

Trans-Rural America:

An Inquiry Into The Modes Of Architectural Design That Make Rural America

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Monday 11:00 am – 1:00 pm 408 Avery Hall



Alpha Farm, Deadwood, Oregon (2006). Photograph by Joel Sternfeld

Seminar Description

Most of the disputes reshaping societies (from climate change to inequality; from racial struggle to toxicity; from LGBTQ rights to nature engineering) are not contained in cities alone. Rural space has become the arena out of which the politics that shape our lives expand. But the modes of architectural design by which the rural is produced and responded to have yet to be interrogated.

This seminar will explore the architectural practices that have contributed to forming rural America from the 1970s to now. We will look at the design procedures, projective tools, and the conceptual frames architectural practices use to participate in creating rurality. We will examine a broad number of differentiated architectural episodes and the political contingencies they create.

How?

The seminar will be organized as a series of thematic sessions. Each session will be based on a number of previously available readings and will include a 30-minute presentation on the theme by the instructor. This will be followed by an open discussion.

During the course of the semester, students will develop a research project on a specific case of rurality-making architectural design.

Following the discussion of the session's readings, a small number of students each day will present their research projects, which will be openly discussed in the seminar. The students' research projects will be reviewed with the participation of external jurors. The research project will be delivered in the form of a paper at the end of the semester.

Bibliography

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- Scott, Felicity D. *Outlaw Territories. Environments of Insecurity/ Architectures of Counterinsurgency*. New York: Zone Books, 2016).
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