The New York Public
Gordon Kipping
Core 2 - A4102_002

The public library stands as the most welcoming of civic institutions. Students doing their homework, researchers scouring the archive, community groups in meeting rooms, job seekers tuning their resume and homeless people taking shelter all find their space within its walls.

It 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 the proliferation of electronically stored and shared media and the added functions of community assembly and shelter, the library typology has evolved.

Currently, the site hosts a broad set of programs catering to diverse publics. The basketball courts, soccer fields, mist fountains, Citi Bike docks, playgrounds, Parks & Recreation storage pavilion, African burial ground and green space all attract their respective publics. The site is alive with Tai Chi groups in the morning, basketball tournaments all summer, the men of the Bowery after wake up call, drug users & sellers on the benches, tourist groups on tours, gardeners at their plots, nannies with kids in the playgrounds and dog walkers all day.

The studio will aim to preserve as many of these programs (and publics) while adding the public library to the mix. Existing programs on the site will be maintained or redesigned and combined with the library through the process of 'crossprogramming (using a given spatial configuration for a program not intended for it), transprogramming' (combining two or more programs regardless of the incompatibilities with their respective spatial configurations) and 'disprogramming' (combining two programs, whereby a required spatial configuration of one contaminates the other). These variants on the collage of programs and typologies will form the basis of the development of our hyperprogrammed project.

We will match and mismatch programs with their architectural typologies and use collage as a design tool to organize and combine our programs, our forms and ultimately our publics. This process will naturally produce an array of collages to represent our projects. Our collages will undergo development to ultimately become viable buildings.

A studio blog will hold all 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. Shaina will be conducting two sessions at GSAPP and we will visit the offices of ARUP for a tour and workshop for our third session.

Our student mentor will be Paul Provenza, GSAPP, M.Arch. (2019).