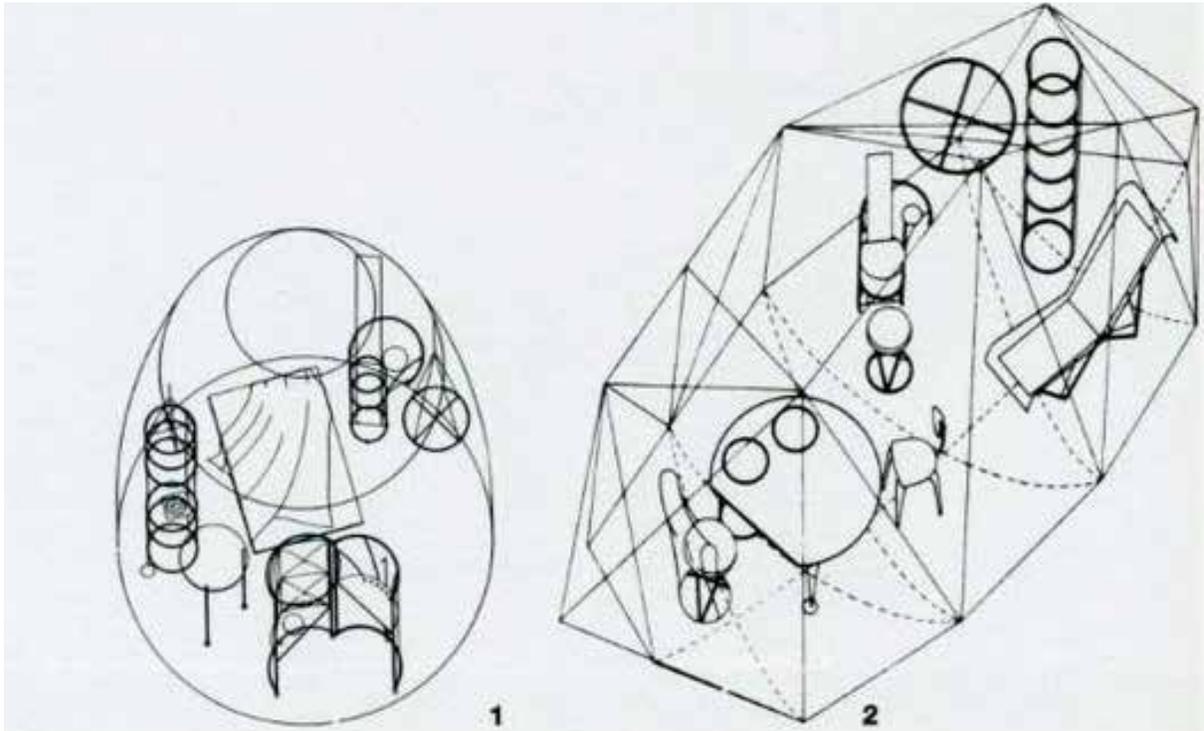


INTERIOR NOMADISM

Temporal Inhabitations

IIT College of Architecture – Cloud Studio, Fall 2016/Spring 2017
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In coordination with Universidad Torcuato di Tella Buenos Aires



... The nomad has a territory; he follows customary paths; he goes from one point to another; he is not ignorant of points (water points, dwelling points, assembly points, etc.). But the question is what in nomad life is a principle and what is only a consequence. To begin with, although the points determine paths, they are strictly subordinated to the paths they determine, the reverse happens with the sedentary. The water point is reached only in order to be left behind; every point is a relay and exists only as a relay. A path is always between two points, but the in-between has taken on all the consistency and enjoys both an autonomy and a direction of its own. The life of the nomad is the intermezzo.¹

¹ Giles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus. Capitalism and Schizophrenia* p 380. U. of Minnesota Press

INTERIOR NOMADISM

The idea of home has been traditionally related to belonging and stability. The hyper accelerated mobility of current modes of living is challenging those notions. Large portions of the population are moving and resettling on a regular basis, within a time span that varies from hours to years. This nomadic condition is impacting current metropolises and requires rethinking the regular approaches to the design of housing and the discussion about communities. Conventional notions of public and private, locals and foreigners are, more than ever, under stress. The new nomadism is not homogeneous. It includes differentiated profiles: tourists of diverse types, travelers, professionals, temporary family- and education-related displacements, refugees, consumers of urban facilities and so on. That social and programmatic complexity is expanding the architectural types that deal with habitation. Conventional hotels and motels, housing and houses are complemented with temporary shared spaces, subletting all or part of properties, micro temporary renting spaces, temporary cities, moving megastructures and so on. This expanded range of temporary inhabitation posits questions of conventions and traditions related to privacy and private property, but it also opens up opportunities for architectural speculation and typological innovation. If a certain stability of the urban fabric is necessary for its economic, social, ecological and political viability, it seems clear that the metropolis needs to incorporate more differentiation to allocate the diverse inhabitation modes that current society has shaped.

In many contemporary cities, there are growing conflicts created by the mismatch between the speed of change in inhabitation modes and the slow condition of a housing fabric that is incapable of dealing with those modes. Local authorities are still operating with policies and housing infrastructure that are mainly capable of dealing with slow changes. In the meantime, fast and short-term modes of inhabitation are left in the hands of private operators. That gap generates processes of gentrification, economic stress and social conflict. Immediate reactions from public authorities try to preserve existing social and urban fabrics, gaining time to rethink new planning strategies to mediate the new nomadism with urban plans that redirect it into a more sustainable urban force.

In our studio we will develop a proto-city that deals with an interiorized urban context hosting a mix of inhabiting infrastructure and common spaces: housing, hotels, motels, shared inhabiting infrastructure, short-term inhabiting support, conventional housing, and public facilities. The hotel type unfolds from a highly constrained set of efficiencies and introduces interiorized landscapes and urbanscapes. The traditional list of hotel types – Downtown Hotels, Suburban Hotels and Motels, Resorts, Convention Hotels, Conference Centers, Residential and Condominium Hotels, Suite Hotels, Super-Luxury Hotels, Mega Hotels, Mixed-Use Hotels, Casino Hotels – will be analyzed and complemented with other modes of inhabitation that expand its performance both in shorter term modes of stability and towards more stable forms of community. This new city will be developed as a prototype that responds to a double condition of evaluation: on the one hand, it will need to declare its efficiencies and limitations; and on the other, it will need to unfold an urban collective landscape that supports the cultural complexity of the new society.

Since the theorization of junk space, there has been an increased acceptance of giving up on the architecture of the interior and working on the envelope as an isolated system for developing architecture. However, the increased interior nature of our built environment and the activation of preservation policies are forcing the discipline to question this retreat. Reclaiming the interior cannot be a naive movement; rather it opens up an understanding of interiority as a new territory for experimentation and for unfolding the techniques and arguments developed during the last decade. In our studio, so-called generic space will be replaced by a highly differentiated space, trading roles with the exterior that becomes generic, where redundant patterns are actualized based on specific programs, urban performances and visual and formal agencies from the present day.

Contemporary architectural practice is a relational exercise. In our increasingly complex global environment, we need transformative and operative capabilities in order to design projects that integrate political, economic, social, and energy aspects and, above all, mediate their actions in cultural terms. Formal and material organizations configure the basic conditions for deploying the intensities in a non-predesignated way. We can move beyond the analytical comprehension of the modern subject and the cynicism of the postmodern subject toward an environment where the architect is a designer of systems that activate new deployments.

The architectural opportunities opened up by these conditions will be the focus of our investigation. We will embrace the notion of interior nomadism and we will experiment within a conceptual framework that situates itself in a proto-representational framework of performativity. The design of the processes of differentiation and articulation of interior qualities will be directional, but open to feedback loops with the potential to constantly redefine its targets through the recognition of new opportunities. These moments of recognition, based on an explicit charge of meaning, will serve as disruptions that rearticulate the autonomy of the system.

Our research posits the digital realm as a change in direction that is shaping a particular state of mind and sensibility, where cybernetics are reappearing to provide the tools, the terminology and the condition of an artifice for intuitions that might appear, naturalizing the sensible. We will explore historic disciplinary material to abstract operative diagrams of the creation of voids, we will design our protocols for the assemblage of second-order systems, and we will experiment by carving existing large structures in order to introduce new notions of urban interiority. The notion of urban interior will be approached as an alternative to collage cities and the accumulation of programs by designing voids that exhaust the differentiation of specific categories.

The prototype will be developed in an extreme situation of interiority. This interiorized condition will force each proposal to define its urban qualification clearly, through operations of differentiation. For grounding our proposals, we will analyze and diagram historic and contemporary hotel types and hosting protocols as well as a site: Panama, a geostrategical location in the Americas that is economically grounded in global mobility.

GENERAL STRUCTURE OF WORK AND TIMELINE

Students will work in groups of two or maximum three people.

During Fall Semester, each group will focus on developing an interior urban prototype in two stages. The first one will deal with only one type of hotel with all its variations. This will allow the group to become specialized in the modes of efficiency and to develop a model of urban interior that launches a particular vision and organization of the collective. The second stage will develop a more complex and hybrid condition of the proto-city by mixing and expanding the hosting timeline and social profile with other typological modes or degrees. The emerging collective space resultant from the metasystem will organize and reflect that urban complexity.

The project will be based on precise and intentional diagrams of existing types of both inhabitation organizations and urbanscapes and landscapes.

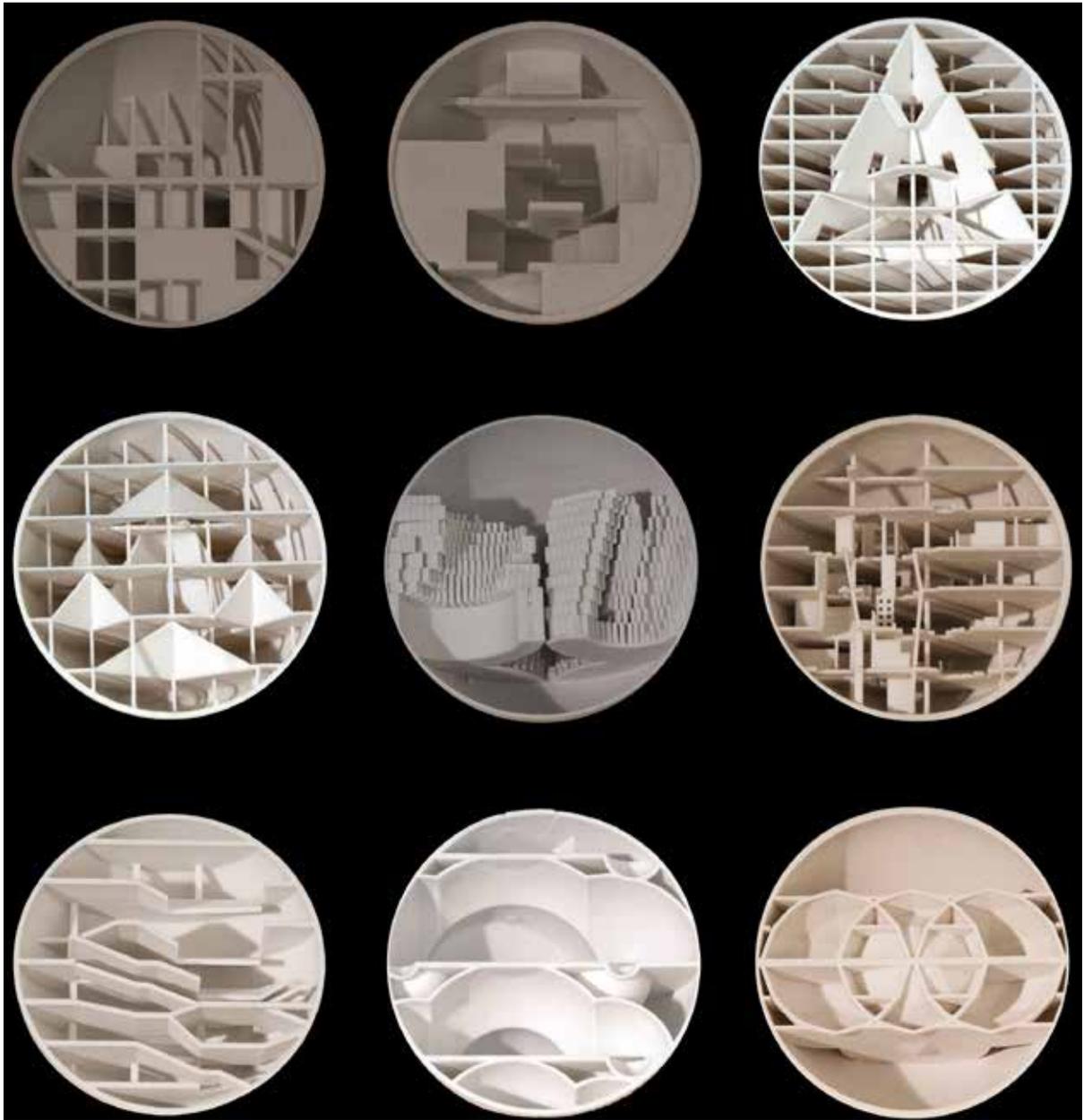
During Spring Semester, our work will focus on Panama. Students will develop a proposal for the site that actualizes the architectural potential of the proto-city developed during the first semester. During this semester, similar research will be conducted by a group of students at Torcuato Di Tella University in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Regular online exchange and reviews will be held between the groups. By the end of the semester a publication of all the projects will be edited as a manual for hosting contemporary nomadism.

Students are highly encouraged to enroll in the studio for both semesters.

ATLAS OF URBAN INTERIORS

THE DESIGN OF A PROTO INTERIOR

FALL 2016



In every process of systematization, we find a design of the protocols that structure its performance. In this first exercise, we will be working by studying, modeling and rearticulating typological material that exemplifies temporary inhabitation. We will focus on very basic architectural cases that organize interiors based on simple efficient systems and on interior urban types.

Each observation will be motivated by a particular interest; we will be scripting the basic rules of organization and growth.

This systematic documentation and scripting of models will become a library for the whole group to work with. The library should not be understood as an accumulation of documents to refer to once in a while, but rather as a design tool. Similar to scripting libraries, each of the modes should have its own efficiency but, at the same time, it should be capable of being integrated into more complex systems based on subsystems.

Students will be working in groups of two or three. Each group will choose one case from the list that will be provided the first day of class or an approved alternative. The models should operate based on the design of the protocol of constraints that differentiates the interior.

Steps to follow and deliverables:

1. Documentation of the model to study.
2. For each system, definition and identification of the main criteria that drives it.
3. Design of the protocol.
4. Test of possible growth and proliferation.
5. Edition of Atlas, Part I.

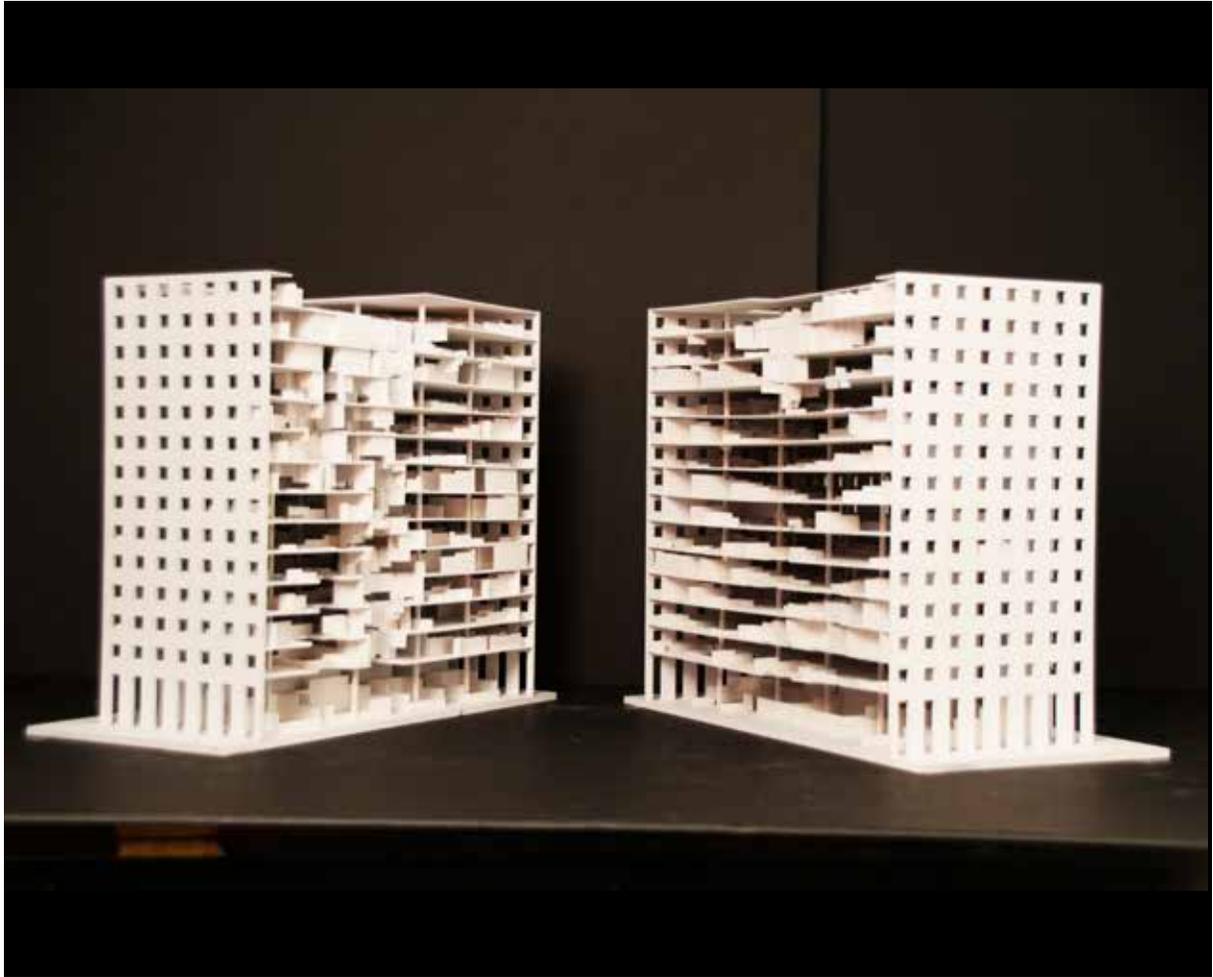


In this stage, we will design proto-interiors based on the assemblage of subsystems. The logic of the assemblage will require local operations of continuities that extend beyond mechanical integrity, providing the resulting design with zones of recognition and autonomy as well as zones of hybridity, interpolation, and morphing. The performance and hierarchies of the new system are based on proportion and negotiation, on the adjustment and refinement of its perpetual in-between condition. Our new proto-interiors will operate in a precise relationship of qualities and intensities, which requires constant levels of actualization by cultural charging based on operatives of qualification and recognition.

To design our prototypes each group will work with its original interior urban type model and will merge it with one nomadic urban scenario diagram defining its ranges and limits within two sets: a given spherical volume that is populated with a prototypical modern space field; and a generic cubical volume with external information (orientation, openings, access).

Steps to follow and deliverables:

6. Selection of a second system (nomadic urban scenario) and integration with the original model in a system of second order.
7. Test of possible growth and proliferation.
8. 3-D print models of the original device and the new model (sphere). These models should recognize as many iterations of the outcomes as necessary for the documentation of the interior qualities.
9. Proliferation and occupation of the second volume (given generic cube). Diagrams, drawings and model.
10. Full documentation (portfolio) of the interior produced by the new device. It should define all the ranges and possible variations of the diagram. Edition of Atlas, Part II.



SCHEDULE

Week 1

August 22th: **Opening Conference**

August 24th: Deskcrits Step 1

August 26th: Deskcrits Step 1

Week2

August 29st: Deskcrits Step 2

August 31nd: Deskcrits Step 2

Sep 2th: Deskcrits Step 2

Week3

Sep 5th: **Labor Day. No Class**

Sep 7th: Deskcrits Step 2

Sep 9th: **Pinup Steps 1 and 2**

Week 4

Sep 12th: Deskcrits Step 3

Sep 14th: Deskcrits Step 3

Sep 16th: Deskcrits Step 3

Week 5

Sep 19nd: **Pinup Step 3**

Sep 21th: Deskcrits Step 4

Sep 23th: Deskcrits Step 4

Week 6

Sep 26th: Deskcrits Step 4

Sep 28th: Deskcrits Step 4

Sep 30nd: Deskcrits Step 4

Week 7

Oct 3th: Deskcrits Step 5

Oct 5th: Deskcrits Step 5

Oct 7th: **Pinup Step 5**

Week 8

Oct 10th: **Fall Break Day. No Class**

Oct 12th: **Deskcrits pre-midterm**

Oct 14th: **MIDTERM**

Week 9 MCHAP Week.

Oct 17th: Deskcrits Step 6
Oct 19nd: Deskcrits Step 6
Oct 21th: Deskcrits Step 6

Week 10

Oct 24th: Deskcrits Step 6
Oct 26th: Pinup Step 6
Oct 28st: Deskcrits Step 7

Week 11

Oct 31rd: Deskcrits Step 7
Nov 2nd: Deskcrits Step 7
Nov 4th: Pinup Step 2

Week 12

Nov 7th: Deskcrits Step 8
Nov 9th: Deskcrits Step 8
Nov 11th: Deskcrits Step 8

Week 13

Nov 14th: Deskcrits Steps 8
Nov 16th: Pinup Step 8
Nov 18st: Deskcrits Step 9

Week 14

Nov 21th: Deskcrits Step 9
Nov 23th: Thanks Giving Break
Nov 25th: Thanks Giving Break

Week 15

Nov 28th: Deskcrits Step 9, 10
Nov 30rd: Deskcrits Step 10
Dec 2nd: FINAL

INTERIONOMY

PANAMA BRIDGES

SPRING 2017



519- X⁷³ Operation of Gatun Locks. S.S. Allianca leaving upper west chamber and entering Gatun Lake. Water elevation 84.2. Looking north June 8, 1914.

STAGE THREE

The final stage of our research will test the proto-interiors in a case study. We will develop an interior urban proposal for one post-infrastructure large building that bridges the Panama Canal. During our field trip, we will visit Panama and the canal to better understand a country whose economy is based on global mobility. Its geographical location plays a key role in the north-south relationship of the Americas. Our proposal will connect the gap created by the canal with an offshore city that hosts a nomadic worldwide population.

The proposals will be understood as a set of interiors that make up a larger system of interiority for contemporary nomads. In that sense, we will need to develop an exhaustive documentation of kinds and types. The model of closing optimizing logics is substituted by the model of proliferation of refinements, contributing to the construction of Interiority as a new subfield of Architecture.

During the second part of the semester we will engage in regular online presentations and debates with a group of architecture students from University Torcuato di Tella who will be doing parallel research on the same topic.

Steps to follow and deliverables:

1. Diagramming and modeling of infrastructure and proto-urban conditions around the Panama Canal system.
2. Working model. Test and design a first iteration of the project using your model.
3. Full documentation (portfolio), final model, complete remaining documents.
4. Articulation of Interiority.



SCHEDULE

Week 1

Jan 09 th: **Presentation**
Jan 11th: Deskcrits Step1
Jan 13th: Deskcrits Step1

Week2

Jan 16st: **Martin Luther King. No classes**
Jan 18st: Deskcrits Step 1
Jan 20rd: Deskcrits Step 1

Week3

Jan 23th: Deskcrits Step 1
Jan 25th: Deskcrits Step 1
Jan 27th: Deskcrits Step 1

Week 4

Jan 30st: Deskcrits Step 1
Jan 01rd: Deskcrits Step 1
Feb 03th: **Pinup Step 1**

Week 5

Feb 06th: Deskcrits Step 2
Feb 08th: Deskcrits Step 2
Feb 10th: Deskcrits Step 2

Week 6

Feb 13th: **Pinup Step 2**
Feb 15th: Deskcrits Step 2
Feb 17th: Deskcrits Step 2

Week 7

Feb 20nd: Deskcrits Step 2
Feb 22th: Deskcrits Step 2
Feb 24th: **MIDTERM**

Week 8

Feb 27th: **Trip to Panama**
March 01nd: **Trip to Panama**
March 03th: **Trip to Panama**

Week 9
March 6th: Deskcrits Step 2
March 8th: Deskcrits Step 2
March 10th: MIDTERM

Week 10
March 13rd: Spring Break
March 15th: Spring Break
March 17th: Spring Break

Week 11
March 20rd: Deskcrits Step 3
March 22th: Deskcrits Step 3
March 24th: Deskcrits Step 3

Week 11
March 27th: Deskcrits Step 3
March 29st: Deskcrits Step 3
March 31rd: Pinup Step 3

Week 12
Apr 3th: Deskcrits Step 3
Apr 5th: Deskcrits Step 3
Apr 7th : Deskcrits Step 3

Week 13
Apr 10st: Deskcrits Step 3
Apr 12rd: Deskcrits Step 3
Apr 14th: Pinup Step 3

Week 14
Apr 17th: Deskcrits Step 4
Apr 19nd: Deskcrits Step 4
Apr 21th: Deskcrits Step 4

Week 15
Apr 24th : Deskcrits Step 4
Apr 26nd : Deskcrits Step 4
Apr 28nd: FINAL

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Links

Students will get a list of Grasshopper tutorial links first day of class

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Only letter grades will be given and these will be based on a curve.

Grades will be issued for each project and these will be based on the following criteria:

1. Conceptual sophistication and critical thinking
2. Sophistication and extent of project investigation and development
3. Sophistication and quality of presentation material (drawings and models)
4. Participation in class and critiques

A final letter grade will be compiled from all assignments

The School policy on grading is attached here:

- A Excellent work that is on time and complete
- B Above average work that is on time and complete
- C Average work that is on time and complete
- D Below average work, late work, or incomplete work
- F Unacceptable work

Please refer to Graduate Bulletin for official IIT university grading policies

It is expected that all students will put considerable time, thought, and effort into their work. However, those factors do not of themselves guarantee any particular grade. On time and complete work is needed for a grade of A, B, or C, but timeliness and completeness alone do not constitute or guarantee a passing grade. When the work is on time and complete, quality in both thought and production are the primary considerations for the grade:

Excellent work – Demonstrates an ability to identify and develop a unique line of inquiry derived from, yet extending, the basic proposition of the assignment or course. Exceeds the expectations of the faculty and the assignment in the quality of thought and production.

Above average work – Excels in understanding and development of work relative to assignment scope. Demonstrates an ability to assess feedback and respond thoughtfully in the further development of the assignment.

Average work – Meets the basic expectations and requirements in terms of assignment scope as outlined in assignments or stated by the instructor.

Below average work – Does not meet all of the basic expectations and requirements. Does not consistently demonstrate a basic understanding of primary course objectives and concerns and/or an ability to respond to feedback and guidance by the instructor. Is inconsistent in its production and development, and is frequently late and/or incomplete.

Unacceptable work – Does not meet the majority of basic expectations and requirements. Seldom demonstrates a basic understanding of primary course objectives and concerns and/or an ability to respond to feedback and guidance by the instructor. Is inconsistent in its production and development, and is consistently late and/or incomplete.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Center for Disability Resources office. The Center for Disability Resources (CDR) is located in Life Sciences Room 218, telephone 312 567.5744 or disabilities@iit.edu.

CV



Lluís Ortega is PHD Architect by the Barcelona School of Architecture (ETSAB), Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), MA in Philosophy by the Universitat de Barcelona (UB) and obtained his Master of Science (AAD) degree from Columbia University. At present he is Associate Professor at IIT (Illinois Institute of Technology) and Visiting Professor at the Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires. Previously taught at UIC (University of Illinois at Chicago), the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, the Universidad de Alicante, Harvard University and at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna.

He co-founded Sio2Arch (formely f451) in 2000 with Santiago Ibarra, Xavier Osarte and Esther Segura.

He has been responsible of several specialized publications: director of the architectural magazine *Quaderns d'Arquitectura i Urbanisme* (Barcelona, 2003-2005), and editor of the architectural magazine *2G* (Editorial Gustavo Gili, Barcelona, 2000-2001), Josep Llinàs's writings *Saques de Esquina* (Pre-Textos, Valencia, 2002; with Moisés Puente), *Platform GSD 2008* (Actar/Harvard University, Barcelona/Cambridge, 2010) and the reader on digitalization in architecture *La digitalización toma el mando* (Editorial Gustavo Gili, Barcelona, 2009). In 2014 he was Adjunct Curator and main designer of the Spanish Pavillion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. His book *Atlas of Suprarural Architecture*, with Ciro Najle, a grantee project of the Graham Foundation, was published in May 2016 by Actar. Currently he is finishing the manuscript for his forthcoming book *Digitalization Takes Command*, awarded by the Graham Foundation in 2014.

