

ENCLAVE OF ANARCHY

Group 53:

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Columbia University is the largest private landowner in New York City, exerting substantial control over its Morningside campus and surrounding environs. Columbia's power manifests itself through more than real estate: the closer to the Morningside campus one gets, the more police, guards, cameras, and affiliates mark the land as Columbia's territory. The boundaries of the Morningside campus itself are defined by steep impenetrable walls, fences, and controlled access points. The layers of control emanating from our small plaza are beyond the ordinary. Below, university infrastructures and Avery Library control and discourage any major construction on the plaza. The only seemingly liberating perspective being the sky hovering above, beyond the tall buildings that define its physical enclosure. Is there a more sensible approach for liberating this space than a heavy inflatable defining yet another boundary? And more importantly, what would it mean for Columbia to cede control of a small portion of its land? To cede is to give up power or territory. And to whom? To the public at large?

Our proposal seeks to define the boundary of a ceded enclave on Avery plaza, an enclave of anarchy, and to suggest material rearrangements within this zone outside of Columbia's control. The border is defined by a series of reclaimed vertical posts, placed 36" on center, an interval that is both distant enough to be porous while close enough to mark the enclave's edge. The top of each post would have an aptly placed bird's nest. Inside the boundary, the materials of the planters and ground are disassembled and reconstituted to new zones for social interaction and collaboration. The unused remnants are piled outside the zone for unexpected entries to the site and to demonstrate a continuous site of development and improvisation. All building materials are reclaimed or salvaged. The substantial budget for the pavilion is donated in its entirety to assist in the reconstitution of lands in the *Lenapehoking* to its rightful owners, the *Lenne Lenape* peoples.

