

LIBRARY AS...

Library as storehouse, as temple, as garden, as museum, as factory... Parallel to shifts in knowledge formats, information technologies, and modes of work and research, the library has aligned itself with various typologies that transform its role and identity. Largely operating symbolically, these metaphors have historically conveyed intentions relating to the library's architectural language and function as a civic and social institution. Our studio will consider these alternate typologies as productive analogies – rather than symbols or metaphors – as departure points for the design of the 21st Century library. Through the lens of the following typologies, can we radically reimagine the library (its environment, structure, study carrels, reading rooms, stacks, etc.):

- *as garden?*
- *as factory?*
- *as office?*
- *as plaza?*

To a large extent these typologies are already rooted in the myriad and diverse environments of past and contemporary libraries. How can they be critiqued and amplified? We will draw from paradigms of the above typologies as well as instances found within library precedents. What opportunities for reinvention arise from rigorously interrogating the experiential, operational, environmental and other dimensions of these alternate typologies? At the macro and micro scales, students are challenged to develop forms and concepts that take cues from their chosen alternate typology and result in a singular 21st Century library.