

**ARGUMENTS 2018 - Seminar + Lecture & Discussion Series**

Advanced Architectural Design Program (AAD). Columbia University – Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP)

*The AAD Arguments Seminar + Lecture & Discussion Series explores the relevance of architecture in facing world's contemporary challenges.*

Seminar: Wednesday 9:00-11:15 AM

Lecture & Discussion Series: 11:30-1:15PM

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## DESCRIPTION:

The course interrogates the way architectural devices and architectural practices gain collective relevance by participating in the making of contemporary realities; by facing current environmental, technological and representational challenges; and by being part of ongoing interactions, collaborations, disputes and coexistences. Organized around a series of case-studies (half of them coming from the field of architecture, half of them brought by speakers who approach architecture from non-architectural fields) this course has as a main goal to interrogate the way architecture is part of the shared concerns that shape the evolution of the world's societies; that is to say, to explore what is the way architectural practices are evolving by confronting and being part of shared concerns. In brief, the course scrutinizes agendas, tools and methodologies and the way in which they take part in the advancement of architecture.

## STRUCTURE:

Each session will be divided in two parts. The first, conducted as a seminar, and supported by the reading or study of documents provided by the guest speakers—with the course instructors operating individually with groups of 13-14 students—will examine a specific architectural device or practice. The second, conducted as a lecture & debate session—with the course instructors and their students operating as an interrogating community—deliberating in the company of the guest speaker the agendas, tools and methodologies mobilized by the studied case. The ultimate aim is to explore the role architecture plays in the enacting of the societal at large.

## REQUIREMENTS:

Each student is expected to attend all seminar sessions and all lecture & debate sessions, to complete the assigned readings in time, and to actively participate in the seminar sessions and in the open debates following the lectures, by publicly posing questions and sharing comments.

In addition, as part of their participation in the seminars, each student will deliver two group presentations on one of the projects presented in the lectures, as well as one presentation response.

1. Every week, all students will get the documents to be studied to prepare the following lecture & debate session.
2. All students are requested to have read and studied the documents by Tuesday

noon, when they are asked to send their instructors a concise question meant to back track the questions that the studied documents respond to.

3. Those students expected to present that week, must formalize their presentations, as a written argument (250-words), and submit them to their instructors by Sunday noon. These presentations will be shared as well with the students expected to do the response, so they have time to prepare, response, and submit them in advance.
4. The grade will be determined as follows:
  - Presentation 1 (20-minutes long, in person): 25%
  - Presentation 2 (10-minutes long, recorded): 25%
  - Participation in the debates following the lectures: 25%
  - Weekly questions backtracking the questions that the studied documents respond to: 25%

#### SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, June 6. 11:30 am. Marco Ferrari. (Studio Folder)

Introduced by: Aaron White

Responded by: Christopher Ainslie Cowell

Wednesday, June 13. 11:30 am. Jack Halberstam

Introduced by: Jonah Rowen

Responded by: Anna-Maria T. Meister

Wednesday, June 20. 11:30 am. Maarten Gielen. (ROTOR)

Introduced by: Jess Ngan

Responded by: Christopher Martin Barker

Wednesday, June 27. 11:30 am. Michael Wang

Introduced by: Laura Diamond Dixit

Responded by: Jonah Rowen

Wednesday, July 11. 11:30 am. Lucy Kimbell

Introduced by: Christopher Martin Barker

Responded by: Aaron White

Wednesday, July 18. 11:30 am. Rania Ghosn. (Design Earth)

Introduced by: Benedict Cutter Clouette

Responded by: Laura Diamond Dixit

Wednesday, July 25. 11:30 am. Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine

Introduced by: Anna-Maria T. Meister

Responded by: Jess Ngan

Thursday, July 26. 6:00 pm. Laura Poitras and Henrik Moltek  
(this final session will exceptionally happen at a different time)

Introduced by: Christopher Ainslie Cowell

Responded by: Benedict Cutter Clouette