

Into the interior

Diploma 11 2019-2020.

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The theme of this year is borrowed from *Writing Across the Landscape* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the last surviving members of the Beat generation who turned 100 early this year. Inspired by his life work as a poet, we would like our works to be the studies of things behind the surface of the city. We look into the details of architecture, objects and ways of life as found in London's interior.

London currently is dominated by two opposing sense of values, one financial and the other historical, one erases and replaces and the other uncovers and de-temporalizes. Squeezed in between these forces occupies the uncertain ground that we would like to respond to creatively. What would be the values that could counter the dominant patterns of neo-liberal urban transformation?

Observing the sign of change in London recent years, we become increasingly aware of the fragmentary status of its social sustainability and the importance of knowledge production, education and health care provisions whose services are relied on direct human contacts. We have witnessed how the process of gentrification often take the form of erasure that has been systematically forcing families and individuals out of the central area of London among which are social workers, nurses as well as small businesses whose operations plays a crucial part of intricate networks within the multi-layered urban fabric.

Following on from last year's theme "City of Broken Relationships", the unit would like to document inner-London communities. By this, we mean the various ways of life inside the city that are affected by rapid forces of development while the sense of cultural tolerance linked to London's post-colonial past is seemingly slowly declining.

Autumn.

Field Research “1

Portrait of London (Week 1-2)

The year begin by each member of the unit identifying a community that exists within a 3-mile radius from the AA.

Setting demographic data aside, our field research will combine detail observations and direct engagement with the realities found in the local context. Our year’s journey will begin by making portraits of the communities that represent who they are, the values that they share and their ways of operating inside the city. Field maps and cross-sections will be associated with catalogues of objects, knowledge and resources.

Seminar on Inner-city communities and post-colonial London.
Seminar on the arts of observation. Wajiro Kon, Team X.

Tools to Speak (Week 2-3)

As a part of our fieldwork, We will invent tools for engaging with people and for triggering active communication by forcing to combine different languages, sense of values and meanings playfully. We will begin this by inventing Hand-held Interface by mixing the familiar materials and communication devises that are available to us.

Seminar ‘Architecture in Postcard’ with Nicholas Boyarsky.
Workshop on hacking and fusing analogue and digital tools.
Tutorials.

Field Research “2

Postcard of London (Week 3-4)

Learning from London’s architecture is like playing a guessing game where a list of answers are presented in front of us to which we have to find the questions that each of the answers has responded to. Assuming that our understanding and sense of order in the city is depending on our inability to comprehend with the complexities found in the details of the city.

Our exercise will start by collecting London’s postcards from the past. We will make a series of postcard of London today, that will cover a whole range of accidental architecture, incidental spaces to celebrate the city of imperfection with words of Haiku attached.

Seminar on Thomasson and Post Metabolism Tokyo.
Workshop on collage and de-collage making.

de-Collage (Week 4-5)

London can be seen as a project of collage where its unique architecture and successful usage of spaces are often made by accident, celebrated as characterisations of its dysfunctional charm. What are the unspoken rules that encourage freedom within this framework of collaging? How design can challenge our capacity of appreciating the sense of incompleteness and ambiguity between the new and old, thus giving importance to the slowness and smallness in a fast-changing urban landscape? We will bring our collage making to the next level with the help of time-based media, mixing digital tools such as Photogrammetry and 3-d scans with paper, glue, photocopier and a pair of scissors.

Seminar 'Heterotopia and Collage City' with Prof. David Grahame Shane
Workshop Introduction for Ryder-scan and Photogrammetry.
Tutorials.

City Guide (Week 5-6)

The initial field research of all above will conclude with the making of individual guide book that materialises the knowledge, making a city as a catalogue. Editing, designing and binding of each book should contain seeds of further contextual studies associating with their pre-design thesis, The brief for 'Alternative Guide to the Interior of London' is to show how to change the way we understand the complexity of London, illustrating how to play the city by utilising its various resources.

Seminar 'cities inside a box' Joseph Cornell and Joseph Bueys,
Seminar 'city inside a book' revisit Pet Architecture, Learning from Las Vegas
Seminar and Workshop on bookbinding.
Tutorials.

Material Study "1.

Material Intelligence: storytelling objects (Week 7-9)

Borrowing the words from Robert Smithson, the city can be described as entropic landscape made from the accumulation of exhausted materials with no embedded energy left within their bodies. Our challenge would be to question the value of the excess and the things that are left behind urban development. By zooming in and seeing the material compositions in details, we might be able to give new meanings to the materials that are familiar to us. The scientific notion of the urban environment may reveal at micro-scale may reveal both the critical facts as well as opportunities for us to respond creatively. Each member of the unit will be encouraged to choose a specific material from all the familiar materials that make up the fabric of London: concrete, steel, timber, asphalt, cables, paper, clay, sand and other debris of the city's artificial geology. Our studies intend to fuse scientific and poetic applications of those familiar materials into our design works later on.

Seminars on Entropy and the work of Robert Smithson.
Seminar on Cement-free Geopolymer and Clay-Based Concrete.
Seminar on Textiles in Architecture and Information Weaving.
Seminar on Stored energy, Gravitational, Mechanical and Heat.
Workshop at Hooke Park on the material experiment.
Tutorials.

Contextual Study”1

Forming Design Brief (Week 10-11)

The writing of individual design brief at the later part of Autumn term will start by articulating the contexts in three different scales and durations; A wider theoretical context (post-industrial), the context of the city as landscape (entropic) and a creative argument in response to the context of London's community (case study of an urban interior). The brief should also highlight the interest in the speculative forms of material recomposition and creative ways of misusing materials in the urban environment.

Seminar and design exercise on material recomposition and textural details.

Case study on building methods with a variable timeline.

Pin-up session, pre-design thesis.

Seminar on Configuration with Phillip Christou.

Tutorials.

Final jury (week 12)

Spring.

Material study “2

Spring term will begin by focusing on the exploration of the chosen material agenda at Hooke Park.

Climate Register, Storage of Memory, Energy and Artifice (Week 1-3)

The 2nd session at Hooke Park will continue to look at building materials as various forms of storage. Seeking for materials that absorb, record, express and visualise the intangible matters as the climate of the city. the workshop will set force individual research on the chosen material exploration to be carried out through the rest of the year. In a range of 1:1, 1:5, 1:20 scale also of 20:1 and 100:1 reversal scale may take us to the other dimensions of architectural space composition speculating on the material structure that can help our body to become vulnerable to the experiences that the climate of the city can potentially offer.

We will revisit the notion of a climate register, and imagine ways to infuse climatic data (cultural, environmental, historical, geographical) into tactile materials.

de Collaging Workshop 2.

Workshop at Hooke Park

Seminar on Climate Register.

Tutorials.

Technique (Week 3-5)

Our technical study will question the accepted conventions of standardised systems and construction materials. We would like our design work to demonstrate how materials that are generally considered banal can be fused with different matters and further explore the potential of applications to underused sites, spaces of service structure and buildings and to challenge the normative spatial relationships and social hierarchies. In the 2nd Session at the Hooke Park, each design scheme will be explored by the combination of material experimentation and studies of widely available conventional building materials. Following on from our preoccupied notion of urban surgery. Our architectural precedents may demonstrate various examples of Incisions, insertion, grafting, stripping, face-lifting, turning inside out, overwrapping, super-imposition, collision, colliding and fusing. Surgery may include not only the operational instruments such but also diagnostic sensory devices such as ryder scan, microscopic radio telescope and X-ray visions allowing us to read landscape beneath the skin of the city.

Workshop seminar with Pedro Jervell, Guan Lee (on Clay).

Seminar with Shigeru Aoki (Refine Architecture).

Tutorials.

Field research”3

Taking the existing urban plans apart (Week 3 and 6)

Returning to London from Hooke Park sessions contextual study will include in-depth analysis of the existing urban plans, students will be encouraged to identify an existing urban plan (master-plan, failed plan or un-planned plan). the case studies will speculate alternative scenarios by taking the given programmatic component apart along with its project timelines and then recomposed them in a different order according to different values that are based on social-cultural and environmental sustainability.

Seminar with Andreas Lang (Public Works).

Seminar with Peter Thomas (51% Studio).

Tutorials.

Interior Landscape

Returning the local contexts, the latter half of the year will be reserved for the completion of individual design projects that speculates a new platform for London’s Inner-city Community. How could we address and respond directly to the complexity of the built environment that often disengages individual life expressions? We would like to see our work as attempts to fill the gap between the city planning and the conventional forms of design practice.

The design brief is open to individual interpretation of the theme Interior Landscape.

It encourages students to find bespoke methods of production and the roles of architects concerning the given local contexts.

Our challenge would be to bring the landscape of the city into a room. It gathers, recombines and transmits a collection of individual voices and stories, objects, events, textures, many of incomplete objects and leftover spaces are to be linked to speaking of essential values and ways of living under the roof of London.

Throughout the last half of the year, seminars will be made by each member of the unit, with a presentation of their idea and explorations in progress.

Recommended bedtime readings;

Writing Across the Landscape: Travel Journals 1960-2010. by Lawrence Ferlinghetti

The Writings of Robert Smithson by Nancy Holt.

Reality is not what it seems, The Order of Time, Carlo Rovelli.

Translations from drawing to building, Robin Evans.

Collage City by Colin Rowe.

Appliance House by Ben Nicholson.

Learning from Las Vegas, Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown,

Wajiro Kon, Archaeology of Present Time's

'Thomasson' Mata Art Genpei Akasegawa.

No Sense of Place, Joshua Meirowitz.

Radical Technologies, Adam Greenfield.