

March 30, 2020

Dear GSAPP Family,

As the semester started again last week, this time in living rooms, houses, buildings, and cities across the world, an infinite number of video grids popped up across all of our screens. It was a remarkable moment to experience, and your willingness to gather online to share, observe, exchange, and try to make sense of our new condition—its challenges and its opportunities—is inspiring.

I have found myself thinking about these grids constantly, especially in the context of architecture. The grid, of course, has a fraught and contested history—it has, at times, been embraced for its democratic potential and, at others, deployed as a ruthless colonizing device. These past weeks have revealed that the grid remains as powerful as ever in its ability to structure relationships, whether between the individual and the collective, the specific and the generic, the small and the infinitely large, the local and the global.

With each grid, we are spanning space and time, culture and context. We are managing to come together to discuss, present, and debate ideas about the future of architecture and the built environment—a future that will be forever changed by this simultaneous yet asynchronous, dislocated yet assembled, individual (and deeply personal) yet collective condition we all face. (This is architecture (or, at least, this is what we strive to create as architects): connections across scales of time and space, people and places, past and future.

These grids are also an incredible moment to reflect on how our individual actions, positions (six feet or six thousand miles apart), and time zones (the ascending and flattening curve) have immediate and resounding collective consequences. And it is this problem and possibility of collective action—coupled with the grid's capacity as a lens to zoom in and out, and to reveal these problems and possibilities at various resolutions—that I wanted to guide this week's programming toward thinking about the climate crisis of our shared planet. It is impossible to talk about the pandemic we face today without facing the longer historical and contemporary processes of global warming, overproduction, extraction, and so on.

And so, this week, I am inviting all of us to direct our collective attention and effort to thinking about the urgent intersections of climate, society, and the built environment, and to revisiting the archive for ideas on how to imagine new possibilities for more equitable, sustainable, healthy, and creative world futures.

Sincerely,
Amale

WEEKLY BROADCASTS

FROM NEW DEAL TO GREEN NEW DEAL

Tuesday, March 31
1:00pm

Reinhold Martin

What can history teach the present? A world facing both pandemic and climate emergency now also faces a global economic crisis. Already, many proposals in the US for economic stimulus and recovery refer to the Depression-era New Deal, on which the most comprehensive proposal to combat climate change—the Green New Deal—is also based. Recognizing the urgency of addressing these compound crises in the short, medium, and long term, this lecture will consider examples of New Deal architecture and infrastructure as object lessons for a Green New Deal and beyond.

DESIGNING FOR RESILIENCE: CURRENT WORK BY ORU

Wednesday, April 1
3:00pm

Ziad Jamaledine hosts ORU: Adriana Chávez, Victor Rico and Elena Tudela, with Urban Design and Advanced IV Architecture faculty

Oficina de Resiliencia Urbana (Office for Urban Resilience) is a Mexico City-based urban design and applied research practice that has specialized in resilience and climate-sensitive landscape infrastructures. ORU's recent work ranges from research to architectural and landscape design strategies.

TOWARDS A DIFFUSE HOUSE

Tuesday, April 7
1:00 PM

Anna Puigjaner

After the American Civil War (1860-65), in a moment of deep social crisis, cities like New York started to be filled with apartment houses that lacked of kitchens and had collective domestic services and spaces instead. These kitchenless projects, allowed the displacement of some domestic elements, habitually fitted inside the limits of the house, towards the public space, turning the house into a diffuse entity. Home values are always in permanent mutation, and those which deal with the kitchen are precisely the most capable of radically changing preset gender roles and domestic labor structures, still today.

THE DESIRE FOR COMMUNAL FORM IN A MOMENT OF ISOLATION

Friday, April 10
1:00pm

Emmett Zeifman

Since 2008, the field of architecture has engaged the economic precarity, social atomization and privatized "sharing" economies of contemporary society through models of communal work and dwelling, ranging from market-driven co-working and living spaces to renewed speculations on social condensers and phalansteries. At a moment in which physical collectives are being dispersed, and society has reached, almost instantly, a terminal state of precarity, isolation and virtual exchange, what is the status of this desire for architectural forms that contain whole communities and frame new commons?

OPEN CLASSES

MODERN AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Monday, March 30
11:00am

Jorge Otero-Pailos

This course is a survey of American Modern Architecture since the country's first centennial. As America ascended to its current position of hegemony during the late 19th and 20th centuries, its architects helped refashion the built environment to serve the needs of a growing and ever-diverse population.

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING AND REPRESENTATION II

Tuesday, March 31
9:00am

Dan Taeyoung, Andrew Heumann, Lexi Tsien-Shiang, Quentin Yiu, and Violet Whitney

The ADR2 faculty host a Zoom workshop lecture for Core II students around tips, tricks, and experiments on printing and collaborating together online. They will record part of the class and share resources with the GSAPP community.

LE CORBUSIER

Wednesday, April 1
11:00am

Kenneth Frampton

This lecture course deals with Le Corbusier's life and work both chronologically and thematically. In this regard the emphasis is as much ideological as it is architectural.

M.S. RED CAPSTONE CLASS

Thursday, April 2 & April 9
9:00am

Patrice Derrington

The course synthesizes the analytical, comparative, and critical processes involved in real estate development projects, transactions and investments. Students demonstrate their understanding of the dynamics of real estate development.

ARCHITECT WRITERS

Friday, April 3
9:00am

Hilary Sample

Taking stock of the architecture profession today, this seminar brings together a select group of architects who have written about their design work as a means to better understand the built environment while reflecting on the field of architecture as a whole.

RECOMBINANT URBANISM AND PUBLIC SPACE

Monday, April 6
11am

Grahame Shane

This seminar examines how cities grow and develop over time. It employs a theory of urban actors and conceptual models as tools for the analysis of the city, its urban systems and design ecologies. The course maps transformations in these actors and their models at various scales over time in a specific locations.

STRUCTURAL DARING AND THE SUBLIME

Wednesday, April 8
1pm

Rory O'Neill

This seminar invites students to explore the sublime effects of precarious architecture through visual and literary representations; students will use a structural simulation application to provide for a hands-on approach to exploring structural daring in realtime.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Thursday, April 9
11am

Moira O'Neill-Hutson

This course explores the history, theory, and practice of community development. It requires students to question the assumptions underlying past programs and policies, identify opportunities, and think critically about the programs and policies that will be needed going forward.

PLANNING THE CULTURAL SPACE

Friday, April 10
9am

Douglas Woodward, Vin Cipolla, and Peter Flamm

The practicum provides a comprehensive assessment of the current trends and issues in planning for cultural spaces. As competing options and the increasing accessibility of personal digital platforms are changing the ways the arts are produced and consumed, cultural organizations are facing existential questions about the shape of their future.

#GSAPPFAMILY2020

We invite you to share your experiences on social media using the hashtag #gsappfamily2020, or send us photos or videos directly. Students and faculty are also invited to submit works-in-progress using this google form so that we can feature them on our social media feeds.

Image Credit: GSAPP's Visual Studies Faculty's March 26 broadcast on remote conferencing.

VIRTUAL STUDIOS

Don't forget to stop by one or more of the 13 virtual studios that are accessible on a 24/7 basis to meet with students and discuss current projects.

MINING THE ARCHIVE: CLIMATE

It is impossible to talk about the pandemic without facing the historical and contemporary processes of global warming. This week I offer a look at how the School has engaged this over the years:

December 10, 2015

Climate Change and the Scales of Environment

A symposium that critically reframes the term "environment" in order to address the real and lived threat of climate change—moving beyond the technocratic conversations that typically frame the terms of debate.

February 19, 2016

Resilience by Design

A symposium that explores how climate change has altered the conceptual coordinates of building resilience and the social frameworks of design.

April 22, 2016

Embodied Energy and Design

A conference that reconsiders the act of making a building as an act of energy expenditure and asks questions about a variety of related scales, methods of analysis, and design opportunities.

October 22, 2018

David Benjamin

A lecture that proposes new intersections between biology, computation, and design, and that offers us three frameworks for harnessing living organisms for architecture: bio-processing, bio-sensing, and bio-manufacturing.

February 22, 2019

Climate Change at the Building Scale

A series of summits that ask how architects should design for uncertainty and how building and building practices can participate in transitioning to a non-anthropocentric paradigm—questions that appear more urgent now than ever.

February 22, 2019

Offsetted: On the Rights of the Environment

A talk on the political, economic, and legal history of trees in New York City, which coincided with Cooking Sections' exhibition *Offsetted* at the Arthur Ross Architecture Gallery. Please feel free to send us your own favorites and recommendations: events@arch.columbia.edu.

AVERY SELECTS

We invite you to poke around the Topics on the Avery Review, starting with [Climates of Extraction](#) and with essays that explore new planetary perspectives.

In advance of Reinhold Martin's lecture on March 31, you could (re)read his piece "[Sacred Ground: The Big Easy in the Big Apple.](#)"

You might even pair it with Heather Smith's latest review "[To Live in Compromised Worlds,](#)" which evaluates alternate futures of carbon sequestration.

In the same spirit, we're revisiting season 1 of [Avery Shorts](#) with Tei Carpenter's "[A Few Clues From Looking at the Moon,](#)" which zooms out to propose new (extra)terrestrial ways of registering our world.

ABSTRACT DIGITAL LAUNCH

Abstract 2019, Columbia GSAPP's annual publication of faculty-selected student work, is now available in digital format! Designed by Common Name, this publication also features candid shots of studio environments by Naho Kubota, informal snapshots taken by students with disposable cameras, a holographic sticker sheet, and a 360 panoramic diagram of the School by GSAPP faculty Lindsey Wikstrom (M.Arch '15).

Students, faculty, and alumni will be able to order a physical copy at a later date; updates will be posted on social media and the GSAPP website.

SUPER CRITS

M.ARCH CORE II: ¼ REVIEWS

Wednesday, April 1
2:00pm

Erica Goetz (Coordinator, Core II)
José Aragón and Erica Goetz
Guest: Lyn Rice

Gordon Kipping and Daisy Ames
Guest: Nicholas McDermott

Karla Rothstein and Benjamin Cadena
Guest: Anda French

Emmett Zeifman and Christopher Kumpusch
Guest: Lizzie Hodges

M.ARCH CORE II: ¼ REVIEWS

Friday, April 3
2:00pm

Erica Goetz (Coordinator, Core II)
Karla Rothstein and Erica Goetz
Guest: Annie Barrett

Emmett Zeifman and Gordon Kipping
Guest: Mitesh Dixit

José Aragón and Christoph Kumpusch
Guest: Anthony Titus

Benjamin Cadena and Daisy Ames
Guest: Laura Peterson

M.ARCH ADVANCED STUDIO IV: STUDIO EXCHAN

Wednesday, April 8
2pm

Ziad Jamaledine (Coordinator)
Ziad Jamaledine and Nahyun Hwang

Bob Marino and Adam Frampton

Richard Plunz and Lindsey Wikstrom

Lindy Roy and Phu Hoang

CLIMATE RESPONSIVE DESIGN AND POLICY

Friday, April 10
3:30pm

Thaddeus Pawlowski will present current work of the Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes in discussion with Urban Design faculty.

TUESDAY TALKS WITH ALUMNI

Thank you to the GSAPP alumni who participated in last week's Tuesday Talks!

Here is what we heard: students were prepared, had done their homework, and were very impressive! The next Tuesday Talk will be on March 31. Registration will open Monday, March 30 at 12pm EST. Preview the alumni participating this week before requesting your appointment! Please contact gsappalumni@columbia.edu with any questions.

A list of participating alumni can be found on [our website](#).

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