SIX CAUTIONARY TALES FOR DEEP TIME

PREMONITIONS OF THE MYSTICAL REBIRTH OF EDUCATION

Kaeli and Aya evoke six visions of ideal competition entries, the supreme achievement of twenty thousand years of an Ivy league school, blood, sweat, and tears; the final haven of Man in possession of Truth, free from contradiction, equivocation and indecision; totally and forever replete with his own PERFECTION.

1 BIRD DEATH CONE
The Bird Death Cone collects dead species victim to the windows of Columbia University. The 86th wide funnel rests on the ledge of the Avery and Fayerweather window silts. During Fall and Spring migrations, bird strike is inevitable. Upon retrieval of the avian specimen, the metal cone responds with a series of clicks and clacks. The matte metal cone acts as a toxic buffer between dead and living species. Using a process of refined reverse corrosion, the death cone blends the remains of strucken birds, sorts reproducible parts and returns new specimens to surrounding Riverside and Morningside Parks. Once the cone has reached a critical mass, the remaining bones, preserved during the reverse corrosion process, are pulverized and reintroduced to Columbia’s campus as mortar.

2 DO NOT TOUCH [RARE BOOKS]
Please note that any physical materials must be consulted in the RBML/University Archives reading chamber. Each above ground window tunnels through Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library into the deeply rooted Rare Books Archive. Research is by appointment only (Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm) and, due to the ongoing emergency crises protocols, we only have a limited number of cubicles and time slots available each day - many of which are likely already booked up. If your wishes to visit any of the books, you can arrange for individual reservations of a glass chamber and they may observe the pages from the Avery courtyard. The students will not be allowed to touch the manuscripts but can turn the pages by blinking and our sensors will pick up the slight movements and perform accordingly.

3 SANDCASTLES
A mound of sand collects between Fayerweather and Avery Halls. Sandcastles is an opportunity to un-cover up the complex history of the Courtyard as well as the larger realm of University building – conceptualizing how traces of various human and non-human communities continue to register and prefigure the future of the site. In addition, the sandcastles should consider deep time: a non-linear exploration of the site from the pre-colonial to the present, including the University’s relationship to Harlem, the Hudson River, and the environment at large. GSAPP students MUST MAKE a collaborative, interdisciplinary sandcastle that addresses the Lenape people. Year after year, students build stop other sandcastles and the ground becomes a witness of the different cohorts that pass through GSAPP until Avery is inevitably buried underground.

4 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity. Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars’ work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited. In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others’ ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

5 DEEP TIME CAPSULES
As time passes, Columbia University is buried beneath the Old World. Sitting prestigiously underground, it acts as a time capsule of the years 1897 to 2097. Children from the 22nd century are astonished to hear about untouchable Ivy League schools, charging exorbitant amounts of money for education. Excavation trips involve careful restoration of the ivory towers and now dilapidated libraries. Very few historians care to ask what lies below the schools. City infrastructure and pre-colonial artifacts become obsolete. The 2016 IN HONOR OF THE LENAPE PEOPLE sign was extracted some 185 years ago. Some radical thinkers with access to counter-culture texts believe there was an escape capsule that gathered all relics of pre-colonial thought.

6 DEAR DATA
In this school we are bodiless, cuntless, cuntless. We exist as pictures on a screen. Buildings exist as pictures on a screen. Communication has never been easier. Communication has never been harder. Language adapts to our methods of communication. Words are no longer used. Data is constantly gathered, in our mind, in our screen. Correspondence can only be read in symbols. As a reaction to the hyper tech, the analog makes a come back, but this time, can it dissociate itself from the code?

Aya Abdallah: born 1994, graduated in architecture in 2016 and she joined GSAPP in 2019
Kaeli Alik Streeter: born 1996, graduated in architecture in 2018 and she joined GSAPP in 2019

The moment has come in which to reveal the significance of these descriptions: this is a test Of the six entries whose descriptions you have read, how many would you like to come true? Have you felt that they might be of advantage to humanity? Work out your answer carefully. Results below.

Results of test:
If you approved: _more than 5: Congratulations, you have understood the assignment: we are already living in these dystopian worlds. _from 3 to 4: You don’t want to admit your educational reality. You pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to participate in this institution – yet don’t care to engage your critical thinking skills. _under 2: You haven’t caught on. We suggest you rethink your enrollment in this institution, close Instagram and look around.

This design entry is meant to challenge the notion of architectural competitions. These types of competitions, however helpful and inclusive in the past, have been monopolized by big corporations and institutions, spending thousands of dollars per submission. In our opinion, architecture competitions are purely concepts and do not provide any type of solution to the issue at hand.