

**LOT-EK_ADV STUDIO VI (Giuseppe Lignano, Thomas de Monchaux, Ada Tolla)
Makergraph Studio, Spring 2019**

01.

The Makergraph Studio is a maker-kind of Monograph Studio. It is the 2019 iteration of The Monograph Studio, a special and radical modern tradition at GSAPP that engages the school's critical and material practice.

02.

The Makergraph Studio invites you, in the first five weeks of the semester, into a design-build state of mind. In five stages over five weeks, we work at full one-to-one scale, with real materials, and with the body and the studio as a site of installation and fabrication. Then we will invite you to rethink this work at an architectural scale. Each student will make four big objects. Each student will design four complex buildings. Each student will write one personal book. We will make big and think bigger.

03.

The Makergraph Studio likes books. We believe that architects should buy, borrow, own, read, write, and make books. A book is a physical object and a critical event: a way of making and a way of thinking—especially meaningful in our era of digital and social platforms, feeds, and posts. As you think through and make up your objects and your buildings, you will be writing and making your book. Your Monograph. This book will become a preemptive monograph, manifesto and map for all your future career. Every week we will talk about your work in a Book Review. Your work will be documented in a specific book format called Crown Quarto, with tight requirements for form and content. By our midterm, this documentation will have added up to 200 pages—into a complete first draft of your Monograph. By our final, you will graduate with your first published book in your hands.

04.

The Makergraph Studio moves very fast. And then moves very slow. We are quick and dirty. Then we are slow and clean. We say: eat it up, throw it up, clean it up, mess up, fix it up, draw it up, make it up...! The first half of this experience moves so fast that you must rely on all the obsessions and preoccupations, craft and tech that you have learned in the last few years. First you will commit to what you're doing—rapidly. This is a way of revealing yourself to yourself. Then you will live with what you did—sincerely. This is a way of learning to live with the self you have revealed.

05.

The Makergraph Studio is supportive and demanding. It is kind and tough. Once you have completed the first draft of your Monograph, we will have inspired and bored you, soaked and burned you. You will be ready for a seemingly empty page. You will be ready for a trip to a pre-and-post-architectural landscape; you will be ready to empty yourself; you will be ready for a landscape of cyclic accumulation and erasure; you will be ready for a critique of scholastic and urban density. We will be thinking about the elements from which things are made: earth, air, fire, water. We will be learning from the organic inhabitation of extreme environments. We will be learning from collective organisms like coral and lichen, and the behavior of flocks and schools. We will be traveling to Australia.

06.

The Makergraph Studio directs your attention to a personal, actual, material, and physical investigation of how materials become things, how things make places, and how places shape people. Operations like forging and molding, weaving and stitching have all become metaphors for how we invent and discover ourselves as people. By paying attention to how you make things, you will understand more about how you are making yourself—as a designer, and maybe even as a person. We turn away from images of shapes and colors and turn toward physical craft and digital craft.

07.

The Makergraph Studio believes in strategies of repetition, variation, hesitation, anticipation, recollection, and repetition. These strategies require the book format, which requires a narrative and a sequence, built into the tangible and visible logic of the physical object. We believe in repeating, prototyping, iterating, fabricating, kit-bashing, installing, accumulating, and repeating.

08.

The Makergraph Studio looks inward and looks outward. With your increased self-understanding and increased idealism about the social and political instrumentality of the built environment, we will make you a better narcissist and a better altruist.

09.

The Makergraph Studio is a Monograph Studio.

A Monograph Studio is not a portfolio studio.

A portfolio is comprehensive; a monograph is compromised.

A portfolio is objective; a monograph is subjective.

A portfolio is universal; a monograph is personal.

A portfolio explains; a monograph mystifies.

A portfolio hastens; a monograph hesitates.

A portfolio is slick; a monograph is slippery.

A portfolio is honest. A monograph is deceptive.

A portfolio is graphic. A monograph is therapeutic.

A portfolio is defensive. A monograph is adaptive.

10.

The Makergraph Studio is a makeover. It is a way to rethink and remake your self and your work at the threshold between the really theoretical world of academic scholarship and the theoretically real world of professional practice.

To make is to bring into existence / to give being to / to give form to / to manifest / to produce / to construct / to behave / to arrive / to arrange / to work / to do.

To make do is to improvise.

To make ready is to prepare.

To make up is to imagine. Or to reconcile.

To make out is to succeed. Or to discern. Or to discover. Or to connect with one you love.

To make of is to think.

To make off is to run away.

To make good is to succeed.

To make waves is to disrupt.

To make away is to steal.

To make believe is to imagine.

To make merry is to have serious fun.

To make time is to move fast.

To make way is to back off. Or the exact opposite.

In the Makergraph Studio you do all these things.

11.

A maker who is also a thinker is, in the language of Old English, a wright.

Housewright. Shipwright. Plowright. Cartwright. Wagonwright. Wheelwright. Playwright.

The Monograph Studio reminds you of the words of playwright Samuel Becket, who in 1983 wrote:

All of old.

Nothing else ever.

Ever tried.

Ever failed.

No matter.

Try again.

Fail again. Fail better.