microcosm of madeleine
ARCHITECTURE: microcosm of paradox (2023)
ARCHITECTURE: dis(PLACE)ment (2022)
ARCHITECTURE: sanctuary (2022)
ARCHITECTURE: technical sponge (2021)
ARCHITECTURE: nourish (2021)
ARCHITECTURE: minor exuberance (2021)
CONSTRUCTION: knot (2022)
VISUAL: rift (2021)
VISUAL: storefront (2022)
ARCHITECTURE: site, sight, cite (2020)
BOOK: miniature vernacular (ongoing)
SENIOR THESIS: seeking freedoms (2016)
We live in a world of paradoxes, large and small. Paradox in regards to reparations are not as communicated. I have designed 3 small scale exhibits to varying degrees of resolution that demonstrate my internal struggles with the concepts of reparations. “Respect or Suspect” is meant to interrogate how one might perceive bowing - is it respect or subservience? “Take a Seat” speaks about power resulting in the oppression of others or is it rising with support of others? “Unrewarding Resilience” is a dining table of teamwork, but can it be trusted?

My project is not meant to repair all stories, I am not even repairing my own, but rather critically thinking about the perspectival paradoxes within the concept of reparations, large or small, individual or global, pros and cons, is necessary to add to the discussion. Each exhibit speaks to a different narrative and are read as individual projects to a larger collection.

This project was presented as a series of models and lenticular drawings that emphasize how one must change perspectives in order to gain any deeper understanding. You must physically change your perspective in order to view the drawings.
In light of the current refugee situation and specifically New York City’s recent declaration of emergency regarding asylum seekers, we wanted to look into how we might be able to aid in this crisis. In September 2022, emergency tent shelters were planned to be erected in the Bronx. This did not sit well with us after we looked into refugee camps and the organizational structure. We chose a location that is centrally located in the heart of downtown, right next to Penn Station, which allows for freedom of movement in and out of the city as needed as well as being in close proximity to a large number of organizations that support refugees or asylum seekers.

We wanted to design an emergency housing project that keeps in mind the major topics of the studio - thickness and materiality. For thickness we looked at multiple layers - the thickness of the site to our building, the thickness of a conical massing we looked at and the thickness of the wall and facade. We thickened the initial cones to act as a buffer from the high energy of the heart of New York City. The thickness of the cone became the space of the new housing units. And finally, the thickness of the facade becomes functional as storage and as aperture. The unit is thoughtfully designed with emergency housing in mind which lends it to be a very capsule-like system. The beds and storage spaces are built and carved out of the thickness of this radial wall within the cone and is reiterated with the facade being a modular box system that when intersecting with the original conical massing makes interesting storage spaces as well as apertures.
The Hudson Valley has a history of incarceration through protective measures. Shuyang and I wanted to look into the paradox of protection and incarceration by challenging the current and historical systems that were put in place for different populations. Due to its proximity to New York City, Hudson valley became a place for incarcerated prisoners and also for patients who were mentally or physically challenged, laid out in isolated, rural green islands.

Poughkeepsie has many abandoned buildings and lots but not enough residential areas or related amenities. We chose three programs to serve different communities affected directly or indirectly by the carceral system. We deliberately dispersed our programs through different sites in the city, aiming to both serve those who were previously incarcerated and the larger community. The first intervention is a play zone and apartments for single mothers and children who were affected by the carceral system, the second is a renovation of an existing building into an urban farm and community kitchen that works with Sweet Freedom Farm and Victory Bus Project providing vocational training for those affected by the incarceration system, and our final site is a residential annex that links those previously incarcerated with Dutchess Community College, family services and advocacy support programs.
The construction of a building is essentially a part-to-whole problem. It involves the complex integration of multiple building components, systems and processes into a synthetic whole. Along with my group partners and multiple different consultants in structural, design and mechanical, we completed a full SD, DD and CD set. We were able to design a buildable well-integrated structure through design and application. Overall, we worked through the technical and construction aspects of architecture with thought and consideration of the structural form, environmental systems, materials, construction methods and fire protection elements.
With this housing project, we are challenging the standards of living in New York. The aim of this project is to nourish the community with nature, food, community relationships and autonomy of space. The major driving factor of our project is to provide an artificial landscape that can be the source of healthful living to its residents. Our overall strategy is to create a system of terraces that create an artificial landscape that has the ability to connect the site as a whole, individual to community, inside and outside, and encourages healthful living through nourishment of relationships with food, the collective and self. We propose that a vital aspect of living is to be able to commune with nature, have ownership and appreciate community.

With our model, we wanted to emphasize other various ways we are challenging standards of city life or of living itself. There are different levels of control that the residents may have, with the wet wall being extendable, the variation of facade and different levels of control the occupants have over their space, particularly in the front. The first floor of the model shows the idea of the wet wall with the exposed pipes behind acrylic to imply that there is ability for variability in plumbing. In the exterior of this space, the pipes are also exposed to show an idea of a sprinkler system and water collection/drainage pipes. The second floor shows the terrace being used as an oasis of green, very peaceful garden like. Other elements of furniture are apparent here and can be organized and negotiated with the people who live here in mind.

Some units share a balcony space which provides a strong connection to their neighbors. Most people who live in New York do not have a strong relationship with their neighbors next door to them let alone anyone else in the building. This platform is an attempt to facilitate interactions between residents on the horizontal plane.
Play is our human instinct. We play to experience joy, to exercise our creativity and to explore the world. We play to learn cooperation, flexibility and grit—arguably the most important traits an individual can possess in our time. And, perhaps most critically, it is through unfettered play that we learn.

The word minor has multiple meanings. It can relate to a minor key in music, or race and ethnicity, but also to minor age and something that is “lesser” and deemed not as important. This school brings the children to the top of the pyramid so to speak and I designed the space around the experience and exuberance of a child. Exuberance is experienced through the winding pathways and nooks and crannies in the forms of the building. My strategy incorporates the scale of the adult vs child and programs that equalize, enhance and separate the adult and child. This school is designed for the exuberance of children.

I wanted to create a new language of adult vs child spaces. I diagramed how the interactions of spaces might be offset and weave in and out. This section is to show the more conceptual intertwined spaces using an L-shaped language of varying heights for different sized bodies, rotated and slid in to form some spatial organization that feels like an adventure park around a centralized jungle gym.
In our 1:1 model, we focused on different types of fabrication and assembly techniques. We designed a totem that challenged conventional illustrative modes of architectural detailing. Focusing on wood, we used techniques of steam bending and knotting to create a complex matrix of intertwined wood pieces.
Using 3dsMax and V-Ray, we utilized rendering techniques to create a realistic, yet surrealist structure embedded into a rocky landscape. The pink concrete causes a rift in the red stone that opens into a peaceful oasis.
We cannot envision future form without examining what we deem as exemplary from the past and legitimizing the spectacular forms of living, communing and worldbuilding that continue to be undermined in discourse. To do our work, we will read the city, valorizing urban form, artifacts, and spatial practices of streetscapes and storefronets. Building a communal repository of knowledge and experimenting with representational methods, cumulative and shared content is proposed as a transformative model of self-education. Using the tools of architectural practice, we will subvert the power of drawing, modeling and imaging, not to dictate the city but to translate the city.
Guided by pivotal events spanning from Broadway as a thoroughfare originally known as the Wesquaegheek Trail, to the 300 acres of African owned farms known as Land of the Blacks under Dutch colonial rule which centered around present day Washington Square Park. I used a lens of historical criticality to analyze the intersection of Houston and Broadway. I incorporated sight lines connecting the African Grove Theatre, the African Free School no. 3, the NY Public Library and Seneca Village. I took the idea of sight and abstracted it into telescopic cones that penetrate through the four corners of the site, penetrating through the buildings. I focused on the northwest corner by creating a portal that punctures through floor plates as well as creating an exhibition space seen through the physical model. This model would represent places that people can look through and see the history of the site and of New York City by a visual and tactile approach.
African vernacular, or traditional building practices of various indigenous communities throughout Africa, is oftentimes characterized by the use of locally-sourced materials and construction techniques that are adapted to the specific environmental, social, and cultural conditions of each region. In Southeast Africa, the availability of material is scarce and government mandated construction practices dominate the vernacular style of family homes, rendering them generic brick boxes with minimal customization or embellishment. In contrast, the ubiquitous hen house, or chicken coop, adjacent to all Malawian houses is designed and decorated extensively, revealing a new level of miniature architecture that better embodies the personality and culture of the region. While in Malawi, Africa in 2017-2019 as a Peace Corp Volunteer, I discovered these hidden gems and began documenting a number of unique chicken houses. So far, I have amassed a collection of over 150 hen houses. I plan to host a physical and virtual exhibition as well as publish a book that provides detailed and comprehensive overview of the various style, designs and construction techniques.
My senior thesis for Amherst College was the beginning of my speculations on architecture through an analysis of architectural freedoms within three different types of temporary encampments: Disaster Relief camps, Political Refugee camps, and Internment camps. Each section focused on three different case studies which all utilized distinct aspects of architectural composition that produce different experiences that add to a larger discussion of use and nature of temporary encampments. This work aimed to help compile conceptual ideas that may benefit the overall consideration of architecture and design of temporary camps.