect our behavior ? how does our behavior affect civic space? space as a product of activities and behaviors various infrastructure how do the different civic spaces define temporalities and permanence
how to represent interaction? when the architecture is taken away how the spatial relationships change? spatial nuance
transparency degrees of depth
how do sovereignty, identity and access play out in civic spaces the fragility that comes with that
questions of access, exclusion and ownership bot to retreat to idealism but these are all forms of negotiation

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\begin{array}{r}
\text { make either analytical or spatial tools } \\
\text { projective }
\end{array}
$$

how to accelerate or transform a space to make it more civic?
degrees of visibility
how are national identities define civic behaviors and how we would act in stateless spaces creating a civic space without the governance of state our liminal experiences of moving between civic spaces and how they shape our identities
how to map and understand a space without the top down approach if possible decolonize research methodologies and flipping the approach

## how to respond rather than represent - perception

how does a memory become a story that becomes a civic behavior
how to initiate a dialogue
and create new relationships for civic and cultural identities that our beyond ours
how to design spaces thats are deciding not to be either/or
methods vs final goals of civic spaces
state and its tools
negotiate identity
electrical grid as the proxy of development
post-colonial landscapes of west Africa
how to add the complexities of identities into the planned cities
emergence - enabling the possibilities of things to come together
how to decolonize minds and identities and why cant we imagine the fantastic future save for final discussion- for mario
day to day micro negotiations that shape our civic behaviors
how to facilitate emergence and build stories around the notion of civic

leaving home
life fitted in 46 kg and a carry on - again
hoping for a window seat
he asks my destination, US
did you have to remove your hijab? he asks looking at my American passport
cold sweat coming down my forehead
no I chose,
I hear the stamp, another inked impression on my Iranian passport that I left, that I have made it

24 hours of suspension
Anything to declare?
Pistachios? Persian carpet? She says with a smile while looking through my luggage
no, thinking only if I could fit home in a carpet
Welcome back home she says





how do we re-instigate gestures of co-living when the familiar tie is no longer present?


Parpicle
what are these new prototypes of living?
tenant communalism vs tenant individualism
cataloging the courtyard, the mass, and alleys, the streets to identify potential activation of communal space framing the concept of co-living and civic care through instigating interaction by way of space, material nfrastructure, object, and labor post familial ownership and occupancy



ONDI
CONDITION OF PARTICLE
PERFORATION, AIR, BUST,


CONDITION OF COMFORT/
THROUGH KNOWLEDGE
NOWING WHO YOU SAARE A
SPACE WITH HOW UNIT danCTIONS

CONDITION OF COMFORT AND EMERGENCE - STACKING AND I storage


CONDITION OF GRADIENTS OF PERMANENCE-TEMPORARY VERSUS PERMAKENT COVERINGS




Visual Agreements, is an active test bed for how creative space is taken, re-taken, passed down with every alteration, where a new author takes ownership of a once blank canvas. The project was conceived from a question about how people invest and maintain civic space when there is an aspect of craft and care involved. In the core of a bustling architecture building, the Visual agreements installation becomes the central hub for students to display their york for physical and digital publication, while negotiating how they overwrittond interact with all the work that came before thetrar This installation is a growfilg group of students, faculty, passerbyers, chad ieging themselyes to no longer work with a blank can-哚s, but with a frame bHed with the work of every creative mind that cane before

 EGISLATION


from compound houses in Ghana to housing in the
mesect +12


The programs are extensions of the existing infrastructure such as gallery space, art/photography studio that can be both after school programs for kids in the neighborhood schools and adults.

The vertical and horizontal connections (the cores) from the street to our public programs are
surrounded by gardens with floating in-between spaces for housing.






TYPICAL 3 BR UNIT
TOTAL AREA
COMMON AREA MASTER BEDROOM BEDROOM
BATHROOM
HALF BATH

950 SQFT 420 SQFT 120 SQFT 80 SQFT 55 SQFT 25 SQFT







decomposition through deep time studio advanced IV | sanctuary studio spring 2022
critic: Nahyun Hwang collaboration: Kim Langat

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. Instead of reversing what was done in the past decade we propose to decompose the existing facility and landscape. There is a decomposition where humans are triggering the growth and habitation of the non-human species and creating a new ecosystem. By taking away pieces of the building, and re purposing material, the human interventions can allow for non-human events to take place 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.







$72$


# broadway medical center extension plaza 

studio core I | broadway stories
fall 2020
critic: Josh Uhl
The plaza functions as a hybrid extension of the sidewalk; it provides formal waiting spaces and promotes inclusion by reducing digital redlining and introducing tele-health spaces. This space is multi-functional, it can transform into an extension of the existing medical center, providing infrastructure for testing, treatment, and vaccination during a health crisis or pandemic such as COVID-19.





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p.s. 64 and annex studio core II | P.S. 64 spring 2021

critic: Benjamin Cadena
How do we keep the memory of P.S. 64 while moving forward? This proposal for the new P.S 64 is based on the premise that the essence of education is outside of the typical classroom where the students are engaged with their community. In the new P.S. 64 , the traditional classrooms are kept in the partially modified original building while the new annex functions as the heart of the school. The annex provides students with a learning environment through engagement and interaction with their city and community; it connects the school to the community through the visual arts and music. In the art and music studios, gallery, and auditorium, students are both the performers and artists as well as the audience and viewers. The annex is a symbol of moving forward from old to new, shown by the evolution of the vault to an archway and the
dichotomy between rigid and light.

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## ruins in the desert

visual studies | techniques of the ultrareal
spring 2022
critic: Phillip Crupi
collaborators: Chi Chi Wakabayashi
Yueyue Su
This project was an exploration in rendering and pushing the limits of renders into reality. We explored sand, water, stone and metal and created a scene in the middle of the desert that has



the trans-local collective of repair studio advanced $V \mid$ post-plantation museum studio fall 2022

critics: Mabel O. Wilson, Jordan H. Carver collaboration: Paige Haskett

Excluded from the definition of American and, conversely, excluded from Whitney's collection of American artists, this post-plantation collective creates a space for the excluded, the harmed, the non-American, the other.

Specifically, our project establishes a collective of extra-territorial trans-local campuses in order to create a network that promotes the experience and expertise of the communities that have been exploited and harmed through the imperialist actions of Whitney's donors and board
members.
These campuses are scattered throughout the city's parks nearby where these displaced communities live in the NYC area. Funded by Whitney's donors and board of trustees in collaboration with NYC parks and the specific organizations related to each community, the art and knowledge created is brought back to the Whitney's peripheral sites to be showcased and oppose

Whitney's expansion in the Meatpacking district.
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The Plantation Lexicon guided our research as we sought to uncover the systems of power and oppression within the Whitney, the maintenance of the Plantation Logic within the contemporary museum. The interconnectivity of ideas, people, and processes of the Plantation Logic manifested in the interconnectivity of the ideas of "American" present at the Whitney, the people within the board, and the processes of curation The Whitney highlights and re-enforces the definition of American, of belonging, an exclusionary practice rooted in extraction and violence that assigns inclusion to a select few that serve these practices.

Despite the Biennials' fabrication of conversation surrounding US colonial history and its implications today, the Museum itself replicates these processes as it is funded by a Board of Trustees comprised of investors and owners in companies that produce military equipment for American presence and intervention interna tionally. It is funded through and founded on the extraction of resources and weaponization of America and its allies (the American-adjacent), at the expense of those considered outside of these definitions. Such distinctions between American and non-American are illustrated in the Biennials curation of countries to be included within each shows' definition of American.

The Whitney has become an enclosure for the sifting and shifting of who gets to be American


As the Museum accepts monetary and material donations from these members, it too becomes a participant in these systems of extraction. In contrast, our project imagines a collective funded by Whitney, through the donors and board members, that benefits the communities that their military investments impact. Rather than accepting the monetary donations from the donors for the purpose of image laundering, it reinvests these contributions as repair.

Of these board members, Warren Kanders owns and operates the multi-billion dollar weapons manufacturer, Safariland, the point of protest for the 2019 Biennials. Kanders with a net worth of $\$ 700 \mathrm{M}$ has donated \$10M from 2006 to 2019 to the Whitney which is less than $1.5 \%$ of his worth. We think that Kanders resignation in 2019 is a great start in decolonizing the Whitney but it is not enough.

Rather than for the benefit of the donors and museum, Kanders and the Whitney must reinvest this money in causes devoted to care, healing, and justice for those directly impacted by Kander's products: the individuals, groups, and movements harmed by the armed violence of states. Kanders products have harmed many from Palestine, Mexico, Puerto Rico and even locally here in the US.

This system of repair becomes the collective of campuses devoted to fostering and promoting the experience and expertise of communities like these.




As a case study, we focused on Little Palestine, an area in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where most Palestinians live in NYC-a community directly and continuously impacted by the Warren Kander's SafariLand operations.

As imagined by the collective, the project partners with existing organizations fostering art and education for this population. For this community in particular, this includes Pal Art, Within Our Lifetime, the Question of Funding, and For Freedoms Pal Art promotes Palestinian artists and increases high quality creative content on Palestine. For Freedoms is an artist collective with an aim for transformative connection and collective
liberation of immigrant communities that seeks infinite expansion
Within our lifetime is a Palestinian-led community organization that has been building the movement for Palestine in NYC since 2015. Their goal is to resist the violence of the U.S. em pire at home and abroad and resist the U.S. imperialism.
The Question of Funding is a collective of cultural community organizers from Palestine. It aims to rethink the economy of funding and how it affects cultural production both in Palestine
and the world to resist the physical and geographical boundaries in Palestine and beyond.



PAL ART [】
Our aim is to promote Palestinian artists and to
increase high huality creative content on

## WITHIN OUR LIFETIME 

THE QUESTION
OF FUNDING


FOR FREEDOMS









## the gummy chair

building science \& technology elective 1:1 crafting and fabrication of details
fall 2022
critic: Zachary Mulitauaopele
collaboration: Maclane Regan
The building of this chair stared with the idea of how a wall or a totem can become more connecting than dividing. The chair can be adjusted in three positions from a bench to a one-person chair. Several explorations of Kerf bending techniques were tested and practiced until the zig zag method was successfully operated on one piece of wood. The back of the seat was added as part of the failed Kerf bending exercises. All the blocks are created from recycled material left at the shop casted in left over resin. One block in particular is casted candy and gummy bear as a citric to the seriousness of building and
exploration of everyday object as building material.



the hug
building science \& technology elective | the outside in project spring 2023
critics: Galia Solomonoff, Laurie Hawkinson
collaboration: Maclane Regan Chi Chi Wakabayashi Julie Kim Angela Keele Carley Pasqualotto

The hug is a $n$ exploration of a temporary inflatable that is more than an inflatable. How can a $12 \times 12 \times 12$ space can be a hub for comfort, rest and engagement on Columbia university campus. The hug was designed with the ergonomic of different bodies in mind. From a child to an adult , everyone at any hour of the day can sit or play at the hug with an instant feeling of ease. The users can charge their phone from PV charged batteries and play music on a provided speaker. The feedback from users have been overwhelmingly positive with one caveat that they wished that the hug was installed earlier and permanently



how does care instigate civic?
do you care for something because you own it? or do you feel ownership
over something once you care for it? from compound houses in Ghana to housing in the Bronx can cores, gardens, and spaces in between become more civic?
what does civic mean for non-humans? can healthcare facilities be civic for everyone? how does memory play a role in evolution of civic spaces? as civic as museums are supposed to be, they operate in the most non-civic
way. can this be changed?
civic in all scales, from the city to housing to a chair! can temporal nature of a structure add more civic qualities?

Three years of exploration and creation would have not been possible without the inspiration and support from these people

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