

Course Syllabus

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PLACE: Projective Landscapes and Collective Ecologies

Designing the future of canopies for South Street Seaport

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New Yorkers have a long history of embracing outdoor spaces, from Central Park to the Hudson River to Brooklyn Bridge Park. The park is a gathering space for the entire city, a melting pot of cultures and activities. The city's newest park is adjacent to the South Street Seaport, a dramatically changing part of the city. This seminar will provide a unique opportunity to explore the south-east coast of Manhattan and contribute to the future of this new public space through the construction of a semi-permanent structure for shade, art and shelter. The participants will be asked to balance the unique history and urban design of site, the concept of transportation, the lifestyle associated with the park, the landmark status of the buildings and the nature of canopy design and independent fabrication.

We would like you to propose a cohesive shading strategy for the park while also embracing the design constraints of the river and adjacent roadways. The park currently lacks any cohesive shading system which becomes a problem during the hot summer months, while also lacking seating and charging stations in some areas. Students should address the architectural language of the SHoP design and the history of the site itself to create canopy structures that provide shade and enhance the program of the park allowing visitors to fully activate and engage the new spaces. Students should explore the current situation and create a narrative for how to project the future ecological, geometrical psychological and social space of the area.

The scope of the project is not limited to simple canopy designs; we are looking for interactive structures that can become a new type of collective ecology supported by social and

sustainable infrastructures. The projects can incorporate solar and rain harvesting, charging

stations, seating areas, Wi-Fi hotspots, and other programs as the participants see fit. The

essence of PLACE is to go beyond functional shading and create a place of social and ecological relevance.

Students will work in small groups to pick a specific site near the seaport. They will create a site specific program and design typology for the canopy structure based on their site selection. Groups will be allowed to choose materials, structural systems and

overall programmatic elements to help accentuate their design. Throughout the course of the semester students will refine their design, articulating details and fully developed material and connection strategies. At the end of the semester the groups will be required to prepare a 1:1 prototype and a supporting presentation to present their final designs to our guests.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: 9/5: Orientation Week

WEEK 2: 9/12: Intro: Seaport Lecture

WEEK 3: 9/19: Student Research Presentations: Seaport / Initial Concepts

WEEK 4: 9/26: Student Research Presentations: Environmental Design / Initial Sites

WEEK 5: 10/3: Student Research Presentations: Social Ecology / Initial Programs

WEEK 6: 10/10: Research Benchmark / Project Proposal

WEEK 7: 10/17: Guest: Structural Engineer

WEEK 8: 10/24: Studio Mid-Term Reviews: Lecture: Group Co-working

WEEK 9: 10/31: Guest: Environmental Designer

WEEK 10: 11/7: Election Holiday: Off Week

WEEK 11: 11/14: Benchmark 2 / Group Proposal

WEEK 12: 11/21: Lecture: Fabrication

WEEK 13: 11/28: Lecture: Detailing / Finishing Techniques

WEEK 14: 12/5: Studio Finals: Off Week

WEEK 15: 12/18: Final Presentation / Prototype

Select References:

<http://commonstransition.org/john-thackara-on-how-to-thrive-in-the-next-economy/>

<https://senatus.net/article/giant-umbrellas-protect-pilgrims-medina/>

<http://www.situstudio.com/works/built/solar-canopy#>