

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND PRESERVATION

## The Sharing Room

Gordon Kipping

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The public library has historically been an archive of books, journals, newspapers and other physical media. While this media is stored in stacks, their reading rooms have been the place where the information in this archive is shared with a public. This model is challenged with the proliferation of electronically stored and shared media creating an opportunity for a new spatial model.

Our approach will be both nostalgic and forward looking. We will accept that physical media and the structures that accommodate them will continue to be a relevant part of our public library. We will be designing stacks and reading rooms. And we will develop new spatial models to accommodate electronically stored and shared media. What forms of electronic information exchange should a public library facilitate? What are the spaces to accommodate this exchange? Each project will take a position as to whether the public library is a hybridized model for both the physical and electronic or a new electronic model coexisting with a familiar physical one.

We will conduct our precedent study in teams of two. Each team will identify and analyze a place of physical information sharing such as an existing or proposed public library. As well, each team will identify an existing interface or apparatus for the sharing of electronic information such as an augmented, mixed or virtual reality platform. Both physical models and electronically generated diagrams will allow us to understand these places and platforms, spatially and organizationally. This will lead into the design of our building for the semester which will feature places for sharing with physical and electronic media.

We will make extensive use of diagramming to develop and describe the program and the building. Flows of information, people & collections; vectors of structure, light & air; program spaces and their relationships to the context; and any other factors defining our projects will be diagrammed. Isolated diagrams will be continually developed through an iterative process provoked by the contamination of each to one another. This will culminate in an idealized and multilayered project diagram which will guide the development of our public library as it is elaborated and made constructible.

While you will have the flexibility to modify the given program to suit your developed project diagrams, we will take a highly structured approach to our organization and presentation of information. A studio blog will hold all of the artifacts of our project development and act as the primary vehicle for the communication of our designs.

Our structural engineering consultant will be Shaina Saporta from Arup and our teaching assistant will be Randy Armas, GSAPP, M.Arch. (2018).